

UPS AND DOWNS

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ECHOES OF THE MONTH.

I AM grieved to be writing "Echoes of the Month" from across the "herring pond," and at the disadvantage therefore of knowing almost nothing of what has been going on amongst readers of UPS AND DOWNS during the past month. I confess that I feel very much like some of our correspondents who tell us in their letters that they "don't know what to say;" but I do know, too, that those who are responsible for UPS AND DOWNS will be on the look out for Echoes of the Month. So I must pound my brains to see if there isn't something there to raise an "Echo."

To be sure there has been the annual meeting—that vast gathering at the Albert Hall on Midsummer Day, the 24th of June, at which I was fortunate enough to land in time to be present. Dr. Barnardo has achieved some magnificent success in the history of his Institution; but, I venture to think that this time he surpassed anything hitherto attempted. The meeting itself and the carrying out of the programme in every part was an unmixed and unqualified success, and from "start to finish" there was not a hitch or misadventure.

Those of us who have been present at former meetings will recall the thrilling sight presented by the vast concourse of people filling the Hall literally from floor to ceiling, boxes, stalls, galleries, packed to the fullest extent of their capacity with eager, expectant faces turned mostly in the direction of the immense arena, which was entirely left for the various performances on the programme. Long before the time advertised for the Duke of Sutherland to take the chair, every seat was occupied. The interval was pleasantly filled with selections by the band, played in a style highly creditable both to Mr. Davis and themselves, and a much appreciated organ recital by Mr. Turvey. The great attraction of the scene was, of course, the girls and boys who filled the orchestra seats to the number of many hun-

dreds, the girls in frocks of white, blue and heliotrope, and the boys in the usual white sailor costume. Over the great organ a banner was suspended bearing the inscription, "Welcome to their Royal Highnesses from the largest family on the earth." Other banners, on which were displayed the names of the various Homes and branches of the Institutions, were arranged round the Hall. The effect of the whole was exceedingly striking and animated, and presented a sight such as we venture to think is to be seen nowhere else in the world.

The members of the British Royal Family are a proverb for punctuality in keeping their appointments, and at five o'clock "sharp" the Prince and Princess of Wales and their daughters, the Princesses Victoria and Maud, were receiving the greetings of the Reception Committee at the royal entrance, and were

number of others, letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Westminster, the Duke of Portland, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Goschen and Sir John Lubbock Lord Brassey, from the other side of the globe, sent a cable message of warm sympathy, ending with the welcome words "Two hundred pounds." Among those who, better than sending either letters or telegrams, were present themselves, may be mentioned, the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, Lady Henry Somerset, Lord Herschell, Sir Howard and Lady Vincent, Mr. A. J. Mundella, M.P., Rev. Newman Hall, and many other persons of prominence in the religious, political and social world.

Dr. Barnardo, whose rising was the signal for general applause, made a few remarks by way of introduction to the spectacular perform-



WINDSOR CASTLE FROM THE HOME PARK.

ances of the evening, which he explained were illustrations of the processes by which his work of rescue and training is being carried forward. Forthwith, there was presented to the audience the sight of a dozen or more handicrafts in full operation. Carpenters, tin-smiths, mat-makers, boot-makers and others were for a few moments hard at work in their places in the arena amidst the enthusiastic applause of the audience. At sound of the bugle work ceased, and in a trice the various tools and benches were removed, and in a minute or two later the audience were delighted by the appearance of an array of little Ilford girls, who executed their musical drill in quite their best form. It was an exceedingly pretty scene, and was immensely appreciated.

"Babies' Castle," that followed next, was, perhaps, the great success of the evening. The arena was transformed into a huge nursery, where a number of "timies" disported themselves with rocking horses, wheelbarrows, kittens, and in romping in a huge pile of newly cut grass. The Prince and Princess of Wales were highly delighted with the nursery scene, and two wee children were taken up to the

conducted to their seats on the platform, amidst the singing of the hymn, "God Bless the Prince of Wales." The proceedings were commenced immediately afterward by prayer offered by the eloquent and popular Archbishop of Armagh. This was followed by the address of welcome to their Royal Highness, delivered by that staunch friend of the Homes, Canon Fleming. The Canon is among the ablest orators of the day, and spoke with telling and powerful effect of the numbers who had been trained and started in life through the instrumentality of the Homes, and of the need and of the worth of such work as Dr. Barnardo's: work which no law or government could undertake, but earnest, powerful Christian love.

The letters of regret for inability to be present and expressing sympathy with Dr. Barnardo's work, included amongst a vast num-

ber of others, letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Westminster, the Duke of Portland, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Goschen and Sir John Lubbock Lord Brassey, from the other side of the globe, sent a cable message of warm sympathy, ending with the welcome words "Two hundred pounds." Among those who, better than sending either letters or telegrams, were present themselves, may be mentioned, the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, Lady Henry Somerset, Lord Herschell, Sir Howard and Lady Vincent, Mr. A. J. Mundella, M.P., Rev. Newman Hall, and many other persons of prominence in the religious, political and social world.