

JUVENILE WAIFS AND STRAYS.

It would be difficult to say how often *The Globe* has discussed the ever-present and ever-pressing question of how most effectually to transform bad or neglected boys and girls into honest, honorable youths and maidens. Pity that in such a young country as Canada, where population is so scarce and where land well fitted to yield an honorable subsistence can be had for the asking, this should be necessary, or that there should be any hungry, vicious and neglected children who have to be cared for by the public at large and prevented, if possible, from growing up as general burdens, nuisances and dangers. So, however, it is, and the difficulty and danger must be met and overcome in the most efficient way possible. If the fathers and mothers could be trained to be anything like what they ought to be, the question and difficulty would to a large extent be successfully solved. There are no doubt vicious children coming out of honorable, well-regulated homes. But that is the comparatively rare exception, not the rule. It is still true, as in other days, that the child who is wisely, tenderly and perseveringly trained up in the way he should go, will not, as a general thing, depart from it when he is old. The children who are a blot and a menace to our civilization are those whose parents are selfish, vicious, lazy, drunken and self-indulgent good-for-nothings, who are glad to have their young ones on the street or anywhere else so that they may not be troubled with their noise or be burdened by their support. Reformatory training and industrial schools, are, in short, quite as much needed for parents as for children. That, however, cannot perhaps be secured, it may be said, and in its absence the community as such must stand in *loco parentis* to the poor, neglected waifs, who in six cases out of seven would be a burden or a blot to no one if their fathers and mothers would only do their duty. All honor to those who are caring for such neglected little ones, and are seeking in every good and gracious way to keep them out of the hands of the police and free from the contamination of the gaol, whether by gathering them into Industrial Schools or by seeking to purify and improve their miserable homes. Nothing could be too strongly put in the