

Middlemore 1874

CHILDREN'S EMIGRATION HOME,  
BEATRICE CRESCENT.

BIRMINGHAM.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>

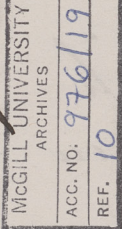
1874

Dear Mrs Dawson

I am sure that you will be pleased to hear some little account of the progress of our work here in Birmingham.

I had a pleasant passage to Sionpool. One of my companions was your friend J Carpenter with whom I spent much time on the voyage, and found that I had many sympathies in common.

I began my work the day after I reached Birmingham invited about three hundred of the most outcast men and



women of our town to tea.  
Never, I suppose had such  
squalor and human ruin  
been collected in one room  
in Birmingham before. Some  
of the clergy kindly came to  
help me. At first, after tea,  
we tried to combat some of the  
prejudices of our audience,  
and we asked them not to  
believe those who told them  
that I "sold the children into  
slavery" in Canada; we told  
them that we wished to save  
them from the slavery of sin,  
and to make them Christi-  
an men; and finally, we  
asked them to think of their

own condition, and told them  
that Christ knocks at their  
doors as He does at ours,  
and that, if they would make  
Him welcome, He would abide  
as willingly with them within  
the wretched shelter of their  
crowded houses, as He would  
with us in our well-furnished  
rooms. The audience at last  
became greatly moved, and  
sobs, moans and expressions  
of grief constantly escaped  
them. As our poor friends  
left us, many clung to  
my hands and seemed as

if they could not, dare not  
go. I talked to them until my  
strength failed me, and then  
was compelled to leave them  
and drive home.

I am about establishing  
weekly prayer meetings at the  
Home. We intend to pray for  
the success of the work, and also  
to ask ourselves what we ourselves  
are willing to do for it.

Will you remember me to  
your kind circle? I hope that  
Miss Dawson has quite  
recovered her strength. I sent  
you some republications  
of old newspapers, which I  
thought might interest him.

Dr Dawson must have read  
with great pain much of Prof.  
Tyndall's address at the  
British Association. The pain  
would not be diminished  
by reading Prof. Huxley's  
subsequent paper on Biology.

You will not think my letter  
altogether egotistical. My  
life has been narrowed —  
perhaps I should say  
broadened — into efforts  
for my Homes, and what  
is connected with them I am  
unfit of look else.

I am going to write a  
little History of Mary  
Howell & the little girl  
you were so kind to.

wish to mention the names of  
those whom I have to refer to  
in the history, in order to  
give reality and definiteness  
to the story. May I mention  
Professor Dawson's name  
and your own, as having placed  
her in the hospital, and  
received her temporarily into  
your house?

I am still looking for some  
lady willing to undertake the  
Canadian part of my work. Will  
you bear my needs in mind?

With very kind remembrances  
to your whole household, I remain,  
Most truly yours,  
John F. Middlemore.