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CHARGES

MADE AGAINST

MISS M. RYE,

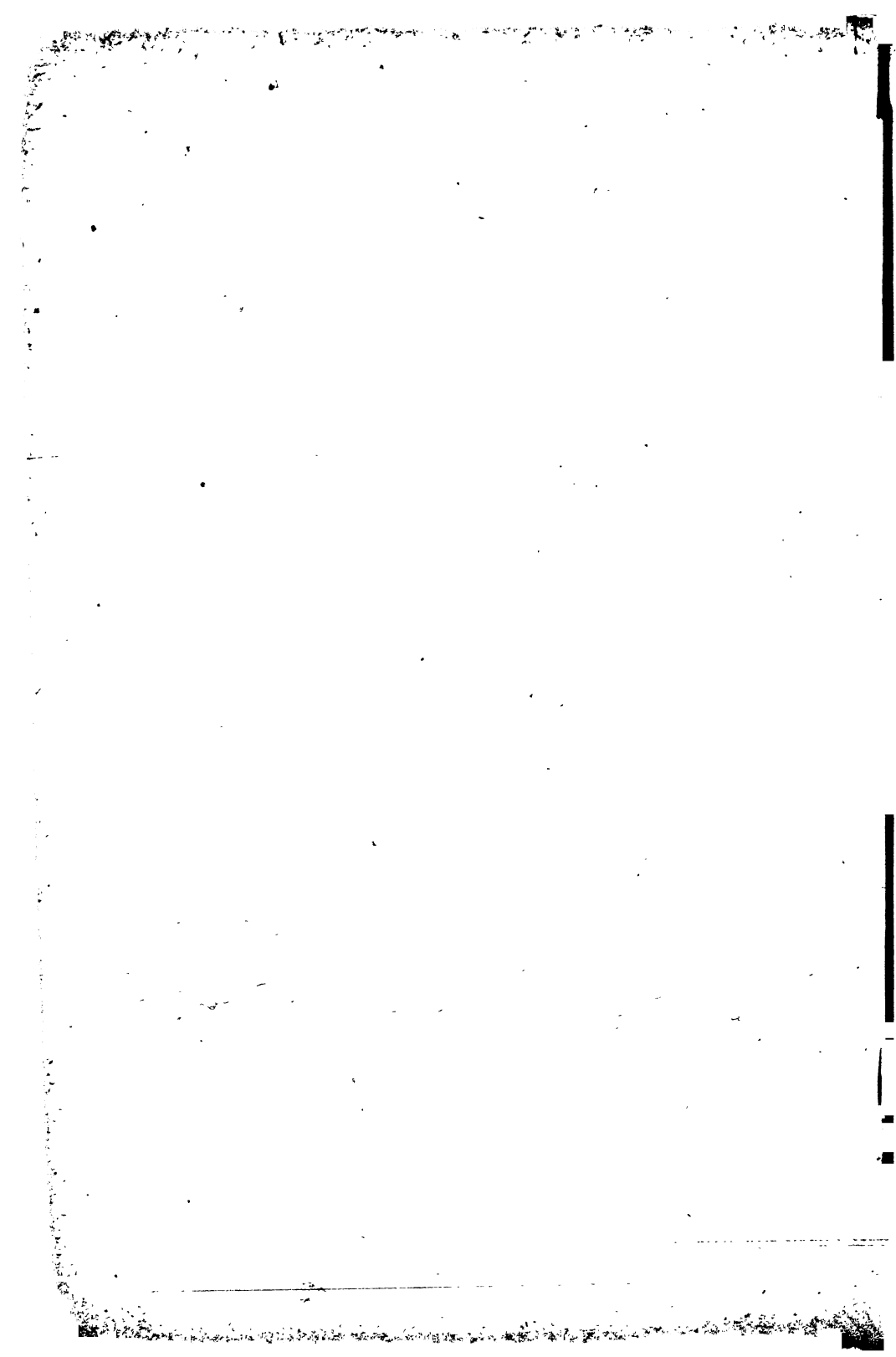
BEFORE THE POOR LAW BOARD AT ISLINGTON,

AND

HER REPLY THERETO.

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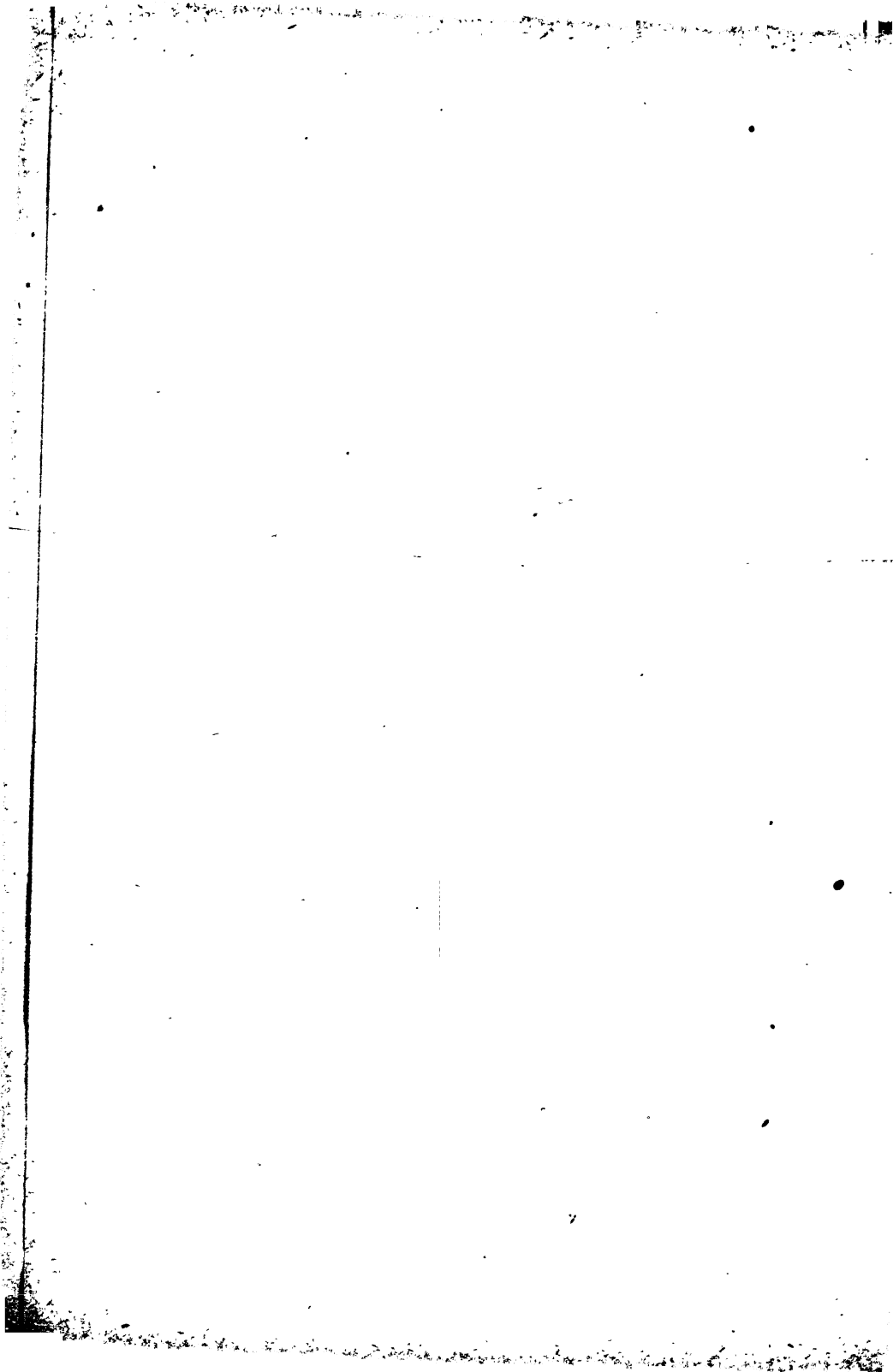
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## INTRODUCTION.

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The following charges were made against Miss Rye and her work before the Poor Law Guardians at Islington, on the 20th of March. As garbled accounts are given by some of our papers, Miss Rye's friends in Niagara think it better that a full statement, both of the charges and replies, should be given to the public. The charges are made by a Mr. Grainger, who married a Miss Martin. This person was employed by Miss Rye as an assistant, but was discharged. She has declared that she will ruin the work, and her husband seconds her determination. Hence these charges. It may be mentioned, that after reading Miss Rye's reply, the board passed a vote of entire confidence in Miss Rye and her work, and declared that the charges made were in no way sustained by proof—only one voice dissenting.



## CHARGES.

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1. That it behoves the guardians to be satisfied that children sent to Canada are in any way benefited.

It is allowed that the girls intrusted to Miss Rye are friendless. Greater care should therefore be taken with them, because in a strange country they cannot ask the assistance of friends as in this country, should they stand in need of it. And not only on this account, but also because of their extreme youth, which is far below the age at which we might expect girls to use the means of self-protection. Furthermore, it is argued that the girls are required in this their native country, where the laws for their protection are more effectually carried out, and where, owing to the density of the population, cases of cruelty are more easily detected. It is scarcely necessary to add that our Saviour has spoken definitely on the sacred responsibility not only of young children, but particularly of the fatherless intrusted to our care.

2. That it is a question whether the ratepayers and British public are not paying too dearly for the said object. Miss Rye demands £8 per head and an outfit. But, according to the *St. Catharine's Journal*, her total cost is under £4 a head. The public, moreover, subscribe largely towards what is considered a praiseworthy object, but has not the slightest idea of its real workings. Miss Rye has thought fit not to publish any accounts of her emigration schemes. This, her last one, is ostensibly for gutter children. I would therefore put it to the guardians, whether it is a commercial success to any one but Miss Rye? and I would further ask them, what means they have taken to ascertain the real cost?

3. That the chances of children benefiting are small. The number of people in Canada, out of a population of four millions, willing to "adopt" children, is certainly not greater than in a population approaching thirty-five millions. Such cheap—because unpaid—labor is desired in this country, but cannot be had. It is granted that some of the children may be benefited, but it has not been proved that a large proportion would not have been equally benefited in this country.

The work in Canada is harder, as shown by Canadian statistics, which point out that two-thirds of the women in lunatic asylums are farmers' wives. It is a well known fact that the work that a servant has to do in Canada is almost treble that of a servant in this country. The climate is of all climates the most trying, and the privations and general hardships incidental to a new country are greater than in that of an old one.

4. That the Canadians have their own orphans. This point is a most important one, because it determines the position of the English

orphan. The Canadian orphanages are established in the principal towns, and those children that are placed out are not allowed to go beyond the reach of their several committees. Every care is taken in the selection of the proper homes, where the children are frequently visited, and are under the laws of their country. The English orphan is, however, preferred in those homes where there is no interference from without. They—the English orphans—have no friends to interfere. A child is sent by Miss Rye hundreds of miles away, to people she has only communicated with by letter and is never likely to see. The English child, therefore, occupies a second place, not being on the same footing as a Canadian orphan, or under the same laws.

5. That the protection and religious instruction of English orphans in Canada is uncertain. The children and funds being legally made over to Miss Rye in this country, she is an entirely independent power in Canada. The property is in her name. In 1871, the Town Council of Niagara (an old, tumble-down place, including the neighborhood, of a total of 800 inhabitants, and ten miles from the "Falls,") were at issue with Miss Rye on the subject of taxation. She demanded exemption on the plea that it was a charity, upon which the Council claimed the power of investigation, and of visiting the Home like any other charitable institution. They were informed by their legal adviser that, as the children and funds were made over to her in another country, they could not interfere. She now pays taxes as a private individual, being assessed on her property. The fate of thousands of orphans is entirely in her hands. She scatters them over an immense area, where they are dependent upon their masters for protection and religious instruction.

6. That the work imposed on them is at their masters' discretion. The children—one of whom, according to Miss Rye, had, aged 10 years, to milk 10 cows morning and evening, besides attending to other household duties—are so entirely in the hands of their masters that, considering the nature of the country, they must frequently be made to undertake work unfitted for their tender years, some being as young as six years old. The children of the female sex are exposed to the brutalities of men who are shut out from all civilizing agencies. In such a large and thinly populated country neighbors are too far apart to meet often, and are dependent on each other for assistance. They say, "the last man to quarrel with is your neighbor; keep on good terms with him at any price." The child, unless returned as incompetent, remains her master's property until of age. If there is so great need of cheap labour, why, it is asked, should Canadians not import coolies and negroes instead of orphan girls?

7. That the testimonials of two references cannot be relied upon, particularly in the United States, where many of the children are sent. It is at all times a difficult matter to decide whether a man is qualified to be trusted with a child. In America bribery and intimidation are rife, which, coupled with the general desire to oblige a neighbor, would enable many bad men to obtain children.

8. That the letters from the children are worthless, being written by their master's sanction if not by his request—on *his* paper, with *his* pen and ink, and posted probably by *himself*, and certainly at *his cost*. It is a significant fact that, besides publishing no accounts, Miss Rye

has carefully guarded every avenue by which cases of known ill treatment, taken up not by herself but by philanthropic Canadians, might reach the British public.

9. That all reports emanate from Miss Rye. She alone possesses a clue to the whereabouts of all the children taken out since she began the scheme. A band of interested people, desirous of notoriety or of something considered more substantial, lend their names when needed by Miss Rye. Many visitors, passing hastily through the place, have inspected the "Home," and certainly it makes a fine mansion residence for Miss Rye. A batch of children are dispersed abroad in the course of a fortnight or three weeks at the outside, at as little cost as possible to the institution. The *St. Catharine's Journal* (published in the neighborhood), lately most strongly condemned Miss Rye and her scheme, the immediate effect of which was to produce the ignorant and untruthful letter from Mr. Arthur Clayden, beginning, "As I see by the papers Miss Rye is in England"—a most remarkable coincidence.

10. That the Local Government Board should be solicited to send out a proper person, who has a knowledge of North America and of farmers in that country, to report truthfully on the working of the whole system, and particularly of the children sent out by the Islington Guardians.

This is the only method of instituting a proper inquiry. I need scarcely add that parties interested in the carrying on of what is believed to be a profitable business should not first be warned to be on the alert.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALLENDALE GRAINGER.

TO THE BOARD OF ISLINGTON GUARDIANS.



## MISS RYE'S REPLY.

*To the Chairman of the Islington Board of Guardians.*

SIR,—I have the honor of acknowledging copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Allendale Grainger, of 65 Cromwell Road, Holloway, London, to your Board, relating to the emigration of pauper children (especially girls) to Canada. First of all, I thank you extremely for giving me this opportunity of answering the most extraordinary statements contained in that letter, and the still more insulting and mischievous insinuations which it unfolds, for I feel that the spirit of fair play, as shown in your conduct to me, forms a very strong contrast to the spirit involved in the closing of Mr. G.'s letter, which counsels that parties interested in the work shall not first be warned of your inquiry for fear we should be on the alert. I use the term *we* advisedly, because that expression gives me an opportunity of explaining who and in what position my fellow-workers and kind friends in this work in Canada are. And first, I must name my friend and honorary co-secretary, Miss Geraldine Allaway, a lady who for the last four year has not only given me her services gratuitously, but has lived on the spot and in the house all those years with those poor ignorant and certainly untrained children, and to whose self-denial, wonderful judgment and good common sense, I am in a very large way indebted for the success of my work. At the commencement of my work for these children, after consulting legal authorities in Canada, it was considered advisable for me to select and nominate resident Canadians who, with me, should be appointed the legal guardians and custodians of the children: and I was fortunate enough to secure for the Niagara district as co-guardians with myself, Henry Paffard, Esq., Mayor of the town (a man who has been Mayor of Niagara seven years in succession), and Robert N. Ball, J.P., a man of irreproachable character, and whose family has resided in the district for very many years. For St. John's, New Brunswick, the custodians of the children are, with myself, Hon. J. Boyd, J.P., Hon. T. Daniells, J.P., Mr. Attorney-General King, and Rev. Canon Scoville. At Chatham, where (D.V.) I am proposing to place some lads this spring, the custodians are to be F. Scane, Esq., Solicitor, and Mr. McCrea, Police Magistrate. In the printed papers I have already placed in the hands of every member of your Board, I have reprinted the terms upon which the children are placed out in their various homes in Canada, these conditions being enforced by indentures embodying these terms, and also securing educational and religious privileges to each child, and are signed, necessarily, by the gentlemen already named, by myself, and the person taking a child. In our own district especially we have also the great assistance and personal help of our Rector, the Rev. Dr. McMurray, who is also our rural Dean, who rarely if ever fails to be present when the children are

placed out, and who with his own pen has filled with and for me many scores of those indentures. At Newcastle we have a similarly kind co-worker in J. Robson, Esq., Reeve, who has assisted me to place out in his district over 100 children; and at Mount Forest, I am deeply indebted to Sydney Smith, Esq., J. P., who with his family has helped me to place some 50 more. Reference is made in Mr. Grainger's letter to the wonderful protection afforded by English society to women and children, and to the rarity of cases of cruelty in the country to such persons. I beg to refer to a society formed for the very express purpose of protecting women and children in England, the pages of whose reports are black and sickening enough to make us as English people hide our faces, and silence for ever our condemnation of other countries on this matter; for as a nation we are guilty of wife-desertion, wife-beating, of child-selling and child neglect, to an extent that has no parallel in any other civilized nation under the sun. In the eighteen months I have had 150 little girls through my London Home, picked up from the streets and back slums. One of eight years old was brought in perfectly intoxicated; another of the same age had a broken skull and a dislocated arm, broken by the kicks of a drunken father; one of ten years had not slept in a house for a month; and two sisters, of much the same age, found on a heap of shavings in a room by themselves, deserted by both parents, were so nearly dead that other twelve hours would have ended for ever their brief struggle for life. And so on *ad nauseam*. Why, the moral of my whole life and its work is one long protest against the defective start in life, and the frightful struggle against impossibilities that a working girl of the lower orders, not to say the lowest, has in England. As to the statement that girls are wanted in England, that is no doubt an open question, of which I venture to take one view, being perfectly well aware that many other persons take the opposite. I support my view by the following facts:—

1. The mere presence in England of a number of girls and women who know nothing and do nothing does not enrich the country; on the contrary, such persons have to be supported by the labors and at the expense of industrious persons, persons often themselves struggling for existence.
2. That having a surplus of over 1,000,000 of women in the country, we have more women than we want, even if they were all trained; and that it is our duty as Christians to remove those women to lands where they are wanted, and our wisdom as citizens to send them where, being wanted, they can and will be trained, and being trained, will be valued and prized.
3. The senseless statement that I carry away all the servants is founded neither on facts nor statistics, which shew that while in 1860 only a twentieth part of our female population went into domestic service, a tenth of the whole of our female population are living by this means.

To the second statement made by Mr. Grainger, that the British, by paying £8 and an outfit for the emigration of each pauper child, is paying too dearly, I beg to state:

1. That all the other societies who emigrate children charge the same sum, including Feltham, an authority on all such subjects.

2. That presuming the average residence of the children in your schools to be four years, and the cost per head, including all salaries, interest on buildings, &c., to be only £20 per annum (and in some of the large district schools I know it to be double that sum, and the new schools at Ashford, built for the pauper children of St. George's, Hanover Square, have cost £120 a bed, without any keep), my way of providing for the children, at an average cost of £12, is a saving to the ratepayers of £68 on each child; and Dr. Haywood, before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool, on the occasion of my taking 50 children from their poor house, pointed out the fact "that as such children are kept until they are 14 and sometimes even 16 years of age, Miss Rye, by taking 50 children away at the average age of 8 years, had saved the ratepayers £5,200, which these orphans would have cost in their maintenance and education, and at the same time provided for them much better than could otherwise have been done in England" Sometimes too, I may add—as in the case of George Robert Colebrook, who came from this very union last June—I have a child given me without any payment at all. Probably the Board may not be aware of the fact, and the non-payment has been no doubt an oversight, but as the child was only 1 year old when he was given to me, and could not possibly have been placed out to service by your Board to get his living before he was 11 years of age, I have actually saved your ratepayers on this child alone £200, as the keep of one child for ten years at £20 a year comes to exactly that sum.

3. I beg to state I was never asked for, and I never undertook to give, an account of the £8 per head received from the different parishes; but being now asked, I am happy to give such an account, which I herewith produce.

4. I beg to state that all the names received from the public for the Gutter Children's Home here in England have been accounted for, and a printed copy of the same is in the hands of every Board.

5. I beg to say, that for the last *two* years I have received the bonus offered by the Government of Ontario for the introduction of emigrants into that Province, and that without that assistance I could not have kept my Canadian Home open—the expenses incurred by the return to the Home by naughty and disobedient girls being an item of expense upon which I had never calculated when I named the sum of £8 per head as sufficient to meet all expenses.

6. I beg to state that I have never in any way, either directly or indirectly, received moneys either as percentages, commissions, or any other advantages in any possible way, either from my shippers, Messrs. Allan of the M. O. S. S. Co., or of the Government agents, or of any other person, either here or elsewhere. And as to the opinion of the *St. Catharine's Journal* on the question, they have not only no data upon which to found an opinion, but that paper holds the same position in Canada the "*Paul Pry*" of 30 years ago held in England.

Mr. Grainger is of opinion that the chances of the children benefiting by going to Canada are small. Men of infinitely more weight than Mr. Grainger hold the opposite opinion.

Mr. Grainger *thinks* that out of thirty-five millions of people in England, there ought to be more persons willing and able to adopt children than there are in Canada with only four millions of souls.

I have nothing to do with what "ought to be"—I can only give you facts ; and I say that in the last four years, out of 1160 children I have had 273 children (of an average age of 8 years) all adopted in Canada, the bulk of whom are this day being as well educated, certainly as well dressed, and in all human probability infinitely better provided for than the children of any or all persons now in this room before me.

I confess to an ignorance of the statistics of the lunacy question in Canada. But were I even to grant the truth of Mr. Grainger's statements on this point, it would not affect my position ; for, granted that any nation has a preponderance of any particular avocation or industry, it stands to reason that persons following that particular trade must figure very largely in all statistics ; and granting Canada to be an almost exclusively agricultural country, as we well know it to be, why, the majority of lunatics in that country must, more or less, be all of the agricultural class. Work is hard in Canada, but great also is the reward ; and as to the climate, I think it one of the most delightful in the world, and certainly one of the most healthy ; at least I conclude so from the mortality among my children, which in the four years has been six in 1160—three in the Home and three out, and these last three accidental, viz. :—

*Hugh Astin*, aged 12, who was killed by the kick of a horse at Mount Forest, in 1872.

*Edith Hutchins*, aged 17, who was accidentally burned to death in the house of Mr. Rhind, Niagara, in June, 1873.

*Polly Thompson*, aged 12, who was also burned to death in Feb., 1874, in the house of Mr. Adamson, of Hamilton.

The other three deaths were *Herbert Radley*, aged 18 months, who died suddenly of mesenteric disease in 1870, and upon whom an inquest was held ; *Elizabeth Schofield*, aged 20 (a dwarf), who died of typhoid fever in Feb., 1871 ; and *Caroline Newbold*, aged 14, who died of the same complaint in August, 1873.

Mr. Grainger's next statement is that there are orphanages in Canada. This statement is correct. But the child who has lost both parents is rarely if ever found within their walls, such children being provided for by neighbors in the same way that my children are. These orphanages are filled with the children of widows and widowers, who leave them there, often with payment, for a certain time, until circumstances enable them to gather the little ones into a home of their own again ; the rest of the children are the children of dissolute and drunken parents, and our children are preferred to these children, because there as here the child of the drunkard is always at a discount.

To the statement that the religious instruction of the children is uncertain in Canada, I beg to state that this very important point is especially provided for by the trustees to whom I have already referred, and that the children learn a verse of Scripture every day while in the Home ; that they attend the Church of England services while in Niagara once a day every Sunday in the winter, and twice a day in the summer ; that we have family prayers in the Home night and morning, conducted by myself while in Canada, and by my friend, Miss Allaway, in my absence.

Mr. Grainger's next statement is that I am an independent power in Canada ; and if so, how does he reconcile this with his other state-

ment that I am in the pay and therefore under the control of the Canadians? I am an independent power in Canada, and I neither could nor would undertake the work on any other conditions. I can give you an illustration of the importance of this by saying that application was once made to me for two children by a gentleman, then a prominent member of the Canadian Ministry. This gentleman's character was well-known to be exceedingly indifferent, and in spite of four applications, he had to content himself with "No" for an answer. Now, where should I have been, and where would the work have been if I had not been an independent power? Nor was the rejection of this applicant a solitary case, as I have a very considerable number of rejected applications in my "pigeon holes" in Canada.

Mr. Grainger's next statement is, that the property in Niagara stands in my name. It does so. In the spring of 1872 I addressed a letter to the Local Government Board, begging them to consider the whole question of the emigration of pauper children as a national question, and offered them the Home at Niagara as a starting point, and my services and my experience if they would accept them. The answer I received from Whitehall was that the Board had great sympathy with my work, but that they not being an originating Board, such a scheme could not emanate from them, but that they would (and the Board have most faithfully fulfilled their promise) assist me in any way that lay in their power. Soon after this I made a will which, while it leaves the Home in my hands as long as I live, provides for its being held in trust for the same hereafter by the same gentlemen who are now, and who have from the commencement assisted me in the work. The next charge is, that I pay taxes on the Niagara Home as private property. My answer is simply, I do not. I do pay taxes on two dogs, a horse, and on two and a half acres of land adjoining the Home and which are my own property, but I do not pay taxes on the Home and grounds. The next statement is that I speak of one of my girls, aged 10 years, as milking 10 cows. This statement, if in print, must be a printer's error, as I know of no such case; moreover, as a rule, the milking of cows is done on the farms by the men.

As to the statement that the children of the female sex are exposed in Canada to the brutalities of men: this statement is so utterly opposed to facts, that the mere denial of such statement is all I can say on the question; and as to the thinly populated country being a shield to such enormities even if they existed, we all know personally from painful experience that it is to the big cities everywhere that bad men and women turn, that the density of population may shield them from detection in their iniquities; and so much is this the case, that the only places I am shy of sending my children to in Canada are the big cities; and as far as possible I place them in country homes, where every fresh little circumstance is the theme for a thousand comments, and where whatever is done is done under the eyes of a community who have very little else to do but criticize the conduct, the words and the manners of one another. To the statement that the Canadians, if they want cheap labor, should import negroes and coolies instead of orphan girls, I beg to say, the Canadians do not import these poor children, and that at the commencement of my work, the late M. Taebe, then Minister for Agriculture, absolutely forbade my bringing such children into the country; and I had some little difficulty in persuading the Premier, Sir John A. McDonald, to

reverse the decision of his colleague. The next charge is that very many of the children are sent to the States. To this I reply, that only 42 out of the 1160 children have been placed in the States, though I would very gladly place many more with Americans did I not feel bound in honor to place them with Canadians. As to the worthlessness of the children's letters, because they are written from their master's house, with *his* pen, *his* ink, and on *his* paper, &c., I can only say, I know persons who have used *my* pens, *my* ink, and *my* paper to write very infamous things about me and my work. And I think you will at all events allow that it is a very curious coincidence that the bundle of children's letters (over 200) I now produce, addressed to myself, and which by no means form the whole of the children's letters, as we have many in Canada, and there most be over 200 more letters in England in the hands of the different workhouse officials—letters written by children of all ages all over Canada, and by children who never even saw each other coming out, as they did so at different times and in different ships, but all breathing the same spirit of grateful thanks for their new homes, and of affection to myself and fellow-worker, Miss Allaway—give a very emphatic denial to Mr. Grainger's insulting insinuations against the duplicity and complicity of the Canadian character. The next statement is that I have guarded every avenue by which cases of known ill treatment, taken up not by myself but by philanthropic Canadians, reach the British public. To this I reply, the only three children I have ever had ill treated have been *Nancy Nye*, Holborn; *Sarah Saxby*, Peckham; *Constance Branch*, Lambeth. The *first* child was only away from the Home 3 months, and was returned by the people who took her at the end of that time in a very emaciated condition. This was the first case of bad treatment, and I took no action in the matter, not knowing exactly what ought to have been done. We nursed the child, and she was all right again at the end of six weeks, when we found her (in 1871) a new home with T. Robson, Esq., of Newcastle, where she is now living, and who has provided for her by will. I produce her photograph. The next child ran away from her home and complained to me of her treatment; the people with whom I had placed the child complained of her also to me; and thirdly, the neighbors complained of the master and mistress. I consequently placed the matter in the hands of the local magistrate of Lobo, who first investigated and then dismissed the case. I was not satisfied with the decision, and myself removed the child, who is now living with Mr. Edwards, Postmaster of Lobo. The third child was beaten by her mistress while the latter was in a passion. A neighbor saw the ill treatment and at once went to her clergyman, Rev. Henry Holland, of St. Catharines, who communicated with me, as also the Police Magistrate, Mr. Burns, before whom the case was tried. I was present when the mistress was sentenced; she was fined \$40, and I took the child back with me to the Home. The statement that all reports emanate from me, and that I alone possess the clue to the whereabouts of the children, is not correct; for we have a very powerful and independent press in Canada, which would speak very plainly to me and about me if there were any necessity. I do not possess alone the clue to the whereabouts of the children. We keep full accounts of the placing out of the children in duplicate in the Home in Niagara; we have a third copy here in London, which I now produce; and we send, as you are well aware, a

further copy to every Board of every child we have ever taken from any union. Who the band of interested people are who surround me, and are desirous of notoriety or of something more substantial, I must leave you to discover, for I can give no clue to this wonderful and disgraceful insinuation. Mr. Arthur Clayden, of whom I personally know nothing, and never saw even when in Canada—though I know as a fact that with Mr. Arch and Colonel Denison he did visit my Home in Niagara, and who is now charged with ignorance and untruthfulness in the following letter which I here produce—thus answers for himself; and as he has seen my Home and Mr. Grainger has not, I would venture to suggest that the opinion of Mr. Clayden is worth at least as much as that of Mr. Grainger.

[Copy].—“Mr. Allendale Grainger insinuates that there was a connection between my letter on your work and the *St. Catharine's Journal*. If I had the pleasure of knowing that gentleman, I would take the trouble of informing him that when that letter was written I did not even know of such a paper, and even now I am utterly ignorant of what the paper has said about you. If Mr. Grainger is a gentleman, I hope he will at once withdraw and apologize for this gratuitous assumption. You are at full liberty to make what use you like of this letter; and I will conclude with an expression of my unabated confidence in your noble mission.”

The last request of this paper is, that the Local Govt. Board should be solicited to send some proper person to Canada to report truthfully on the working of the whole system. To this I can have no possible objection—having myself urged the matter many times at Whitehall—as I have everything to gain and nothing to fear from any examination that is honestly and fairly conducted. I could summon within a few days' notice to Niagara as fine a body of young people as could be shewn anywhere in the world, or copies of the children's addresses could be had and every child visited in her home. And I say publicly, gentlemen, without fear of contradiction, that neither this Board nor any other Board of Guardians in London, or indeed in England, no, not with your array of officers, overseers and inspectors, could shew such children here in England as I can in Canada. Do you think any woman would work as I work, would or could live the life I live, without some such glorious result—some such harvest for some such seed-sowing? No! It would not be possible to continue such work unless the reaping and sowing were almost in due proportion. And I thank God this day, and say it without fear of contradiction, that my work is a glorious success, and has in all ways exceeded my most sanguine expectations. And this I know, that if you saw with my eyes and knew the colonies as I do, every workhouse school in the country would be doomed, and every child planted in those glorious new lands, where plenty, and health and wealth is the heritage of all. I do not ask you in one sense to believe in me—that is a very small matter—but I do ask you to believe in the question; and if this paper of mine shall have aroused you to extend the work farther and place it on a firmer basis, I shall consider myself in some way repaid for the pain which this unjust and ungenerous attack has caused me. In concluding, I shall give you a short summary of my work last year, as this will probably give you some idea of what is involved in my undertaking. I left the Home in Niagara in February, 1873, and travelled night and day to Portland, to take ship for England. When I reached Portland the

ships advertised were not in port; this necessitated my going on to New York. I then crossed the Atlantic, and remaining in England until the 26th of June, recrossed the ocean with 65 children, having previously dispatched 71 souls on the 1st May. In September I was again in Quebec, nearly 600 miles from the Home, to meet the third and last party of children for the season, numbering 58. With these children I returned the 600 miles to the Home, and after placing out the whole of the children, at the end of October I went into the West, visiting the children in the neighborhood of Mount Forest, where I have about 30 little ones under the care of Sydney Smith, J.P., who for a very long time has most kindly assisted me in the work. There the children came to tea with me, and we had a very happy little gathering. After a week spent in Mount Forest I went on to Arthur; saw the six or seven children I have there, went on from there to Fergus, from there to Guelph, from Guelph to London, in all of which places I have children, and visited nearly all of them. From London I went to Port Stanley, Sherwood, Petrolia, and lastly to Chatham, returning by Woodstock—on the same errand to all places.

On my return to Niagara, I made up my book from memoranda gathered on the journey; made copies of the placing out of the children for the year; made another journey East, making in all rather more than 6000 miles of railway work within the year in Canada alone; when I crossed the Atlantic for the third time, and came back to England to dive into your slums and the sighs and sorrows of your great city. But this is not quite all. Do not misunderstand me, because I speak so brightly and happily of my Canadian work, that there is no dark side to the picture. Alas! how could it be otherwise, knowing what we do of these poor children and their parentage, to say nothing of the weakness and sinfulness of human nature. Here is my "Black Book"—the Book of the replacement of my children, and the causes that have brought them back to the Home. You will see by this book that up to December, 1873, I have had 181 children returned to me, or have been removed by me for various causes, some for very trivial reasons, others for gross wickedness and immoralities. Many of the children, as you will see, have been placed by me 3, 4 and 5, and one 10 times over. To use the words of a friend, this part of the work is a kind of "cheerful despair." But as we know, if we do not bear with these children no one else will; we persevere, and by and bye, here too we shall have our reward.

In conclusion, the question is often asked me, "Why do these Canadians take these children?" I think there are three chief reasons. First of all, people in Canada marry very early in life; the young people follow their parents' example; and at 45 or 50 many an excellent and well-to-do couple find themselves alone, and their children settled perhaps 100 miles or more from the old homestead. Such people are constantly writing me, "Can't you give us a little girl. We don't think we are too old to bring up a second family; little ones about a place make it cheerful; they save steps, and we could do well for her." Yes, and they do well for them, the child sharing in the hopes, the cares and the pleasures of the home, as well as in the work. Secondly, some persons want the children for actual domestic service, and offer them much better homes than workhouse girls can get into here in England. Thirdly, there are some few godly persons, who have sympathy with the work from Christ-like motives—



who say, we have no poor, and there is very little active work that we can do for the Master ; we should like to help your or rather the Lord's work ; bring us over these children from their misery, and we will make us households like flocks of sheep." And verily the promise is literally fulfilled—they take the beggar from the dunghill and set him among the princes.

This, gentlemen, is the work I am trying to do, and this the work in which I again ask your kind co-operation. As far as your own schools are concerned, I desire to bear testimony to the very admirable way in which your children are managed. I have only had two of your children returned to me at the Home, viz., Chansy and Howes, and neither of them for what could be considered bad conduct ; but the whole system of the education of pauper girls is false and rotten, and in a very short time we shall have a Government report that will prove that while in our large district schools we have a maximum of expense we have a minimum of result. And I say that no girl can grow up into a decent, an affectionate and a faithful woman without home influence ; and that for the founding, the pauper, and the deserted child this is an absolute impossibility in England, but it is a good hope and an almost absolute certainty in Canada.

I thank you for your patient attention to my remarks, and trust my explanations will have proved satisfactory.

MARIA S. RYE.

March 25th, 1874.