

UPS AND DOWNS

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PERSONAL NOTES



THE very pleasant duty devolves upon me once again, with the publication of another Christmas number, of conveying, on Dr. Barnardo's behalf, to all the readers of UPS AND DOWNS, and to each member of Dr. Barnardo's big family scattered abroad over the Dominion, the greetings of the Christ-

mas season and our good wishes for the New Year. I speak for Dr. Barnardo and all those associated with him in his work, in wishing every boy a very merry Christmas in his Canadian home, and health, happiness and blessing throughout the New Year. Our hope and prayer for each one is that the light of God may shine upon his path; that it will be a year of honest work and steady effort; that we shall aim high and not let difficulties discourage us; that we shall seek to be true and upright in all our dealings; that we shall be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

In the history of our Canadian work we can look back with thankfulness and satisfaction upon the results of the past year's labours. We will not deny the fact that we entered upon the year that is now closing with a considerable degree of anxiety as to what might lie before us. In the first place

the shadow of financial difficulties that rested so heavily upon headquarters at home was in no slight degree reflecting itself upon the Canadian branches. We were exercised by the urgent necessity of reducing to the lowest minimum our demands upon the overtaxed and all insufficient English income, and yet of maintaining unimpaired the efficiency and usefulness of the work on this side of the Atlantic. We had nearly six hundred little boys boarded out, meaning five times as many dollars every month to meet our obligations to those who had taken them under their care, the establishment of the Winnipeg branch was still an experiment, there were several very anxious individual cases on hand among boys who had been placed out, and the litigation by which we were seeking to vindicate the right of our boys to admission to the common schools, and the same educational privileges as other citizens was still in progress. The prevailing depression in business and the "hard times" that seemed to have "come to stay," were distinctly affecting the demand for boys, and we had the Home unpleasantly full and several cases of sickness among the inmates. The bitter prejudice and opposition to the work that have always existed in certain quarters were more than ever virulent. Legislation on the subject of juvenile immigration was understood to be impending, and we realized that a determined and formidable effort was being organized to destroy the work, or to impose conditions and limitations that would very seriously impede its usefulness. We could not con-