

Ups and Downs

PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES.

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TORONTO, DECEMBER 1ST, 1896.

WITH OUR FRIENDS.

IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY.

WHAT our boys are doing; what they have done; what they hope to do in the future; all that pertains to their interests and welfare: of these things have we written time and again during the past sixteen months.

Except on one occasion when we followed Mr. Griffith step by step on one of his trips, our selection of "subjects" for the many little personal narratives, which have been a main feature of every issue, has been guided by no fixed rule. An interesting letter from a lad; the completion of an engagement marked by several years of faithful and meritorious service; an encouraging report by employer or "visitor," or other incident of equally noteworthy character; a visit to the Home by one or more of our friends, when we would push inquisitiveness to the limits of propriety: on such occurrences as these have we relied for our selection of "individuals for mention." And the source of supply has never failed us. On the contrary, it has only been by exercising to the uttermost whatever of the faculty of condensing we possess, that we have been able to make individual allusion to a small portion of those whose lives of well-sustained perseverance and righteousness entitle them to a place on our roll of honour.

This month we are going to deviate from our rule—or lack of rule—and make our selection on a geographical or territorial basis. The comprehensive records in our registers demonstrate that in the large majority of cases our lads settle permanently in the districts in which they are placed upon their first arrival in Canada. Without casting any reflection upon those who, and at times wisely, seek fresh pastures, this is in itself very conclusive evidence of the good reputation our lads establish for themselves, and it will have a very material and beneficial effect upon the respective communities in which our boys are settled, for we unhesitatingly express the opinion that not only is the influence of our lads *not* harmful to a community, but that it is, and must be in the essence of thought, elevating. Allowing for the two per cent. of failures our lads come to Canada deeply imbued with the conviction that on their own earnest efforts depends their future; it has been instilled deep into their young hearts and minds that positions of honourable independence and no small measure of prosperity are theirs if they adhere faithfully to the principles in which they have been trained; they come with an unquenchable desire to repay, by useful, successful lives, Dr. Barnardo for the help he has extended to them. Filled with incentive of the most ennobling kind they set to work, and quickly find that the hand of man (man as represented by an unenlightened section of the press and by verbose but ignorant stump orators) is against them.

Young hearts can be pardoned for quailing before a veritable tornado of stinging invective and vituperation. But our boys have not flinched, nor been turned one iota aside by all that malice could suggest to drive them to desperation. In their daily lives have they given the lie to their traducers; in their success-crowned careers have they vindicated the action of their benefactor in helping them to make a start in Canada. Youths with hearts filled at the outset with honest desire and determination to do only right, have emerged from the trying Ordeal by Abuse—men strengthened in their resolutions of righteousness, and with records covering several years which fully justify our assertion that the example offered by our boys is one of the best that could be placed before the young people of any district for emulation.

While this influence for good will grow stronger and stronger, and become more widespread as time goes on, it is not by any means entirely a thing of the future. It exists to-day in many parts of Canada, and nowhere has the good example set by our lads borne more abundant and healthful fruit than in the section of the country through which we purpose travelling in this issue—that portion of the Ottawa Valley comprising the counties of Carleton, Russell, and Lanark.

The conditions of life on a farm are very much the same in all parts of Ontario except in those localities far removed from any commercial centre, and where many of the discomforts incidental to the pioneer stage are still the lot of the isolated farmer and his household; but it will certainly be considered as one of the advantages of a district if it and the surrounding country are characterized by such scenic beauty as that to be found in the Ottawa Valley. Another advantage enjoyed by those counties we are giving attention to is the proximity of the capital of Canada, which is situated in Carleton.

Doubtless there are many of our readers who do not know how it was that Ottawa was raised to the dignity of Capital of Canada. Prior to the federation of the Provinces which constituted British North America, the capital of the country was Quebec—that historic city, the mention of which conjures up memories of Wolfe and his no less brave antagonist Montcalm. With Confederation came a desire from the Western Provinces for a more centrally situated city as the capital of the Dominion. Toronto, the chief city of Ontario, was the choice of the people of the west, while the good folks of Quebec clung tenaciously to their old love. A compromise was effected, both sides agreeing to leave the selection of a capital to Her Majesty the Queen, who, with commendable discretion, removed all grounds for jealousy on the part of the rival claimants, by choosing neither, bestowing the proud position of Metropolis of the Dominion upon Ottawa, which may be termed the "half-way house" between Quebec and Toronto.

Canadians are justly proud of their national halls of legislature, an imposing pile of buildings of great architectural beauty, and situated on a hill which commands a fine prospect of the whole city, and of the suburbs, and of the fertile country beyond.

A "seat" in Parliament is barred to none, however humble his birth, who by industry and intelligence can raise himself to a position which will warrant a number of his fellow-citizens in regarding him as a suitable man to represent them at the National Council; and we dare to hope that within the Chamber at Ottawa, which has ofttime rung with the statesmanly invocation and patriotic denunciation of a long line of Sons of Empire, more than one voice will yet be heard that at one time was wafted in joyous shout and merry laughter across the playground at Stepney

Causeway or Leopold House. When we thus have direct representation in Parliament we shall deem it necessary to increase the staff of UPS AND DOWNS by a "special gallery correspondent." In the meantime we must turn our attention to our boys in the Ottawa Valley who are at present performing less harassing but not less useful duties. As we make the rounds of our numerous friends in Carleton, Russell and Lanark Counties we shall not at all times follow the short cuts provided by the railway companies and convenient side lines, nor shall we avail ourselves of the privilege of travelling "as the crow flies." Our route will often be a very circuitous one, and we shall at times double on our tracks.

It is fitting that our initial visit should be paid to our oldest friends in our selected territory, and with the brothers William and Alfred Fowler we make a splendid start in the county of Carleton. William and Alfred are aged 21 and 23, respectively, and both are fine, steady fellows, whose eleven years of faithful service, with one employer in the case of Alfred, and with different members of the same family in the case of William, have earned for them a reputation which extends far beyond the limits of their immediate neighbourhood. Both have received the long service silver medal, and as the "pioneer boys" of Carleton county they have done much to smooth the path of the many who have followed them in the last eleven years.

Among the '86 additions to the Carleton contingent was James Reynolds who after a short spell at farming, was offered employment after his own heart, in the shops of the C.P.R. We now find James, a young man of 22, a brakeman, with prospects of early promotion, married and comfortably settled in a cozy little home in the city of Ottawa. We extend our very hearty congratulations to our friend upon his all-round good fortune and very earnestly do we trust the Great Giver of all will long spare him in health and strength to enjoy the comforts and happiness he has so well earned.

In Ottawa is also John Kent, of the second party of '88. For several years John was in the employment of the principal storekeeper of Stittsville, and so well did he acquit himself that when he returned from a visit to England he was heartily welcomed by his old employer. Later, John took a short course at the Military School and is now, as we have stated, at Ottawa, where he fills a position of trust most acceptably to those primarily interested. Throughout his eight years' residence in Canada, our friend's interest in the old Home has never flagged. He has been a generous contributor, and the means of securing other contributors, to Dr. Barnardo's work.

Albert Devine recently left this section of the country and went to Manitoba, where he is earning big wages and whence we frequently hear from him; but he did not leave before he had by several years' faithful performance of duty, with Mr. Owens, of Marathon, established a reputation which makes us hope for the best results of his migration to the west. We do not think Albert will quarrel with us if we attribute some portion of his ability to overcome difficulties to the fact that he is a Manchester man. At 22 he has all the tenacity of purpose and other commendable characteristics of the sturdy Lads of Lancashire.

At Carp and Marathon we find Alexander and Joseph Davies, respectively, most creditably maintaining the prestige of that name which is borne by so many illustrious men in various parts of the Anglo-Saxon world. The brothers