

whom I have already referred. The ladies who are most interested in the conduct of this enterprise must be sensible that Canadians who at first looked upon it with favour see reason, many of them to modify, and many of them to totally change, their first opinion of it. Amongst those who at the outset gave hearty support to Miss Macpherson's efforts was the Warden of the county of Hastings, in which the first Home, Belleville, is situated. In one of her earlier publications Miss Macpherson printed a letter from the Warden as evidence of the official favour with which her plan was received. That gentleman whose sympathies were at first so warmly enlisted in support of a benevolent scheme, and whose opinion is entitled to so much weight, has since repeatedly assured me, that he felt compelled, though reluctantly, to change his views of it. It would take a long time, he said, to eradicate the evil that had been produced in his own immediate neighbourhood by the class of children who had been imported into it. A dignitary of the Church of England in Canada, to whom I had written respecting a boy in his service, replies :—" From what I have seen of the "generality of the street boys who come out, it would be better for "the country to keep them until they are old enough to enlist, as "nothing but military discipline will have much effect on them, for "here they seem to think that they are not to submit to control, "but act as they think fit. This is owing in some measure, probably, to the unexpected change in their circumstances." A gentleman of the highest commercial position in an important town gave me the history of the brief period of service of one of those boys whom he had taken into his house. If printed it might be read as a chapter from the life of a modern Jack Sheppard. The managers of the Homes are familiar with numerous cases of complaints of insubordination, falsehoods, petty thefts, and of still graver offences. I confess I was surprised to find how frequently such complaints were repeated by employers during my visits, and how often I heard the determination expressed "never to take another." I do not say that such complaints apply exclusively or even more to what are called the "arab" children than to workhouse children, but they are made, and in too many cases I found them to be well founded. They will continue to be repeated until the whole system is brought into discredit, unless much greater care and discrimination are exercised in selecting and preparing the children for emigration. The first step towards improvement would be to avoid placing any child out in service who had not already undergone a reasonable period of industrial training. With that view it would, I think, be much better if the training Homes could be in Canada rather than in England. Indeed it would appear that the assent of the Local Government Board was originally obtained to the emigration of pauper children, upon the understanding that such Homes did actually exist in Canada. Writing to H.M. Secretary for the Colonies in April 1873, the Board, speaking of the emigration of children under the care of Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye, observe :—"The children emigrating under this system are, as "the Board understand, placed in the first instance in training establishments, where they are maintained and fitted for situations afterwards provided for them." This no doubt is what ought to be done, but what is not and never has been done. In whatever way the change is to be effected, whether by a longer training in Homes in England, or by the substitution of Industrial Schools in Canada, it is certain that a radical change in this first stage would be absolutely necessary if the system were continued. If no steps be taken in this direction, Boards