

are distinctly lacking in this respect."

Now I do not want to make this a text for a long sermon, or to say anything that will appear ill-natured or unkind, but it has been very much on my mind of late that we ought to do something to awaken a great many of our young friends to the sense of their duty, to contribute some portion of their earnings towards the support of the Homes; a duty that, I am afraid, a large number are almost entirely neglectful of. It has never been our policy to refer to the past history or circumstances of any of our friends. We have preferred to dwell on the bright promise of the future, but none the less we know well that there has been a past in the history of each one who reads these pages, a past that is very different to the present, and that in many cases has been a tale of suffering, privation and hardship. Dr. Barnardo and his Homes have been the life-boat that has snatched many a boy from very deep waters, and landed him on the firm shore, where he has found under his feet the pathway to an honourable independence in life. Is it right that a lad who received such timely help should forget that there are hundreds and thousands still drifting, some well-nigh sinking, in the same dark flood? The life-boat is still at work, and, thank God, one after another is being drawn up from the pitiless depths. But it is working under sore difficulties; help is urgently needed; and our boys are not doing what they ought to supply that help!

There are hundreds of boys now in Canada who are earning good wages and who have far more than enough to supply all their personal requirements, but who have not contributed a single dollar to the funds of the Home: have not made a single effort to give a helping hand to another sufferer: have not thought of or heeded the bitter cry that is going up from the homeless and the friendless, with whom we, of all

others, should be the first to sympathize. I look over the list of contributions that have come in during the past few months, and I compare it with the amount that has been spent during the same period, say in bicycles, and the comparison is not to the credit of our boys. It ought not to be the case that out of thousands of lads who, humanly speaking, owe all their present advantages and the splendid prospect that lies before them in the future, to the instrumentality of the Homes, so many are doing next to nothing to help the work on behalf of others. I think each boy, as he looks back at the past, should regard it as not only his duty but his privilege to devote some part of his yearly income, some of the fruit of his success in life, to the support of the noble cause of uplifting the downcast; and rescuing the perishing. It is a claim that presses home upon each one of us; a call that it is a wrong and a discredit to us to disregard.

I know well that in many cases the neglect arises not so much from the lack of sympathy and grateful feeling as from a careless indisposition to take the trouble of writing a letter and addressing an envelope and getting a post office order, and so forth. There are boys to whom any work seems less formidable than writing a letter. Let me urge such boys to take themselves to task in this matter. Those boys who have money on deposit to their credit in the bank need take no further trouble than is involved in sending us a post card authorizing the withdrawal from their account of any sum they like to name; but even in the case of others surely if they had very much set their hearts on making some purchase that required the transmission of money they would soon enough find a way to overcome their aversion to letter-writing; and once let them set their hearts on doing their duty to Dr. Barnardo and the needy ones at home, and they will speedily realize that "where there's a will there's a way," and we