

[From] Royal Hospital  
Dublin 21<sup>st</sup> January 1848.

The Right Honourable  
The Secretary-at-War  
[War Office, Pall Mall] London

Sir,

I'm bringing under your notice the accompanying letter addressed to me by Lieutenant Colonel Colomb Commandant of the Royal Hibernian Military School, relating to the mode of providing for the female children belonging to that institution when they shall have attained the age at which they usually leave it. I have the honor to observe that the subject has upon more occasions than one occupied the serious attention of **the Governors**, who having given every consideration to it, **have come to the determination not to admit any more girls**, a measure which they conceive to be not only prudent but humane under the difficulties at present existing of obtaining a safe and suitable provision for those poor orphans, it being an ascertained fact that nearly eight tenths of them eventually become prostitutes after quitting the Institution.

In the mean time, however, there are twenty of these girls who have reached an age at which they might be useful as servants, but there is at this moment no prospect of their obtaining situations, and it having come to the knowledge of the Governors that emigration societies are sending orphans to Australia with families emigrating to that colony, they think that possibly some arrangement could be made through your instrumentality, whereby the girls in question might be so provided for, and I have therefore at their request, submitted the suggestion for your consideration.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,  
E. Blakeney  
Lt. General