

It is considered to be of the greatest importance that the children should be removed with as little delay as possible out of reach of the example and evil influences to which they have been heretofore exposed. Thus it happens that the "training" of the Arab children at the English Home, whatever may be its character, rarely exceeds a few months. In many cases indeed it may be counted by days. The pauper or Union children, however, have generally spent a few years in the workhouse school. In cases in which parents are living, their consent to the emigration of the children is said to be obtained. By Miss Rye the form of consent adopted in the case of children of widows will be found in Appendix C.

In the cases of infants, and of orphans or deserted children of the "arab" class, it is alleged that the authority of the legal guardian is obtained. This, I apprehend, will be found to be done in a very loose and informal way. The precaution is not adopted of requiring the consent of the children themselves to be given before two magistrates, as in the case of pauper children. One girl, of about 17, whose thoughts seemed to be ever turned homewards, assured me that although she was persuaded by her aunt to come out, yet if she had been brought before two magistrates (as pauper children are) she would have refused. I met with several cases of children sent out as "orphans" who had one if not both parents living.

As soon as Miss Macpherson or Miss Rye has collected a party sufficiently large (from one to two hundred), notice of the day of departure is given. The children from London come down in charge of Miss Rye or Miss Macpherson, or of some confidential superintendent. The children from remote Unions are sent to Liverpool, usually in charge of the Master of the Workhouse, who delivers them to Miss Macpherson or Miss Rye, or to the person appointed to receive them. Upon the occasion on which I saw the children, on the eve of their departure, about 150, two-thirds of whom were from Union Workhouses, were collected together at the Prince's Landing Stage. The children from the Bromsgrove Union were accompanied by the Master and Schoolmistress, who remained with them till their embarkation. The children from the Merthyr Tydvil Union were delivered by the Master to one of Miss Rye's attendants, with whom they were left upon the day of their arrival. The other children came under Miss Rye's immediate care. The children were all well dressed, and looked generally healthy and cheerful. Their ages varied from 6 to 14. Having remained for some hours in the shed of the landing stage, they were embarked on board the "Sarmatian," one of the Allan steamers. One of the children was detained owing to a suspicion of illness. She was removed to the hospital, and the case was declared to be one of measles. Miss Rye stated that this child appeared to be perfectly healthy when leaving London in the morning. Eight of the children were found to be ill of measles upon their arrival at the Home, Niagara, where there are no means of isolating such cases. The arrangements for the accommodation of the children on board the "Sarmatian" were, so far as the company were concerned, satisfactory. The agents of the Allan line and the officers of the ship showed the utmost anxiety to adopt any suggestion made by Miss Rye for the comfort of the children, and all their arrangements were on Thursday morning, when I again visited the ship, pronounced by the Government Emigration Agent and the medical officer to be in compliance with the regulations. Miss Rye accompanied this lot of children, who were under the immediate care of one matron who is in the habit of accompanying all the children sent out by Miss Rye.