

more than an act of justice to that lady to state to you what I know of the work, the principles on which it is conducted, and the object she has in view in prosecuting it; I wished to do this before, but sickness and death in my family have prevented me.

In 1868, during a visit to Canada, Miss Rye, after carefully weighing the matter in all its bearings, became satisfied that good homes could be found here for almost any number of such children as crowd the industrial schools, or encumber the cities of Britain. After visiting the different cities and towns of Ontario, she chose Niagara, as combining more advantages than any other place she had seen in Canada; among these were the opportunity of securing a large building (formerly used as a county jail) at a moderate price, a building which, with a few additions, according to Mr. Doyle, would almost come up to that model of perfection, the requirements of an English workhouse; another and perhaps a greater desideratum was the extreme healthiness of the locality, its easy accessibility by rail, water and stage communication with other places, and also its being free from the contaminations of a large city. These inducements decided Miss Rye in the location of her pioneer receiving home for destitute children; that she has conducted the work with energy, prudence, and an earnest desire for the present and future good of those committed to her care, there is abundant evidence to prove, and this evidence is not from any one class, nor yet from isolated evidences here and there, but from the highest and lowest of our land, from Senators and Members of Parliament, from judges and lawyers, from magistrates and councillors, from the guardians of the children, and from the children themselves. This evidence, which, in due time, you will have an opportunity of seeing, will, I hope, more than counteract the unjust report of your inspector, who only took a couple of months to examine into a work which has covered a period of six years, and engaged the undivided energy of Miss Rye and Miss Macpherson and those associated with them in the work, and who then presumed to speak so decidedly of that of which he could know so little.

In regard to the domestic management of our Western Home, no one knows more intimately how it is conducted than Mrs. Ball and myself. Before entering on the work, Miss Rye knowing that she must be frequently absent, and that cases might arise in which advice and assistance would be useful, asked and was freely promised whatever help we could give; in consequence, the Home is always open to the writer, who has frequent opportunities to witness the unselfish devotion and self-abnegation of Miss Rye in her attendance on the children, who, from pressure of work, or inefficiency of servants, has often bathed and combed the children with her own hands, always attending to their little ailments and administering to their wants; and we have known her so prostrated by over-work as to be confined to her bed for days.

Mr. Doyle says that one of the children complained to him that the food was unfit to eat; this may have been a parallel and exceptional case, similar to one known to the writer, where a girl complained of being tired of turkey; but this must have been a most exceptional case, as in six years I have never heard the complaint made before.

In referring to Mr. Doyle's report, I am fully satisfied that he had pre-judged Miss Rye's work before he left Liverpool. He told Mrs. Ball and myself, more than once, that he came to Canada prejudiced against the work, but that his prejudices had all fled, he could never have believed that such homes could have been found for the children as he saw them in; and further, he told us most distinctly that he had no doubt but that Miss Rye's Home would be the centre of female children emigrating to Canada. How he can reconcile these statements made not only to us, but to different gentlemen in Niagara, I cannot understand, and can only account for by an implicit belief in the doctrine of man's total depravity.

As Mr. Doyle also objects to children being sent out here without preliminary training in industrial schools—this, to learn even the rudiments of an education, would occupy at least two years time, and as he also says, they should not be sent out here older than nine or ten, this alone would shut out a very large and desirable class. Why he should lay so much stress on this point, seems strange to me, as the education he