

employed for the last three years in the woollen mill of Mr. John Walshaw, at Bolton. He likes the work and is well spoken of by his employer.



THREE FRIENDS OF '90.

If Henry will only learn to be a little less generous in disposing of his hard-earned savings he will be in a very comfortable position by the time he is 21.

James Clarke has spent his six years in Canada in the neighbourhood of Palmerston. He paid us a visit at Exhibition time, and, as his photograph indicates, he was in good physical condition. He is working for Mr. Benjamin Wall, of Palmerston, and is a capable farm hand.

Samuel Snow holds the silver medal, having remained for over four years in the employment of Mr. Andrew Taylor, formerly of Fullarton but now of Carlingford. He has at all times displayed great eagerness to acquit himself well, and has the good opinion of those for whom he has worked. He has a nice little nest egg in the bank and is a regular contributor to the funds of the Home, his interest in which is as warm as it was years ago.

A few days ago we received a visit from Mr. Beck of Bobcaygeon, and he gave us a most encouraging report of Daniel Alcock, of the spring '87 party. Mr. Beck says Daniel is doing splendidly, is a "smart, businesslike lad." So highly does Mr. Beck think of our friend that he stated it was his intention to start him in the grocery business shortly. We congratulate Daniel very heartily on the bright prospects ahead of him.

During the month we have received a visit from our old friend William Horscroft, who has been in Canada nearly twelve years. He had just completed a year's engagement and has the entire earnings of the twelve months to add to his balance in the savings bank. William informed us that he is dissatisfied with the rate of wages in Manvers, and intends joining his friend Charles Caney at Manswood, where, Charles has told him, he will have no difficulty in getting a place. If William makes the change we trust it will be advantageous in every respect.

Within the last few days we heard of William J. Taylor, that he is still with his old employer, and is considered to be one of the best farm hands in the district, and is very steady.

A LETTER FROM ONE OF THE OLD COUNTRY 'EXCURSION PARTY

DEAR SIR,—Just a few lines to let you know I arrived quite safe, and glad to say I found most of my friends all well. I tell you we had a very rough voyage, but we didn't take much notice to it, except one or two of them that was sick most of the time, and of course every day seemed like a week; but we got there all the same.

I would like to tell our boys how well and nice the flowers and all kinds of garden stuff looks, and the grass and meadows so green and beautiful.

I left the other boys at Crewe, changing there for Bristol; and I tell you it reminded me of old days when we parted one by one for different situations on our arrival in Canada, but of course we didn't mind it quite so much, as we knew where we were going. I suppose quite a large number of boys would have liked to come only they hadn't known in time. But I say they are better off where they are, than they would be if they were here, especially those that belong to London. I heard some of those that did come over say that they did not intend to come back in the Spring. We know that it is hard to stay away from our friends, but nevertheless we are all getting old enough to know that we should not lay our burden upon them any longer if we can possibly help; and I am sure that there is no need for it either if we stay in Canada, as any one can get on all right there by trying, and I trust that the most of us will do our best to keep up the reputation of the Christlike work to which we belong.

I see by a paper that Studds, the great show man, has done a good turn for the Doctor. He sent all he made in one or two nights towards helping our work. Thank God, and I only wish there would be more take his example. Please put some of this in our valuable paper for our brothers and sisters, as they may be called, to see it, for I know they will be glad to see any news that comes from Old England.

It is almost like Spring weather here, everything looks so nice and green. With best wishes I remain,

Yours truly,

JOSEPH ASHTON.



OF '91.

Martin Font, the first in our little group of '91, is a first-class farm hand and is spoken of most highly by the many who know him in the neighbourhood of London.

Henri George Clarke is now 20 years of age, and his five years in Canada have been well and profitably spent. Until this spring he remained with his first employer, Mr. John Horn, in the township of Ekfrid, and he is still in the same locality, where he is, deservedly, highly respected.

For the last three years John Griffiths has been in the employment of Mr. R. Adcock, butcher, of London. He likes the business, speaks highly of Canada, and is determined to make himself a worthy citizen of his adopted country; and we believe John will do it.

TWO SETTLERS.

We have received few more interesting letters than one that has just come to hand from Thomas Baker and his chum, Peter Aspinall, of the March and June '93 parties respectively. Only give Dr. Barnardo the funds with which to send out a few thousand more Tom Bakers and Peter Aspinalls and Canada's "unbroken prairies" and "non-producing sections" would soon be a thing of the past.

"BARCLAY, ONT., Dec. 5th, 1896.

"DEAR SIR,—I had almost forgotten to write to you, for Peter and I have been very busy in our new quarters; for we have taken up that which we spoke about to you. Peter took up 160 acres and I took 80 acres. Peter,

minus 15 acres, water, no payment; I, minus 8 acres, lake adjoining; so we will say we are pretty close neighbours, and I might add, very well satisfied so far,

"We have not been idle since we came here, for we had to put up a shanty, move into it, and have by this time close on three acres of thick brush piles, ready to burn off in the spring, and then the plough.

"There is plenty of big game here; for a party has been out here prospecting, and they say there are moose, caribou, and a bear or two, and other small game, but not worthy of mention, for they abound almost everywhere. But Peter and I do not go out hunting as a rule; we are satisfied with a rabbit or a partridge for that matter; we are looking at the land being cleared and ready for breaking.

"But we are looking forward to having a post office at Dryden that is laid out for a town in the near future, and which place is going to boom next spring. Our places are seven miles from Dryden, and Dryden is five miles north of Barclay. We are the only two settlers here who have gone to live on the land this winter, but the land is all taken up, and is going to be settled before next fall. Barclay, Dryden, Van Horne, Wainwright, and a part of Eton, are taken up.

"We are on the boundary line of Wainwright and Eton, and the land is a grey clay and rather heavy, and an abundance of poplar and jack pine trees, and quite a mess of undergrowth. There is two feet of snow here, and underbrushing is out of the question.

"Now, we are looking forward to a Christmas number of UPS AND DOWNS. It will be quite a treat to read it out here, and to know that the boys are all well and hearty, but Peter and I are not excluded.

"I suppose, as Christmas is near at hand, you will be having a crowded house. I would like to be there myself, and Peter also, but we have had our turn, so we will await our January number, and see the result of the programme.

"I will now close, but Peter is anxious that you and the boys who gather together at Christmas, and all in connection with the DEAR OLD HOME, and I join in myself with wishing you, one and all, a merry Xmas and a happy New Year. From yours very truly,

"PETER ASPINALL AND THOMAS BAKER."

The portrait of John W. Noakes amply corroborates a recent report that he is a stout, strong lad, in the best of health. John is a very capable farm hand, "can do most ordinary work in good style." Our friend speaks most gratefully of the help he has received from Dr. Barnardo. He paid us a visit during Exhibition week, and is at present at Purple Grove, where he has a very comfortable home with Mr. James Boyle.

George J. Young is now 15, and is working with great energy at Empire in the employment of Mr. W. H. Burgess, from whom a report reaches us that

"George is a very good boy, does everything first rate, even when I am away; he is kind to the stock, careful with horses, and cheerful in manner."

This is eminently satisfactory, and we are glad to know that George has an excellent home with Mr. and Mrs. Burgess, who think a great deal of our friend who also has a warm friend in Mr. Burgess' mother, a kind and genial old



OF '92.

lady, who had many pleasant things to say of George to Mr. Griffith on the occasion of his last visit.

We find Charles Fuller still with Mr. Richard Harris of Ballymote, to whom he went upon arrival here. Charles is a splendid fellow, has always tried hard to do his work well, and has succeeded in the attempt, enjoying the fullest confidence of his employer, with whom he has just re-engaged for another year. He has received the long-service and good-conduct medal and is a regular supporter of the Homes.