

WITH OUR FRIENDS.

LETTERS FROM MANY BOYS IN MANY PARTS OF CANADA—ALL WISH "UPS AND DOWNS" A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AND PROMISE HELP—AN ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK.

Good Wages Seem to Rule with our Friends.

In this column we shall deal each month with the letters we anticipate we shall receive from many of our subscribers, for we wish to impress upon our friends that we want to hear from them, that we want UPS AND DOWNS to be a means of keeping our old friends in touch with each other as well as with the Home. So do not be loth to bring forth the pen and paper when anything occurs which you think will interest us or your old acquaintances, who like you are fighting the battle of life in this big Canada. Don't be afraid that what you have to say will "be of no interest." We will be the best judge of its interest to others, and in any event we shall always be glad to hear from our friends. One request we must ask you to observe—write on one side of the paper only, and use ink in preference to pencil whenever possible. Much handling reduces pencil writing to a state of illegibility which makes both editor and printer long for the day when a tax on pencils will make their use prohibitive.

In addition to communications from our readers, we purpose publishing each month portraits of a few of our friends, with short sketches of their careers since they came to Canada.



WM. ESSLAND.

To print in full even a small proportion of the letters we have received in reply to the announcement that we proposed to bring out a journal, would require not only more space than can be spared, but would necessitate the omission of everything else from the front to the last pages. We have selected ten or twelve letters, however, the quotations from which, we are sure, will be read with interest by all our friends. These give a fair indication of the spirit of thrift and loyalty to their old friends which it can be truly said is the hall mark of ninety-nine per cent. of Dr. Barnardo's boys.

Our first letter is from William Essland, who left England in '85 and is now farming on his own account in Alberta, of which country he speaks highly as will be seen from the following:—

"I was very pleased to hear from you, and I intended to write you soon, but you must know I am very busy. No doubt you would be a little surprised on knowing I came out to Alberta; you were away when I sent for some of my money; you know I drew out all my money except one hundred dollars (\$100), and I intend to leave that in the bank, if I can really manage without it. I am pleased to tell you I like Alberta very well, and have taken up a quarter section of land. I have three and a half acres of oats in, and looking very well, and I have an acre of potatoes to put in yet, so you see this will give me a pretty fair start for another year. This is a fine country, there are several up here from Manitoba, and they say this is far the best place for mixed farming, stock raising, or in fact anything else. From what I have seen, and heard others say about the country, I would advise any young fellow to come and give it a trial. I am very pleased to hear that you are thinking of pub-

lishing a monthly paper, and I wish you every success. I will willingly subscribe for it. I think the title you have for it is a very good one as every boy has 'ups and downs,' and trials and troubles in this world."

We are sure that all of us are pleased to hear of our friend Essland's prosperity, and wish him every success in his new departure in the distant territory of Alberta. We shall look forward to receiving frequent contributions from him, from which we may learn much of the country in which he has made his home.



MICHAEL COCHRANE.

Half measures don't suit Michael Cochrane. There is a ring of sincerity and enthusiasm about his brief letter which speaks volumes for the soundness of Michael's heart. He says, writing from Watford:—

"I am very glad you are getting the paper out. I hope that you will succeed. If you do not get enough to pay you at twenty-five cents, double the price. I will take it at any price!"

There is no need to double the price yet, friend Michael, nor will there ever be whilst the rest of our friends live up to your practice of loyalty.

James Smith is another who is climbing upwards, and who still retains a warm spot in his heart for old friends. He writes:—

"I am sure I shall be pleased to become a subscriber for UPS AND DOWNS. I think it will be just the thing, and I shall always be ready to lend a helping hand in this and any other work you may undertake. I have hired with Mr. McCleary for another year; he has promised me ten dollars more this year."

Congratulations on that increase, James. May it be always so with you.



WM. J. TRUSCOTT.

Along with a letter from Geo. A. Gilderson come a few verses entitled "Jim, the City Waif," which are from Gorge's own pen and brain. The verses, like his letter, show that the writer has a pretty firm grip of right principle, and is possessed of

good impulse. Don't be discouraged, George, that your verses are not reproduced here. We have read them with considerable pleasure. With even greater pleasure did we read George's letter, in which he says:—

"I received your letter safely, and am much pleased to hear from you. I have perused your letter carefully and think it a very good idea of yours in reference to the publishing of a paper among the boys. I have thought of the same thing myself. I think it will meet with success, and I will do all in my power to help."

"I am getting along nicely here, and think very highly of Canada, but at times I get a little home sick. I often think of the happy days spent in the dear old 'Home,' and of the kindness of Dr. Barnardo. Where would I have been if the Home had not taken me in? I have had the picture of Dr. Barnardo framed and hung where I can see it continually. I prize it very much."

If every boy will only nail his colors to the mast as firmly as George Gilderson has done in his letter that Prejudice—we spell it with a capital P—will soon be a thing of the past. As for the "home sickness"—may the time never come when George or any other boy ceases to have at times a little touch of it. It is not an unhealthy sign; on the contrary, the boy or man whose heart does not throb occasionally with a strange yearning for old friends and old associations, whose influence has been beneficial to him, is deficient in one of the finest qualities of human nature. Home sickness, when not allowed the mastery, does not indicate a discontented mind. It betokens a nature keen to appreciate, and that appreciation will extend, and be as faithful, to present friends and surroundings as it has been to those of earlier days.



ALF. JOHNS.

William Truscott, who has been in Canada nearly six years, and is now living at Belwood, writes promising to do all he can for us. He says:—

"I am very glad to hear that you are going to publish a paper out among us which I will subscribe for, and will do my best in getting a few subscribers for you. I enclose a dollar to give twenty-five cents for the paper and the rest towards the support of the Home. . . . I am working at the same place which I was working at last summer, and I am getting \$110 for seven months; that was the best I could do as wages are very low this summer."

Wages are low in every vocation these days and farming is no exception. Still \$110 for seven months is fair remuneration, and friend William may be satisfied to know, as he appears to be, that he is as well off as the next man.

Alfred Johns, who is working at Clarke, also finds solace in the same direction. Here is what Alfred says:—

"Having a few spare moments I seized the opportunity of answering your letter which I received last Tuesday, about subscribing for UPS AND DOWNS. I am very glad you have thought about this. I hope and think it will be a success. I would have subscribed even had it been twice as much. . . . I must tell you a little about myself. . . . I am a Sunday school teacher. This is my second year, and I am glad to say that I have now two and sometimes three of Dr. Barnardo's boys in my class. I have hired to Mr. John G. for eleven dollars a month. This is as much as any Canadian man is getting, for wages have gone down round these parts."

May God bless teacher and scholars, and may Alfred have much happiness in his labour of love.