

" Any person who will visit the Knowlton Home, and go over our books, will, I believe, be quite satisfied that our children are not neglected in that respect.

"Yours truly,
" E. BARBER "

COMMITTEE ROOM,
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
OTTAWA, 16th March, 1875.

Miss Annie Macpherson appeared before the Committee, and made the following statements regarding her work, in answer to questions by Mr. Gordon:

The total number of children brought out under her agency since the year 1870, was two thousand.

Upon being solicited to take charge of the children, they are removed to the Home in Spitalfields in London.

The schoolmaster in the Home selected (after they had remained a month) such of the children as were healthy enough in constitution, and sufficiently educated. Those who passed the test were sent to the Homes in the country for training. If the children were ragged when they were taken in charge they were comfortably clothed and otherwise provided for, they were treated in all respects exactly as if they were her own brothers.

A doctor was in the institution every day to see to their health, even before they were judged ready to be formally received. The schoolmaster and others engaged in the work united in the consideration as to which of the children were suitable for emigration to Canada.

While they were in the Home they underwent a thorough system of education and discipline.

In their passage to this country the children were in charge of her (Miss Macpherson) or her co-workers, and of respectable adult emigrants, widows and others who aided them.

They had never tried to make any special bargain with the shippers; the children were brought out on the same terms as regular emigrants.

She (Miss Macpherson) and her assistants did not trust to the services of the ship-servants for attendance upon and care of the children, but turned in and helped at the work themselves.

Mr. Trow, M.P., here suggested that the better plan would be for Miss Macpherson to give a detailed account of her work in her own way; the number of emigrants brought out; the means at her disposal; whence these means were derived; the privileges, if any, she received from the Emigration Department; the schools she had established; how they were supported, and all other matters of that description.

Mr. Gordon, M. P., said that a number of charges had been made by Mr. Doyle against the work in which Miss Macpherson and her friends were engaged. That gentleman's report was being widely circulated; the matter had been taken up by the *Toronto Mail*, and he had also found the charges reproduced in a St. Catherin's newspaper. He believed that it was the desire of the Committee to obtain the fullest possible information on the subject, and allow the blame to fall upon those to whom it belonged.

Mr. Trow said Mr. Doyle was not on trial before the Committee. Their object was to ascertain the success of the enterprise.

The *Chairman* said he thought the Committee should decide upon the mode of conducting the enquiry. They should either allow Mr. Gordon to proceed, or some member of the Committee should write out the questions to be asked Miss Macpherson.