

UPS AND DOWNS

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ECHOES OF THE MONTH.

THE little group that forms our frontispiece is the third detachment for the Winnipeg Home that left Toronto at the beginning of last month. As we write, most of them have found places, and we hear that applications are coming in briskly from all parts of Manitoba and the North-West, so that we shall soon hope to have another party under weigh for the "Great West." As we look at the group and recall what we know of each individual boy, we wonder if the Canadian North-West has absorbed into its population, since its vast tracts were thrown open to settlement, a body of colonists of brighter promise than these sixteen little lads. To begin with, every boy is physically healthy, and "sound in wind and limb," and takes with him a good strong pair of arms and legs and a good notion of using them. Each boy of the group is at any rate up to a fair average in intelligence and mental ability. We do not know that there is any brilliant genius among the little party. Certainly, for aught we know, there may be an embryo Shakespeare or Milton, but whether this is so or not, we can vouch that there is not a boy whose mental equipment is not sufficient to enable him to battle his way successfully in life. They have all received a good elementary education, and can read, write and cipher; and, whatever else they may be as citizens,

Dr. Barnardo's boys will never swell the number of "illiterate voters," of whom we have heard so much of late among our neighbours across the line. Furthermore, every boy among this number has been under kindly, wholesome, industrial training, and has been taught to obey and knows how to make himself useful. They have been accustomed to habits of cleanliness and decency, to rise early in the morning, to observe punctuality and to conform to rules. These are not trifles as part of a boy's upbringing, but we believe are conducive, to a most important

extent, to his future success. And as an even brighter omen and stronger power for good in their lives, we can claim for our boys that every one of them has been brought under the gracious influences of the teaching of God's word, and has been taught that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and that to lie and steal and cheat is wrong and shameful. It is not ours to say what fruit this knowledge and training will bear in after life, but "the boy is father to the man," and we are bidden to "train up the child in the way he should go, and when

heard nothing but congratulations on their appearance, and good wishes for the success of the boys and the new departure in our Canadian work, of which they are the pioneers. All the indications at present are full of hope and good promise for our work in the North-West, and, with God's blessing, we look forward to a wide development in that direction and to its being a "door of hope" to many hundreds in years to come.

Most of those who have so far been drafted to Manitoba are boys who have previously been

boarded out on farms in Muskoka, and we expect to draw our "supplies" for Manitoba chiefly from those who will have been trained and brought up in the farm households in Northern Ontario. The knowledge and experience the boys will have gained in farm life and ways in their Muskoka homes will be of the greatest service to them in their new situations, and they will be no strangers to the rigors of the climate and the conditions of pioneer life. Among the five hundred and fifty or so who are at present boarded in Muskoka, there are now from seventy to eighty who will soon be ready for "flitting," and whom we shall hope to transfer to the Winnipeg Home during the next few weeks, and we are sure we may bespeak the good wishes of all our readers for these little lads as they go forth into their new homes that the way may be opened for them, and that He who is the helper of the fatherless and pre-

serveth the strangers may indeed go before them and "open to them of His good treasure."

There is nothing of human activity and enterprise that is free from defects and shortcomings, but we venture to commend, even to the severest and most cynical unsympathizer in philanthropic work, the results of Dr. Barnardo's efforts, as represented by the present position and prospects of these little lads and the many hundreds of others under our care. We would ask where could be found any effort for the betterment or uplifting of individuals or



OUR THIRD DETACHMENT OF YOUNG MANITOBIANS.

he is old he shall not depart from it," and if the future conduct of these little lads is in accordance with the training they have received under Dr. Barnardo's care, and the influences that have hitherto surrounded their lives, they will indeed grow up to be a blessing to themselves and to others. We are sanguine enough to believe that such will indeed be the case and to predict a bright future for our little lads in the great new country in which their lot is now cast.

So far a more than kindly welcome has greeted our little Manitobans, and we have