

A Workhouse Child, & You Know What That Is!

After a time it is possible you may be attacked by home sickness, and you may want to come back again. The best remedy is to buckle to hard and vigorous work; and if you do that, I believe, after a time, you will be as keen and eager for Canada as the Canadians themselves. If at times you do not find things as you wish and expect, you must not commence criticising, but try and look on the bright side.

—Lord Aberdeen to a group departing under the auspices of the Self-Help Emigration Society, 21 May 1892

The English and Scotch people are the most wonderful people in the world. . . . Although you may not think it, your going out from this country is for the good of the world at large, and in some indirect manner you may be moulding its future history, for nobody knows what you may be doing by starting new homes in a distant colony. The real way to get on in a new country is to resolve never to grumble. You will find hot days and cold days, but if you look only at the sunny side, everything will be brighter and happier.

—Professor Drummond of Glasgow to the same group

‘Study to be obedient’, Rev. Barrett had urged, but his letter solved nothing. Apart from a few vague words, such as Hilda’s later reference to her ‘brother in the West’,¹ Tommy Blake disappears from the historical record after Barrett’s letter. Not so Hilda. On the cold morning