

# UPS AND DOWNS

A MONTHLY JOURNAL PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

VOL. I. No. 7.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1ST, 1896.

PRICE PER YEAR. 25 Cents  
SINGLE COPIES. 3 Cents.

## ECHOES OF THE MONTH.

THERE have been stirring times in the great world around us since the last issue of UPS AND DOWNS. We have heard of wars and rumors of wars, but in the little world of the lives of our boys there has been nothing very thrilling or momentous to record. With most of them "the daily round, the common task," has been the record of their lives, and we are glad to think that generally it has been a round of honest, useful work, and a task faithfully fulfilled, leaving the world so much better and so much richer than it was before. Some of us no doubt expect to be Prime Ministers or Generals, or Admirals of the Fleet, and might, even, not turn up our noses at being Members of Parliament; but there are a good many who will be content to soar in lower flights, and whose highest ambition, whether consciously or not, is patient continuance in well-doing. We have many hundreds of such boys settled all over this great Dominion, making no stir, attracting little attention, but providing things honest in the sight of all men and acquitting themselves worthily as men and Englishmen.

The lives of our boys in Canada are by no means all "beer and skittles." They have to work hard and laboriously, and there are probably few classes of men in the world to whom the words "in the sweat of their face shall they eat bread," more aptly apply than to the Canadian farmer. Our boys have their trials like other folks, and their positions are often very isolated, and they have to rub a good deal against the hard side of the world, and we, who watch the careers of all these thousands and know how well most of them do, and how often, even in the cases of those who fail, there are great allowances to be made, feel our blood boil at times when we read and hear the cruel, cowardly and unjust attacks so frequently made upon them.

"Canada has had enough of Banardo boys, even the best of them," writes the editor of the *Hamilton Spectator*, the remark being eagerly quoted and endorsed by the blatant little demagogue who acts as the mouthpiece of the Trades and Labour Council of Toronto. We are not revengeful, and we believe that there is One above Who judgeth the cause of the fatherless, but we could find it in our hearts to wish that such men as these, who are deliberately using their influence to blight the lives and prospects of hundreds and thousands of their fellow-beings who have done them no wrong, and whose only fault is that they have been poor, might them-

upon the God-fearing sentiments and enlightened Christianity of its people and its free and purely democratic political institutions; and yet there are men who are agitating to have placed on the statute-book of Canada a law that would forbid a decent, respectable English boy, or party of boys, fellow-subjects of the same Empire, coming here to earn a decent livelihood and establish themselves in life. There would be an excuse for such a policy if the country were overcrowded and had to deal with and provide for a surplus population of its own; but Canada is a country actually starving for want of people, with vast natural resources awaiting

development, and with immense areas of land of inexhaustible fertility still open for settlement, and capable of supporting millions of people. The population in England is at present 547 to the square mile, while over the whole Dominion of Canada it is slightly over 1.

One individual man, woman or child to each 640 acres, and yet there is no room for our boys! And we are told "Let the rich people in England keep them"; in other words, condemn them to live as paupers dependent upon charity or upon rates levied for their support.

There seems to us at times something almost fiendish in the extraordinary malevolence with

which our work is assailed, and we confess ourselves unable to find an explanation for it. We ask nothing for our boys but the right to live by their own exertions and carve out their own fortunes. They come to fill a need, and there are openings on all sides for them where they are eagerly sought after. No one is compelled to take them, but, on the contrary, we find that they are asked for in many times larger numbers than they can be supplied, and one would imagine that the sight of young boys with life before them, coming in this way to fill useful positions and starting forth with bright prospects, would commend itself to anyone with a spark of humanity and



DRUMMERS OF THE SCOTS GUARDS.

selves have to feel what it is to suffer the pinch of want and to have to submit to scorn and insult and vindictive misrepresentation, such as they are meting out to those who, they believe, are powerless to defend themselves.

"Keep them down; shut the door in their faces; drive them back to degradation and pauperism; refuse them any chance of raising their position in life" would seem to be the attitude of these men towards our boys. It is almost incredible that it should be so in a country that prides itself and with good reason,