

are not frightened at the cold, and taking it for all in all we find the early or even the late autumn is as good a time as any for them to begin life in Canada.

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Thanks to the remarkable success of the new distributing branch in Winnipeg, an increasingly large number of our little boarders have been transferred to good situations in Manitoba. Twelve months ago there were nearly six hundred boys boarded out in the Muskoka district, but this number has now been reduced to 340. This means that about 250 boys have become self-supporting, and a very welcome reduction thus effected in our expenditure. The little lads who have been placed out in Manitoba have generally fallen into excellent places, and with very few exceptions have settled down happily, and are doing as well as we could desire.

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Following the precedent of last year, we are open to arrange for an excursion to England for as many of our old boys as feel constrained to pay a visit this winter to their friends at home, and would like to make up a party to travel by the same ship. Be it understood we do not advocate anyone going. Our counsel to those who are thinking of making the trip is Punch's advice to those about to marry, "don't;" but as we know that in spite of all we may say there are many who have made up their minds to spend the summer's wages in treating themselves to another peep at the "Old Sod," we accept the inevitable, and are ready to do what we can to make the trip as easy and pleasant as we can for them. The date we advise

is the 13th of November. The steamship *Labrador* of the Dominion Line, the fastest and undoubtedly one of the best equipped vessels in the Canadian trade, leaves Montreal for Liverpool on that date, and we propose to arrange with the agents of the company to reserve special accommodation for our party on that ship as they did last year. The lads will thus be all together, and we shall manage to secure a good many little privileges for them, and will see that they are well looked after. Let those who are thinking of going over send us their names as quickly as possible, and we will let them have all necessary information as to rates and other details.

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I expect and hope that at the time I am writing our visitors to the Exhibition in Toronto are thoroughly enjoying themselves. It is no small disappointment to me to be absent from this gathering and to have had to leave only a week before. I had looked forward to meeting many old friends and to have talked over a great many matters with boys that we have been writing and thinking about during the past few months. I would have given much not to have missed this opportunity that comes only once a year, but it is a case of stern necessity, and I can only console myself with the assurance that everything possible will be done by Mr. Davis to make things pleasant for our visitors, and I have very little doubt that everything will pass off satisfactorily.

Alfred B. Davis

