

Martin McGrath is another "youngster" (13), full of promise:

"A nice-looking, active, well-grown lad. Doing very well; is easy to teach, and takes an interest in his surroundings. Can drive a team," etc.

Having read so far, we are not surprised to learn that Martin is happy, likes his place, and is well treated.

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A boy of whom at 13 it is reported that he is—
"truthful, careful in his work, quiet in manner, and anxious to please—"

has done a great deal towards making his way in the world; and such is the report to hand of Robert Welch who has been in Canada four years and is a very happy and contented member of the household of Mr. Wm. H. Graham of Stayner.

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We next come upon a number of reports by Mr. Gaunt upon boys he has visited in the beautiful district of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The first lad Mr. Gaunt visited in that historic old town was Richard Perry, 16, of July '92 party. Mr. Gaunt says:

"Grown considerably since I last saw him, looks well and healthy, and is, too, extra well dressed; is giving general satisfaction; the family had no complaint to make and spoke in encouraging terms of his general behaviour. Richard told me he has a thoroughly good home and is well and kindly treated by all."

Truly this is an encouraging commencement of our trip through Niagara.

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Of Charlie Sweeting, 12, Mr. Gaunt reports that, while—

"tall and slim, and appears to be out-growing his strength, is very healthy; getting along well; willing, honest and truthful"

Also eminently satisfactory, except that too rapid growth, which, however, we trust will soon be counterbalanced by a corresponding increase in width and strength.

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The next report also refers to a twelve year old boy, Edward J. Warner, who came out in November last. Edward has taken kindly to the ways of his new life and is "ruddy, stout and healthy looking" . . . "a good, obedient, truthful lad giving the utmost satisfaction to his employers."

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From Niagara to Virgil is not a big step, only about four miles, and there we find Cornelius Weston. Under the heading "General health and appearance," Cornelius, who is 15 and came out in Nov. '91, is reported as being—
"a nice looking, smart, active boy, small for age, very healthy." He is also "a well behaved and willing lad. Employer has no fault to find except that he is so small."

This is not a very serious fault and one for which the blame cannot be laid on Cornelius' shoulders. He and likewise his employer should find consolation in remembering that the more valuable goods are generally made up in small parcels.

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"A good boy in every respect, anxious and willing to do his best as far as his strength will permit—"
leaves little to be desired of John Arthur Tringham, 14, whose post office is St. David's and who has been two years in Canada.

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Herman Abbott 15, of April '95 party, is—
"slightly built and suffers a great deal from headache—otherwise healthy. Is well behaved, willing and anxious to do his best—perfectly honest and truthful."

We trust soon to hear that those troublesome headaches have ceased to visit Herman. We can sympathize with him as we know how thoroughly miserable they can make life for the time.

A letter has just arrived at the Home from Mr. Griffith, who is making a tour of the district around Paisley. In his letter Mr. Griffith tells of an experience in which he fared little better than Mr. Gaunt a few months ago. We will quote Mr. Griffith's own words: "This afternoon we had to ford the Saugeen River where it is wide. We took the wrong place and got into deep water—up to the horses' backs and over the buggy seat. I thought we should upset, or be carried down, but fortunately we did not. The driver and I were soaked to bottom vest button, but we stuck to our seat. My large grip floated out and the man waded after it from some distance down the river. It was really a narrow escape."

Again we say, "All's well that ends well."

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A letter is to hand from John Anderson, at Clarksburg, in which John indulges in a little "looking backward," telling us how, at first starting in Canada, ten years ago, it seemed "pretty lonesome," but that he "soon got over that," and to-day has two hundred dollars lent out at interest, and is hired for a year at \$125, with board and lodging.

OUR MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

(Continued from page 3.)

arrives. If man were to devote himself to a dull round of business without breaking the monotony by cheerful amusements he would fall imperceptibly into idiocy, or be struck with paralysis. The conviction of this truth leads man to the division of his time.

All boys have leisure hours and each has his own way of spending them; some spend them in idleness and folly, others spend them in usefulness and study. All boys have not the same amount of spare time at their command; some have little, some have much; and I find in reading and studying the characters of men and boys that those who have much generally spend it to the least advantage.

Spare time is like capital. You may spend it advantageously or disadvantageously, and those who invest it wisely will reap the benefits in their declining years.

I have a passion for books, but not those books that contain exaggerated adventures and hair-breadth escapes of fictitious criminals and daring detectives, but those books that ennoble the mind, improve the morals and widen the limits of the understanding.

I pass the long evenings of the fall and winter either in study or in reading. I have also a love for athletic sports. In the evenings of the summer, when work is over, I indulge in swimming, boating, or perhaps baseball and lacrosse.

Although, perhaps, it may be beneficial for man to divide his time, it would not do for him to give too large a share of his spare time to enjoyments. Leisure hour is the time for man to improve, for he who improves his opportunities will soon be improved by them, for life depends largely on what we do with our leisure moments.

We shall be glad to supply copies of the unmentioned standard works of poetry and prose to any of our boys or girls at the rate of six volumes for 25 cents, this being the cost of the "Penny Volumes," after paying carriage across the ocean, customs duty, and postage from Toronto:

PENNY POETS.

- *Macaulay's "Lays of Ancient Rome."
- *Scott's "Marmion."
- Burns' Poems (selections).
- *Longfellow's "Evangeline," etc.

*Milton's "Paradise Lost," Part I.

" " " " Part II.

Scott's "Lady of the Lake"

Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar."

*Pope's "Essay on Man"

*Tom Hood's Poems, Grave and Gay.

*Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner," etc.

*Some Ingoldsby Legends.

Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel."

*Poem of Wordsworth, Part I.

" Cowper.

" Dryden.

" Wordsworth, Part II.

* " Mrs. Hemans and Eliza Cook.

" Gray and Goldsmith.

" Longfellow, Part II.

PENNY POPULAR WORKS OF FICTION.

"She," by Rider Haggard.

*"Little Em'ly" (from David Copperfield, by Chas. Dickens).

"Ben Hur," by Gen. Lew Wallace

"It is Never Too Late To Mend," by Chas. Reade.

"Mary Burton," by Mrs. Gaskell.

*"The Tower of London," by Harrison Ainsworth.

*"The Last Days of Pompeii," by Bulwer Lytton.

"Jane Eyre," by Charlotte Bronte.

*"Hypatia," by Charles Kingsley.

*"Charles O'Malley," by Charles Lever.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin."

*Lord Macaulay's History of England, from earliest times to 1660.

TOPICS.

"A description of the country within five miles of where you live."

[Refer among other things to the appearance of the land; its fertility; kind of crops and bush; neighbouring town; any historical or traditional association; the length of time the district has been settled; local customs; nationality of majority of people.]

Or,

For Aug. "An account of some public meeting you have attended."

[State why the meeting was called; what you know of the object in behalf of which it was called; anything of interest that took place; what some of the speakers said, and how you were impressed therewith.]

"By "public meeting" we mean gatherings of all kinds, including church, Sunday school and Y. P. S. C. E. meetings.

"An account of the hardest day's work you have done in Canada."

Or,

For Sept. "An account of a barn raising or other "bee" at which you have been present."

NOTE.—ESSAYS ON TOPICS FOR AUGUST MUST BE POSTED NOT LATER THAN JULY 23RD, THOSE ON TOPICS FOR SEPTEMBER NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 20TH.

The following instructions must be adhered to:—

Write on one side of the paper only.

Do not add anything except your name and address to the paper on which the essay is written. If you wish to write a letter or make any remarks do so on separate paper.

When no letter accompanies an essay, the manuscript will be carried through the mail at a rate of one cent for four ounces, provided the package is not sealed. The envelope should be endorsed "MS. only," and addressed Editor UPS AND DOWNS, 214 Farley Avenue, Toronto.

Do not send two months' papers together.

A paper or essay must not contain more than 500 words. It need not necessarily reach this limit, but it must not exceed it.

For other particulars and conditions we refer our friends to their copies of our March issue.