

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

(Continued from page 7.)

for Mr. Tyhurst across from my place (Mr. Tyhurst has another Home boy, I think, on trial), that those were the happiest days in the lives of our boys. I know they were happy days with me, but still this is a go-ahead world, and Christmas comes as all other days, and now let us make the best of the one before us. I for one, although not joined the benedicts, will, God sparing and all being well, provide Christmas viands for six or seven of us this year. Last year at this time I was just in London and making my way across to Stepney. So good bye, wishing you all a merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year."

THE CHRISTMAS GREETING OF A BARNARDO BOY IN CANADA TO HIS OLD FRIENDS IN THE OLD HOME IN THE OLD LAND.

"Shall auld acquaintance be forgot and never be renewed?" Now, boys who are at home and contemplate and hope to anticipate the joys of another Christmas, we would greet you with outstretched hands and open hearts. We would like, a good many of us at least, to be near enough to look into your faces and greet you on this happy day of days, face to face, and tell you the joys, pleasures, and also of the little hardships which we boys on this side of the ocean have here. We have room to walk miles without seeing any town; in fact, boys, we have chances in Canada which in England you cannot have. Boys in the old country, as we call it out here, we, the Home boys in Canada, greet you all. We wish you all a most bright and merry Christmas, also a happy and prosperous New Year. From one of the boys of '88. LEVI BONE, Pinehurst P.O."

AN ACCOUNT OF A CHRISTMAS DAY.

HARRY ROBBINS, Age 14. Party, July '94.

"The most enjoyable Christmas that I ever spent was the year of 1891. I was living at the time with a family in the county of West Sussex, England. It was a clear frosty morning, and I was up early. Of course I had hung up my stocking the night before, and was surprised to see it almost full. After breakfast I went out for a stroll. I walked to the town, which was not a great distance. Here I met a companion who was enjoying himself in the same manner. I joined him, and he took me to see several places out of town, that I had not seen before. Thinking it was time to return home, we turned back and reached the town just as the 'Hall' clock struck eleven. After parting from my companion I walked quickly home. After waiting a short while dinner was served, having eaten a share of meat and potatoes and other vegetables, in came a huge plum pudding which seemed as if it had been made too large for the saucepan. I suppose everybody can fancy what became of the pudding, so I will not trouble to tell. Dinner being over I got ready to go to church. The church was decorated for the festival and a special service was held. Before tea I had asked some other boys and girls to come to the house with me. After having a splendid tea, we played games and sung until it was time for them to go home."

AN ACCOUNT OF HOW ONE CHRISTMAS DAY WAS SPENT.

ALBERT E. YOUNG, Age 14. Party July, '95.

"The Christmas of 1895 was my first Christmas in Canada, and I liked it very much. We all know what Christmas Day is, the token of it is the birth of Christ. We all know at Christmas eve who comes down the chimney—Santa Claus—and he came to our house; so, in the morning I got up for all day and came down stairs. The first thing I did I looked on my plate and found some good things. Of course we did not work, only we did the chores there were to do; and when dinner-time came I had the very, very best of a dinner, but we did not have any roast beef or plum pudding, because Will had not killed our beef yet and therefore we had to go without; but, for all, we had roast chickens and potatoes and cake and date pie; and the rest of the day I was doing nothing but playing and eating candy and nuts. This should be one of the best days of all the year, for the earth received the greatest gift God ever gave on Christmas Day.

"CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

"I wish the boys in the old Home a 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,' and the masters also."

AN ACCOUNT OF ONE CHRISTMAS DAY I SPENT.

GEORGE A. GILDERSON, Age 24; Party April '90.

I remember well my first Christmas in Canada. It was in the year 1890 and was celebrated at the residence of Mr. P. Harris. There were about 20 guests. As I was included in the list of invited guests, you may be certain that I eagerly looked forward to the approaching event. At last the long-looked-for day dawned.

After we had partaken of breakfast the horses were soon hitched to the sleighs and we were speeding on our journey. After a six-mile ride we arrived at our destination. One after another the company arrived until the house was filled. After Christmas greetings were exchanged, the time was spent till dinner time with music and singing, while the cooks were busy preparing the Christmas dinner. The table literally "groaned" beneath the weight of the eatables provided, such as roast beef and turkeys, oysters and other palatable delicacies, not forgetting the old-fashioned Christmas plum-pudding.

After dinner "Santa Claus" made his appearance heavily laden with presents, and soon every person present was the happy possessor of some token of esteem from their friends. The afternoon was very pleasantly spent in playing games and other pastimes until tea was announced, after which a programme was provided consisting of music, singing, recitations, and dialogues, also an amateur negro minstrel show. I was elected "chairman," which proud position I filled to the best of my ability. Altogether a very enjoyable day was spent. It was away in the "wee sma' hours" that preparations were made for departure.

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MY GREETINGS.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

May every moment of your life
Be free from anxious care and strife,
May each blest Christmas love impart,
And peace reign monarch of the heart.

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS.

Longed for blessing speed to greet,
As on angel's flashing wing,
Wake for thee joy's music sweet,
This blest season hallowing.

MAY YOU HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

A heart of happiness within you,
Content around and care away.
May every morrow's dawn continue
The gladness that is yours to-day.

R. G. DRURY, Grenfell, Man.
(Party, March '87.)

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WHAT PAYS.

It pays to give a helping hand
To eager, earnest youth,
To note with all their waywardness,
Their courage and their truth.
To strive with sympathy and love
Their confidence to win.
It pays to open wide the heart,
And let the sunshine in.
The 25 cents is to keep the other boys.

SIDNEY G. REED, Novar,
(Age, 11; party, Nov. '93.)

MY WISH.

God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you;
God be with us till we meet again.
I send 24 cents for a Christmas present to help the little boys.
Your loving friend,
FRANK REED, Novar.
(Age, 12; Party, April '93.)

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SEEKING FOR ME.

Jesus, my Saviour, to Bethlehem came,
Born in a manger to sorrow and shame,
Oh it was wonderful, blest be His name,
Seeking for me, seeking for me.
With my favorite hymn, I send 24 cents for a present to help other little boys.
ARTHUR BAILEY, Novar.
(Age, 11; party, March, '94.)

A CHRISTMAS GREETING TO THE BARNARDO BOYS IN ENGLAND

ALFRED JOLLEY, Age 19; Party June '90.

DEAR BOYS.—It is the privilege of us boys in Canada to send a greeting to you, through our valuable paper, UPS AND DOWNS, which, no doubt, you have heard of and perhaps read.

I am glad to get an opportunity of sending you a few lines for Christmas.

I often think of the boys in England, although there may not be many there that remember me.

This Canada of ours is a grand country, and very free; and if any of you think of coming here let me say to you, do not expect an easy life; there is a chance here for all that are willing to work, and especially those who would like to learn farming.

It was the best thing ever happened to me (except becoming a Christian) coming to Canada, and I thank Dr. Barnardo for it.

But I am forgetting Christmas. I would like very much to be with you at Christmas. One of the best Christmases I ever had was at Stepney in eighteen eighty-nine.

But amidst all your festivity, do not overlook why we keep Christmas. Take the blessed Jesus with you and you will enjoy Christmas as you never enjoyed it before. I will close with

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

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HOW ONE CHRISTMAS DAY WAS SPENT.

WILLIAM F. RESDEN, Age 14. Party, July '94.

I have spent two Christmas Days in Canada. I will tell you how one day was spent. I was in Muskoka. The sun rose clear and bright on the 25th day of December, 1894. We had a Christmas tree, and I got a lot of candies and apples. I also got a good knife, of which I was very proud. The snow was on the ground about six inches deep. In the morning I took my master's little girl for a long ride on my hand sleigh. Next door to us, about half a mile away, there lived another Barnardo boy. In the afternoon I was intending to go about a mile away to skate with three other Barnardo boys, but when I saw the snow was so deep I did not go, but went and played with our neighbour. We had a good time, and I thought I had done right, because he had no one to play with and the others had. At night I went to a tea meeting, and had a good tea. After tea there was a concert, and a lot of recitations and dialogues, also a good lot of singing. After it was over a big cake was sold by auction. Then "God Save the Queen" was sung and the meeting closed. Thus I spent one Christmas Day.

I wish you all, in England and in Canada, a Happy Christmas.

ANSWER.

A CHARADE

Contributed by Mrs. Haultain in our last number—
man-u-fac(t)-tory.

TOPICS.

For Feb. { "A description of some part of the
Ottawa Valley,"
OR
"My Work in Winter,"
OR
"My opinion of winter and winter sports in Canada."

NOTE.—ESSAYS ON TOPICS FOR FEBRUARY MUST BE POSTED NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 20TH, THOSE ON TOPICS FOR FEBRUARY NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 20TH.

The following instructions must be adhered to:—

Write on one side of the paper only.
Do not add anything except your name and address to the paper on which the essay is written. If you wish to write a letter or make any remarks do so on separate paper.

When no letter accompanies an essay, the manuscript will be carried through the mail at a rate of one cent for four ounces, provided the package is not sealed. The envelope should be endorsed "MS. only," and addressed Editor UPS AND DOWNS, 214 Farley Avenue, Toronto.

Do not send two months' papers together.
A paper or essay must not contain more than 500 words. It need not necessarily reach this limit, but it must not exceed it.