

comings, we have had marvellously few entries on the black side of the sheet. Distinctly our "type" is improving, and while we should be sorry to express any opinion disparaging to boys who came out ten or twelve years ago, we must admit it to be a fact, and a most satisfactory fact too, that the emigrants of late years have given a far better account of themselves than their predecessors. Perhaps we understand our business a little better than in earlier days, and are more successful in adapting the right boy to the right place, and undoubtedly we are more closely in touch with our boys than we used to be; but we think more is due to education and superior training influences at homes, and more still to the fact that our boys come to us much younger than in the early days of the work, when thirteen or fourteen was considered a minimum age for emigration.

There can be no question that, for a boy of the Younger type, sixteen or eighteen who has passed his time up to this age amidst the stir and excitement and minor adventure of life in a great city, it is a severe trial and test to his principles to find himself "sentenced," as it seems to him, to the dreary banishment of a lonely Ontario farm, with people whose habits and ways, and modes of speech and life, are as strange and foreign to him as his are to them. He can hardly be expected to take an interest in the work when he understands nothing of the why and wherefore of anything he is set to do, and he makes blunders and mistakes that seem awfully stupid to other people, and awfully stupid to himself when he looks back upon them afterwards, but are natural enough and pardonable enough under the circumstances. The work seems so terribly hard, and the days so long, and the sun so hot, and the "boss" gets "mad" when he comes home and finds the mare has been lamed by being turned "short" on the

harrows, or the cattle have got into the granary because the door was not properly fastened, or the onions have been carefully pulled up instead of the weeds; and at last the lad loses heart, and, disgusted with himself and the country, makes a bolt, and we next hear of him working his way to England on a cattle ship, or perhaps drifting into Toronto or Montreal and getting himself into some sorry plight, in which we have to come to his rescue. It is not that he is a bad boy, or a lazy boy, or even an unsteady boy, but he had not just enough John Bull pluck and grit in his make-up to stick to business till he was master of his work, and could turn the team in the field without pulling them back on the harrows, and understood the fastenings on the granary door, and could tell onions from weeds, and could put his fork into the right place on a load of hay instead of trying to tear away with his arms what he was holding down with his feet. It is all so much easier for the younger boys. They are not expected to do much in the way of work, and for the first year or two, when probably a good deal of their time is spent in play with the other children, they are getting to know the names and uses of things, and when the time comes for their going out to work in right earnest, they have got the run of the farm, and it all comes natural and easy to them. Within the last few years, probably seventy-five per cent. of the boys placed out in Ontario have been under thirteen years of age, and the result, as compared with the emigration of the older boys of earlier years, has been immensely in favour of the juveniles. "The younger the better" is, in fact, our established conviction, as regards the age for emigration, and we only wish we could educate our clients to adopt the same opinion.

Unfortunates like our farmer friends in the West have bulk and weight, and bother us for big