

has had the satisfaction of training and turning out some good useful lads, and we hope it will be a long day before she ceases to be one of our constituents.

Speaking of Mrs. Riordan and her boys, we must not forget to mention "Harry" (John Henry Harris) living with Dr. Thorburn, and quite an ideal little page boy. We have never heard anything but good of Harry, and we are proud and delighted at the admirable record he has maintained for the past three years.

Many of our boys will remember the little musical party who came from England in the autumn of '92 under the charge of Mr. Wookey, and travelled for several months in the States and Canada giving entertainments on behalf of the "Home." Their tour was brought to an abrupt and tragic close by the terrible accident on the Wabash Railway fifty miles east of Chicago, in which the train by which the party was travelling was wrecked, with the result that two boys were killed and several others more or less seriously injured. Little Willie Evans had both legs broken besides being fearfully scalded and bruised. His life was at first totally despaired of, but he wonderfully recovered and he and another member of the party, James Lane, found a charming Christian home with a family of good position in the town of Canton, Ohio. We have just received a short letter from Willie in which he says:

"I have left school and am now working in a first-class drug store. I expect to learn the druggist business and am getting along very nicely for a start. Mother and father send their kindest regards to you all."

Here is a "letter for publication" from James W. Thring:

"I now take the pleasure of writing a few lines in favor of Ups and Downs. I think it a lovely paper, the best I ever read of my own. I have been out here about six years now and I like it very well. There are two other boys from the Home here; one is Thomas Ganton and the other Richard Mountain. We are getting along all right and often meet one another on the road as we live close together. We hope to see this and all our photos next month."

Alfred F. Grundy only came out this year. Here is what he has to say after being two months in the country:

"I am pleased with the situation you have got for me, for I am sure you could not have suited me with a better place. I feel well in health and I am sure I like my master very much. I get plenty to eat and drink and have plenty of time of my own, so I cannot grumble at any thing. I feel very happy where I am."

Contentment is the best companion with which a lad can commence his career in Canada, or elsewhere, so Alfred, who lives at Parkhill, is in good company and will, we are sure, make a good reputation for himself and the Home he came from.

"The little boy Tommie Law is doing remarkably well. He has been advanced three times at school since coming to us last fall."

This is the good news we hear of Charles Thomas Law, 8, who came to Canada last Sept., and has since been boarding out at Huntsville, and we are sure all our older friends will join us in saying "Well done, Tommie"

We have not referred yet to the large number of boys who have completed their engagements within the past few weeks. We shall hope to make favorable mention of these next month in connection with the awarding of Dr. Barnardo's silver medals to those who have earned them by good conduct and faithful service.

Although the sad event happened on the 14th of February, the tidings have only lately reached us of the death of William D. Howe, aged 23, who was accidentally killed in the discharge of his duties as brakeman on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. William arrived from England in April, 1886, and worked for several years past in the neighbourhood of Pembroke. We had lost sight of him for two or three years, but we learn that during that time he had been working steadily and had been saving money with the object of going home to pay a visit to his mother in England. His letters home were always bright and cheerful, and it has evidently been a terrible blow to the poor woman to receive the news of his being thus suddenly called away. May God comfort her in her bereavement and give her a happy meeting with her boy in the land where God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

A PLEA FOR INDIVIDUAL EFFORT.

The letter from Alfred Bristow, on page six, should have a stimulating effect upon those who, from lapse of memory or other cause, have hitherto delayed sending their small contributions in support of the work, of the dire need of which Alfred found such irrefragable evidence during his recent visit to England.

We know how frequently a tendency exists, in young and old people, to withhold help from a good cause, not from any lack of generosity, but from a sense of inability to "do much." They imagine that the assistance they can render, be it financial or otherwise, is so slight that it is not worth proffering. They lose sight of the fact that only to the few is given the power to do much, individually and at once. To the many, to the all, is given the grand opportunity of doing each a little which, in the aggregate, shall greatly exceed the much of the few. If the tendency to so utterly disregard the value of individual effort were universal, the world would be at a standstill. We all have our duty to do, and however small and unimportant that duty may be, or appear to be, let us at least do it, resting assured that, as it was given us to do, it was essential to the completion of some wisely ordained plan.

The following instance affords a striking illustration of the potentiality of individual effort: Before the negro slaves in the West Indies were emancipated, a regiment of British soldiers were stationed near one of the plantations. A soldier offered to teach a slave to read, on condition that he would teach a second, and that second a third, and so on. This the slave faithfully carried out, though severely flogged by the master of the plantation. Being sent to another plantation, he repeated the same thing there, and when at length liberty was proclaimed throughout the island, and the Bible Society offered a New Testament to every negro who could read, the number taught through this slave's instrumentality was no less than 600.

There is no call for any large measure of self-denial on the part of our friends who wish to help Dr. Barnardo in his work; and yet who can estimate the tremendous and far-reaching results which would follow the individual efforts of 5,000 young men, each contributing his little towards the work of helping those in distress, of rescuing those who are threatened with worse than poverty. Try to imagine the amount of immediate good so much individual effort would accomplish; how many lads and lassies it would be the means of helping upward and onward, so that they could reach the level at which you stand to-day.

Go further; and imagine those of whose uplifting you were the cause, in turn contributing

their mites for others still waiting for the helping-hand; and try to trace the course of your individual efforts through each succeeding party, thus, first of the helped and then of the helpers.

Trace it through each succeeding generation, and well may we ask: Where does it end? What is the final harvest of the tiny seed you have sown? At least we know that the harvest will be plentiful if the seed be only sown, and once our humble-minded friends realize this, we do not think they will withhold their help because "it is so small."

Since our last issue the following donations have been received:—Ashmore, Arthur, \$1; Boyd, William, \$5.69; Baalim, Art. G., \$1; Farr, Walter A., \$1; Jackson, Charles, \$1; Jehu, Edward C., \$2; Osborne, Lionel, \$5; Rolfe, Thomas, \$3; Truscott, Wm., 75cts; Thring, Jas. Wm., \$1; Taylor, Fred. F. \$1.

OUR LITERARY AND MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

UNANIMITY is again the characteristic of the papers received this month. Spring, and Spring only, would appear to be the season the contemplation of which, whether from afar or from near at hand, can fill the hearts and minds of our friends with enthusiasm. And of enthusiasm there is no end in the papers we have received, and the same, it will be noticed, is the case in the contributions published in "Our Girls," in the "Ready-Writers' Ring."

One feature of Spring, of which more than one has spoken, is that the demands of daily duty, which increase very largely at this season of the year, will prevent so much time being given to reading, writing, and other pursuits to which many of our friends wisely devote a portion of their leisure. This may reduce the number of contributors to this work; we shall, of course, be sorry if it does, but the employer and the work you have engaged to do have the first call upon your time and energies, and we should feel that we had made a sad mistake if anything in UPS AND DOWNS tended to lessen a lad's interest in his immediate surroundings and made him less desirous of attaining the highest degree of proficiency in his vocation, be that what it may.

On the other hand, the "spare moments," even during Spring and Summer, aggregate many hours in a month, and as UPS AND DOWNS only appears once in that length of time, we think that those whose wish, can continue as active workers in our Mutual Improvement Society.

Last month we alluded to the Penny Volume Series of Poetry and Prose published in London, England, by Mr. W. T. Stead, and our desire to bring these excellent works within reach of those of our friends who would like to avail themselves of an opportunity of procuring a supply of good literature at a cost that is ridiculously out of proportion to the value received.

We are still unable to say exactly what the penny volumes would cost laid down here. Carriage and duty have to be reckoned with, but we believe we can promise that the cost shall not exceed 25c for six books. If we find, later on, that they do not cost so much we will, of course, give our friends the benefit of our over-estimate; in the meantime, we will undertake to purchase for our friends at this rate (25c per half-dozen) any of the works in the following list. We do not undertake to provide a single book at this rate, as the postage on one volume would be much more, proportionately, than on six, but for any number over six the same rate will prevail.

Those of our friends who wish to take advantage of this opportunity—and we very earnestly commend it to the consideration of all—