

party as a whole will, we feel sure, do credit in the future to themselves and the Homes. Although the season is so advanced, there were applications on the books more than sufficient to provide situations for all the youngsters in the party eligible for placing out, and we close the season's campaign and enter upon our winter's work without a boy unplaced, and the Homes both in Toronto and Winnipeg almost untenanted.

Our exhibition gathering was a great and unqualified success. I write of it with a still bitter sense of disappointment at having been absent on the other side of the Atlantic when so many old friends from far and near were assembled on the occasion that comes but once a year. The pleasure of such a meeting is the sort of thing that one looks forward to with a degree of anticipation that is only realized when it is disappointed. Our guests, upwards of three hundred in number, who made a short or long stay at the Home during the fortnight, evidently enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and the reunion of old friends and former acquaintances was exceedingly interesting and pleasant. Mr. Davis, upon whose hands it fell to organize and carry out the arrangements for the feeding, housing and entertainment of the visitors, is heartily to be congratulated upon the success with which everything passed off. It only remains to say that we hope all of our old boys who gave us the pleasure of their company on this occasion, will be with us again next year, and that as many more as possible will share our hospitality with them.

Old England is in the same place still, and the conditions of life, as they were once familiar to most of our readers, remain largely unchanged. Unquestionably the con-

dition of the people, especially those who are generally spoken of as the "masses," is improved and improving. Education, the growth of an enlightened public sentiment, the labours of a multitude of philanthropic agencies, the renewed vitality of almost all branches of the Christian Church, and the general awakening in the public mind to the responsibilities of man for his fellows, are bearing noble fruit in the homes and lives and prospects of the people. One can trace in gradual but continuous progress the emancipation of the lower orders of society from squalor, vice and degradation to a higher standard of life and morals; but there still remain dark spots on the body politic; there are many grave social problems to be faced, many bitter wrongs clamouring for redress, and needs on every hand that call for increased activity, devotion and self-sacrifice. Dr. Barnardo is as foremost as ever in the van of the forces that are labouring in the cause of Rescue and Reform. His work differs from many others, inasmuch as he has devoted himself to fencing the edge of the precipice rather than expending his energies in restoring the maimed and bleeding victims in the abyss beneath. The present year is the thirty-second in the life of the Homes, and in the previous thirty-one years a total of 33,368 children have passed through his hands. Much has been accomplished, but much yet remains to be done, and we are sure every reader of *UPS AND DOWNS* will join with us in the hope and prayer that the Doctor will be spared for many years yet to come to carry forward his labour of love, to rescue in still greater numbers the needy and destitute, and thus to advance still further the Kingdom of Christ on earth, and to lay still richer trophies at the Master's feet.