

to think that, in many instances, the evident readiness to adopt orphan children in Ontario is an attempt to give a halo to voluntary barrenness.

Whatever the motives of foster parents may be, the future of an adopted orphan in a respectable home ought to be dowered with advantages not obtainable in the best of orphanages. There will be individuality and a sense of independence, unfelt in the society of an orphanage, a feeling of having a father and a mother instead of being nobody's child or the child of a poverty-stricken, perhaps an unloving parent, seen at long intervals; a freedom to form associations with some children and to discontinue relations with others. Then there will be incidentally less exposure to the contagious diseases of childhood. There will be a more refined society in a good many cases; or a chance of introduction, in some instances, to good business, or perhaps professional life,—in fact, a future such as opens before the best-born child in the land.

All adopted orphans, however, do not drop into such delightful niches. A childless tradesman's wife may adopt an orphan girl, to be a companion to herself and to do the chores about the house; an orphan boy may be made to work slavishly on a farm, with no advantages in store, though it is freely acknowledged that these orphan children are looked after by Provincial inspectors, who solicit correspondence from them and attend to their complaints.

Institutional life has well-marked advantages—order, method, control, supervision and, especially,