

restraint as the lord of the richest manor in Europe. They know no social superiors, they are affected by no business competition, they have the necessities of life at their doors, and can generally afford a fair share of its luxuries. The chief alloy to the comfort and happiness of the western farming communities is, in fact, that the men want wives and the women want female servants, and we heartily wish we could induce a few hundreds of our elder girls to take our advice and spread their wings towards the West. We doubt not that they could "marry in haste," but without having to "repent at leisure;" or if they had the bad taste to prefer single blessedness and were willing to take country service, they would find themselves sought after, competed for, lightly worked and heavily paid, and would have the satisfaction of knowing that they were a boon and a blessing to men, women and children. It only remains for us to say that we are ready to assume the part of Moses by guiding to the promised land any who will forsake the flesh-pots of Egypt, and we have the advantage over Moses, inasmuch as we have been there before "many a time," and we can vouch from a personal knowledge and experience for the truth of all we have said, and a great deal more.

We have to offer our very hearty congratulations to about 130 boys who will be "out of their time" on the first of April—in other words, will have completed the apprenticeship engagements under which they have been employed for the past three or four or five years. These boys have been fed, clothed and cared for since they came to the country, and will now be receiving sums varying from seventy-five to a hundred and fifty dollars—in most cases a hundred. Very few will be over eighteen years of age, many not more than sixteen, and yet as boys in their "teens" they have learned a business that ensures them a good livelihood and the prospect of a competence in the future, and

will have a substantial sum of money in the bank as a foundation for future savings and a provision for a rainy day. We warmly congratulate our young friends, first on their having faithfully and creditably fulfilled their terms of service, and secondly on having now obtained a start in life that has brought them well on the way to prosperity and success, and opened up for them a useful and hopeful career. A little later on we shall hope to have the pleasure of awarding Dr. Barnardo's silver medal to most of the boys referred to, as an expression of his satisfaction and approval at their having done honour to the Homes and acquitted themselves worthily and well in their first places, and we are glad to think that in almost every case the medal will be well bestowed and will have been earned by merit and honest and faithful service.

Once again we find ourselves girding up our loins for another season's work, and with prospects that were never brighter. The sailing for the first detachment has been fixed for the 23rd of March, and before the present number of UPS AND DOWNS has reached our subscribers we shall hope to have arrived safely and to have almost, if not entirely, completed the distribution of the party. Applications have, for weeks past, been pouring in upon us thick and fast, and we only wish we had as many hundreds of boys to place as we shall have scores. From present indications, it will be a "record" season in the demand for boys, and the wages offered are better than they have been for several years past. The demand is equally active both in Ontario and the North-West. There is not a county in Ontario—scarcely a township—that is not included in our constituency, and very few good settlements in the West. We could find homes and employment for boys from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We are often asked, "Where do they all go?" and we sometimes, ourselves, marvel at the readiness and