

inflict a good, sharp prick in the consciences of some of our subscribers who seem quite to have forgotten that "short reckonings make long friends."



A Busy Quarter. JULY, August and September have been three busy months with us all. Other people may have been taking seaside vacations and enjoying holiday trips, boating expeditions, cricket matches and what not, but these recreations have not been in the line of either the readers or the writers of UPS AND DOWNS. Haying, harvesting, threshing, fall ploughing and wheat sowing have meant long hours and hard work for the farmer and his men during the past three months, and our lads have verily been earning their bread by the sweat of their face. If there were any means of computing correctly the aggregate amount of labour that has been performed by the 8,000 of Dr. Barnardo's lads, young and old, who have been assisting in gathering in the crops from one end of Canada to another during the past twelve weeks, it would show a grand result, and every pound of it the most valuable and productive of labour and the most helpful to the development of the country. The plough is the foundation of Canada's prosperity, past, present and future, and those who are manning the plough and garnering its fruits are the mainstay of the country's growth and wealth. We could very easily spare the politicians, and if the political machinery were given a few months' rest and the strife of party tongues and pens were to cease in the land, we are uncharitable enough to doubt if the country would suffer in any way; but if the farmer rested from his labours, we should speedily find the wolf at the door.



Good Crops and Good Times. We are glad to observe that for the present season there is every prospect of the farmer getting a richer reward for

his labour than he has enjoyed for many years past. The crops are generally abundant—in some parts really magnificent, prices are advancing and the harvest has been gathered under the most favourable conditions. Farm property is improving in value, liabilities are being met, and there are signs on every hand of "things looking up." The demand for farm labour has never in the course of our experience been as active as at present, and "the harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few" has been the wail from many of the best farming districts both in the east and west. Boys of all and every age have been wanted and entreated for, and the successive weeks of the season have brought neither halt nor limit to the demand. We have done our best for our clients, but no amount of brain-racking, or physical or mental ingenuity can make one boy fill ten places and satisfactorily supply ten applications; and having placed all our boys, there has been nothing for us but to bow our heads meekly before the storm of indignant disappointment that has descended upon us with every post, and pray for the speedy arrival of another party. Our old boys, and those who are no longer boys but can do men's work and command men's wages, are profiting by the advent of better times. We have at times the charge laid to our door that the introduction of boy labour into the country districts would displace adult labour, and that men would find a difficulty in obtaining employment. Never was there a greater fallacy! We find our young men in steady employment, seldom losing a day except by their own desire, and able to command as good wages as have ever been paid in the country. We find them approached with offers of employment long before the end of their existing engagements, and able to take their choice of half a dozen or more places of service. Of course, there are a few of the restless and thriftless sort who will only hire by the