

PRINCESS ALICE ORPHANAGE.

### The Story of the Children's Home.

BY REV. T. BOWMAN STEPHENSON, M.D.

#### VIII.

THE late Rev. Dr. Punshon, who was resident in Canada, and who had taken a sympathetic interest in our work from its commencement, suggested that that great and enterprising country would afford peculiar advantages to our children. After a personal visit, in which I had enquired for myself as to the prospects of the children, we determined to send out parties of them to that country.

Through the liberality and influence of Dr. Punshon, aided by many generous Canadian friends, a commodious house, with eight acres of land attached, and situated conveniently near to the city of Hamilton, was secured as Canadian headquarters. Mr. R. T. Riley was for several years our resident agent; and still, in Winnipeg—to which city of the Far West he has since removed—takes a deep and practical interest in our work. The Rev.

J. S. Evans and his wife—who are now in charge—have brought to our work not only profound Christian sympathies, but a wide and intimate knowledge of the country and of Canadian society.

The advantages of a system of emigration to our work are very great. It enables us to place a large number of children in situations much earlier than it would be safe to do so in England. A Canadian farmer will take a boy of twelve—or even ten—into his house, and treat him as a member of his family. The lad shares the plentiful food of the household, he goes with them to church, and has a part in their social life. During several months of the year he attends the public school in the neighbourhood. He grows up a colonist in feeling and sympathies and ambitions. In fact he takes root in the soil, and proves to be, perhaps, the best kind of emigrant the Colonial Government can obtain. There, he is costing us nothing; and when he reaches the age of fourteen or fifteen he has learned a good deal of the country, and has acquired a familiarity with farming operations which enable him to earn better wages than he could have commanded if he had remained in the old country till he reached the same age.

Meantime, what guarantee have we that the child is not ill-treated? To that question the best reply is a simple narrative of our mode of proceeding.

A party of young

emigrants leave England, let us say in April, arriving in Canada early in May. They go out in a well-appointed steamship, in which a portion of the steerage is divided off for their accommodation, so that they take their meals and sleep apart from the mass of emigrant passengers. An officer of the Home goes with them, and they are constantly under his oversight during the voyage. On their arrival they proceed direct to the Home, where they pass into the care of our own resident agent. He, before their arrival, has advertised their coming, and has received applications for their services. He has enquired as to the character and suitability of applicants, and has a list of eligible places in readiness. Within the next three or four weeks most of the children have gone to their situations—but they are not lost sight of. By correspondence and enquiry, and by personal visits, in no case less than once a year, and in some cases oftener, our agent makes himself acquainted with their circum-

stances and condition. If necessary, he removes a child from an unsuitable situation, or recalls a child to the Home for a few days or weeks of special discipline. If children are sick, he receives them and cares for them; if they need special advice or help in any way, he is there to give it, and he gives it gladly. In brief, he strives to be to them "guide, philosopher, and friend," until they have attained to years at which they may be fairly considered capable of managing their own affairs and looking after their own interests. And, meanwhile, reports of the children are regularly sent to me.

On the average, our children do better in the colonies than at home. Not that we lack encouragement here; but, as I think of many of those who are doing well abroad, I cannot help thinking, "If that child had gone to her 'friends' in London, she would not have done so well."

And of others I am compelled to say, "If that one had remained in England he would almost certainly have been drawn back into the vortex of evil."

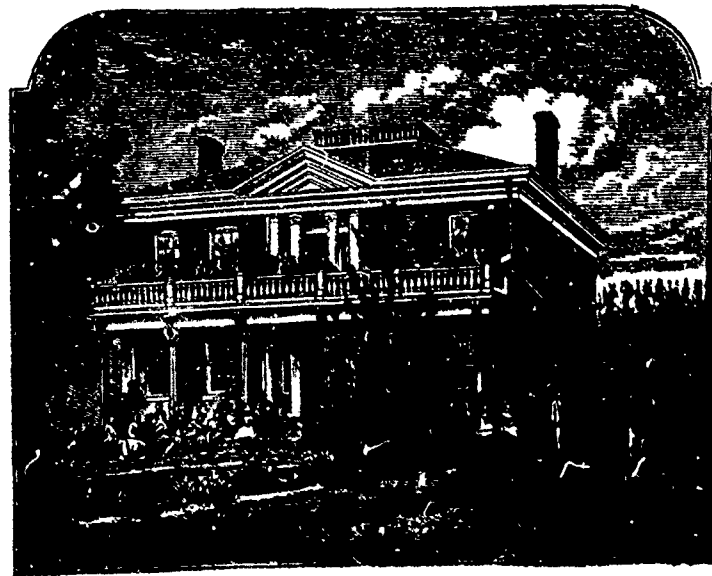
The same might be said of those who have gone to other colonies. We have no "Home" beyond the seas except in Canada; but we have been able to send small parties of children to the care of friends in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand—and in each of these countries I know, from personal inspection and visitation, that our children are doing well; and that advantages, similar to those mentioned above, attend them in their position.

One interesting fact connected with our Emigration Department is, that several of our former inmates are now subscribers to our work. No doubt in future years a considerable amount will be forthcoming from this source.

About twenty years have passed since an interesting and useful work was commenced at Ramsey, in the Isle of Man. The late Miss Gibson



RAMSEY HOME.



HOME, HAMILTON, ONT.