

OUR MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

THE short time that has elapsed since the appearance of the July number and that of this issue is, doubtless, accountable for the dearth of contributions to this department this month. Our friends must make up for lost time and let us have a plentiful supply of interesting papers for publication in the first number of UPS AND DOWNS as a quarterly which will appear on Oct. 1st. MS. should be addressed as heretofore, Editor UPS AND DOWNS, 214 Farley Ave., Toronto, and in order to ensure insertion in the October number must reach us NOT LATER than Sept. 15th.

It has been our custom in the past to offer our contributors the choice of two topics. The object of this has been not necessarily to limit our friends' efforts to these topics, but to help them out of what is very frequently a serious difficulty to the young and inexperienced essayist: the selection of a suitable subject. We give our friends unlimited latitude in the selection of a topic, although we shall continue to suggest two or three topics each month, or, now, it will be each quarter; as we consider there is not only additional interest, but an advantage to be gained by the respective writers, in comparing the different methods of treatment of the same subject.

For the October number we suggest as topics:

1. A comparison of Toronto with some other city from a visitor's point of view.

[Necessarily only those of our friends who have visited Toronto, or who may visit Toronto during the forthcoming Exhibition, will be able to write on this.]

2. What I learned by my visit to the—Exhibition.

[We do not specify any exhibition; there are few of our lads who do not visit some fair during the fall.]

3. How I would farm if I had 100 acres of my own, and a capital of \$300 in cash.

It is to be supposed that of the 100 acres, 50 consist of bush (maple, beech, elm, pine): the remainder of the land is prairie, fair quality of virgin soil: there are no buildings of any kind on the land: the farm is situated ten miles from a railway station: the surrounding district consists of farms more or less cultivated and within a mile of his own place, our young pioneer could, if he wished, obtain work for five months in the year at \$15 a month. Describe how you would lay out your cash; what time of the year you would commence operations; how you would build a house and barns; what crops you would put in each year, and in what position you would expect to be at the end of five years.]

This third topic is suggested for the special benefit of our older lads, who, having had several years' practical experience and being possessed of a few hundred dollars, are thinking they would like to launch out on their own account. They will in an indefinite way, at least, have given considerable thought at one time and another to the question, "How would I manage?" If they will sit down, collect their thoughts, and arrange them in order, they will have a much clearer conception of what they would have to do, and how they proposed to do it. Later they will have the advantage of comparing their ideas with those of others on the same subject, and of subjecting them to the more dispassionate and deliberate judgment, which is generally accorded to ideas "in print," where they appear very different from what they did when undergoing the process of incubation.

WHAT IMPRESSED ME MOST IN THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

GEORGE A. GILDERSON. Age 25. Party, April '90.

The long-looked-for Jubilee Day has come and gone. Never before in London's history has there assembled such a concourse of people to do homage to a sovereign,

as that which greeted Queen Victoria on that memorable day. With a splendour and ceremony appropriate to the unique state occasion, the reign of Queen Victoria, a record alike for length and progress, has been duly celebrated by her loyal people.

What most impressed me in the celebrations was the marked respect and loyalty paid to Her Majesty by all classes of people, both rich and poor.

Representatives from all of England's vast domains, as well as from other nations, came together to congratulate Her Majesty. The Empire had come together to revere and bless the Mother of the Empire.

Amid all the pomp of gorgeous costumes and colors, the glittering uniforms, sat the Queen so grave and quiet and so unmistakably every inch a lady and queen. It was almost pathetic, that small black figure, in the middle of the shining cavaliers, that great army, that cheering multitude, but it was also very glorious.

When other kings of the world drive abroad an escort rides close to the wheels of their carriages.

The Queen rode through her people plain and unguarded.

When people are thinking so much of their earthly sovereign, are they giving their love to the King of kings? What a glad time it will be when every tongue and nation shall confess the Lord Jesus!



OUR YOUNG ARTISTS—DRAWN BY CHARLES COLES FROM A PHOTO.

Dr. W. G. Grace—Champion Cricketer of England.

"What a gathering that will be " when they shall gather from the east and from the west, on the Judgment Day, to receive their rewards, and to enter into the heavenly mansions which the Lord has gone before to prepare for those that love Him.

OUR LATEST MEDAL WINNERS.

IT has been a source of immense pleasure and gratification to us to have been able since the last issue to send out Dr. Barnardo's medals, the reward for good conduct and length of service, to 71 different boys, five of whom received bronze medals and 66 silver. With such a long roll of honour before us it is impossible for us to attempt any lengthy account of each individual, but we give below a brief mention of each name, and in doing so we offer to them all our hearty and sincere congratulations in having won this distinction, and proved themselves worthy of a prize that throughout all their future life will be a testimony to their worth and merit. Our young friends have not qualified for these distinctions by any "stroke of luck." They are given in recognition of several years' steady, patient,

persevering industry, and the maintenance of a good character. They are given to boys who have completed terms of service of from three to six years in length, who have patiently continued in well-doing and have made a reputation for themselves by their own steady efforts. They are boys who have done well in the past, and, under God's good providence, we believe, will do well in the future; and we have been glad and proud to award them, on Dr. Barnardo's behalf, the prize that is the token of his approval and good wishes.

Joseph Collins, the first name on our list, has, for ten years past, borne the burden and heat of the day on a backwoods farm in Muskoka. Joseph is now a big, stalwart, powerful young fellow, and as his employer is absent from home during a considerable portion of the year Joseph is practically manager of the farm. To our own knowledge our friend is worth a couple of hundred dollars, and we can't say how much besides, and we expect very soon to hear of the name of Mr Joseph Collins as the owner of a good farm. By that time there may perhaps be a Mrs. Joseph Collins in the question. Who can tell? Such things have happened before.

Octavius Aljovin is a lad of whom we believe we may say that he has done his best, and for several years he has had the advantage of an exceptionally good home where he was under the best influences, and has had a good practical training.

Looking back on a sensational incident that occurred at the Alexandra Dock at Liverpool five years ago, it is an especial pleasure to have the name of Henry McLaughlin on our roll of honour, and to think that Henry has earned his silver medal by five years of good conduct and steady work. We look over the record of these years with much thankfulness of heart, and while we could wish for Henry more of the "ornament of a meek and quiet spirit," we yet believe that he will turn out a good and a useful man.

Five years ago Mr. Dyer, of Holly, wrote us of George Wellman, that his "board and clothing for five years and a hundred dollars and teaching him is a good deal more than he is worth," and George wrote us the same time that Mr. Dyer had offered to give him fifty dollars and that he wished us to accept it as he "very much liked the place." We took a different view of the matter and stuck to our point, with the result that a hundred dollars was deposited to George's credit in the bank at the beginning of last April, and we venture to affirm that Mr. Dyer has not had such a bad bargain after all. Our only fear is that the money may not stop there long. "I wish you would let me have about twenty dollars, for I want to get a watch and some other things," reads rather ominously in a letter received a few days ago. But let us hope! George remains on for another year with Mr. Dyer, having now the privilege of making his own arrangements for hiring.

Charles Frank Wickens has completed five years' faithful service with Mr. Emerson Featherston, of Milton, and has been a good boy in a good home. We have never had to receive a word of complaint of Charles, and we believe he has in all respects well earned his prize.

Frederick Parker has stuck to his place for the full term of his engagement, and we award him his medal in the belief that he has deserved it by his industry and faithfulness. We have twice received complaints of Fred during the five years, but each time in the fall when the busy season was over. We can often read