

UPS AND DOWNS

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ECHOES OF THE MONTH.

OUR Exhibition week gathering has come and gone, and we are glad to be able to look back upon its having been an unqualified success. Our old boys flocked in from all parts of the Province and immensely enjoyed their little stay with us. We are giving elsewhere a little account of what took place and mentioning some of our principal visitors, so it will suffice here to say that we were delighted to see everyone who came, and bid them hearty welcome on the same occasion in future years.

We are about to commit ourselves to what will appear a very great inconsistency. We have hitherto always discouraged our boys going over for visits to England. It has appeared to us at best a very extravagant expenditure of money, and it has proved in some cases, where boys have stranded themselves in London without the means of getting back, a terribly disastrous venture. However, in spite of all we think and all we say on the subject, our boys find it impossible to resist the temptation of having a look on the old scenes, and, of course, when there are mothers and brothers and sisters in the question it is very natural that they should, and so we have resolved to face the inevitable. We know quite well that there will be a goodly number going over this fall and we are proposing to try and organize an excursion, so that a lot of us may go together and by this means be able to cross very much more comfortably and on better terms than by going singly.

We have fixed on the 8th of November as the date that will be most suitable for the departure of the party from Montreal. Most of those who intend to winter in England will be at liberty by that time, and the busy season on the farms will be well over, so that only the "slackest" time will be lost. The Dominion Steamship Company are prepared to offer us a

fine roomy space on the steamer "Labrador," which is the fastest and one of the best equipped and most comfortable ships in the St. Lawrence trade, and they will specially fit up accommodation for as many as we require. Our boys who cross in this party will find themselves very much better off than if they go alone and we should expect they will have a very jolly time.

I have no doubt Dr. Barnardo will give his old boys from Canada a bit of a "reception" at Stepney, and I feel sure, at any rate, that I may say on his behalf that they will be heartily welcome to visit the old Home and renew their acquaintance with former friends.

We do not invite, in fact we may say at

of boys and girls, but I hope to be back in Toronto by the 18th or 20th of October, and shall then be prepared to answer all inquiries and devote myself to organizing arrangements. We cannot hold out the prospects of much, if any, reduction from the ordinary railway and steamship rates, as the Companies are bound to each other to maintain these rates and dare not, even if they wished, attempt any "cutting," but we are promised very special accommodation, which those who have experienced the ordinary steerage arrangements will know how to appreciate.

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Since the last number of UPS AND DOWNS appeared, I have had occasion to pay a hurried visit to Manitoba. Although my time was very limited I saw and heard of many of our old boys who are doing splendidly in the Prairie Province. We have now a very respectable little band of settlers who have taken up homesteads and are farming their own lands, and farming them well too. The training received on the Ontario farms is the best possible preparation for successful colonization, and we flatter ourselves that we can point to young men farming in the North-West to-day who are second to none as useful and enterprising settlers. We are more than ever convinced that despite the drawback of its

severe winter, Manitoba and the Canadian North-West is a "land of promise" for any young man of industry and perseverance, and we hope to see many of our boys in future years taking possession of those fertile acres and making homes for themselves where there is room and to spare for all.

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I must not trespass upon Mr. Struthers' province by attempting any account of things as I found them at the Farm Home, but I am sure I may be permitted to congratulate Mr. Struthers very sincerely upon the results of his labours. No one knows better than myself how devotedly and conscientiously he has striven to



VICTORIA EMBANKMENT, LONDON.

once that we will have nothing to do with anybody who has not got sufficient money to pay his fare back to Canada, as well as over to England. It shall never be laid to our charge that we were the means of landing a boy in want and poverty at home, when he had the opportunity in this country of earning a good living and making a position for himself; but if anyone has the means to buy a return ticket and has really made up his mind to go over, we shall be glad to hear from him and to have him join our special party.

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I am off again to England myself on the usual errand, to bring out another detachment