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Personal Notes

THE present number of UPS AND DOWNS will be sent to all our boys, subscribers as well as non-subscribers, as we wish to make it the means of conveying to each one our greetings and good wishes for the Christmas season. We can add but little to what has been said on Dr. Barnardo's behalf on the same occasion in former years, but we are sure every member of his great family will know that he wishes them God speed at the opening of another year, and that his hope and prayer for them is that the Lord may be their Keeper and Guide, that they may be led in the paths of righteousness, and that the year we are entering upon may be one of honour and prosperity in their lives. We hope each one of our old friends will accept this as a personal message to himself, from the young men to whom the Homes and the old associations are becoming every year a more and more dim memory, who are settled in life and have fresh interests and cares and prospects for the future occupying their thoughts and attention, down to the little chaps who are spending their first Christmas in Canada and have not yet altogether overcome the sense of being strangers in a strange land. To all our older lads—those who are approaching or have passed the verge of manhood—we desire

to be very cordially remembered this Christmas, and we wish for them a useful, prosperous and successful year. They may not require either our help or counsel, but if they should be in a position to need a friend, let them be assured that they can count upon us for anything that may lay within our power that will serve their interests and contribute to their advancement in life. As the years pass by, the numbers increase of those who are in every sense independent of us, whom we like to meet as old friends and to talk with over old times, but who have long since taken the reins into their own hands in all that concerns their personal affairs, and to whom we are no longer called to play mentor. We have indeed many intimate and valued friends among those whom we planted out in the world in years gone by, including some who, as boys, were a thorn in the flesh to us and to whose future we looked forward with anything but cheerful expectations, but who have turned out men of sterling worth, and, in all sorts of callings, trades, eye, and professions, are doing honour and credit to themselves and their friends. May God abundantly bless and prosper them during the coming year, and crown with success their efforts towards improving and raising their position in life. And