

Wm. H. Gurrell (March, 1891), now in his fifth year with Mr. —. Harvie, of Orillia, writes us in praise of UPS AND DOWNS. He observes that it is "lovely to have news of the Home and Dr. Barnardo." William wants to treat himself to a watch for fear he should some day miss the time for his dinner. We don't want William to waste his money, but we appreciate the convenience of having something more than internal sensations to tell us that it is dinner time, and we are advising William where we think he had better make the proposed purchase.

Thomas Rolfe, care of Geo. Turner, New-tonville, sends us a very interesting and well-written letter about himself and his concerns. Thomas wants to pay a visit to his friends in England. He will have plenty of money to pay his fare over and back when he draws his wages this fall; but nevertheless he advise Thomas to go slow, and, before he makes up his mind, to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest what we have said elsewhere on the subject of trips to England.

Walter Matthews (June, 1892) writes congratulating us in kindly and flattering terms upon our paper. He asks us for our advice as to Toronto business colleges with a view to taking a six months' course during the coming winter.

Walter R. Anderson, living with George Cook, Thornbury, writes us a cheery "newsy" letter about himself, from which we gather that he is sticking to business and doing well for himself.

Sidney Parting (March, 1891), who has lately been transferred, writes us that he is very happily settled with Mr. George A. Fitch, of Drumbo.

Walter A. Farr writes that, after his two years of farming in Canada, he is doing well at Hartford; likes his master and his master likes him. UPS AND DOWNS comes in for some very complimentary remarks from Walter.

As Emelli Collard could not get away during the Fair he promises us a visit in the winter. Emelli sticks steadily to his work at Columbus and his five years in Canada have been profitably spent.

Frederick Giles writes from Oxmead telling us how he enjoyed himself during his visit to the Fair. Frederick grows enthusiastic over UPS AND DOWNS and thinks "Our Old Friends' Directory" a splendid idea, having by its help located two or three old chums.

Fred C. White expresses his regret at being unable to visit us this year, but duty required Fred's presence on the farm where he has been employed for ten years, and Fred is not the boy to shirk his duty.

Arthur Buckley, despite his five years' residence in Waterloo Co., in a settlement where German is the language of daily life, still maintains all the characteristics of the Englishman, sturdy in character and physique. Arthur came out in 1888, and has made progress from the first. He seemed to thoroughly enjoy his visit to the Home.

Charles Warren sends us more news of his prospects in Manitoba. He has bought a place and made what seems a very satisfactory

arrangement as to terms of payment. He will be taking up his quarters on his place very shortly, and is looking forward to "keeping back" at the start. "Keeping back" is one of the ills of life for which there is a remedy, and we expect to hear before long that Charles is joining the ranks of the Benedicts.

From the Employers' Standpoint.

Mr. John Purvis, of Puce, in sending us a year's subscription for Geo. Wright, who is in his employ, writes:—

"... It (UPS AND DOWNS) will also give them an idea of their growing strength and importance, and, I hope, help to form manly and energetic characters. We have now had George about nine months and are very well satisfied with him. I find him a very good little fellow, with kind disposition and a desire to please. He has attended school most of the time and is at present doing so. We have grown very fond of him, and he seems to like his place well and is interested in all things around him. With great regret I read of Dr. Barnardo's illness, but hope he will soon be well again and able to resume his work."

Mr. Purvis's letter is but a specimen of many that we receive from employers of our boys. The theory of demagogues and certain "Organization politicians" is that the Home boys must *ipso facto* be bad, and, to use their favoured expression, "a curse to the country." The experience of those who have had our boys for years in their homes is—the very reverse. Hitherto, the theorists have had it very much their own way in reaching the ears of the public owing to the supineness and partiality of a large section of the press. If that section of the press which claims to be impartial will now only give to our corroborated statements the publicity that has been given to the bare assertions of our prejudiced opponents, the power of the theorists to wound a large body of well-conducted young citizens will be reduced to a very low ebb. And we do not think this is asking too much of a press which poses as the possessor of an usually large share of that spirit of toleration, that breadth of view, which is supposed to be characteristic of the Fourth Estate at the end of the nineteenth century.

IN GOOD HANDS.

We have much pleasure in publishing a letter which Mr. Owen has received from Mr. A. S. Tallman, of Smithsville. Mr. Tallman has recently received one of our boys into his employ, and this letter gives some idea of the warm, kindly feeling entertained towards our young friends by the majority of those into whose hands they are entrusted when they first start out to fight the battle of life in Canada. To the existence of this sympathetic interest on the part of the employer is largely due the remarkably large number of instances of boys remaining five, seven and ten, and even a greater number of years in one situation. These long-service records would be well nigh impossible, no matter how persevering a boy might be were he not made to feel that those around him were in sympathy with his aspirations and desirous of helping him to do what is right and best for himself at all times. Mr. Tallman's letter is as follows:—

"Yours to hand, with agreements enclosed, some time ago, and in reply, would say that I could not ask for anything fairer, and I intended signing and returning it long ere this, but my work was such that it was impossible for me to do so. You will find enclosed the agreement signed as required, and I will do my utmost to bring the boy up in the way that he should go, and make a home for him that will be pleasant for him, so that he will have no reason or even a desire to leave. I hope and trust that he will prove useful to me, as well as to himself, by improving his every opportunity."

IN 1814: A CANADIAN REMINISCENCE.

WRITTEN FOR UPS AND DOWNS BY FAITH FENTON.

The old man sat upon the "stoop," in his favorite position, with knees crossed, one foot swinging and one knotted, brown hand grasping his rush-bottomed chair. The other hand held his clay pipe, the forefinger being kept free to press at intervals its smoky contents further into the bowl. His suit of faded blue jeans, checkered with patches of a deeper shade, bore evidence of his recent visit to the barn, in the bits of straw that clung to seam and buttonhole; while the wrinkled, loam-covered top boots testified quite as strongly to a tramp through fresh ploughed fields.

A shock of long grey hair, wiry and shaggy, fell over the face, furrowed deeply as the fields that stretched before our vision; and the shoulders, weighted with years, bowed themselves earthward. But keen, blue eyes looked out from beneath grizzled brows, and a quiet smile played about the thin, humorous lips.

The soft sounds of evening farm life came up to greet us; the chirrup of a few belated pigeons, an occasional grunt from the pens down the lane, the stepping of restless horses in the barn, the shrill frog chorus from the low pasture land; and permeating all these, the thousand sleepy sounds of bees and insects and wavy grass that go to make the music of a country summer night.

"No," said the old man, slowly drawing a long whiff from his pipe, and watching it curl out into the darkness. "No, I ain't good for much now, save to potter 'round. The boys, they manage the farm, and the girls, they do the chores, so me and mother just visit 'round a little and take a rest. It's over sixty year since we came up here to make our home, and purty tough work we found it. But we weathered through until our children grewed; and now—why now *their* children's agrowin' up, and beginnin' to put on company manners.

"Sixty years! It's 'most a lifetime. I don't know as I'd like to live through it agen; but we'll be kind of sorry to leave the old place, mother and me, when our time comes.

"When a man has to make a home for himself, it comes to mean more to him than any ready boughten place. I cleared every bit of the land about here; I built our little log-house; Mary and me used to fill up the chinks evenin's when the farm work was done. Her and me planted all them trees—they're the oldest about these parts. You've been drivin' about quite a bit since you come here, and seen for yourself the orchards and fields and good roads. Most folks say that 'round about Niagara is the fruitfulest part of Canada. Not bein' a traveller, I can't say; but fifty year ago, wolves howled round here closer than was healthy; and we shot more grizzlies than we cared about.

"Remember the rebellion of 37? Bless your heart, I remember darker days than them, for I can call to mind the war of 1812. I was only a shaver, 'bout nine year old, I reckon, but them troubled times is clearer in my mind than the quieter years that's come between. Men lived in earnest in them days, and women and children shared the hardships.

"We lived down near Fort Erie then, across from Buffalo. Grandfather came up from Pennsylvania with some others, when the Yankees got their independence. I've heard him tell many a time of the long journey up with slow-moving ox teams. They crossed over just where Buffalo is; there wasn't any big city there then, only farm land, most of it uncleared; and grandmother bein' right tired, father pitched near Fort Erie. He was on English soil again, he said, and that was all he wanted.

"Well, as I started to tell you, I remember