

You will see by referring to Miscellaneous Particulars, page 2, section 4, that in the six years' working of the scheme I have lost sight of 28 of the children under 15 years of age. I am grieved to have to make the admission, and the remembrance that 900 children have in England slipped through the hands of the Reformatory officials in one year, gives me little consolation; but I think I may add, that if I had the time, the money, and the strength to travel personally to these 28 homes, where we originally placed the children, we should be able to find them all. Constant changes in the postal arrangements of a new country cause us some losses, the removals of some families, and deaths in others, with omissions to send on notice of the same to the parent Home, all help to swell this list, and I know of no perfected workable plan by which we could establish a complete espionage of all the children in Canada any more than here in England.

You must kindly remember two facts, in some cases the children themselves remove themselves, on purpose that it shall not be known that they have ever had anything whatever to do with Miss Rye; Miss Rye, unfortunately, being the last link connecting them with their workhouse life and the shame of their extreme poverty. Foster-parents, on the other hand, are many of them extremely tenacious of the children's affections, and of the respect paid to their foster-children. Where such is the case my visits are extremely unpopular, touchingly so; and persons have removed in order that neighbours may not know the antecedents of their children. At this very moment there is a good, motherly, middle-aged woman in the West, who expects me to bring her out by my next voyage a brother and sister of four and five years of age, whom I am to convey to her without the knowledge of any of her neighbours! The question is often put to me, Are all, or the majority of the people in Canada who take the children childless? I answer, No; most decidedly the childless people are in a very large minority, but people marry very young in the colonies, and their children follow the parental example. The result is small families as a rule, and the dispersion of families, which is a natural condition of colonial life; the younger members stretching on and on into the West and the great far Nor'-West. So, as I have before explained, at 40 or 45, the comfortably-settled farmer and his wife find themselves once more alone in life, and, to quote their own words, "We don't think, Miss Rye, that we're too old to bring up another family, and should like a little one about the place." If I were to tell you honestly what I consider the truest danger that our young girls run, I should say their most real danger is the over-indulgence and laxity of discipline, both from the foster-parents and from the guardians or mistresses of the working girls. For a few years I am sure this was the case. No one dared to correct a girl for wrong-doing, partly from extreme sensibility and sympathy with their orphaned and stranger condition, and "We have brought her back to you, Miss Rye, to correct; we wouldn't whip another man's child," has been said to me by a hundred Canadian men and women when bringing back girls who have driven these plain people almost crazy by their tricks.

In making my Synopsis I have used the following expressions, "Adopted," "Bound for service," and "Bound for service, but practically adopted." By adopted, I mean exactly what the word says, the child becoming in every sense and in all ways the same as a child born in the family. As a rule, we never allow a child over nine years of age to be adopted. I have a few exceptions to this rule, where the child has shown great delicacy of constitution, of temperament, or taste, and where I have been particularly careful to see that the proposing foster-parents intended especially and fully to carry out their promises.

Children who are bound for service are placed with working people for the express purpose of learning how to become working women themselves; these are of 10 years of age and upwards. I need not again state to you the particulars of the adoption indentures or of the apprenticeship indentures, as you have both fully and correctly copied in Mr. Doyle's Report; but on looking over my Synopsis you will see that I have, as far as age is concerned, deviated from my rule of age for apprenticeship as I have also from my previous rule of age for adoption, and from the same reason, working in a diametrically opposite way. There are, as you cannot fail to have observed, among these poor workhouse children, girls of seven, eight, and nine years of age, of so rough a build and so low a type that you can surely forecast their future by being with them even for a few hours; such children, the born hewers of wood and drawers of water; could never by any amount of care or culture become cultivated or refined