

but this month the stress of matter is unusually great, and in finding space for only a portion of the "Home news" at our disposal we have been compelled to omit these. Next month, however, we will devote at least a column to the subject of Charles' enquiries.

HERBERT ALDERTON is a sturdy little fellow of thirteen, and came out with our last party. His month of trial has recently expired, and we are in receipt of a letter from Albert's employer, Mr. Henderson, of Marshville, in which that gentleman tells of the opinion he has formed of our young friend. "So far Albert and we get along very nicely. If I had had the selecting myself, and being guided by appearance and civility, I think the selection you made for me would have been my choice."

Some of our readers will remember that several months ago we had to report a serious accident that befell our little friend GEORGE RODWELL. When George found he would be confined to bed for many weeks he expressed a wish that some of our boys would write to him. We mentioned George's wish at the time we referred to his mishap. It appears that several of our boys responded to George's request, and George now writes to express his gratitude:

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,—I must thank you for the nice letters you sent me when I was in bed with my broken leg. I shall answer all some day. I am at school again, and was promoted from the first to the third room, and my teacher says I should be in the next room.

I was glad to see my sister Daisy's picture in last UPS AND DOWNS.

Robert and Jack Mills, who came out a few weeks before I did, are at Mrs. McLaren's too, and writing to-night.

Your little friend,

GEORGE RODWELL.

Bracebridge, Sept. 15, 1896.

Our friend HUGH PIPER, who hails originally from the Farm Home at Buckenhill, writes us a very cheery, interesting letter. He tells us that he is working away on a farm, and although wages are considered very low, he is doing as well as any other man in the neighbourhood, making \$130.00 for the year, and "lots of work to do all the time." Hugh asks our advice as to migrating to California, a country that he tells us he has always had an aspiration to see. We have told Hugh in our reply, that California is no paradise, but it has drawbacks like every other country, and we have advised him to settle himself down for the present, but to try and take an opportunity of coming into Toronto to see us during the winter, and talk over the subject of his affairs.

GEORGE WILLIAM SMITH was one of a small party which was sent out from Stepney, in August, 1884. We will not say much about George's earliest experience in the country, except that there was a time when we did not expect that we should ever receive such news from George as the following, which we quote from a letter that has lately been received from him: "Since I wrote to you last I have been getting along fine. I have got a fine farm of 160 acres of good land; a house and barn, 35x45; have eight acres of meadow, three acres of pasture, five acres of fallow which is nearly all logged up, and about eight acres chopped but not burned. I have three-quarters of an acre of potatoes in, and a fine garden. We have 101 head of cabbage, onions, lettuce, squash, pumpkins, carrots, beets, corn, sweet peas and a nice flower garden, 16 young apple trees, besides berry bushes and grape vines. Our stock is not large but good—one thoroughbred Jersey

cow, which I would not take a hundred dollars for, and a Jersey bull calf, worth \$60.00, cat and dog, 13 hens, 3 cocks. We had about twelve tons of hay, which I have sold." We most sincerely and heartily congratulate George, and we are proud to hold him up as an example of what can be done by patient industry and perseverance.

GEORGE HOOKER, of one of our 1886 parties, writes us that at the end of his ten years in the country he is still working away on a farm, in the neighbourhood of Perth, and is able to give a very satisfactory account of himself. He tells us that he thanks God for all the Home has done for him, and hopes to keep up the good name of the old Home and the Old Land.

A very cheerful little letter recently came to hand from WILLIAM KAVANAH, who has been settled for some years past with Mr. Wm. Steinhoff, Otterville. He tells us that he is "growing like everything," and he gives us a very interesting and well-written account of the crop prospects, and the condition of things on the farm.

FROM A LETTER FROM MR. MANUELL.

The following extracts from a letter recently received by Mr. Owen from Mr. Manuell will be read with much interest, not only by old Stepney boys but by all of our friends:

"SCHOOL, STEPNEY CAUSEWAY,

September 8, 1896.

"When I returned to work yesterday from a pleasant holiday in Cornwall, I found your parcel of UPS AND DOWNS awaiting me. When I read some of the items to the school boys they were greatly interested, some of them no doubt by the thought that they themselves may soon be in Canada under similar circumstances. I am distributing the papers among the older boys, with instructions to 'pass them on.'

"I read with special interest the letters from Arthur Acland and Levi Bone, alluding to visits paid to us here. Acland spent an afternoon in school with me, and left me materially richer in my knowledge of the customs of Canada. I see that Levi Bone makes the remark that there are now 'no very big lads' here. All old boys say the same thing when they return. A boy that you had to look up to, perhaps with awe, seemed much bigger than the boy you can look down on with indifference. A couple of dozen lads from Canada have dropped in on me at the school during the last year or two, and in every case it has been a pleasure to meet them again. In times 'lang syne' we probably met on certain occasions with much less.

"Of course, you are aware of the stir we had here on the 4th July, the anniversary of the Doctor's birthday. The whole place was *en fete*; painters and decorators had put the place in prime holiday trim. One of the Doctor's friends had put a new floor of Mosaic work in the dining-hall, similar to the floor of the front hall in the new building. This, of course, was thrown open on that day. Squads of boys and girls repeated items of the Albert Hall programme in the yard. The railway arches were converted into Arcadian Bazaars. The shops and schools were in full swing and the folks came in crowds to see the show, and when they were tired of sight-seeing they adjourned to the temporary restaurant in the school-room, where they could eat, drink and make merry to their hearts' content.

"Mr. Blunt was in great glory, doing the work of Neptune in the swimming bath. The bath was glowing with banners and devices. Contests were held between cripples, and between the swimming clubs of the Stepney Home and Leopold House. Then there was a water 'sketch,' with boys rigged out in 'variety' costume, sailing about in tubs and boats, and every now and then finding it necessary to the fun to topple each other into the water.

"You will be interested in our cricket record for the past season. Wadup, the captain of the team, tells me

that they have played fourteen games and won thirteen, losing only one game; but when they met their victors again, on the return match, they won by four wickets which was consolatory.

"One of these games was an all-day match played last Whit-Monday at the Crystal Palace. On August Bank Holiday they played the "Old Boys" at Victoria Park, and beat them by 48 runs and 3 wickets. One of the "Old Boys," instead of falling into dejection, broke out into poetry on the occasion.

"The Edinburgh Castle team were beaten by an innings and 27 runs in spite of the efforts of Jim Evans and Tom Peer.

"At one game our boys scored 108 for no wickets down, and then declared the innings closed. J. Gunn, who helped J. Brooks to run up this score, went to Canada with your last party immediately after this feat. I think this is a good record, especially when the cramped cricket facilities of the Home are considered. Scanes is getting his football team together for the winter season. Let us hope they will be as successful as the cricketers.

"My kindest regards to the Old Boys."

WHY HE DID NOT TAKE HIS HOLIDAY.

 MONG the many visitors to the Home three weeks ago was *not* our friend, HARRY ODD, who came out with the party of March, '92. Having been six years in Canada, and his career from the first having been marked by steady persevering effort, and consequently having attained no small measure of success, it would have been the most natural thing in the world for Harry to have spent a few days holiday-making in Toronto during the Exhibition; and most heartily would he have been welcomed at the Home. And, as a matter of fact, Harry had every intention of enjoying a well-earned holiday, but he found himself in a position which required consideration. He desired to come to Toronto, visit the Home and participate in the enjoyment of the meeting with old friends; he also desired to do all that lay in his power to aid his old friend and benefactor, Dr. Barnardo, in his life task of helping lads in far more need of assistance than was Harry of a holiday.

Both desires could not be accomplished. While Canada is a country of plenty, of food and kindred comforts, for the youth learning to farm, his cash income is very limited, and considerations of cost rendered it impossible for Harry Odd to join the holiday-makers at Toronto, and to help Dr. Barnardo in the degree he felt he ought to do. And much as we should have liked to have seen our friend enjoying himself in our midst last month, we are still more pleased to think that he was not with us; that when the time came for him to decide between personal pleasure, and of the most legitimate kind, and what he deemed to be a simple matter of duty, he nobly chose the latter; and the five dollars intended for the holiday in Toronto were sent to Mr. Owen, to be forwarded to Dr. Barnardo, with many hearty expressions of Harry's grateful remembrance of the old Home and of the pleasure he was experiencing in thus being able to contribute something towards the work.

In acting as he has done, Harry has surely made "a sacrifice acceptable and well-pleasing to God." He has denied himself the pleasure of a visit to Toronto at Exhibition time, practically the one holiday of the year, that he might help others. While we are not telling of Harry's self-denial with a view to inducing others of our friends to adopt the *same method* of performing a duty which is no less theirs than it was Harry's, we do most fervently trust that all our friends who have been negligent in the past will by the noble example to which we have drawn their attention be stimulated to a more faithful per-