

UPS AND DOWNS

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ECHOES OF THE MONTH.

THE event of the month has, of course, been the arrival and distribution of our first detachment for the season. The party was composed of 63 lads from the Youths' Labour House, 49 from the Stepney Home, 17 from Leopold House, 8 from Jersey, 5 little chaps from Sheppard House, and 37 from boarding-out homes in the country districts of England. The Stepney contingent included several apprentices and non-commissioned officers, and a great many amongst the party had been for many years under Dr. Barnardo's care.

Our sailing date from Liverpool was Thursday, the 2nd, and on the morning of that day we took our leave of the old Homes, and steamed out of Euston station at 10.45 to the good old tune of Auld Lang Syne. The London and North Western gave us a special train and a fine "run" and by 3.30 we had pulled up in the Riverside station at Liverpool. This was our first experience of the recently constructed Riverside station — bringing us close alongside of the ship, and saving us the long, troublesome march through the streets of Liverpool. The new station adjoins the Landing Stage, so that we had only to cross the stage to be at the foot of the gangway. The great Dominion Liner *Scotsman* was moored to the stage ready to receive us, and a magnificent ship she looked, towering above us out of the water. She is the second largest cargo ship in the Atlantic trade, her dimensions being only exceeded by the huge ship *Georgic* of the White Star Line. The *Scotsman* is 490 feet long and 49 feet in width or beam, and has a carrying capacity of over 10,000 tons. We soon passed the Board of Trade Doctors and

the various surveyors and inspectors who watch against the embarkation of unhealthy or unsuitable people, every boy being sound in wind and limb, and without an ailment or blemish that the most lynx-eyed examiner could detect, and in a few minutes after our arrival we were safe on board and rejoicing in finding ourselves as well off for space, light and air as we have ever been in any of our trips across the Atlantic. The Dominion Line had evidently resolved to treat us well, and nothing could have been

"baby" from Sheppard House, I am proud and pleased to be able to say that the conduct and behaviour of the party was a credit to themselves and to Dr. Barnardo.

Our voyage was not an eventful one, and the time soon began to pass rapidly. Of course a good many of the party felt very unhappy for the first day or two, and Neptune exacted his tribute from all but the "old sailors," but the *Scotsman* proved herself a splendid sea boat, and despite a good "lump" of a sea, and strong westerly breezes, there was very little disagreeable motion. After the first two or three days, appetites began to revive astonishingly, and the excellent fare so abundantly provided received the amplest justice. We cannot speak too highly of the kindness shown us by all the officials of the ship, from the captain downwards, and constantly was it impressed upon us that if we wanted anything it was "our own fault if we didn't get it." From Sunlight soap to plum pudding there was enough and to spare of everything, and whatever befalls them in after life our boys can look back upon "good times" on board the *Scotsman*.

Late in the day on Saturday, the 11th, the lights of Halifax harbour were in sight, and before midnight we were alongside the

wharf. We don't believe in disorder or confusion on arriving in port, and "all hands" were in bed and asleep long before the ship was made fast, ready for an early breakfast and a start to business in the morning. Those in charge, who had to be up all night getting ready for the next day, didn't feel quite so lively, but we consoled ourselves with the thought that Halifax doesn't come very often. The Labour House lads, destined for the Farm Home, Russell, Manitoba, were the only members of the



THE BOYS' HOME BAND.

better than the accommodation provided.

Before nightfall the shores of old England were fading in the distance, and we were "out on the ocean sailing"; but no one seemed at all homesick, and we venture to say that a jollier party never left the old world to seek their fortunes in the new. We dropped into our daily routine, and the rules and regulations of life on board ship, with very little trouble to anybody, and from the first day to the last, and from the biggest Labour House lad to our five-year-old