THE

BEST METHOD OF DISPOSING

OF OUR

PAUPER AND VAGRANT CHILDREN.

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The recent burning of the Reform School in Westborough (Mass.) by one of the lads confined there, the destruction of the Reformatory Institution on Deer Island by some of the inmates, and the statement of Gov. Banks in his Message to the Massachusetts Legislature, that "one-tenth of the graduates of the Reform School are inmates of the States prisons," have called public attention anew to the questions of the treatment of youthful poverty and crime.

Such questions belong to the region of the most difficult problems in human nature and society. How to minister even to the young mind, diseased; how, still farther, to prevent the attack of the malady; how to prune dangerous impulses and yet not plant mechanical virtues; how to meet the neglect of parents and yet not lessen parental responsibility; how to manage numbers of persons, under a system, and yet have the system work in accordance with the providential laws of society; how to use moral machinery, and yet regard the peculiarities of the individual; how to make our legislation, our reformatory expedients, and our charity, not exceptional and temporary, but in harmony with the great principles of political economy and the great impulses of human nature—these are all difficulties which come up continually, in considering the different modes of treating the young criminal and vagrant.

There is a popular impression, that all methods of treatment are about equally good for the reforming of vicious children, or for preventing crime among them; and, so that the original purpose be kind and unselfish, the public look on all such efforts as equally laudable. But in point of fact, the systems of reform and prevention differ almost as much in their real value, as different systems of medicine, or the various methods of education, in different countries. They vary in their expenses to the public, in the principles which animate them, and in their results. As a mere matter of economy,
it is important that the cheapest and most efficient method of treating the evils of youthful crime and poverty, should be adopted by the community.

And now, in laying the foundation of a future system of Reform, and Prevention of juvenile crime and vagrancy—one which shall make America as much a blessing to the neglected classes, as it has been to the favored classes—it is doubly important that the principles of treatment should be clearly understood and carefully weighed.

It must be remembered, that the whole subject, though difficult, is in no way abstruse, or removed from the experience of common life. The children of the poor are not essentially different from the children of the rich; the same principles which influence the good or evil development of every child in comfortable circumstances, will affect, in greater or less degree, the child of poverty. Sympathy and hope are as inspiring to the ignorant girl, as to the educated; steady occupation is as necessary for the street-boy, as the boy of a wealthy house; indifference is as chilling to the one class, as to the other; the prospect of success is as stimulating to the young vagrant, as to the student in the college.

The great mistake we make in regard to the children of the poor, is our too rigid classification. It is true there is a certain similarity among them, but the grand truth more and more forces itself upon us, that each poor, deserted, unfortunate little creature in the streets is an individual, like no other being whom God has created. He has his own tastes—his own habits—his peculiar temptations—his especial weaknesses, and his own virtues. We may class him, from certain external resemblances, with a hundred or a thousand other lads, and yet he is still distinct and individual. Perhaps one grand distinction of man from all other animals, and the pledge of his immortality, is his individuality—or the infinite variety which the Creator has impressed upon his nature, and which makes it impossible ever absolutely to include him within the machinery of a system.

This grand fact must especially be considered in any method of reform for his vices, or of education for his faculties.

Nature seems especially to indicate small groups of parents and children, or old and young, as the best forming-institution for young minds. Children in large numbers together, in constant
intercourse, appear never to exert a healthful influence on each other: in the higher classes, habits of deceit, and unnatural vices are spread among them; and in the lower, all the seeds of vice which might otherwise lie dormant, spring up and grow noxiously.

Another great error committed in our systems of Juvenile Reform, is in not following the natural laws which Providence has established in human nature. It was long ago discovered in the system of Prison Discipline in England, that if the prison-life did not offer stimulants to good conduct, and apply to the convict's mind, the two great motors, Hope and Fear, and establish some resemblance to the discipline and temptation of common life, it would fail of its great object—the reform of the prisoner.

It was this that gave rise to the celebrated system of Captain Machonikie. But whatever was the result in England, the correctness of the principle is manifest. If the object of an institution, or a method of treatment, be Reform, it is evident there must be some species of discipline, trial, or temptation; reward for good conduct, success for industry, hope and applause for honesty and virtue, and pain and loss and disapprobation for idleness and dishonesty and vice.

The life in the Asylum or Refuge must correspond somewhat with the life outside. Labor should have reward, and virtue, honor. Laziness should bring after it suffering; and vices, disgrace. The virtues must not be drill-virtues; they must spring from the heart, and be exposed to the strain of temptation. A mere treadmill goodness, which has gone through a daily round of observances, under the pressure of force, is of little worth for every-day life. In every institution of reform, also, there should be allowed somewhere with the inmates, the sense of property, that with it may be cultivated the instinct of economy. Wherever the Reformatory fails of these stimuli to the character, it fails of one essential object of the treatment.

With all that can be derived from the excellent and self-sacrificing systems of English charity and reform for the young, we cannot but feel that a great error has been committed in America by a too close imitation of them. The essential conditions of the problems are unlike in the two countries. The relations of Labor
and Capital, and the personal position of the working class, are altogether different here from what they are in England.

America has the accidental, but the immense advantage, of an unlimited demand for labor, especially for juvenile labor. In England, on the contrary—though in this respect a favorable change is commencing—the market is over-supplied, and the great difficulty in regard to each youthful criminal, or vagrant, or pauper, is to know what to do with him, even if he be reformed. The consequence is, that the English institutions are obliged to keep large numbers of children together, and their great attention is turned to what is a necessity to them—the management of young persons in masses.

Beside, in great Britain, even if the youthful détenus were discharged, his position as a former member of a charitable institution or a Reformatory, would always tend to degrade him among a class already sufficiently depressed, so that we cannot wonder that the managers desire to retain the unfortunate subjects of their institutions as long as is possible.

We have imitated their method of treatment, without their reasons for it. We have crowded asylums and reformatories with young paupers and vagrants and petty criminals not yet inured in crime, when a far more effective and more natural treatment was ready to our hand.

In applying these various errors of principle—namely, the want of individuality of treatment, the disregard of natural laws, and of the economic advantages peculiar to America—to our reformatory and preventive systems in this country, we shall find that great mistakes have been committed.

The experience of Massachusetts is significant in this particular. In 1858, a joint special committee, appointed by the Legislature, reported on the Reform School at Westborough, as follows:

"We would recommend, that as far as possible, the school be divided into classes of forty or fifty, and that each of these be placed under the care of a single person, who should endeavor to acquire a familiar acquaintance with all the boys in his own class, and study their peculiarities of disposition, as moulded by nature and circumstances. This special instructor should always be with his
class, at prayers, meals, study, play, and work. It is impossible that there should be an intimate and cordial sympathy between every one of six hundred boys and the superintendent. They know that he could give them but a minute's thought a piece, if he should busy himself for their welfare during a whole day of ten hours. But he has many cares upon his shoulders, besides looking after individual boys; and there should be somebody, to whom each boy should feel that he can at all times turn, during his stay in the school, for sympathy, advice, and encouragement. This should be the master of his particular class.

"The recovery of the farm will enable the trustees to employ the boys in simple agricultural labor. This should be done to the utmost extent possible. Regard should be had not so much to the profitableness of the labor, as to the advantage both to the mental and physical constitutions of the boys, in keeping them at work, especially out of doors. We saw nothing more discouraging anywhere in our visits, than two large rooms at Westborough, full of idle boys, for whom nothing to do had been provided. Means must be found to prevent this.

"There ought, moreover, to be a regular and systematic effort to find places for the boys, where they can enjoy the influences and associations of a home. Something has been done already in this direction, by the exertions of the chaplain, under the direction of the trustees, and we hope that this measure will be persistently continued. There are many farmers, and others, in our State, who would be glad to take a boy and bring him up, but they will not be likely to take the trouble to make a journey to Westborough to find him, unless the idea is suggested to them; and they will be still more ready to take the boy into employment, if he is brought to their doors by a messenger from the institution.

"We should be glad to see something done in execution of the plan proposed by Mr. Lyman, in one of his letters, to give deserving boys, on their graduation from the school, a small sum of money to start them in life.

"If the division into classes, which we have suggested, should be carried out, it would be well to establish a graduating class, to consist of the most meritorious boys, who might be allowed to live beyond the walls of the main building, in some of the farm-houses
upon the State’s land, and be clothed with other privileges during good behavior.”

These wise recommendations, agreeing, it will be observed, in principle, precisely with the suggestions we have been making, do not appear to have been complied with; and during this last year (1859), one of the subjects of this “reform” has burned down the buildings of the school; while it has been discovered, from the statistics of the prisons, according to Governor Banks, that “one tenth of the convicts are graduates of the Reform School.” This estimate is, no doubt, exaggerated; still it shows the public sentiment, that the system followed in Massachusetts has not been a success.

Another committee have been appointed this year (1859) by the Legislature, and have again reported in favor of a change of organization, as follows:

“They further propose the erection, upon the farm, of three or four buildings, to be as distant as possible from each other, and to accommodate thirty boys each. These houses should contain one or two dormitories, a dining-room, kitchen, rooms for the farmer’s family, &c.; in a word, they should be plain farm-houses, which could be erected at small expense, by using the bricks now on the ground, or in the injured walls of the enlargement that are still standing. There are three or four farm-buildings now on the place, some of which could be fitted for the same purpose at little expense, though in only one of them could as many as thirty boys be lodged. Each of these houses should be under the charge of a sub-master, who should be a practical farmer, and share, as well as direct, the labor of the inmates of his family; and if he needed assistance in his duty, the Committee are of opinion, that he should receive it from monitors, selected for good character and conduct, among the older boys, rather than from a salaried assistant. They also consider that the boys in each house should be entirely separated from those in the other houses and in the main building, and that the number in all the detached houses should not exceed one hundred and fifty. They would thus limit the whole number in the institution to three hundred and fifty at the utmost, and they desire to express their unanimous opinion, that if now or hereafter,
more need to be provided for, it should be done elsewhere than at Westborough."

The following plain practical views from Mr. Nichols, the experienced head of the Chicago Reform School, confirm those opinions in favor of the Family System:

"Each house for the occupancy of inmates, should be so constructed with the capacity of accommodating not to exceed forty pupils. Each dwelling should be plainly built, and should not exceed in cost the sum of $2,000. These dwellings should be plainly furnished, after the manner the industrious poor furnish their dwellings. If Reformatories should adopt a course like this these institutions would not only be recommended to public favor, but the effect upon the inmates themselves would be most salutary. It would then be manifest to all men that the object aimed at was the reformation of the vicious, and not outside show. The object sought by these schools is to prepare the inmates to go out and fight the battles of life.

"Take, then, a boy who has been trained in the large house, let this boy be sent out to grapple with the difficulties of a frontier life, let him share the same fate which the hardy pioneer has been called to experience in the settled part of every new country—separated from steam-works, to pump his water, cook his dinner, and supply him with mechanical power in the prosecution of the various trades. He has no longer to do with gas-pipes or gas-meters; but he is compelled to substitute for his steam-appliances for supplying the water for family use, the labor of furnishing himself from a neighboring slough, three fourths of a mile distant, and this, too, has to be procured by the single pail, at the expense of a pilgrimage repeated many times a day. Instead of the brilliant blaze of gas-light, he is now subjected to the necessity of either sitting in darkness, or using hickory bark as a substitute.

"But where is the boy who had been accustomed to all of the conveniences above enumerated, who would not wilt down under the discouragements incident to privations like these? A boy who had been educated in the large house, is not fitted by his education to meet difficulties like these."

A wise foresight in Ohio led to the formation of their State Reform School (at Lancaster), on the basis of the "family system;" and thus far it has proved pre-eminently successful. Even the "escapes" have been less than in many institutions on the penitentiary or congregated plan, where force and severe restrictions have been employed.* In Europe, the experience of this system has been equally encouraging—as, for instance, in the celebrated Rauhe Haus (Rough House) under Herr Wichern, at Hamburg, and in a few similar institutions in England.

* Their Report shows but one escape in the year.
It must be apparent, on the face of it, to any intelligent person, that three or four hundred street boys or girls, placed together in one asylum, could not exert a specially beneficial influence on one another. We all know what the result of this massing together is, with children of the higher classes: how much more is it to be expected in those of the lowest and most abandoned? Such a multitude of unfortunate little creatures form among themselves a public opinion, and usually one that their teachers know very little of. Evil becomes intensified among so many. They catch from one another a thousand bad and unnatural habits, which would die out, or never come to the light, in the healthful air of outward life, but which grow poisonously in confined circumstances. All the slang and the stories of vicious associations are spread from one to another; the haunts of vice and crime are made known, and many a lad enters comparatively pure, for a trifling offense, who comes forth corrupted and debased. Even the virtues are often those which appear on the surface, and are exhibited to the instructors; while the vigor of a principle, constantly tried in temptation, or of a manly honesty, is seldom shown. The moral air of the place is a kind of hot-house air; and the qualities that appear to thrive are often artificial, and wither at the first contact with the air of the outside world.* People who employ these children afterwards, complain, we find, not so much of open vices, as of habits of deceit, weakness of principle, and secret vices.

The child—even the street-child—is an individual, mysterious and peculiar in his organization, and impossible to be properly educated, with a hundred others, in mass.

It would be as wise, in medical practice, to put a hundred patients, diseased of innumerable maladies, in some immense hospital, and apply a universal treatment by machinery (as Napoleon is said to have done with a regiment attacked by a single disorder), as to place a hundred abandoned, ignorant, vicious child-

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*A gentleman of long experience in one of our prominent missions for the outcast, has assured me that he has never known an instance of permanent religious conversion among their children. I would not attach too much importance to religious changes in children, yet our letters show scores every year among our children in their new homes, who seem to have begun a new life, and so far as we hear, they hold out.
ren, each with his separate moral malady, under the drill arrangement of some public institution.

The child must have sympathy, individual management, encouragement for good conduct, pain for bad, instruction for his doubts, tenderness for his weakness, care for his habits, religious counsel and impulse for his peculiar wants. He needs, too, something of the robust and healthy discipline of every-day life. He ought to be tried; he ought to labor with a motive; he also should have something of the boundless hope which stimulates so wonderfully the American youth.

How can all this be got in an asylum or refuge?

The nearest approach to it, is undoubtedly in the adoption of the “Family System,” recommended, as we have seen, by the committee of the Massachusetts Legislature.

As we do not propose here to examine at length this system, we must say that it consists, simply, in grouping the children of an institution, and placing each little company—say of fifteen or twenty—under the charge of one person, who shall become a kind of father or “elder brother” to them; they living, working, eating and sleeping separately from the other children. By this method a resemblance is formed, a poor one indeed, to the real family of the outside world, and some of its blessings are secured. It has already proved wonderfully successful in various reformatory institutions, and it is a misfortune to our own State that it has never been attempted here.

But the question now arises, whether some method can not be found, which for the vagrant and destitute child, or even for the child guilty only of petty offenses, shall do the work on the principles laid down in the beginning of this pamphlet, on a vastly larger scale even than the family system, far more naturally and effectively, and at much less expense to the community. We believe that this method has been attained by the Emigration-plan of the New York Children's Aid Society.

Before speaking more particularly of this effort, we would premise that there is a sufficient field open for large institutions (though even these should be managed on the Family-system), in
that numerous class of children and youths already hardened and mature in crime, who have come under the law; girls beyond the age of fourteen who have been guilty of criminal offenses, and boys the nature or repetition of whose offenses show that they have already become old and experienced in bad practices. The Judges alone, from the particular case before them, could determine their fitness for this peculiar discipline.

We would also gratefully allow the good which has already been accomplished in asylums and refuges for the outcast class of children.

There is no system which can not be overcome by the powerful influence of its guiding mind. A man like M. Demetz (of Mettrai), or Herr Wichern, or Mr. Wilson, of London, or Mr. Nichols, of Chicago, would influence even a company of convicts under the most cruel system of the ancient prisons. The noble and self-sacrificing men and women in some of our public institutions have trained and improved their youthful subjects, despite all the bad influences of the system and the place.

But this, in a broad view of the subject, is to be looked on as exceptional. We can not always secure Demetz' and Nichols' for our reformatories, and our system must, to a certain degree, do what individuals may not be found to accomplish.

The Emigration-plan of the Children's Aid Society, is simply to connect the supply of juvenile labor of the city with the demand from the country, and to place unfortunate, destitute, vagrant and abandoned children at once in good families in the country.

The plan will be seen to accord with the principles on which we started; it secures individual management for the child; it brings him under the great natural impulses which train the character most vigorously; it is in harmony with economic laws. The family is God's Reformatory; and every child of bad habits who can secure a place in a Christian home, is in the best possible place for his improvement. All the individual impulses which help to make our children what they are, are applied to him—sympathy, kind care, personal interest, association with the virtuous, the approbation of the good, and direct religious influence. He feels, too, the great impelling powers which help everywhere to elevate the laboring class in America: the instinct of property
(for we find that the farmers wisely give these boys or girls some animal, or tool, or garden-bed, which they may have as their own); the consciousness of equality; the chance of great success; and, at an early period, a liberal payment for labor. No artificial system could oversupply these influences; they are continuous, unconscious, and necessary in the family life of this country.

Nor can many persons imagine the unlimited nature of the demand in America for children's labor. The Children's Aid Society alone has, by letter or through its agents, thousands of applications each year more than it can supply, though already sending out nearly eight hundred a year. We have no hesitation in saying, that all the pauper children (of sound bodies) now supported at such immense expense by the city, and a proportion of the young vagrants and petty offenders maintained at public cost, might with ease at this moment, on a trifling expense, be placed in good religious homes in our rural districts, where every influence exerted upon them would be far healthier and better, and where a larger proportion would turn out well than under the present system.

Why, then, is not this effective and economic system adopted by those in charge of our public institutions for children? Mostly because of the prestige of older methods derived from other countries; and but in part because of certain honest objections in the minds of many persons.

It is feared that these children would corrupt the morals of the families to which they are sent, and that thus the enterprise would become an imposition and a nuisance to one portion of the country; and it is urged that they are the better for previous training in Reformatories. It is probably admitted that our community is better off for being relieved of the support of these children, and that the children are more likely to turn out well in a family than in a Reformatory; but it is feared that if they are bad, they will injure others who are innocent.

In reply, we must call attention to the utter impossibility of such a plan's being carried on long, if it produced bad effects. No power in the world could compel the country districts to receive a constant importation of confirmedly idle and criminal persons from this city. The character of the enterprise would be soon under-
stood, and if it was found to be corrupting families in the country, it would soon fall under a just public odium. We deny also, in view of the principles laid down, that for a street-child (not matured in habits), or for a young vagrant, the Reformatory is ever so likely to produce genuine reform, as the family. We must remind such persons of the wonderful capacity for improvement in children's natures under new circumstances; and we assert boldly, that a poor child taken in thus by the hand of Christian charity, and placed in a new world of love and of religion, is more likely to be tempted to good, than to tempt others to evil.

The fact is, such children of misfortune are, very often, by no means so bad as they seem. A considerable experience has alone confirmed this in our minds. The vice which in a child of better circumstances would be proof of an utter depravation of character, in these unfortunate creatures, victims of circumstances, is often only an external habit and soon eradicated by pure and kindly influence.

Under any discipline, a certain number will turn out badly; we only claim for this method fewer failures than under any other, and a work much more economical and extensive.

The best proofs of a theory are its results, and from these we shall attempt to show what has been the success of our emigration plan.

The Children's Aid Society have now for about seven years been sending out their subjects, amounting in all to some 5,000, of whom a large proportion have been children. Of these, we can not show the exact ratio reformed, as, from the nature of the operation, some disappear from our view. None are indentured,* and the older boys and girls change their places frequently, with the hope of bettering themselves. It is sometimes only after a year or

* With reference to this feature of our system, we quote from Mr. Nichols' Report for 1859, and his opinion, from his wide observation in the West, must be considered of great value:

"As a general principle, I am in favor of the course adopted by the Children's Aid Society, in the city of New York, in sending children out to country homes without any indenture, and in most cases it will be found I apprehend, that boys so sent will do better, and stay more contentedly, than they would if bound to service. The master, too if a good man, will do as well, and even better, for the boy, than if he should be bound to him for a term of years. There are so many hard minded men who would abuse the confidence reposed in them by having a defenseless and unfortunate boy bound to them, that the subject, at least, of indenturing boys to masters, unless well known, is of doubtful propriety."
two of writing that we can discover where some of the older are. During this year, quite a number of those whom we sent out six and seven years ago, and whom we had lost sight of, have called at the office, appearing as respectable young men and women. In general, however, American boys and girls of this class feel reluctant in time to acknowledge their connection with a charitable society.

Still, though we can not furnish exact scientific statistics of the numbers certainly reformed (and it is doubtful if any Reformatory can ever do this with certainty), we can make a very good approximation, by ascertaining, in each community, the number of our children who have committed criminal offenses, or who have been put in alms-houses and prisons, and also by learning the general public opinion of the country districts, as to the character of these little emigrants. From all the younger children, too, we are constantly receiving accounts.

We place our evidence below, consisting of letters from prominent gentlemen, clergymen, bankers, farmers, judges and lawyers, through the West, where the main body of these poor children have been placed. We think these letters, coming from some hundred different towns, and the evidence on our books from the boys themselves, establish the remarkable success of the work. Some of the writers speak of the children as thriving "as well as any other children;" in some cases, those who have become disobedient and troublesome, are said to have been so principally through the fault of their employers; few instances, comparatively, from this 4,000 or 5,000 are known to have committed criminal offenses—in some States, not more than four per cent. This is true of Michigan; and in Ohio, we do not think, from all the returns we can gather, that the proportion is even as large as that. The Agent of the American and Foreign Christian Union for Indiana, a gentleman of the highest respectability, constantly traveling through the State—a State where we have placed 557 children, testifies that "very few have gone back to New York," and that he has "heard of no one who has committed criminal offenses."

The Superintendent of the Chicago Reform School, one of the most successful and experienced men in this country in Juvenile Reform, states that his institution has never had but 3 of our children committed by the Illinois State courts, though we
have sent to the State 265, and such an institution is of course, the place where criminal children of this class would at once be committed.

A prominent gentleman, residing in Battle Creek, Michigan, in the neighborhood of which we have put out about 120, writes: "I think it is susceptible of proof, that no equal number of children raised here, are superior to those you placed out." Two prominent gentlemen from Pennsylvania, one of them a leading Judge in the State, write that they have not known an instance of one of our children being imprisoned for a criminal offense, though we have sent 469 to this State.

Of course, in an enterprise of this nature, failures must occasionally occur; the line is a vague one between the vagrant and the child hardened in criminal habits, and may be easily passed without our knowledge. We are bound, too, in such cases, to lean to the side of a merciful judgment. And even from the children of the more favored classes, how seldom is it that any large proportion would be entirely free from bad habits? Yet in the cases of children sent out, who have been found incorrigible in criminal habits, we do not remember ever to have heard an instance of complaint that they had corrupted others.

From one or two towns in Indiana, we have reports of our larger boys having run away, or changed their places, so that it is not now known where they are. But even in these, the smaller children have done well; and we shall not despair yet of getting good accounts from the older. In two places, Fort Wayne and Laporte, the reputation of the protégés of our Society has suffered through the misconduct of some young women sent out during the "business crisis" by another society, without sufficient investigation into their characters. And even if it shall be proved, as has been stated, that any considerable number of the "seamstresses and working-girls" dispatched to the West by this society in a time of great calamity, to save them from starvation, have gone back to the city, we may yet believe the good to them balances the cost; and the result in no way affects our distinctive work—the emigration of children.

We do not believe, going over the whole field of our work, that the failures would reach ten per cent.; in many States they would
not exceed four per cent. We mean by failures, it should be understood, those who have become a burden or nuisance to society. And even those who have committed criminal offenses—thefts or the like—are not necessarily hopelessly gone. We can think of instances of these, where kind Christian influence in families has already restored them.

If 25 per cent., or one quarter, turned out badly, we believe the work would richly reward for its cost; for in the city, we can hardly doubt that 95 per cent. would become in some way burdens to society.

In view of all this, we feel we have the right to call upon the City, the Legislature, and the public, for a more liberal support of this great public charity.

With sufficient funds, we could send an emigration of several thousands every year. Our machinery is all ready; we have almost innumerable applications, and there is no reason why many of our great institutions should not make our Society the channel for relieving the public of their little subjects, and for putting them in homes.

The country is interested in this, as well as the city; for not only would these children, if left in vice and poverty, curse the whole nation, but, moreover, we, by sending them out, are supplying the greatest and sorest need in American families, a permanent labor, educated in the habits of the house.

We confidently ask, then, for means for a larger field of usefulness.

C. L. Brace.

Children's Aid Society,
Clinton Hall, New York, January, 1860.
APPENDIX.

LETTERS FROM GENTLEMEN IN THE WEST,

ON THE

Work of the Children's Aid Society.

Letter from the Agent of the American and Foreign Christian Union.

GREEN CASTLE, IND., June 8th, 1859.

Dear Sir—Yours was duly received, so far back as the middle of last month, but I have been absent from home, and been delayed in making inquiries on the subject of your letter.

Very few children have been taken in this (Putnam) county, Ind. No agent has passed through, or if so has not stopped here. I have, however, travelled through the State, more or less, and heard much said on the subject—having been an agent for the American and Foreign Christian Union. The impression on my mind, from all I have learned, is that the system of putting children in Christian families at the West is better than holding them in large numbers in asylums or institutions in New York. Very few, I think, have gone back to New York, and few have changed places. I have not heard of any who have committed criminal offenses, of those who came from New York. One was sent from Cincinnati, some time ago, put with a company from New York, and found his way to this place—was bad, criminal, &c., and sent back to his mother, in Cincinnati. The feeling of the religious and intelligent portion of the community, so far as I know, is favorable to this cause. The same class who oppose Sunday-schools, Home Missions, and the work of the Gospel, generally oppose this work.

The American and Foreign Christian Union Society are about to engage more extensively than at any time yet, in the work of Industrial Schools.
among the poor children in our large cities, so that I feel a deep sympathy in your work, as much as it further the same cause.

I trust your cause will be extended and be prosperous, and any aid I can afford it will be most cheerfully contributed.

Yours in love,

I. M. S.

Battle Creek, Mich., Nov. 25th, 1859.

My dear T—Your note of the 23d, inquiring of me about the children brought to this section of country, was this evening received. I regret that my business has been such that I have had but very little chance to know much about those at a distance from here, while I feel happy to say that, so far as my knowledge goes, the children are doing well, and I think it is susceptible of proof, that no equal number of children raised here are superior to those you placed out here, and if there have been any who have committed crimes, I do not know it. I almost daily see some of the boys, and in all cases where I know them, they are equal, and in some respects superior, to many native-born children of this State. I am inclined to think that if any have gone back to New York, or have been guilty of any misdeeds, the faults have been as much in those with whom they were placed, as in the children, if not far more so. We have a chance family in our community who think that a girl or a boy who has received the guardian care of the Aid Society, is only fit for the kitchen and the most menial drudgery. Thank Heaven, we have but few such Arabs in our midst, therefore I think the work you have so nobly persevered in, is doing and has done an enormous amount of good for the human family. * * * I really hope that you may continue your labors in so great a cause, and bring on those poor friendless children to our State. Here is plenty to do, plenty to live on, and a fine chance to become useful members of society, the chances of vice are scarce, and temptation not so frequent as in the city. I say, that if the city of New York would appropriate $100,000 annually to your Society, and the tax-payers $100,000 more, to aid you in this work, it would be a saving to the city of twice that amount, and in a thousand more ways than merely saving the tax to support them there for every child brought West to live to maturity may become a farmer, a father, and a mother. Each and all must be consumers as well as producers. They must have goods made and sold in New York, New York will want their products. The more that go East will bring the more West. Just look at it. You bring 500 boys to Michigan, at ten years old. In twelve years it would be safe to say that 125 of the 500 will be farmers. Each one may have $500 worth of produce to send forward; here would be 62,500. This would come back in groceries, clothing,
aradware, paints, oils, &c, while the other 375 would consume, each, of the goods from New York annually $35, making $13,125 to come from the East; but these are only small items.

The farmers who get these boys are enabled to produce a greater amount annually by their help. So that if the children are here, they are producers for the New York market, instead of being a tax to the city. It is impossible to estimate the benefits to be derived from your noble efforts, and may Heaven bless you in your noble work.

Yours truly, H. W.

Reform School, Chicago, Ill., August 8th, 1859.

Dear Brother—* * * * I have examined my book, and find that I have, in all, received ten boys who have been inmates of the (of New York), and three boys who have been sent West by the Children's Aid Society. The Children's Aid Society is doing a good work: one that will be remembered by generations to come. I do hope you will continue in it. I believe you are on the right track as regards sending children, without indenturing them to masters. I believe that the mere act of binding boys or girls out, makes them inclined to run away. You have the right of the question as regards placing the boys in families, and I do believe, and I hope, that all other institutions will adopt the same plan.

Yours, truly, D B. Nichols,
Supt. of Chicago Reform School.

Waveland, May 21st, 1859.

Dear Sir—* * * * I think that the system of putting children into Christian families in the West, is far better than in asylums and institutions at the East, for the very obvious reason: We need their help very much here, and are willing to pay them something for it, whereas, at the East, their help is not needed, and they are a burden to society.

None have left their places. None gone back to New York nor committed criminal offenses. As to the feeling in the moral, religious, and intelligent portion of our community towards the Society, I would say that it is decidedly in its favor. I do not think that the children from the Asylum or House of Refuge turn out as well as those from the Children's Aid Society. I would say, with all my heart, the class that approve of Churches, Sunday-schools and Home Missions, invariably approve of your work.

With much respect, yours, D. T. M.
HIRAM OHIO, — 27th, 1859.

Dear Sir—I have not heard of any crimes among the children except some do not always tell the truth. I have not heard any profane language among them. They look cheerful and pleasant when I meet them. M. H. is a devoted Christian girl; Joseph, her brother, is a serious-minded boy. Many of our community think you are engaged in a glorious work, while some always hate every thing that is good, and think foreign paupers ought not to be brought here. I think the children you left here behave themselves as well as that number of children that would be gathered up here, in our villages, in needy circumstances.

May God bless you in your labors, and may we feel a deep interest in this work, in taking those children from places of degradation and woe, and placing them in healthful Christian influences, hoping, by the grace of God, that they may become heirs of immortal glory.

Respectfully yours,

W. W.

LOGANSPORT, IND., June 8th, 1859.

Dear Sir—But one company of children under your Society has been left in this community; that was about a year ago, and consisted of forty, more or less. A part have changed their places; the proportion I do not know, nor do I think it has been to their disadvantage. Some mistakes were made at first, owing to a misunderstanding as to the time of the arrival of the company. I can not say how many certainly. One or two are reported to have gone back to New York. None, that I know, have committed criminal offenses, or disappeared. I have heard of none who pursue vicious courses; some I know are doing well, and a few are members of the Methodist Church. I think the girls succeed better than the boys: yet the difference has not been broad. I am inclined to the opinion that—those rare cases excepted of physical or mental incapacity or special moral obliquity—children put in Christian families in the West will probably do well, and that this is a desirable disposition of those with whom your Society is concerned.

With much respect, yours,

M. M. P.

STRONGVILLE, O., May 16th, 1859.

Dear Sir—Yours came to hand to-day; and in answer I would say, that Brother Tracy came to our place the 26th of July, 1858, with a company of seventeen; of these, sixteen were under eighteen years of age, and one over. The one over eighteen paid his own fare, and was not properly one.
of the company Of these, four have changed places, and two have returned to New York, or left for parts unknown. None are known certainly to have returned to New York. None have committed criminal offenses. Two have disappeared. Thus far sixteen have been and are doing well. None as yet have become Christians.

My own private opinion is this: That those who make so much of the improvements made by wild, street-educated children of New York, in one, two, or three weeks', or even six weeks', or as many months' residence, at such a place as ——— (a New York Asylum), and other kindred institutions, have as yet learned but little of human nature. Do not understand me as undervaluing these institutions. Nay, I praise them. But what I have to say is this, that the time that children are kept at the ———, in my opinion, can do nothing more at most than simply plant a single seed.

In multitudes of instances they can not know even the first elements of their real character. But enough: you have my sympathy and my prayers.

Yours fraternally,

E. T.

WINDHAM, O., June 10th, 1859.

Dear Sir:—Our experience is short. Some boys and girls are not all that we could wish, but most of them are improving rapidly. In our town, eighteen have been put in places. What proportion have left their places, and gone to others? Only one has changed her place. None have gone back to New York. None have committed criminal offenses. How many are considered as worthy, or as Christian members of your community, and are likely to turn out good men and women? All bid fair but two; they doubtful. Do the boys succeed better than the girls, or the reverse? About the same; considering numbers boys best. None have disappeared. The feeling of the religious and intelligent portion of our community is that your mode is the true Christian mode. Our experience is small, but so far as it goes, we would rather the children would not see an Asylum or Refuge. There is no opposition to your work, on the part of any class that I know of in this town.

Yours truly,

L. B. W.

HUDSON, OHIO, June 29th, 1859.

Dear Sir—So far as I know, the children brought out to this particular region have turned out very well, especially the younger ones. Some of the older ones not so well, though I cannot give proportion. I know that a few have done badly, but this is only what reasonable people would expect, as a thing of course.
One of the difficulties, as of course you have found out, lies in the selfish notions of those who take children, not only out of benevolence, but to get a boy or girl who will do a good deal of work and not cost much to keep.

So far as I know, there is no opposition from any quarter—infidel or any thing else—to your Society, but everybody agrees it is a humane, if not a Christian work, and ought to be commended and helped along. Certainly this is the sentiment of all whose word or opinion is of any account.

You have the good wishes and the best prayers of all good people who know anything about your work, and, which is better yet, I assure you you have also the blessing of God upon it, and while you have this, you will certainly keep on.

Very truly yours,

G. D.

TALLMADGE, Ohio, Nov 28th, 1859

Dear Brother T.—I have but to say that I know of but two of your boys at present. They are at Mr F. W’s; and "Little D," at Mr S B’s. I know not that any have ever committed crime or been imprisoned. The two with us now promise well.

Truly yours,

C. S.

WARREN, Ohio, Dec 1st, 1859

Mr Tracy:

Kind Sir—You inquire how many of the children placed here have "committed crime or been imprisoned?" Only one that I know of. The one Mrs S took, stole a horse, they followed him, and on searching found he had stolen much generally. Mr. S gave him a dollar and sent him off. I have not heard from him since. Had I known of it at the time, would not have let him gone without writing to you.

Wishing you much success in the great and good cause in which you are engaged,

I remain, yours truly,

M. P. H.

ALBION, Mich, Nov 27th, 1859

Dear Bro. Tracy,—In answer to your questions, I am happy to say, that of the boys and girls left by the Children’s Aid Society in the vicinity of Albion, I know of none who have been imprisoned for crime, nor do I know of any who have been accused of committing crime against the laws of the land; and as far as I know or have heard from those who have taken them, and from others, the greater part of them behave as well as an equal number, in the same region, of children raised here. The worst thing I have known of any is what I told you of A. S., but he was forgiven in that, and he has since, I believe, proved to be a reformed and good boy.

Yours truly,

(Rev.) M G
WELLINGTON, O., Nov. 28th, 1859.

C. C. Tracy—Yours of the 23d is received. In reply to your inquiry, whether any of the children located here had committed crime, &c., so far as I know, none have given trouble in that direction. Except those you relocated, only three, I think, have given extra care. Two of these, it is presumed, are now doing well, as they have not been heard from recently. From several of the others we have reports like these: “Sarah is just as good a child as can be.” “We think every thing of her.” “E has not given us the least trouble.” Another has taken a prize for having committed to memory the largest number of texts of scripture, in a Sabbath-school of an adjoining town.

Hoping you will have no further trouble with those located here, and wishing you great success in your noble work,

I remain, yours with respect,

Mrs. J. P. R.

YPSILANTI, Mich., Nov. 29th, 1859.

C. C. Tracy:

Dear Brother—In reply to yours of the 23d, I have to say, that so far as I know, the girls you have brought into this region have done well. At any rate, I have heard nothing to the contrary. Two or three have changed their places, but not for any misdemeanors. We wish that thousands of such could be taken from the poverty and temptations of the city and scattered over the country, to grow up in plenty and virtue.

Go on, and do all you can.

Affectionately yours,

(REV) G. L. F.

ROCKFORD, ILL., Nov. 26th, 1859.

Mr. C. C. Tracy, New York:

Respected Friend—Yours of the 21st has just reached me, and I'll answer without delay. To the best of my knowledge (and I am likely to know), not one of the children you located here (about 60) has “turned out bad,” according to your definition of the term. Many are unsteady, and it is difficult to keep track of them, and hence I can only speak definitely of those living in this place; but our Criminal Courts know nothing of the so-called “New York boys.”

Yours very truly,

E. G.

HUDSON, O., Nov. 25th, 1859.

Dear friend Tracy—Your favor is at hand, and in reply, would say, that so far as any knowledge has come to me, there has not one of one hundred children located in this section been convicted of crime or put on gal trial
All the case of legal interference that I am advised of, was the prosecution of a man at Garretsville, by the citizens, for whipping a boy severely, and the boy taken away and put into another place. Many of these children will take things that do not belong to them; but this we expect, and have no fears but that it will be overcome in all the small children and many of the large ones. Our people make so much of the children when they first come, that it is hard, after, to break them in, and some will not punish them for fear of outside talk. There is considerable changing of places among the large children, but after they have had a run, they generally settle down, and go to work and do well.

Yours,

J. R. B.

La Porte, Ind., Dec. 2d, 1859.

C. C. Tracy, Esq.:  

Dear Sir—I am told by Sheriff Whitehead that none of the children you located in La Porte have been imprisoned. One has been put in jail twice for fighting. It is impossible for me to give you any particulars in relation to the children (those that have left), as to their whereabouts, etc.

Yours truly,

A. D. P.

Anderson, Ind., May 20th, 1859.

Dear Sir—Most of those whom you have sent here, as I stated, were of an advanced age. After working out the amount to defray their expenses here, they left their first places, and some of them—and nearly all, from all I know—may be doing as well as any young men in similar circumstances. Your interrogatories, I judge, have reference more to young boys. Two of those sent here are doing well, the three or four others left the families where they first went, and may be doing well. In the aggregate, the Society has proved a vast blessing to those sent in this region; and I should judge that numerous other companies have, in other places, made out better, and hence been more advantaged.

Yours truly,

E. S.


Dear Brother Tracy—I received a line from friend Brace, dated May 12. I did not reply to that, because I thought it must have escaped your memory for the moment that you did not bring a company of boys and girls here—only a company of older girls, for the kitchen. There were three or four boys in the company, but I have not been able to trace them. As to the girls, the majority returned to New York in the course of the year. Most of them proved faithful and good. I think one or two yet remain in the
vicinity. As to other places, I am not able to say much, as this was the only company brought to this county. I have seen it noticed in the papers, that a boy brought out by the Children’s Aid Society had been sent to the House of Correction in this State. This is the only instance that I know of, that any were ever punished for a crime. I think you are doing a great and good work. I hope you will persevere. Disappointments will ensue—they are the common lot of man. But you have, no doubt, rescued many from a life of sin and shame.

Yours, truly,

H. L. S.

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BATTLE CREEK, MICH., Dec. 5th, 1859.

C. C. TRACY, Esq.:

Dear Sir—Yours of the 21st of November was duly received. In reply to your interrogations about the children brought here for the purpose of getting homes, I am gratified in saying, that out of the whole number brought here by you which I believe numbers nearly one hundred and twenty, I know of but two of the older boys that have turned out badly, or have been imprisoned, and I think these two boys were about sixteen years of age. And I also know a large number of the boys who are doing well, and have by their good conduct taken such a strong hold upon the affection of their foster parents, that they would not part with them under any circumstances, and the mutual attachment could not be easily severed. I might mention the names of many foster parents, whose affections have centred in these little hitherto homeless ones, who are now made comfortable, joyous, and happy around the firesides of the homes of their adoption.

Yours truly,

W. H. C.

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WABASH, IND., Dec. 6th, 1859.

Dear Sir—There has been no imprisonment of any of the boys. Only two boys committed theft. One stole over a hundred dollars, but was overtaken and the money recovered. Another stole ten dollars, and left to parts unknown. The majority of the boys have left this vicinity. Some are here yet, and doing very well; are quite good boys and have good homes.

Very truly,

E. P. P.

About 70 children were left at Wabash.

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LOGANSFORT, IND., Dec. 8th, 1859.

Dear Brother—I received your note of inquiry a few days ago. On my personal knowledge, and information from others of whom I have inquired, I am happy to say that none of the girls you have located in this vicinity have
been arraigned for crime or reported to have committed crime. I have heard of two or three instances where there has been a want of industry, and one or two of the older have been some trouble to those with whom they have been associated. I know some of the boys and girls, who are doing very well.

Yours truly. (Rev.) M. M. P.

P. S.—32 children were left at Logansport.

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Anoka, Cape Co., Ind., Dec. 2d, 1859.

Mr. C. L. Brack, Sec'y of Children's Aid Society, N. Y.:

Dear Sir—Of all that I have had a knowledge, of all that have been brought to these parts, there have but two boys left and changed places and three boys have gone back to N. Y. As to how many have committed criminal offenses or been imprisoned, there has been none that I have yet learned, and since I received your letter of May last. I have been making all the inquiry that I could, not only in my own vicinity but as far as my acquaintance and means would permit; and I must say that they in general succeed much better than could reasonably be expected, and in most cases they are believed to bid fair for becoming as good and useful citizens as most children. As to whether the girls or boys succeed best it is difficult to say: however, some are of the opinion that girls over fourteen years are not thought to do as well as those younger, yet some above that age are doing well and even the boys younger than twelve or fourteen years old succeed best, they become more readily assimilated to the families with whom they are. I have, as I above stated, since last May been to some places to inform myself with regard to the children, and so far as I have learned, none have committed crime or been imprisoned, but are in general, doing well.

J. M. S.

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Wellington, Nov. 20th, 1859.

Dear Sir—Yours is just received, and I hasten to reply. I hardly know how to answer your first question, for I do not feel that the children you have been called to find new places for were bad children. I felt, at the outset, a responsibility which led me to care and caution in the matter. Acting as your committee in finding homes for the homeless, was to me important business, and I must say, in all the cases where you have been called to find new homes, I have been disgusted with the reasons assigned in two cases by the men. The boys were highly recommended as “active and very smart boys, but my wife is determined against, and I can not keep them.” Another: “I have sold my place, and my wife wants to go to England, and I can not keep the boy, but he is a very fine boy.” One other says: “the
boy is near-sighted, and the skin so thin, that if he is barefoot the sun burns very bad, and he is very lame and goes to the hospital." Your next question I answer promptly; there has been no crime or imprisonment. Finally, I say the children are about me, I see them, and take much pains to address and converse with them, they appear well satisfied, and the people with whom they are speak most encouragingly, and some I think you would be pleased to hear their expressed satisfaction.

In haste, yours truly, M. DeW.

C. O'Connor, Esq.

Marion, Grand Co., Ind., Dec. 5th, 1859.

Dear Sir—Your note was kindly received inquiring after boys you located here. In reply, I am happy to be able to inform you, that the boys have thus far, in manly deportment and moral conduct, exceeded the most sanguine expectations of their friends. I have not been able to hear from all of them, but have made considerable inquiry and have heard from the most of them. None have been badly treated, and be it said to their credit and in honor of your society, they have, so far as I can hear, attempted to please their adopted parents. All are well.

Yours most truly, H S K.

(Judge of the Court of Common Pleas)

Charles O'Connor, Esq.

Marion, Grand Co., Ind., Dec. 8th, 1859.

Dear Sir—I received yours of Nov. 30th, 1859, and was very glad to hear from you, and in answer to your request would say, that I have seen many of the boys that you brought here and their employers, and find that they have excellent homes and are taken good care of, and those who have them are well pleased. In fact, they are all doing very well so far. None of them have committed any crime, nor have they been accused of any. All that I hear of those who have them, is that they are delighted with their ignorance in regard to the manners and customs of our Hoosier State.

Respectfully yours. J A. S.

Bro C. C. Tracy:

Dear Sir—Not one of the children has committed crime or has been imprisoned, to my knowledge. I know not how many of the children went back to New York, but there are only four or five remaining here, and these appear to be doing well and giving good satisfaction. I think grown folks
have something to learn sometimes, as well as young ones. The matter of profit in dollars and cents weighs heavily on many minds. Were it true, that all who want children, want them for profit, and could your Children’s Aid Society meet this want, what a fine institution yours would be! Now we live off here in country places, where there are no saloons and places such as you have for making criminals of boys, and do not know how to manage the material which you introduce among us. We are tried on the start, if they do not toe the mark at once—milk the cows, feed the pigs, fetch wood and water, keep the horse looking sleek and clean, feed the chickens, rock the baby, churn the butter, and do every thing just right, before they have been trained in. We may be looking for immediate profit, when you expect we are going to show our benevolence in giving homes to homeless children. This may account for the poor success which some of us have had with your boys. Never mind, some there are who say hard things against your work, but they say hard things against Churches, anti-slavery movements, and other objects of benevolence, and it may be they hate Christ “Let New York take care of her own paupers.” Isn’t that a knock-down idea? Can you stand before it? “Tracy deceives the boys, coaxes them off into the country, by telling them they can get big wages and the like.” Can you perceive the force of that? Well, that is about as far along as some get. They need a different kind of aid than what you can afford to give in the form of children. You meet such a class, doubtless, wherever you go.

I thought at the commencement, and still think, your cause a benevolent one. Mistakes may at times attend your movements, as they do others, but I see no objections to the enterprise when it is conducted fairly and honestly, as you and others connected with you design it shall be.

Several of the children who left testified that they liked their places. Some got homesick; some got an idea they were not wanted any longer, and some were sent back at their own request. One little thing died, to the great grief of its adopted parents.

May God bless and prosper you in your labor of love.

With much respect,

O. W. W.

C. C. Tracy, Esq:

My Dear Sir—In reply to yours of 23d ult., permit me to say that I know of none of the boys or girls that you have located in this vicinity, “who have turned out badly.” There are few now. I believe in this town, all of whom are doing well, as far as I know.

Respectfully yours,

W P

Freedom, Portage Co., Ind., Dec. 6th, 1859.
Mr. C. C. Tracy.

Dear Sir—I received yours a few days since. Very glad to hear from you, and of your safe return. The children you located in our vicinity, I have not heard of any of them being imprisoned, nor have I heard of any of them committing crime worthy of imprisonment. The children, I think, are well suited with their homes.

It is much pleasure to me to meet these children that you located with us. They look bright and cheerful. I think the most of the people are well pleased with them. I think the morals of the children are as good as the morals of children in general that are raised in our country villages.

May God bless us all in our labors and reward us in Heaven!

Yours truly,

W. W.


Brother Tracy—None of the boys and girls that I have known located by the Children's Aid Society anywhere in this vicinity, have been imprisoned or have committed crime. With very few exceptions they are growing up respected, and bid fair to be useful men and women. The few exceptions show that children ought to be brought away early from New York.

Truly yours,

L. B. W.


My Dear Sir—Yours of 23d ult. was duly received. Of the girls and boys that you located in this vicinity, none have been imprisoned, and I have not heard that any of them have turned out badly, except M. C., the boy who was taken by H. W. S.

Truly yours,

S. F. D.

Augusta, Ill., Dec. 11th, 1859.

Dear Sir—Your letter of the 21st of November was duly received, making some inquiries about the children left by you in this vicinity. I can only say that I have heard nothing but good accounts from them. Some I know are prospering finely, and bid fair to make honorable and useful citizens, and will ever be under deep and lasting obligations to that soul and body saving institution in which you are engaged; and history will yet record many noble names who have been saved by the Children's Aid Society, who would otherwise have dragged out a miserable existence, sickening to think of.

H. A. K.
Mr. C. L. Brace:

Dear Sir—Yours of the 9th inst. was duly received and contents noted. In relation to your inquiry, I am happy to inform you that there are none here who are guilty of any crime. Knowingly I have never heard of any of them who are guilty of crime of any kind. I am not able to say anything about a number of them, but as far as I have been able to learn, they have given general satisfaction, and both children and parents (adopted) are pleased. Only one boy, from Newsboys' Lodging House, ran off; and I guess is gone back to New York. I remain yours, &c., D. A. W

More than 100 were sent to this locality.

Rushville, N. Y., Monday, Dec. 12th, 1859

Rev. C. L. Brace:

Dear Sir—Your scribe, W. C. D., wishes to know as to the conduct of the children forwarded by the kindness of your Society to Rushville and vicinity by Cyrus L. Adams. I am happy to say, that with two exceptions they have surpassed our most sanguine expectations, and are doing finely. Most of the families that have them are well pleased.

With respects, as ever, yours in a good cause. S. S. H.,

Pastor of 1st C. Church, Rushville.

GT Barrington, Mass, Dec 12th 1859.

Mr. C. L. Brace:

Dear Sir—Your letter reached me Saturday evening last. Most cheerfully do I embrace the earliest opportunity to answer your inquiries. Several boys have lived with me and I know of none that has turned out badly. Of other boys sent to this place I know of none addicted to vices. Several girls have been sent to this place; with one exception, all have turned out well—intelligent, useful women.

I think the friends of the Society have great reason to be encouraged by the wonderful and almost uniform success that has attended efforts to rescue and save these young waifs and outcasts. What an amount of wretchedness and crime will thus be suppressed. You have the sympathy of very many throughout our land.

Very sincerely yours,

F. W.

Mr. Tracy:

Sir—I had occasion to go to La Porte last week, and I called and inquired of the Sheriff and his wife, whether any of the New York boys had ever
been in the jail there, or had been guilty of crime in their place. They know of none, excepting one who lived at Mr. S's, stole money, and ran away, but said they thought you had been there since; so I made no further inquiry for particulars.

Yours truly,  
MRS. LUCY B. W.

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NILES, MICH., Dec. 12th, 1859.

Dear Bro. Tracy—Your favor of the 21st of November came duly to hand, and ought to have been sooner answered. Of all those children located in the vicinity of Augusta, and so far as I know, in Kalamazoo County, with the exceptions with which you were acquainted, none have turned out badly. None that I know of have committed crimes, or been imprisoned; and I have not heard the least complaint from any quarter. All the children seem to be very much thought of.

Truly yours,  
REV. E. A.

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NEWTON, N. J., Dec. 14th, 1859.

C. L. Brace, Esq.:

Dear Sir—I have entirely lost sight of the children who came to this place directed to my care from the Children's Aid Society. I feel very confident, however, that none of them have ever committed crime, or been imprisoned in this county. If they had, my position is such that I would very likely have been made acquainted with the fact. So far as I know, or have reason to believe, they have all turned out well.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Jno. L.

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WOODBURY, CONN., Dec. 13th, 1859.

Mr. Brace:

Sir—Your letter of the 11th inst. I have delayed answering until the present time, for I have been trying to ascertain more about the girls and boys. There are ten in number that I have known, and all have done as well as we might expect, except one girl, who was dishonest, and went back to New York.

Yours truly,  
MRS. JOHN B.

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LA PORTE, IND., Dec. 12th, 1859.

My dear Mr. Tracy—You are anxiously, and probably impatiently awaiting a response to the letter you wrote to me some few weeks ago, and it is too bad that I have been putting the matter off from time to time, so that I might be enabled to consult with Mr. P. and some others upon the inquiries you make, so as to enable me to enter as much into detail as possible, so that you
might have pretty near the facts. However, I will tell you all that I know.
There were only three boys that I know anything positively bad about. These
were J. S., J., who was given to J. S. A., and P., who was given to E. They
are the worst cases in the lot. All the others, as far as I know, did their best
to please those with whom they took up their abodes.

Yours very sincerely,

G. & C. T.


Mr. C. L. Brace:

Dear Sir—In reply to yours of the 9th, I may say, three boys and one girl
have been sent to me at different times. None of them have been imprisoned,
nor committed any crime that I am aware of.

Yours truly,

B. H. P.

CHAS. L. BRACE, ESQ.:

Dear Sir—Not one of the children sent up to these parts by the Children’s
Aid Society have been imprisoned or committed crime. Quite a number
have gone back to New York under the influence of their friends. Some of
the older boys have left their places and gone to work for themselves.

Yours truly,

W. H. J.

More than 100 children were sent to this locality.

KALAMAZOO, DEC. 9th, 1859.

Dear Brother Tracy—Your first of inquiry was not answered because I
found it impossible to get at the facts you solicited. Your second, asking
how many have committed crime, is before me. I have made some inquiries
on this subject, but the children are so scattered that it is with not as definite
results as I could desire. It is my impression that about half a dozen have
proved bad in the way you mention. One thing surprises me is, the speedy
absorption of those children into the community. Nobody seems to know
where they are. They are seldom mentioned. Whether they have one by
one cleared out, or have outgrown the reputation of being “paupers from
N.Y.),” I cannot tell. At our last Cong. Social, my attention was called to one
girl, perhaps 16 years old, as being uncommonly attractive. I inquired her
out, and heard that she was one of your girls living at Dr. S.’s. I had seen
her there, but supposed her to be a damsel from abroad, attending school.

Sorry I cannot report more fully. I am, yours fraternally,

(Rev.) EDWARD T.

I have just conversed with a Justice. He says he knows of only about
four that have been apprehended for crime; a few have been taken to the Poor-House, a few have run away from their homes. In some instances, he thinks they improve their condition by taking leg bail.

E. T.

About 120 were sent to this locality.

PRINCETON, ILLINOIS, Dec. 15th, 1859.

C. L. Brace, Esq:

Dear Sir—As to your first question whether any of the children have been imprisoned or prosecuted for any crime, I think I am safe in saying that nothing of that kind has ever occurred in this county. If any thing of the sort had transpired, I think I should have known it, as I am in a situation to know pretty well about such matters. I am told that some of the boys have run away from the places where they were provided with homes, but I do not know whether the children or the guardian were most to blame. I am acquainted with several of the children in this vicinity, both boys and girls, and I take pleasure in saying that among all those I do not know an instance where the child is not doing well, and is both satisfied and rendering satisfaction.

John H. B.

PEPPERELL, MASS., Dec. 14th, 1859.

My dear Brace—Four children of your Society have been transplanted in our town. Two of them have grown up to womanhood, have acquired a good common-school education, and give evidence that they have entered upon a Christian life. A third, a lad who had his early training in the Half-Orphan Asylum, was thoroughly dishonest, and gave no little trouble to all his new friends. After taking a fresh start in seven different homes, and being despairsed of by all, he is at last established, and for two years has been doing well. The fourth, an Irish orphan girl of fifteen, is the only one who has committed crime. She came to us from Brooklyn street-life and the city prison. Entirely untaught (except that she had learned the alphabet in the Mission Sunday-school), and unused to the least restraint, she found our quiet, regular country life becoming intolerable, and watching her opportunity, stole money from the house for her fare, and ran away to New York I sent a constable for her, but she was hard and sullen, and left me no alternative but to have her sent to the County House of Correction for six months. There she showed genuine penitence, and won the affection and commendation of the matron. At the expiration of her sentence we found another home for her in New Hampshire, but it was not a suitable place, and she returned to us. There was great prejudice here against her, and it was not
till after a long search that we found a family who were willing to shelter
the girl till we could get a home for her. But while they were waiting for
us to take her away, they became interested in her case, and decided to keep
her, and for eighteen months past she has been repaying their kindness with
affection and faithful service. They would not part with her now, and she
has no desire to return to her former life.

Our little experience with these children has deepened the feeling that it is
not safe to despair of human nature when God is so willing to help and bless
every honest effort.

Yours for the friendless children,

REV. E. P. S.

ASH GROVE PARSONAGE,
NEW ROAD, DEL. CO., N. Y., JAN. 2D, 1860.

Mr. C. L. Brack:

My Dear Sir—In answer to your inquiries respecting the children located
by me in this neighborhood, I may say, that of the eight children none have
turned out badly, but on the contrary all are the pride of their respective
families.

In the first place, we have, as a community, too much of the Puritan blood
in our veins to allow of neglect on the part of parents or guardians in re-
spect to the training of their children. We have a good moral atmosphere.
In the second place, the children themselves have too much principle, too
great a respect for themselves, too high a standard of honor, to permit any
immorality on their part; and as for crime, we have not so much as thought
of the possibility of their committing it. They are all pleasantly placed,
and occupying little nooks of usefulness in the households which have re-
cived them as members of the family. There is not one who would leave
his or her present situation, I think, if the most flattering offers were made
them, all their interests are so intimately associated with those of their fam-
ily circle. There are none who would be willing to return to New York,
except on a flying visit to their old friends. These are all being educated,
in winter or summer, or at both seasons, in our Common Schools, which we
think are almost equal at least to the Western Colleges. All are constant
attendants at the Sabbath-school, and some have been and are deeply im-
pressed with divine truth. I have not time to add more.

I am very truly yours

(Rev.) James P. R.