

From a leading city in Michigan, U.S., comes the following letter from our old friend George Ward, who left England in 1883, and has since steadily raised himself by his own exertions until he is now a teacher of a large school:—

"I am wishing some of my friends a happy Christmas this rainy morning, and, as you and Dr. Barnardo are not the least among those friends, I cannot forget you. The Lord was with me in very deed during the last few months. Things have not been as bright as they might have been, but I see His hand in it all, and can trust him for help. I return to my school next Monday, I have 78 pupils and am very busy. . . . I wish you a very happy Christmas, and a glad and prosperous New Year, both in your own home and in the great work you are doing for the Master."

Of Albert Young (July, '95), aged 13, we learn, through his employer, Mr. John Duff, of Hawley, that he—

"Is a very good boy to work; quick to learn; and his moral character, as far as I can see, is of the best."

"I am going to get \$120 in the spring for a year," writes Richard Cox (April, '89) from Stone Quarry.

"I have just started to get into the ways of this country, and I like it well,"

says Charles Fitzmaurice, 14, who has been in Canada six months, and is working at Teviotdale. He adds:—

"I am doing my best to please my boss all I can and I think he is satisfied with my work"

Good news from Robert Gilham, 13, who came out June, '93:—

"I have got a good situation and am getting along nicely. I am growing like a weed and getting so fat."

One of our first visitors at the Home for '96 was John Haynes, who had just returned from England, whither he had been sent in charge of a consignment of sheep. When in England John visited his old friends at Stepney. He is a robust and stalwart young farmer.

Wm. John Jones (July, 1892) writes from Banks that he likes his place very much.

"I can plough, harrow, cultivate, and do many other things on a farm."

Fred Parker, who came out to Canada in August, '87, and is now at Pinehurst, writes:—

"I have left Mr. McDonald and have engaged with Mr. Tyhurst for a year at \$135. This is not very big wages, but it is a very nice place. . . . I think UPS AND DOWNS is a very valuable paper for the boys. I was glad to see the letter in it from Robert Brandon. It brought back to mind so clearly that Saturday morning when we first saw Canadian soil, and the parting words the Doctor gave us. Robert is the only one of that party I have had the pleasure of meeting, but I hope it will be as the Doctor told us to sing, the chorus of that hymn:

"Yes, we'll all meet beyond the river,
Where the surges cease to roll."

Chas. Henry Ward, who is 12, and has been in Canada since March, '92, writes:

"I am in a very nice place now and enjoy myself very much. I have lots of friends now, and will soon be starting for school. I am sending a quarter-of-a-dollar to pay for the paper, which I like very much, and also a dollar for the Home."

A very kind letter reaches us from Mrs. Later, of Huntsville, with whom are placed three of our little men: James Hutton, Richard Dean and Joseph Webb. Mrs. Later gives us most encouraging accounts of her young charges, who are happy and healthy, and mak-

ing excellent progress at school. These are not the first of our young boys who have spent their early years in Canada under the motherly care of Mrs. Later. With her Harry Brooks, Fred and Walter Broster, and Robert Gilmore made their home until they were old enough to make a start at earning their own living. Their former guardian sends all kinds of good wishes for them, which we are sure will be appreciated and reciprocated.

From Harry Collins, living at Nipissing, we have the following:—

"I am a little late in writing this year. I am sending my bank book, so that you can deduct \$1.25—\$1 in support of the Home and 25 cents for my subscription to UPS AND DOWNS. I am getting along well."

Mrs. R. Billings, of Utterson, writes:

"The boy I have (Cyril Burns, of last year's party) is a dear little fellow; he is as happy with us as if he was with his own parents"

From Mrs. R. Leith, Utterson, we hear that Thomas Smith, 12, and Walter C. Barge—

"are getting along well at school. The teacher says they are good boys."

"I came out in the spring of 1889, when I was 16; I am now 23. Last summer I took a trip back to old London. Everything looked the same, except the London Tower Bridge, which, I think, is the best piece of engineering work I have ever seen. . . . I brought out an old chum. He is doing well, learning fast, and he says he is happy. Being lifted up myself I want to help others. . . . I am proud to be a Barnardo boy, although I did not make good use of my time my first three years; but after that time I became more steady and saving. I have never earned big wages, but I have saved a little. . . . I am a member of the Methodist Church and Epworth League. I thank God for what He has done for me through the aid of Dr. Barnardo."

There is much that merits the earnest consideration of one and all of us in this letter of James Ivy, who is now living at Teeswater.

We have not had to wait long for evidence of the good influence that "our girls" can exercise over "our boys." The following letter from Wm. Ryan (March, 1892) will prove a source of intense gratification to others as well as to us, and not least to the earnest-hearted girl whose simple words of entreaty for a higher conception of Christian life, in the last issue of UPS AND DOWNS, have touched a responsive chord in the heart of our friend. William says:—

"You don't know how glad I felt to get UPS AND DOWNS, and I hope you will send it for the whole year. I am so glad that it is published because it brings us closer together in different ways. I know it has formed a good resolution within me, in this way: While I was reading the letter from from an 'Old Thyme Girl' I thought, 'Now, look here, Will, you've not been doing as well as you ought,' and then the thought came to me like this, 'You can do better if you only try!' and now with God's help I am going to live as He would have me live."

John Hancock (July, '92) writes:—

"I like UPS AND DOWNS very much; it has some good news in it. I shall have about forty or fifty dollars to add to my account next spring. . . . I hope you will have a good time in getting your little party for the North-west. I hope many will join you. I should like to go myself."

Sidney Head (March, 1892) who is living at Masonville, and is 17 years of age, writes:—

"I received UPS AND DOWNS this evening, and I observed the picture of an old friend of mine. I was very glad you may be sure. His name is Edgar F.

Clarke. Not knowing his address, I thought I would write you at once. Please send it as soon as possible. I am very busy to-night as I have to go to a committee meeting, also Walter Denton. By the by, Walter has now got a good home, I can tell you. We are going to give our Sunday School teacher a present. Walter and I are in the same class.

"I think UPS AND DOWNS a fine paper. Just the thing for us boys and, well, young men and is a good way of keeping us together. I recognize three of my old friends in UPS AND DOWNS: E. F. Clarke, S. G. Stargratt and C. J. Sparks. It makes me feel as if I were back in the Home among them. Please remember me to them all in the next number of UPS AND DOWNS. My engagement will soon be through. I shall be both glad and sorry; but it must be"

Among other interesting news that reaches us in a letter from Wm. Gurrell are the following items. William came out in April, 1891, and is stationed at

"I go to Sunday School and church every Sunday morning. I am taking a great interest in the Sunday school which has been bricked this fall. . . . I am so glad to see so many Home boys around here, and I hope there will be more. I can tell you I am doing a man's work and I am able to do it, and I thank the Lord for making me healthy and strong, and I mean to work and earn my bread by the sweat of my brow."

"I like this country splendid, and the people, for they are good to me. I have learned to plough, harrow, reap, coil hay and stack. . . . Feed is small here; people are killing off old horses and cows to get rid of them. Hay is up to nearly \$20 a ton, and straw \$4 to \$5 a load. . . . I expect to go to school this winter for a while, but not for very long."

JOHN R. PAGE ('92), Tiverton, Ont.

We commend the following letter from Wm. H. Ward to the consideration of our musically inclined friends. Our ranks, perhaps, do not contain a Beethoven, a Liszt, or a Paganini, but we certainly count a goodly number of really excellent instrumentalists. If Wm. Ward's suggestion be favourably received by these we may expect to find the Home next September offering rival musical attractions to those at the great Fair.

"An idea occurred to me some time ago after reading the account of how the boys enjoyed themselves at the Home at the time of the Toronto Exhibition, that if six or seven boys could put their heads together they might manage to get up a small band in place of the cornet spoken about in that paper. I believe there are old Stepney bandboys who have suitable instruments for the formation of a small band.

"If you have no objections and think there is any use attempting such a thing, you might have something to this effect published in UPS AND DOWNS.

"If any two cornet (B^b) players, 1 tenor horn, 1 baritone, 1 euphonium, and a clarionette player, having instruments and who would like to try and form a little band, and who intend going to Toronto next fall, would let me know through UPS AND DOWNS, I will send them their parts of some easy march which they can practise, and then they can select some nice easy piece and send out in turn. We could do this until we get a few pieces, each one sending out one or two. I have a 14-keyed B^b clarionette to begin with.

"The pieces of music must be easy as it would be of no use attempting difficult music in this way.

"If any boys send their names they should not forget to state the instrument and the key it is pitched to. My address is, W. H. Ward, care Mr. W. Youngson, Metropolitan, Ont."

We regret that stress of matter will not permit us to publish in full two very interesting letters we have received from Jas. Attack and Wm. A. Diaper. We are therefore holding these over until next month.

ONLY THE DIFFERENCE OF A COMMA!

"Suffer little children" was the loving Saviour's plea.
"Aye! Suffer, little children" is the demagogue's decree.