



PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

VOL. III]

JULY 1ST, 1898.

[No. 4

Personal Notes

THE arrival of one more good-sized party from England, the large migration of our old boys to the North-West, and the lavish expenditure in the hire and purchase of bicycles, have been the most noteworthy features of our work during the past three months. The first two we record with great satisfaction, and the latter with no satisfaction at all. We have already delivered ourselves upon the subject of bicycles in the columns of UPS AND DOWNS, and during the past few months we have written scores of letters of advice and expostulation; but still they come, and still the money goes, and we have arrived at the conclusion that we are "the voice of one crying in the wilderness," and that, as far as bicycles are concerned, we may as well hold our peace.

The party that was on its way from England when the last issue of UPS AND DOWNS reached our subscribers, consisted of a hundred and sixty lads, big and little. We crossed in our old friend, the *Labrador*, and landed at Halifax, after a pleasant and fairly fast passage, on Saturday, the 9th of April. We may say of the party that our only grievance against it was its being so much too small, and we could have wished it had been three or four times as large. The demand for boys among

the farmers, both in Ontario and the North-West, during the past spring has been enormous and persistent, and beyond anything we have experienced for several years past. Every boy has been applied for half a dozen times over, and it has been lamentable to have to refuse so many thoroughly eligible applications. A good many of our clients are waiting in the hope of our supplying them from parties to arrive later in the season; but we fear there will be many disappointments, and we heartily wish we had a thousand good boys to fill all the applications and satisfy the importunities of people who are looking to us for their season's "help." As it was, we could only do our best with the limited material at our disposal, and needless to say we made a very speedy clearance after the arrival of the party, and the Home has since been almost untenanted. Our next party will leave London on the 14th of July, and although we are hoping for a very large consignment, we are afraid we shall have again to be satisfied with very short "deliveries." Happily we have no misgivings as to the "quality" of the "goods." We are sure that Dr. Barnardo means that to be up to the standard, and we are looking forward to having some bright promising, well-trained boys to place