



LOOKING BACKWARD.

SOME HAZEL BRAE JOTTINGS FOR 1895.

MS we look back over the year 1895 there are two or three things that happened at our Hazel Brae Home that seem to stand out in our memory; they are so different, and yet, after all, is not life made up of contrasts?

It was in the early spring, in March, 1895, that one of our household, dear Esther Rondeau, was called away into "the presence of the King." She had been ailing for a long time, but with a noble courage seemed to try to fight off the weakness to which, otherwise, she might so easily have succumbed. She was so patient, so gentle, and so uncomplaining, and had been so well respected in her life, it is a pleasure to look back upon her memory. But, then, Esther was a child of God; indeed, she had yielded her heart to her Saviour, and when He called her away on that morning of March 12th, she was ready to go, and she left us peacefully and without a struggle. We can say, indeed, of her, "It is well." She was laid to rest in Peterborough cemetery, in such a quiet spot away from the town near Little Lake. Loving friends followed her to the grave and loving hands placed pure white flowers on her coffin, and now she is

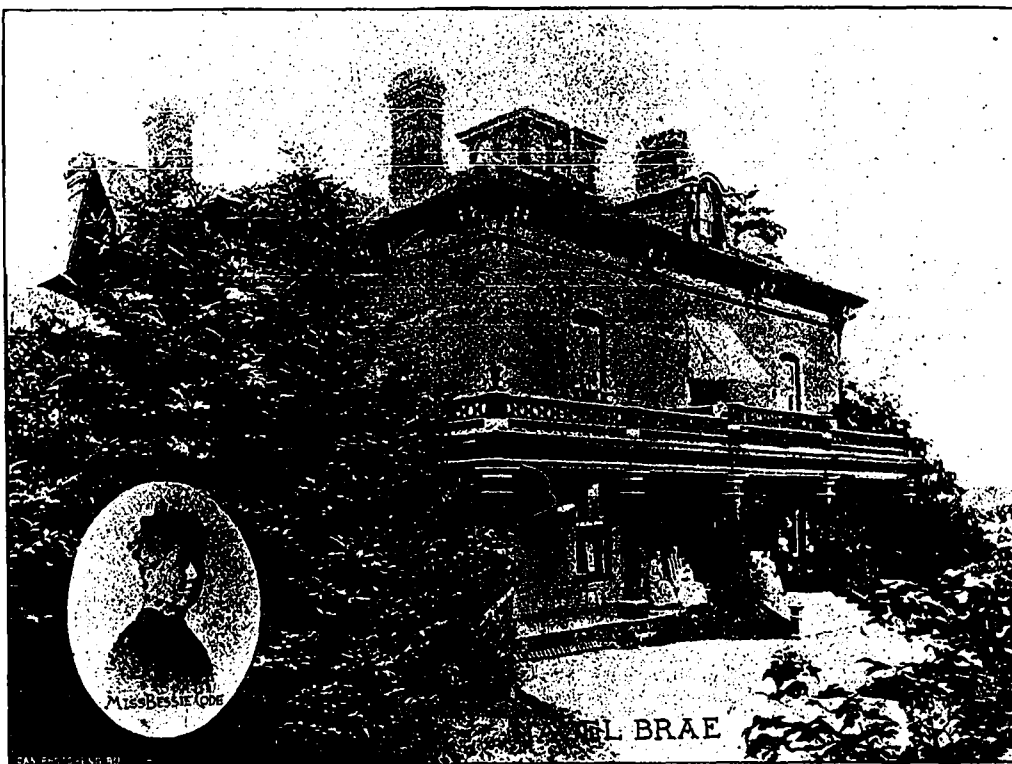
"Where the faded flower shall freshen,—
Freshen never more to fade."

In the summer month of August we had a wedding at Hazel Brae, when Harry Cooper, a letter from whom appeared in the November number of UPS AND DOWNS, was united in marriage to Ellen Dovestone, one of our girls. It was a red-letter day at Hazel Brae! The bride was very nicely and suitably attired in a sort of fawn-coloured dress, with ribbons to match, and she wore pretty flowers, pure white petunias. (If any other girl should ever happen to think of getting married, I might mention just as a little private piece of information, that Ellen had a nice amount of money in the Savings' Bank here, out of which she bought her own outfit. But then, of course, no girl ever *does* think of getting married—at least, not till a "Harry" comes along!) Well, all went happily "as a wedding bell"! The ring was put

on, and as the ceremony concluded, Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played on the piano for the bride and bridegroom. We had a supper in the dining-room, and by-and-by, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper went away amidst a shower of rice, followed by the good wishes of their friends.

It was in the "fall of the year" there came a great arrival of 155 girls out from England. Some one will say like they do in letters sometimes, "Did any one come from *my* cottage?" Oh, I do not know, I am sure; there were girls from Pink Clover, Joicey, Jessamine, Cambridge, Sweet Briar, and Wild Thyme,—but then, I cannot go on writing like this!

It was a wonderful sight when the girls arrived; and some of them were so young, dear little lassies, they must have been tired after their long journey. We went to the station to meet them, and then came with them on the train, for the train was brought right up to the gates of Hazel Brae. Then, such a stream of girls as came out of the train! It almost seemed as if it would never cease. It did cease, however, and then they all sat down to breakfast,



and commenced their first day at Peterborough. May God bless and guide them all their life through!

Let us tell you how some of our new girls have been received. Here is what is said of H—: "We are more than pleased with her so far, and are of the opinion that she will prove all that we can desire; she is smart, kind, and obliging. Mrs. B— and I have taken her right into our hearts, and so long as she proves worthy, and we think she always will, she shall have as good and pleasant a home as if she were our own."

Of L—: We hear that her mistress says she does not think we could have sent a better girl than L—, if she does as she has been doing. L— says, "I will, by God's help." We are specially thankful for this, and L—'s mistress is a delicate lady needing a kind, good girl.

C— has gone to be a nursemaid, and her mistress writes that she is so far pleased with her;

also: "She does very well with the children, and is so quiet and nice in her manner. I sincerely hope she may continue to do well, as I think she is capable of doing all that I require."

Of E— we hear: "She seems to be a bright, intelligent girl." And to show it is not a case of "new brooms," we hear several weeks later, "E. is doing very nicely, indeed. She pleases us, and is an exceedingly nice little girl."

CONCERNING "UPS AND DOWNS."

I think we must thank Mr. Owen for his kind words to us in the December number of UPS AND DOWNS. Surely if he considers it a pleasant announcement that we are to have a part in this capital paper of his, we think so too. And you know, girls, we shall have to look to it to see that we keep up to what is expected of us; we must try to keep pace with the boys.

But really, as to keeping pace, they do take such long steps sometimes, it is a little difficult. After all, when a gentleman is walking with a lady, he tries to fall in with her pace, does he not? And yet, we want to be helps and not hinderers.

Well, if we are all as nice and as accommodating as that, I think we shall get along together splendidly.

We are much pleased with the way some of the girls have received the announcement that they are going to have a part in this monthly paper; it encourages us to go on. This is what Lizzie Adams writes:—

"How very kind of you to send and let me know about that paper; I am just delighted with it, it seems just as if we are brothers and sisters writing to each other. You could not have commenced with anything better than the photo of Dr. Barnardo. I am greatly in favour of this monthly paper, for which I enclose 25c. for the next year; and I think it is very cheap for such a nice book as that. It is so interesting all through, and makes us all feel so near each other. I just think it is a lovely thought of Mr. Owen, getting this paper up, and I wish him the greatest success, hoping it will grow and spread far over the Dominion of Canada and elsewhere. I seldom get a letter from anyone, so you can imagine how this paper cheered me. . . . I was so sorry to hear about Dr. Barnardo being so ill; I do hope he will get well again, and stronger than he was before; and I think I will cut out his picture and have it framed, I think so much of him and his goodness to me."

Lizzie Adams is one of our recent arrivals.

This is what Lizzie Trott, one of our older girls, says:—

"I would have written before, but I was waiting for your sample copy of UPS AND DOWNS, which arrived this week. I was delighted with such a bright and newsy little journal, and I am sure it will be a huge success. I enclose my subscription. How encouraging it will be to other boys, when they read of those who are doing so well. I am sure they will make a greater effort to succeed. Now, next time I hope to see something from girls in the paper. I am sure the most of us will want to have our corner in it. But I found one thing in my paper which gave great joy, and that was my brother's name. Oh, you do not know how pleased I was seeing his name there, it seemed to bring him closer; and I was also glad to see he was a subscriber to the paper. Mr. Owen has