

veloping in an incredibly short space of time into big, brawny, athletic fellows, perfect pictures of health and vigour, we can feel no misgivings as to the physical effects of their occupation and training. We question, moreover, if one in a hundred who has spent a year on a farm in Canada could be induced to return to England, and of this one per cent. we doubt if a single individual would not wish himself back to his work in Canada before he had been a week at home. The work on the farms is splendidly healthy, and the life is one of constant interest and variety. Their time is passed in the open air in a glorious climate, in a clear and invigorating atmosphere. They are a great deal among living creatures, and there are very few youngsters who do not learn soon to take an interest in and become attached to their four-footed friends, while there is the charm that, consciously or unconsciously, Nature, with its life and growth and movement, must always exercise upon even the most unimpressionable. Work amongst the growth and activity of animals and plants is vastly more agreeable and endurable than the same degree of labour performed in the confinement and close air of a workshop or factory, amidst the clang and roar of machinery and without variety or change from one week to another. In addition to the healthfulness of their surroundings, and the variety and interest of the occupation, must be placed the fact that the work is shared by the employer himself and the members of the family, young and old. Even if the farmer is a hard driver, he is pretty sure to take the "heavy end" himself, and the "Home" boy is not asked to work harder or longer than the master himself and the members of his family. They all take their share, and during the harvest and at other busy seasons it is a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together. There is none of the spirit of task-master and henching, and we often, in talking with lads from their life

on the farm and hearing them speak of "our" crops and "our" stock and "our" new barn, gather the impression that they are almost as keenly interested in the progress of the work as the "boss," and, when occasion required, would want very little urging to keep them to their work. Where the rub comes is unquestionably with the new-comers, the lads who arrive fresh from England after a fortnight of almost complete idleness on the journey, and whose first experience of Canadian farm life is perhaps a day of drawing in a heavy crop of oats, with a few thistles among them to make things interesting, and the mercury over 80° in the shade, the sun blazing out of the heavens upon them, and "all hands" working at high pressure and staying out in the fields as long as the daylight lasts to secure as much of the crop as possible. It is hardly to be wondered at that lads under such circumstances should feel down-hearted, and then it is that a little consideration on the part of an employer, in letting the new-comer down easy, will save a great deal of suffering and discontent. A lad soon gets his muscles hardened, however, and finds that there are easy spells on the farm as well as hard ones, and the hardship of the first experience is soon a distant recollection. There are crosses and drawbacks to every lot; but when we consider their position and prospects, we have no hesitation in saying that our boys, as a whole, enjoy their full share of the roses, with as few of the thorns of life as the young people of any age or class of society.



Christmas at Home. We have to announce that we propose to organize our usual "Fall" excursion for the benefit of our friends as have made up their minds to spend Christmas with their friends at home. We have formerly referred to this announcement as our "annual inconsistency," inasmuch as we are aiding and abetting our