

and although we had fixed our subscription rate at a nominal figure, so as to be within the reach all and everyone, that we should manage to conduct our paper without its being a charge upon the already heavily taxed funds of the Homes, and without adding anything to Dr. Barnardo's burdens. Our ideas were somewhat vague as to "ways and means," but we thought we could foresee so many directions in which our paper might be a help and benefit to us, that we are afraid our enthusiasm carried us rather lightly over the important process of "counting the cost," and we were too much disposed to "trust to luck," and count our chickens in the shape of advertisements and other sources of revenue a very long while before they were hatched—we may say before even the process of incubation had begun.

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How far have we even partially succeeded in satisfying our aspirations during the twelve months that our little paper has had an existence? As regards the last point, finances, we must freely and candidly avow that our expectations have been most wofully and definitely disappointed. We have not paid our way by a very large sum, and have accumulated a most unpleasantly large deficit. So unpleasantly large is this deficit, that it will not surprise us any day to be told from headquarters, that we must bring this extravagance to a full stop. Certainly, we have heard nothing of the kind yet, but we know well that there are "hard times" at home, and often moments and days of deep anxiety as to where food and clothing and the necessaries of life are to come for the great family of 5,000 now dependent upon the Homes, and all the side leaks by which money escapes have to be closely watched and vigorously stopped up. UPS AND DOWNS is getting to be rather a "leaky" place in the ship, and we may have to be treated accordingly, but meantime we are going to make the best of ourselves. Perhaps a bright idea may strike us some day to try and repair the leak ourselves, and we may make a very special appeal to our boys and girls to give us the means of doing this; but we won't say more of this just now, except that it will grieve us immensely if we have to drop our paper, and we don't mean doing so unless we are compelled.

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As to the fulfilment of the other objects with which we started our paper, if we may judge from the testimonies of our boys, big and little, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, we can congratulate ourselves upon having surpassed our most sanguine expectations. We can number by many hundreds the letters we have received showing that UPS AND DOWNS has been a delight and pleasure to its subscribers, that it has developed an "esprit de corps" among our boys as nothing else has ever done, and that as a community we have gained in respect and prestige from having this monthly organ. People who had heard little of us before, and still less that was any good, have had their eyes opened, and their sympathies awakened, and we can now speak with our "enemies in the gate" on very different terms. We know well that "pride goes before a fall," and we should be very sorry to adopt anything like a spirit of boasting; but we are enthusiastic for our work, and we believe ourselves to be championing a great and a righteous cause; and looking back therefore upon the twelve months' life of UPS AND DOWNS we do indeed "thank God and take courage."

Nor would we neglect this opportunity of expressing our sincere and heartfelt thanks to our boys, who have so generously strengthened our hands by showing their appreciation of our

efforts, and have given so many encouraging tokens of the value they set upon this link between themselves and the old Home and their old friends. They have shown us that their hearts are in the right place, and that there is a deep and abiding feeling of loyalty amongst them to Dr. Barnardo and those who are associated with him. We have only to say that we desire, from the bottom of our hearts, that this will continue and grow stronger in the years to come, and if UPS AND DOWNS serves in any degree to call forth and to give expression to this feeling amongst us, we shall have been abundantly repaid for our efforts.

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We cannot conceive any movement of this great age of advancement, whether in the political, social or philanthropic world, accomplishing greater ends or fraught with brighter and more permanently beneficial results to society at large than Dr. Barnardo's Emigration work; and the spectacle as we see it in our daily experience, and as we have tried to represent it a little in the columns of UPS AND DOWNS, of thousands of young men entering upon lives of hope and promise, is enough to arouse the highest feelings of enthusiasm and praise. It is still more so if we go a little further back and contrast the prospects of these lives as they are and as they might have been under different circumstances, left to be stifled under the pressure of grinding competition and over population, and to be down trodden in the intense struggle for existence known to all who live and labour among the industrial populations in our home cities.

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In our last issue we quoted Sir Charles Tupper's noble words, in which he spoke of Dr. Barnardo's enterprise as being a "God-like work." And surely no earthly enterprise could be more in accordance with the mind and spirit of the Divine Master than this grand and successful effort to alleviate the great volume of misery and suffering; to take by the hand those who have been stricken down in the race of life, and place them again in the way to become independent; to give a chance in the world to boys and girls whose future would otherwise be overcast, and in some cases almost hopeless, and to open careers of usefulness to those whom poverty and misfortune have handicapped in the struggle in life! Can we not have faith to believe that He, whose work we are assured this is, in whose Spirit it is carried on and who has so abundantly owned and blessed it in the past will continue to give His favour and blessing, and despite all obstacles and discouragement will open the way for the accomplishment of yet brighter results in the future?

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I am writing on board the steamship "Otoman," that is taking me over to bring out another large party of boys. I shall hope to arrive with them in course of next month, and we shall be pleased to hear of any good openings that offer that will enable us to place the newcomers in desirable homes. Our boys can help us a great deal in this direction, and if anyone will write to Mr. Davis at the Toronto Home, he will give all information as to the terms and condition upon which boys are placed out, and later on he will be able to advise of the exact date when the party is expected to reach Toronto.

Alfred R. Davis

OUR LITERARY AND MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

E regard our adoption of the rôle of amateur bookseller as, to some extent, a means of testing whether the Literary and Mutual Improvement Society is fulfilling the object we had in view when we instituted this department of our journal. Our aim in affording our friends an opportunity of expressing their opinions upon various specified subjects has been not merely to enlist a momentary interest in those subjects, and in the manner the different contributors have dealt with them, but to so stimulate and foster the interest thus roused into activity, that it would intuitively seek extension in wider fields of research.

The ever-active mind of man is always seeking for knowledge of some kind or other. It is a law of our nature that our minds shall never stand still. But whether that on which the mind seeks knowledge is good or bad, and will work to our advantage or to our evil, depends largely upon the opportunities we place before it. If we leave it "to chance," it will forage for scraps among the garbage of the gutter. Mind and body must have food of some kind, and failing anything better, they fall back on all sorts of refuse; but the poison does its work far more rapidly and surely with the mind than with the body. Too much importance cannot be attached to enabling the mind to discern between that which is poisonous and that which is wholesome; between that which destroys and that which leads to health, strength, and power. The only way to do this is to cultivate various faculties with which all men are, in greater or less degree, endowed; and in this work of cultivation all who take part in our Improvement Society are engaged. And we very firmly believe they are not working in vain. Last month we offered to procure for those who desired it a supply of very wholesome mental food—many of the standard works of English prose and poetry—at a cost far less than would be necessary to procure a like quantity of refuse. It is with a feeling of intense satisfaction that we are able to say that a large number of our friends have taken advantage of our offer. We have already ordered from England 300 volumes to meet demands made upon us within two weeks of the appearance of our last issue.

This, we think, we can fairly claim as very strong presumptive evidence that the trashy productions, the poisonous refuse, with which the country is flooded, find but few friends among our boys and girls.

We very earnestly hope that the 300 books we have already been compelled to order will prove but a first installment, to be followed by many more of even greater proportions. We should experience considerable pleasure in knowing that every subscriber to our journal had procured a full set of the penny works, and having procured them, would make himself or herself thoroughly acquainted with their contents; not that we would wish one of our friends to become a mere book-worm, a book-worm being of little use to himself or to others. The great end to be achieved by books is for the reader to more perfectly fit himself for his daily life and duties; that he may carry into his vocation greater mental energy, increased power for noble thought and action. Where books fail in accomplishing this they are merely so much waste paper. And while the same book is not going to move all men, even with the same lofty ideals, in the same manner, we have no hesitation in saying that there will be found little "waste paper" among the selections our friends have made. Some will find in one volume a degree of enjoyment and of men-