

## Toronto Topics

TORONTO topics? well, not exactly, as there is not much news to tell; but, better still, we have news from the Village Home. This spring the opportunity came for a trip to England and the privilege of coming back again with the first party of girls, and it was too good a thing to miss, giving, as it did, the chance to see our dear and honoured Director and so many friends who had been out here and were now in England. It is so many years since my last visit to Ilford, most of my girls were not thought about then, and all of them know the Village looking so different from the one I remember. There was no new Village, with its charming red-tiled cottages, no pretty children's church. We used, in those days, to take our children to service up in the old school-room. The dove-cote is in the centre still, but one cannot see up the length of the Village, for the bushes have grown so tall. Of course, the Governor's house is still in the same place, though it looks different because of the new cottages beyond it. Cairns' House, with the bow windows giving such a pretty view of the Village, is new, and Mossford has been enlarged. We only went into two cottages. Cyril, where there were a number of girls employed in doing the most beautiful drawn-work and mat-making. One was working a knitting machine, and they have a spinning-wheel there, and hope soon to get the loom to weave their own linen. And Mayflower, Miss Williams' cottage, where we saw the poor lassie who has had to lie on her back so many years. How thankful we ought to be for our health and the power to run about how and where we will!

First of all, I know most of the girls will be asking the same question that greeted us with the Toronto girls, "How is Dr. Barnardo?" Did you see him?" Yes, I saw him, and he looks wonderfully well when we remember how very seriously ill he has been; and he was just the same as ever—so kind and thoughtful, asking about the girls and expressing pleasure in those who are doing well. Surely, girls, when you think of all he has done for you and

the way he has put you each on the way to prosperity and a good name and good position, it is a little too bad that you are not more ready to acknowledge it and that some should want to disown the old Homes. There is an idea that our girls have a bad name; but it is not so with the majority of people, but only with those who have chanced to know one or two who are not a credit to the Homes and have not come across the many good ones we have who are hiding their light under a bushel.

Miss Code is not the least bit altered—as bright and cheery as ever, so pleased to receive all the loving messages of which I was the bearer, and so glad to hear that the girls remembered her. She did not seem to realize how dear her name is to Toronto girls, at any rate, as it no doubt is to all who knew her out here.

Miss Stent, just the same as of old, was in her office; so glad to hear of one and another of the girls in whom she takes such an interest and for whom she has so large and loving a heart.

Miss Westgarth, looking just as usual but a little tired, sent very much love to the girls, especially the "big girls" for whom she has so much special thought and sympathy, realizing what temptations they have and how much they need grace and help to withstand them.

And now, last but not least, and not that we think the girls will be any less eager to hear, but it is difficult to say all one would like to in a little space about Mrs. Godfrey, *the* Mother of the Village, how, when a name was mentioned, she knew the cottage, and was so glad to hear of the girl's well being. She was looking so well, too, notwithstanding all she has to do and the many and manifold calls on her time and sympathy. Mr. Godfrey was just the same as ever here, there and everywhere, so cheery, and brisk and ready for any emergency.

The evening before leaving, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey had service in the church, and Mr. Darling gave a farewell address to the little girls leaving so soon for their new homes. It was a pretty sight, all the