

"I suppose you thought I had forgotten the old Home. You will think I have quit sending money to the Home, but I have been under so much expense this last year, I could not send any, but I will make up for it when I get straightened up again. I have bought two lots. I intend to try and build a house next summer. . . . You will be surprised to hear I have a boy a year old."

This is news, indeed, from an old friend, Alfred Knowlton, who came from England in 1886. We congratulate him very heartily, if rather late in the day, upon his promotion to the proud position of father, and we very earnestly trust that the little man may be spared to grow up and be a comfort and a blessing to his parents. Since receiving the above letter, we learn that Alfred has secured an interest in a saw-mill.

It would be positively unjust to allow Archibald Ferris' gallantry to hide itself in the dark recesses of a pigeon hole. We trust the following extract will not be overlooked in the quarter whence our journal has derived the recent generous increase in its vitality and interest. It may be well to state that Archibald is 21 years of age, and therefore legally responsible for any statement to which he puts his name:—

"There were some nice-looking girls' photos in the last paper you sent. UPS AND DOWNS would be worth a quarter more if you put a group of them in every month."

Archibald is not the only one who greets the appearance of "our girls" with expressions of pleasure. William Essland, another "boy," passed to man's estate, waxes eloquent in his enthusiasm and propounds the following:—

"Would there be any harm in brothers and sisters running in double harness, for Dr. Barnardo has a great many children? I see that some of the girls have been getting the ministers to tie the knot for them! I hope there will be photos of the girls every month, so that if I see one that suits me I can make straight for her." This is really very serious.

UPS AND DOWNS was certainly started with the hope it would be a bond of union between Dr. Barnardo's young people. But matrimonial union! We never contemplated that responsibility.

On general principles we don't mind telling William that matrimony is a very excellent institution, and that objection cannot be taken to marriage between brothers and sisters in such a large family as ours (providing, of course, William, your "sister" shares your views). Information on this vastly important point William is, doubtless, quite capable of acquiring for himself without our aid. As a matrimonial agency we fear we should prove a terrible failure.

Distance does not diminish Wm. Fery's regard for his old friends. He is now 25, and came from England over ten years ago. Writing on the last of the old year from Oberon, N. Dakota, William says:—

"I now write wishing you and all connected with the Home a happy New Year; and long may Dr. Barnardo live. . . . I will enclose in this letter \$10.00 for the benefit of the Home."

"I am very glad for getting a chance for coming out here, for I have a good master, and I do like the new country."

This is from Ernest Nowlan (16), after three months' experience in the "new country."

"I came to Canada in 1887, and am six years past in the same place. I like the country very well. I have had good health ever since I came to Canada. I received my medal three years ago. I feel very proud of it."

The foregoing tells something of the character of Thomas J. D. Cox, who has recently

returned from a visit to England. Thomas' English friends urged him to remain, but our friend knew too well the advantages awaiting him in Canada.

Still another whose thoughts are hovering in ominous manner over the new department of UPS AND DOWNS is George Lane, 24, who has his experience of nine years with which to face the future:—

"You have some good girls as well as good boys; and they are very good-looking girls."

We cannot refrain from commending the candour of the following letter from Ernest Halls (June, '90), who writes from Dunedin:

"I see by your paper there is a lot of my old chums who are taking the paper; so I will make one more to their number. I am getting along fine, and am in good health and strength. I like the paper fine. I like to read about our boys, and see what they have done; although I have not done anything to brag of myself, but I stand a good chance of doing better."

"I am getting on quite well, and I like my place very much. I am quite used to the place now, and I never feel lonely. My employers treat me very kindly, and use me as if I was their own son. I do not have to work very hard, and I do not do very much; I never tire of the work. I go to church on Sunday, and I study the Sunday School lesson in the afternoon for this year, as the schools will soon be closed, as the roads get bad."

Thus writes Alfred Hulks, a boy of last year's party, aged 12. Alfred also tells of an unfortunate accident, from which, however, we are glad to learn he has not suffered very serious consequences.

Thomas Lashmar (July '95) says, writing from Macton:

"I like the paper very well, and like to see old faces and read letters from our boys. . . . I am getting on pretty well at my place and I like Canada."

George Moore (1883), now 21 years of age, writes:

"I have received the copies of UPS AND DOWNS, and I think it is just the paper for us boys to keep us together. . . . I did intend to come down to the Toronto Fair last fall, but I had to give it up. I hope you do not think I have forgotten you, and I hope you have not forsaken me for not writing a little oftener to you, as I am not much of a letter-writer. I am glad to say I am not ashamed of being a Dr. Barnardo boy, for I am just as much thought of as the other young fellows. I do hope that UPS AND DOWNS will continue and in time get larger, and as long as I live you will not be stuck for a subscriber in me."

Charlie Kay, who left England with our last party and is now at Thorndale, thus gives vent to his enthusiasm:

"I spent Christmas with Charlie Fuller. I never enjoyed myself better. I am getting along well. They (copies of UPS AND DOWNS) are the best papers in Canada."

"We sincerely return you thanks for bringing us out here and providing a good home for us. We are well and happy. We go to school and church regular, and derive great benefit from it."

This is from a joint letter from Alfred W. Ansell and George Clarke, two little boys who have been in Canada since July, 1894.

From Huntsville, where he lives, we hear that Edgar Jesse Gambrial, 11,—

"is well, and has improved very much. He attends school and is quite a good boy."

Wm. J. Wood (July, '85) hopes that a party for the North-West will be formed during the

spring; and if it is, William intends to be one of those "going West."

"I did not like the place when I first came here, but now I am doing well. Next fall my time will be up, and I shall have \$100. I hope I shall do well after that. I am trying to lead a Christian life. I am going to try and make something of myself in life."

WM. H. MABEY, age 18 (April, '91, party).

"I am very happy and I think I shall like my place. My master is very kind to me. I have had a very happy Christmas."

This is from a letter from Archie Hooper, 12, who came out last fall, and has recently been placed with a farmer near Windsor.

"I think the paper is very nice. It reminds me of a good many old chums."

THOS. WRIGHT, 14 (July, '94).

Wm. D. Yelf (April, '94) writes from Park-hill:

"I think it (UPS AND DOWNS) is really nice and interesting. The Doctor's photograph is not like him when I left the Old Country; he had not got his side whiskers. Stepany was just the same and the Labour House. I hope you will have Mr. Anderson's picture in. I am going to get all the numbers bound. I want to use them for reference for the 'First Aid to the Injured.' I am just sending you a dollar for the New Year for the Home, and I hope to be able to send some more toward the newspaper next April."

"George Doran and Robert Downham are both in good health, and I think are doing well," writes the guardian of our little friends, who are aged ten and six respectively, and whose home is at Lancelot.

We have received a very sensible letter from Alfred Jolley (June, '90), who has been working at Mount Forest for some time. During the past year Alfred was signally unfortunate in regard to accidents, but he deals with the troubles of the past in a very philosophic spirit. The course he is mapping out for his guidance in the future is one that, adhered to, will bring our friend much peace and happiness.

Alfred says:—

"Once more we have come to the end of the year, the time of reckoning. The question comes to my mind, 'What good have we done in the past year?'"

"I have not done as much good as I should have done, but it can't be helped now. I hope to make some good resolutions for the new year, and by God's help to keep them. I have been in good health all the year except accidents. I have had two of them, viz., a broken collar bone on the first of May, losing over five weeks, and another broken collar bone in September, on the other side. Rather unfortunate, but I am well and strong again. I lost over two months time during the summer. It was rather discouraging, but we all have mishaps sometimes, and I am not going to fret about the past, but I am going to push on to the things that are ahead. I have a very comfortable home; it is likely I will be staying with Mr. Norris another year. . . . I am so glad you have started a paper. It is a great help to the boys, and others, too. I am always pleased when it comes to me. I think that 'First Aid to the Injured' is a grand thing, also 'Among our Friends'; in fact, all the subjects are first rate. I think it is just the thing."

"Enclosed you will find one dollar as I promised. I am sorry I cannot send more, but I will try and make up for the three years I missed some year I do better. . . . I mean to start the new year different to the past. I was depending on myself too much, but I failed. I am now trusting in the Saviour. He is my dearest Friend and Guide."

Robert William Hawkesworth, who came out in '86, then a little fellow of ten, is still at