

# UPS AND DOWNS

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## ECHOES OF THE MONTH.

WITH the present issue UPS AND DOWNS completes the first year of its existence, and, the time comes for our "taking stock" of our position, and making up our minds as to what extent we have fulfilled or failed to fulfil the objects we had in view in starting our little newspaper enterprise.

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The chief among these objects was to draw us into closer touch with each other and to promote confidence and kindly relations between our boys themselves, and with those who represent Dr. Barnardo in the work of looking after them, and caring for their welfare. We hoped that our paper might be a valuable aid to us in affording a regular and pleasant means of communication with the members of our large and scattered family, such as we could never attempt by correspondence, and that on the other hand it would be a monthly reminder to each one of our boys, that he was not alone or friendless in the country, but that there are people whose business and whose aim it is to look after his interests and promote his well being and advancement in life. The knowledge that there are friends who are thinking of him and closely watching his progress, cannot but be an influence for good in the life and character of any boy, wherever he may be; and this knowledge we hoped by means, to some extent, of our little monthly paper to bring home to every boy's mind.

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Furthermore we looked forward to bringing the influence of example to bear by recording the experiences of some amongst the many of

those under our charge, who have done well, and got on in the world. Our boys have nothing to hope for, but by their own steady persevering effort, and we can often conceive how when a boy is disposed to flag or grow careless he may be helped and encouraged by hearing of others, who under like circumstances and facing similar difficulties, have fought their way on to success. This incentive we hoped that our paper might be the means of supplying, and at the same time be a "roll of honour" for those who have done, and are doing, credit to



ON THE SANDS AT BRIGHTON.

themselves and the old Home by their industry and enterprise.

Then again we seemed to be in need of some recognized means of letting ourselves be heard from in answer to those who are so industriously employing themselves in stirring up prejudice and opposition to Dr. Barnardo and Dr. Barnardo's girls and boys. Hitherto our light had been so entirely hidden under a bushel. If a boy committed a crime, or was accused of committing a crime, or if a crime were committed by any individual whom it might suit some one to say was a Barnardo

boy, every paper in the country rung with the announcement of our disgrace. The boy might be acquitted of the charge, or there might be extenuating circumstances, or the wrong doer might have no more to do with Dr. Barnardo or his Homes than the man in the moon. That was nothing as long as there was an excuse for a sensational paragraph with glaring head lines and a vindictive little editorial defaming and insulting the character of our young people. No one ever interested themselves to write up the records of the ninety-eight or ninety-nine per

cent. who did not commit crime, but who are growing up as law-abiding useful citizens, and in the vast majority of cases leading lives of honest upright and respectable independence. There was nothing "sensational" in the histories of several thousands of young men and women doing their day's work in the farm houses all over the country, plodding along steadily, often with very little encouragement, and earning their bread by the sweat of their brow. We aimed to undertake ourselves the task of putting this unsensational and prosaic side of our work before the public, and demonstrate with the authority of "those who know" that our boys are not to be judged by the one per cent. who fail, but that their careers generally are a credit to themselves and the country. To do this, we have had to refer more often than has been pleasant to the attacks upon us, but we have sought to meet these attacks in a becoming spirit; and while we should be more than human if we could always turn our cheek to the smiter, we have striven to guide our words with moderation, and avoid any undue bitterness or resentment.

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Lastly, I may say that we started out with the hope that we should "make ends meet,"