

FURTHER LETTERS

FURNISHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BY MISS RYE,
IN REBUTTAL OF MR. DOYLE'S REPORT.

LETTERS FROM THE PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK,

(Copy of a letter from Mr. John Boyd, St. John, N.B., furnished by him to Miss Rye.)

ST. JOHN, N.B., April 5th, 1875.

DEAR SIR,—Having seen extracts in the English papers, from Mr. Doyle's Report on Miss Rye's young emigrants, I was struck with its unfairness to that lady's work, in so far as New Brunswick is concerned, and regret that he had not pressed his inquiries in this direction, where he would have learned, that with one exception, her children have found good homes, and that where difficulty has arisen, it was only what might have been expected under the most favourable circumstances. Many a parent gives his daughter into the keeping of a man who violates every promise he made; many a child, in the best regulated families, turns out vicious and depraved, and does Mr. Doyle expect Miss Rye to do more for her children than a father or mother could do for their own child, or are we to look for perfection among children who have been brought up amid vice and poverty, when those possessing every advantage of example and counsel do so often fall? Here I know of two girls who have fallen; but they had in their very looks, on arrival, a looseness which augured ill for their future. They were both placed in the families of two of our leading shipowners: the wife of one is deeply interested in our Orphan Asylum, Old Ladies' Home, and every good work. She strove with the girl, reasoned, threatened, but it availed not; and so with the other. No visitation could have prevented this; and thus, when one or two failures appear, they are heralded over the land, while the hundred successes are not heard of. As a rule, these children succeed best in the country: this was Miss Rye's judgment when here, and she always preferred such applications, and her view has proven eminently wise. Two, or at most three others who came with Miss Rye, grown girls, and for whom she was not responsible, became a bye word; but her young people, girls from six to twelve years, and boys from ten to fourteen, have found happy homes and kind protectors. Many enjoy the comforts and privileges of the best families in our country, taking position in their families as sons and daughters, where there were no children, and as brothers and sisters where there were. I cannot believe that Miss Rye's course in Ontario is different from her course in New Brunswick, and I fear that Mr. Doyle is influenced by a spirit of injustice to these workers and their work, and desires to destroy it. I must bear testimony to the extreme devotion to her work here—the persistent enquiries made before placing the children, many applicants being refused, unless she was personally satisfied of their means, their moral character, and even their disposition, on one occasion denying a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, with whose application she was not satisfied. In the work of placing the children, she was assisted by leading ladies and gentlemen of our city, and not even their recommendation would be taken until she had personally talked with each applicant, and satisfied herself that all was right. She also appointed as Guardians—to whom either