

of our annual inconsistency, in offering facilities to our boys for committing what we consider is an act of very great folly, and which we would keep them from if we could. In other words, we propose to follow the example of the last two years in organizing a little excursion party for such of our old boys as feel themselves irresistibly impelled to pay a visit this winter to their friends in England. Let it not be imagined for a moment that we undertake the task with any pleasure or good will. We are morally certain that almost every boy who joins the excursion will regret that he did so before he has been long at his journey's end; that it means in most cases neither pleasure nor profit, and that the large sum of money that the trip will cost would be in every respect better employed in drawing interest in the bank, awaiting the time when it shall form part of the capital to give its owner a start for himself in life. A boy who has earned and saved a hundred dollars and spends it in a trip to England, seems to us like a man who has climbed with much labour and exertion the first steps of a ladder and suddenly turns round and slides again to the bottom; and our excursionists will appreciate the force of the simile when they find themselves at the bottom next spring, and realize that they have to make the climb all over again to regain what they have lost. However, "Froggy would a-wooing go," and the imaginary attractions of a visit to old friends and old scenes will, we know well, be too strong for a good many of our old boys, so we are making arrangements with our friends of the Dominion Line for the special accommodation of those who intend to form our party, and in our advertising columns on page 3 of the cover will be found all necessary particulars. We can vouch for the fact, from our experience in the past, that our excursionists will receive the best of attention and accommodation on board and both the *Dominion* and the

*Scotsman* are magnificent ships, roomy, steady, well-manned and well-found. On the *Dominion* is Captain James, the youngest commander trading to the port of Montreal, but every inch of him a sailor, careful, vigilant, and always at his post. Captain Skrimshire, of the *Scotsman*, is one of the veterans of the St. Lawrence, and as good a navigator and shipmaster, and as attentive to his ship and her passengers as any man could wish to find on the Atlantic or elsewhere. We can obtain no rebate or reduction in rates, which are hard and fast, but we can hold out the prospect to our young travellers of being able to secure for them, as a party, other little privileges that will contribute very materially to the comfort and enjoyment of their trip. If there are any of our readers, therefore (and we hope there are not many) who have really made up their minds to spend next Christmas in England, let them study the announcement referred to, and write to us at once if they require any further information.

Three parties of boys and girls have safely crossed the ocean since the last issue of UPS AND DOWNS, making a total of four parties for the season. The 14th of July found us on the wing with 120 girls and 100 boys. Once again we crossed by the Dominion Liner *Labrador*, and after a very fairly good passage disembarked at Quebec on the 23rd. A week later a small detachment, consisting of twenty-eight lads from the Youths' Labour House, destined for the Manitoba Farm Home, followed in the steamer *Vancouver*, under charge of the Superintendent of the Y. L. H., Mr. George G. Mitchell, assisted by Mr. Gowen. Our latest party, and the last of the present season, have not yet spent a fortnight on Canadian soil. The numbers were 210 all told, eighty-eight boys and 122 girls. We travelled by the steamship *Dominion* and have never been more comfortable or better quartered in any of our experiences. It was quite one of our most successful journeys, and the