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Personal Notes

THE Toronto Home and Office of Publication of UPS AND DOWNS, 214 Farley Avenue, as we appear to the view of our opposite neighbours, is the frontispiece for the current number. Our establishment does not present a particularly imposing appearance, and there is certainly nothing showy or inviting about its exterior; but we flatter ourselves that the place partakes of the character of the work, of which it is the centre, in being eminently practical, useful and valuable. Judged by our externals, we are rather insignificant, unattractive people; but though our Headquarters is not a "show" place, it is a place of great interest and no little importance, not only to ourselves and those who have been its inmates, but to the big world outside. It has been, so to speak, the gateway through which several thousand boys have passed from the old life of dependence, and often hardship, to the new life of honest, self-supporting independence in the new world. With the word of command to march from the big side gates leading out from the yard, there ended the kindly but strict regime of the Homes. Drill and parades and inspections, and the routine of Institution life, became a thing of the past. Our boys went out to take a very different position in life to that

which they had occupied before. We can speak of it as the starting point of a new stretch of life, and as the place where, for very many of our boys "old things passed away and all things became new," and viewed in this aspect, the unpretentious brick building has a charm and a romance peculiarly its own and of no ordinary kind. It would be rather interesting to conjecture the sort of feelings with which our readers will regard the picture. We expect a good many will recall it as the place where they had a jolly good time during the Exhibition week, when the premises resounded with fun and merriment from morning to night. Others will remember it only as the place of their arrival and departure, where they passed the last medical examination, said good-bye to their friends, heard a few parting words of advice and encouragement, and were launched out into the big world that was then all so new and strange to them. There are others we are glad to think not many in number to whom the sight of the building will revive less pleasant memories, who will remember approaching it with quailings of heart and forebodings of an unpleasant reception, and who will have visions of a guest chamber specially reserved for "returners" that is rather a terrible blissful