

The following letter from Alfred Bristow can be read with profit by all, but particularly by those who are at times afflicted with what we might call the "unsettled fever." Alfred came to Canada in April, 1888, and is 21 years of age. His record is an excellent one, and he enjoys the confidence and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances in the district where he has for some years been living. He can, as his letter demonstrates, take "a thoroughly practical view of things" as they are:—

Campbell's Cross, Ontario.

I feel it my duty, as well as a pleasure, to tell you and the boys of the Home, how I have spent the last four months. The first week in December, 1895, found me well on my way to the land of my birth, England, with a heart full of joyful anticipation of meeting with friends, and a pocket full of money,—a fair prospect of enjoying myself; and so I did enjoy myself—as long as my money lasted; when it was gone my pleasures departed, my friends became fewer, and a trip to England was not as pleasant as most boys might think it would be.

During my stay in London I met with scenes not at all pleasant. As I passed through the East End poverty and wretchedness stared me in the face on all sides, and I thought of the splendid homes in Canada the boys and girls thus afflicted might enjoy; but the question came to my mind, "How are we going to get them to Canada?" Surely Dr. Barnardo could take care of them. Yes, but he needs help. And after some reflection on the subject, I thought I might do more for the Home than I have done, and I will do so in the future.

After my return to Canada the first thing I looked for was UPS AND DOWNS, and I can truthfully say it has improved wonderfully during the last four months, and I feel it a great pleasure to hear of your little sisters and their doings; and with sorrow I notice that Death has laid its cold hands upon some of the family.

Also in the pages of UPS AND DOWNS we learn that one of the boys is stranded in one of the large cities of England. It is to be hoped that he will learn by experience that advice from Mr. Owen or any of the official staff of the Home is worth listening to and acting upon. I have learnt a lesson never to be forgotten, and would say to my brothers and sisters, "Stay where you are, or rather, keep away from England, because when you are there the ocean lies between you and Canada; you cannot walk back, and you stand a poor chance of making money enough to return. Even if you take a return ticket, it is a very unwise act to go to England. Remember, experience is a dear teacher."

Now for a suggestion for helping Dr. Barnardo in his great work of rescuing the helpless poor of London. I would say that at some set time in the fall every boy who has fulfilled his first engagement should give one dollar for every year he has been in Canada, towards the maintenance of the Home. I think if every boy agrees with me, we can raise the largest sum ever raised for that purpose.

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No boy has done more to uphold the good name of Dr. Barnardo's Homes than Frank W. Stevens, who came to Canada in April, '91, when he at once entered the employ of Mr. Alex. A. Andrews, of Warwick West. From that day until this it has been a case of mutual satisfaction between Frank and his employer. The latter, applying for another Home boy in July, '93, asked that one be sent "as honest and with as good a character as Frank Stevens." It is not only by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew's family that Frank's sterling worth is recognized; the farmers of the surrounding country all speak of him as a lad whose exemplary life has had a beneficial influence on other boys in the neighborhood. Upon the completion of his engagement in 1895 Frank received the long service and good conduct silver medal of which he is justly proud, and he very shortly afterwards entered into partial partnership with his former employer, although only seventeen at the time. The partnership relates to the growing of fruit and other

garden produce, and as a market gardener Frank promises to be very successful. We append a letter in which he tells of his prospects for the coming season and so forth. From the first Frank has been extremely happy and contented in the good home which he entered upon arrival in Canada, but when he was joined by two sisters whom he had left in England his cup of happiness was full to the brim. He himself paid the travelling expenses of one of his sisters who is employed not very far away, while for the other sister a similar service was performed by Mr. Andrew, a member of whose household she has been ever since. Our friend has indeed great cause for thankfulness. We very earnestly wish for him a continuance of prosperity and happiness. We know full well that he will be ever mindful of the mercies that have



FRANK W. STEVENS.

been vouchsafed to him and that he will, no less in the future than in the past, strive to be "faithful in that which is least." Frank says in his letter:

"I suppose you would like to know how things are in my garden now; everything is looking nice. We are going to have a fine crop of strawberries and a nice lot of other small fruit. I have got some squash up now in the field which is about four inches high. I am trying to grow some for the show in the fall. We have got cabbages out, peas up and potatoes up, and I have put out two acres of strawberries, so you see I am not idle now."

I have not got my UPS AND DOWNS this month yet; I get very lonesome for it as I like to read it. I like the paper very much, as I like to hear from the boys and girls."

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A very cheery letter comes to hand from David Wells, one of the last contingent sent out by Mr. and Mrs. Phipps from the Farm Home at Buckenhill. He says:

"I am in very good health and weigh a hundred and five pounds. I am getting as fat as a pig and am growing fast. I have been going to school this winter and getting on well."

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We have received a couple of very manly, sensible, well-written letters from Harry H. Swaine. Harry has a good round sum of money in the Savings Bank, and if he takes care of himself will make his way in the world. He tells us that he has been going to school during the winter and has been getting a little insight into the elements of physiology and the great laws of nature by which we are governed. He has lots of kind and flattering things to say of UPS AND DOWNS, and he goes on to speak of his indebtedness to Dr. Barnardo and the Home for his start in life and good prospects for the future. To show that Harry means what he says he asks us to take three dollars from his bank account as a donation to the Home and to help on Dr. Barnardo in his great work.

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A good big budget of post cards is before us that have come in from boys of the last party

announcing their arrival. We select half a dozen for the benefit of our readers.

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Francis Swan writes:

"I am glad to tell you I got here safe and I like my place. The farmer and the mistress are kind to me"

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Henry Pitcher, who has gone with his brother to the neighbourhood of Angus, where they will be within a short distance of each other, tells us:

"We both arrived safely at our new homes and I think it is one of the best I have had."

This is saying a good deal, for Henry and his brother come to us from Dr. Barnardo's beautiful Jersey Home for little boys, and we expect before that, they had a good home when their father was alive and held his position as steward of the steamship *Lydia*, trading from Southampton.

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Henry Windmill writes:

"I arrived at my destination safely; I think I shall get on all right. I thank you for my situation."

Henry was one of our sergeants on the voyage out, taking charge of a company, and if he is as faithful to his duties in his new place as he was on the ship we shall have no fear for his future.

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Alfred Smith tells us of his drive of eight miles from the station in a "carriage and pair," which evidently impressed his imagination. He adds:

"I like the place very much as yet. I am living with the son-in-law of the man whom Thomas Cottrell is living with."

Alfred and Tom were boarded out together in England, but were separated last year when Tom came to Canada, and it is pleasant to think of the two little friends being once more together.

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John Wilden writes:

"I arrived safely at my place and feel quite at home here and like it very much."

Wm. Strugnell tells us:

"I like it very much and my master likes me."

And George Edward Reed says:

"I arrived at Bradford safe and sound. The lady and gentleman are two very nice people, and it is a very nice place and I like it very much."

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We heartily congratulate Willie Ellis, living with Mr. Charles Newstead, of Paris, on having put in his time and hired again for another year at very fair wages. Mr. Newstead writes of him:

"He has grown a good deal the past summer and he is now a big lad. He has been chiefly employed at choring and is a good boy at this work, but he will have a better chance this summer as he takes a team to work."

Willie's good friends, Dr. and Mrs. Riordan, of Toronto, with whom he lived for nearly three years, will share our pleasure at this good report of him. Willie will be glad to hear that his place in Toronto has been well supplied in the small person of Joseph Flory, who has been with the doctor for the past ten months. We use the word "small" in reference to Joe's perpendicular dimensions only, for in width and corporation he would do for an alderman cut short. Mrs. Riordan is a rare judge of boys and withal a staunch ally of our work, and we are sure would never consider her establishment complete without a Barnardo boy or two. She has doubtless had her trials in the shape of broken crockery, and fierce fires on hot days and no fires on cold days, and unaccountable disappearances of pies and preserves, but she