

Ups and Downs

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

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 214 FARLEY AVE.,
TEL. 5097. TORONTO, ONT.

Advertising Rates will be supplied upon application at the office of publication.

The Annual Subscription is 25c., which may be remitted in stamps or cash.

All Correspondence should be addressed, Editor "Ups and Downs," 214 Farley Avenue, Toronto; and letters intended for publication should reach the office not later than the 20th inst. of the month to insure insertion in the next issue.

We shall be obliged if subscribers will notify us at once in the event of delay or irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

TORONTO, JANUARY 1ST, 1896.

WITH OUR BOYS IN THEIR HOMES.

It is not necessary to tell our readers that one of the leading features of Dr. Barnardo's immigration work is, the regular and systematic visitation and inspection of the boys and girls in their new homes. He has laid it down as one of his cardinal principles that every child shall, at least once a year, receive a visit from some member of the "Home" staff, for the purpose of enquiring as to their well-being and progress, and ascertaining that they are being kindly and properly treated.

In the boys' department this work of visitation has for several years past been undertaken by Mr. George Griffith, J.P., and his whole time throughout the year is spent in travelling about the country seeing our boys in their homes and reporting fully to us all that he finds out about them. His duties are not easy, and a great deal of responsible and important work falls to his share. He has to exercise tact, prudence and judgment; he must know how to be kind and how to be firm, and must possess the sort of intuition that tells when things are all right and when they are not. He must be keen to detect any signs that a boy is being unkindly or harshly treated, or is over-worked or taken advantage of. On the other hand, he must avoid encouraging discontent or suggesting imaginary grievances. He must not only see that the employer is doing his duty to the boy, but if a boy is careless or slothful or negligent, he must bring an influence to bear upon him so as to arouse him to a sense of his duty. He has often to advise upon difficult questions, to try and settle disputes, to make rough places smooth and promote pleasant and harmonious relations between boys and employers, as well as between the boys and those at the Home who are looking after them.

The duties of the position of Visitor require a man of special training and qualifications, but happily Mr. Griffith has proved himself to be just the right man in the right place. Having been many years in the Queen's service before coming to Canada, he knows all about discipline and is familiar with the English life of our boys and the methods under which they have been trained. In Canada he has been in business, he has been a schoolmaster, and he has farmed on a considerable scale, besides being a Justice of the Peace and the holder of several municipal offices, so that he thoroughly understands Canadian farm life and ways, and as he goes about among the farmers he knows just what he is talking about.

We propose to follow Mr. Griffith in his last trip and look at a few of our boys through his

experienced eyes. The district covered was in the western part of the Province where we have a good many boys placed out. They are a fair average, neither better nor worse than our boys in other places, and the same applies to the character of the situations. In the following accounts of boys and places we simply summarize the longer reports made out by Mr. Griffith on the forms he uses for this purpose. These forms are ruled off, having large spaces with printed headings under which information is given respecting a boy's health and general appearance, his progress, conduct and behaviour, the treatment he receives from his employer and members of his employer's family, his attendance at church and Sunday school, his attendance at day school, the character of the situation as indicated by the general appearance of the house and surroundings, full particulars as to the bargain or agreement, and lastly, a large space for "general remarks."

When Mr. Griffith has finished his day's driving and gets back to his hotel at night, he makes out these reports for all the boys he has seen during the day, and besides this makes notes or memos. of any other boys whom he may have heard something about but not seen. The whole budget is sent off to us by post, so



MR. GEORGE GRIFFITH, J.P.

that each day we at headquarters have the result of the previous day's visiting. This means for Mr. Griffith often a considerable expenditure of the "midnight oil," but he is one of those whose motto is "not slothful in business," and when there is work to be done he is on hand late as well as early.

The last trip began on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 21st., and on the evening of that day Mr. Griffith travelled from Toronto to St. Thomas.

We have not a large constituency within short driving distance of St. Thomas, and several had already been visited, so that the 22nd was a "light" day—only two visits, Thomas Lentz, aged fifteen, living with Mr. Joseph Baker, of Littlewood, and Reginald N. Southern with Mr. Frank Kelly, of Talbotville. Both boys were found to be well and doing well. The former was found working away by himself in the barn and he gave a cheerful account of himself and seemed contented and happy. The report speaks, among other details, of large, well filled barns, stock in good condition, and of there being a general air of thrift and good management. Little Reginald Southern, who only came out last June, has fallen into good quarters. He is giving every satisfaction and is delighted with his new home. Both boys, be it mentioned, gave Mr. Griffith their names as subscribers to UPS AND DOWNS.

The next day was also spent in driving from St. Thomas in another direction. The first case was one in which we must not mention names. There was dissatisfaction on both sides and we think cause for it on both sides. Nothing at all serious, certainly, but enough to suggest that the boy would probably do better in another place, and he has accordingly been returned to us, and we are expecting almost immediately to find him a fresh situation. He has undoubtedly got through a lot of work in his last place and we have good hopes of his developing into a smart, useful man if he gets into the right hands.

A big lad is heard of who has made his way to the States, and is doing well in the City of Toledo. We should have preferred his remaining under the old flag, but wish him all success under the "Stars and Stripes."

Edward Styles, with Mr. H. H. Rogerson, of Mapleton, is making excellent progress, and by the first of next April will have completed his engagement in a thoroughly creditable manner. He can plough well and is a first-class farm-hand. The report is thoroughly satisfactory and we heartily congratulate Edward, and if, as we expect, he fulfils the time that is left of his three years' engagement we shall have the greatest pleasure in recommending him for Dr. Barnardo's medal.

The brothers Harold and Percy Courtney, living respectively with Messrs. W. J. Cummings, of Dexter, and Frank G. Hayne, of Port Stanley, are the next reported upon. Harold is said to be healthy—never has been sick a day since he came out in April, '93; stout and well clothed. He can plough and handles a team of horses well, and the stock, which it is chiefly his duty to feed and attend to, do him credit in their appearance and condition. He was entirely alone in charge of the place when Mr. Griffith called, Mr. Cummings having gone into town for the day, and Harold can evidently be trusted implicitly to do behind his master's back as he would before his face.

Percy, the younger of the two brothers, was found in good health, and, Mr. Griffith notes, has grown considerably during the past year. He is said to be attentive to his duties, well-mannered, cheerful and well-behaved. The home is said to be a most comfortable one, where Percy is treated quite as one of the family. Mr. Hayne is a large fruit grower, living quite near the village of Port Stanley, and his house is beautifully situated, commanding a lovely view of Lake Erie. Mr. Griffith observes that Percy is happy and contented, and "could not well be otherwise."

This completed Mr. Griffith's work at St. Thomas, and after spending Sunday there, he proceeded by an early train on Monday morning to Dutton, a town nineteen miles further west on the Michigan Central Railroad. Dutton is situated in the heart of a very fine section of country, chiefly settled by Scotchmen—hard men at a bargain most of them and not the least disposed to pay a boy more if they can hire him for less, but men who will honorably fulfil the conditions of their contracts and faithfully meet their obligations.

These Scotch settlements in Canada are excellent training grounds for our lads; no fear of their eating the bread of idleness; but they learn habits of thrift, industry and frugality, that are the soundest possible foundation for future success in life. We have heard the Scotch settlers spoken of as the backbone of Canada, and this description of them is not far wrong.

Mr. Griffith had four long days work in the neighborhood of Dutton and sends us news of 51 boys as the result of his visits and enquiries. Out