THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

Devoted to Our Own Locality--We Labor for Its Interests.

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR. BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1898. NO. 34. WHOLE NO. 1076.

---THE PALACE---

CASH MEAT MARKET.

Oysters received daily.

When you buy, buy the best—they are the cheapest in the end. Our 25c bulk oysters are solid oysters. No water.

Choice Meats of all kinds, **Beef, Lamb, Pork and Veal.**

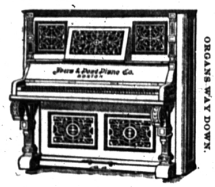
Poultry and Fish, Sausage and Smoked Meats. Fresh Vegetables.

Prompt Delivery.

Geo. E. Duff,

Proprietor.

PIANOS CHEAP!



SEWING MACHINES LOWER.

Thirty years' experience enables me to buy cheap, sell cheap and guarantee satisfaction.

E. Farmer, Pontiac.

Here We Are!

- Life Size. -

—IN THE—

New Ford Block

Go to the restaurant
Just across the way
Where they serve nice hot meals
Three times a day.

All kinds of Bakers' Supplies, Canned Goods, Confectionery, etc., at city prices,

Yours for keeps,

C. ELLENWOOD.

We would like to

CUBA

customer of ours. View the following:

Best Rib Roast Beef or Veal 10c	Old Reliable D. D. M. Oysters, quart or can 25c
Pork Loin Roast 8c	Gal. Crock Lard, lb. 7c
Pork Sausage, 3 lbs 25c	Best Cape Cod Cranberries, 3 q'ts 25c
16 lbs Salt Pork $1.00	Sweet Potatoes, 15 lbs 25c
Best Spring Chickens, lb. 10c	Bi-delow's full cream Cheese 12c
Boneless Codfish, 3 lbs 25c	

Parks & Son.

Clarence L. Cowles,

Architect,

21 and 22 Chase Block,

Saginaw, E. S, Mich.

Phone { Office 547—3 R. Residence 408.

Methodist Episcopal Church.

REV. EUGENE C. ALLEN, PASTOR.

Sabbath services at 10:30 a. m. and at 7:30 p. m. Sabbath school at 12 m. Epworth League at 6 p. m. Prayer meeting on Thursday evening at 7 p. m. All are invited.

WHILE YOU ARE TALKING - -

About Christmas presents, Pontiac and Detroit are not in it.

L. B. Peabody's Store

is the place where you can buy your girl a Doll, Gold Ring, or a box of Candy and your wife a Tea Set of best quality, Silverware, or if you are looking for something extra fine, those Carving Sets ought to please you, and you, young man, why not make yourself a present of a Violin and learn to play it. We will sell you one right. We have any amount of things for the ladies to buy for gentlemen. If you was not born with a silver spoon in your mouth, come in an buy one and you will have it sure.

L. B. PEABODY.

WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION!

Handkerchiefs in profusion, beautiful patterns, at 5oc, 25c, 15c or two for 25c, 10c and 5c—all of the very newest designs.

New goods and styles in Card Receivers, Cups and Saucers,

Mush and Milk Sets, Shaving Mugs and Jardineers, etc.

New line of Dressed and Kid Body Dolls at 25c each.

Ladies' and Children's Mittens at 10c, 15c, 25c and 35c.

Gent's Gloves and Mittens at 25c, 35c and 50c.

We have the largest assortment and the best Corset trade in town.

Gent's Scarfs, Ties and Bows in a great variety of styles at 15c each or two for 25c, 25c and 50c.

Ladies' Macintoshes, fine quality at $5.00 and $6.00

Our aim is to sell as low as the lowest and we meet all competition in prices and give a better quality of goods for the same money at

F. BLAKESLEE'S

Birmingham, - Mich.

BUYERS OF

HOLIDAY GOODS

Will find in our Store an immense stock of FANCY GOODS and NOVELTIES in addition to the very complete line of

DRESS GOODS AND STAPLE FABRICS

suitable for Holiday Gifts.

Handkerchiefs in endless variety from 5c to $25.00 each.
Leather Goods in Pocket Books, Shopping Bags, Belts and Purses.
Sterling Silver Novelties, immense variety for the Toilet.
Toilet Sets in Celluloid, Dresden, White Metal, etc.
Laces, Edgings, Insertions, Flouncings and All Overs, together with Liberty Silk and Made-up Neckwear in latest styles.
Stationery—Finest quality of Papers, Seals, Pens and Erasures.
Art Dept.—Stamped Linens, Pin Cushions, Sofa Pillows, etc., etc.
Gloves—The celebrated Foster Kid Gloves, Lined Gloves, Mittens.
Gent's Furnishings—Complete stock including Novelties in Neckwear and Umbrellas.

If you cannot visit the city order by mail. We guarantee satisfaction.

The Taylor--Woolfenden Co.,

165 to 169 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

WHAT WILL YOU BUY FOR CHRISTMAS?

WE LOOK AFTER THE WANTS OF YOUR FEET!

Overgaiters, all sizes, from 20c to 50c.
Leggings, all sizes from 50c to $1.50, all lengths.
Gent's Slippers, 75c to $1.50.
Boys' " 50c to 75c.
Ladies' advanced styles of Footwear. Ask to see the Mariesh Shoes; also the new styles of inlaid vestings.
Children's Shoes, button and lace, in all styles.
Most complete stock of Rubbers. Our rubbers are noted for good fits, great service and low prices.

C. H. GOING,

Take the car at our store.

Corner Saginaw and Lawrence Sts. PONTIAC, MICH.

A BOY'S LETTER TO HIS MOTHER.

Interesting News From Our New Possession, Alfred E. Gorton Writes His Experience in this Tropical Climate.

MAYAGUEZ, Porto Rico, Nov. 27, '98.

DEAREST MOTHER:—Well, here I am assistant wagon master for the army, stationed at Mayaguez, Las Marie and a few other points in this province. When the head wagon master is out I have entire charge of 175 mules, 50 some odd horses and 45 men, besides attending to sending the pack trains. I have to keep the time of all the men and the number of mules and horses fed every night, answer telephone and look after everything even to stock-keeping. Just to see the amount of feed we use figure this up. 9 lbs. oats and 12 lbs. of hay for every mule; 12 lbs. oats and 14 lbs. hay for every horse. I do not have to handle it myself but have a man or men to do any bit of heavy work for me and of course everything is systematic and consequently you can do an enormous amount of business in a very short time.

For example, at 3 o'clock p. m. last Tuesday (my first day) I got an order to furnish 14 4-mule teams to go to Las Marie, 16 miles. We had to fit all the wagons up, go out and pick out the mules and report ourselves at the quartermaster's office at 4 p. m. I had them there at 3:45. When you tell one of these men here to do a thing he generally does it and asks no questions. Most of them have been soldiers and know how to obey orders. Now and then we get an ordinary man and if he tries to do right he is safe, but if he questions an order away he goes. I have men, old gray haired fellows, who have been in the government service 40 years and they never say "boo" when I tell them to do anything. I tell you the government jobs are snaps. I come down at 5:30 a. m. and go to breakfast at 6-15 a. m. and then come back and fix up my books (about, well dusting my books and everything in 20 minutes) and then have nothing special to do until I issue feed at 4 p. m. (we issue enough at night to last 24 hours), that keeps me busy on and off until 5 when I go to supper and return until 7 or 7:30. Of course if an order for teams come in during the day I have to see them get out if the head man is out which is seldom and we hardly ever get a hurry up order, but generally know what is needed the night before and then we notify the men and they do they rest. Oh it is a snap!

I pretty near went crazy the first day as I did not know what to do with myself, but after the wagon master called me a "G. D. F" a couple of times and told me to set down and cool off I caught the spirit and can loaf as well as the old timers now. We have bunks here and sleep or do anything we like and you don't have to jump and run if you see any of the head officers coming, as you would were you working for a private individual. On the other hand if you have to work Sundays or all night you must not kick, just saw wood and you always find you have the best of the bargain. As I write I look around and can count 15 men who are not doing any work, some sleeping, eating oranges, reading papers, etc. It is now 10 o'clock and I have been for a horseback ride this morning already. That is another thing that suits me, all I have to do when I get my morning's work done and Mr. Little comes down is to go out and pick out any horse that suits me, saddle him and ride away. It is nice to do this at 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon when it is hottest, as after you ride a mile you can find a shady road where the sun does not shine on account of the trees almost meeting and this takes you through a very beautiful country. You ride for four miles up a gentle incline and then take a sudden dip into a level country about 15 miles square all hemmed in by mountains and I tell you it is beautiful. The roads are not very wide but are fully as good as our boulevard every step of the way, except the hills you have to climb, and they say that in the rainy season they are very bad. I took that ride Friday and the natives fell all over themselves to treat you "mucha granda" (Spanish for very well).

I tell you I never lived until I struck this country and the only thing I am afraid of is that the Americans will spoil it. There is only one thing missing now and that is my sweetheart (you know who she is) and when I can persuade her to see her way clear to come down and have a nice cozy little house I shall be very happy. If you have any influence over her try and get her to see this in the same way I do. I would like her to bring an old crank named Robert and a laughing Sue with her, a little curly dog and a yellow cat, and I guess by the time they get here I will be able to give them a little home so that all they have with them they can use for themselves and I will sink every dollar I can earn to make them comfortable. I tell you my heart fairly sings as I think I see my way to support you the way I have always wanted to do, but that is the United States it would never be realized, but I guess it will here. I suppose you know what wages I get—$40 a month with board and lodging, but I pay a day's wages a month so to make a fund and then we hire a couple of little boys (natives) and they wait on us at the table. We have adopted them and are going to send them to the states to educate them. They work for their board now. We get fed fine, first class and plenty of it and regular, too, which means a good deal for your health in this country. Everybody said you would lose your appetite and that is correct for I lost mine the first day, but I found a mule's instead and I feel as lively as a cricket, but where the American newspaper writers get their ideas of laziness is because they don't do anything in the heat of the day, but they do enough at night to make up. There is no business to amount to anything from 11 to 4 and stores close up altogether from 11 to 2.

I got my bedding from the government and got five other boys to go in with me and rent a house. Shipley and I have our rooms together and pay $7 a month, (I will always quote Porto Rico money $1.60 for $1.00) and then we pay $1.00 a month to have the place scrubbed from ceiling to floor which brings it about 80 cents apiece in American money a month. We are very cozy and as all of the boys are good fellows we have a nice time. They all work where I do except Shipley and we are right on a street so that we have to go by our rooms to go to our meals from the stable and the night watchman comes and calls us at 5 in the morning; now if that is not convenient I don't want a cent. Our office is on the beach and is as cool as a cucumber, and every night we boys all undress in the eve and run out and take a dip and in that way keep ourselves good a clean.

About prices. Oranges, three for one cent (⅓ of a cent in our money—think of it!) great big fellows like croquet balls. Everything about the same proportion in native articles. Let me tell you what I have done. I sold my two new suits of underclothes less a shirt for $2 for which I paid 90c in Detroit, and my revolver that I paid $2.50 for I sold for $4 (these are in American money). My patent leather shoes for $5 that I paid $3.75 for, my $1 hat for $3.00. Talk about getting rich, well I should kiss a pig. We have native women here begging for our white grain sacks to make drawers of and the way the men steal them and give them to their girls! and according to my figure, every native woman in Mayaguez has U. S. on behind with a couple of changes extra. I have found a place where a can see pretty women to my heart's content. The boys took me up to the Plaza, what we would call a kind of promenade. It is a big square place about the size of the old market and paved with cement, with fountains in the center, seats along the sides and in the center and a place for the band and every Sunday night the band plays and every Spanish lady and good looking native woman make it a point to show up and they have a kind of cake walk. Gee! talk about diamonds and pretty women, and you ought to see my mash! Can't talk to her but done a lot of looking. She was the pick of the bunch, had diamonds, dressed swell and was no cheap native but a swell Spanish woman. I looked at her and put on an engaging smile and the other boys did the same, also two officers, but my new American suit and derby hat done the business and when next she came around where I stood she walked near me and gave me a rose and said in Spanish, "banyasa" (tomorrow) and when I came to inquire I found that there is a special concert tonight; so she meant she would see me there. Then she skipped and that was the last I saw of her. She is a peach! It is the talk of the coral today. I said all I could in Spanish, "Mucha Gracias" (thank you) and "Mia Buenas" (very pretty) and then she was gone. Ah, sit still, my fluttering heart, SIT STILL!

Ah, I wish you could sit by me at the desk as I write and look at the pretty bay and the mountains as green as grass on Belle Isle in June. This is all Belle Isle here. Shipley is going to start today to make a tour of the island on horseback to look for land and if he can find a couple of hundred acres is going to buy it and sail in and I believe he will make a go of it, too. I hear that there is rich widow (Spanish) down the road who lost her man a year ago and some day I shall ride down and see her and who knows but I may be a big planter. There was one man who did not have a cent but got a rich Spanish girl and last night they drove past in their carriage, so there is hope for me and as there are bands of natives going around burning plantations of the Spanish I have all the better show, as the natives do not like the Americans. It is laughable to see how afraid they are of us and they cannot talk with you five minutes without referring to how reckless the Americans are of their lives. One was telling last night that the native police were bad fellows, that if a Spaniard resisted they generally got the worst of it. Yet 10 minutes after a drunken soldier whipped three policemen and they never got a chance to club him. He knocked them down in rotation with the utmost regularity and they would not have got him yet I guess, only the soldier who patrols the street at night, came up and took him single handed and put him up. That is the way you can lick a load of the sons-o'-guns if you keep them in front of you, but if you let them get behind you they can feed your fifth rib in great shape.

Since I started this letter I have had to issue seven days' grain and hay rations for Troop D 5th Cavalry which amounted to 11,096 lbs. of hay and 9,522 lbs. of oats—nine loads. I just received 20 more mules brought in by a soldier from Yanco who used to be stationed at Detroit and is in the same company as Anderson who used to visit Kiles. Ah! mother I cannot express my joy to feel that at last a time has come when I can be some good to you instead of a "Willie Boy" who had to have his mother slaving her life away to support him.

I don't think there is any doubt but that if I don't get into some business I can stay with the government as long as I please in some capacity or other. Perhaps I may get something better soon, as Mr. Pierson, whom I told you in my other letter that I talked with, said he would look out for me, and if any of the men in his office got home sick he would try and work me in there, and he has quite a pull there, having been employed by Uncle Sam 10 years. Now, did I not do pretty good? I got a job when I had been on the island 20 minutes, but did not write it before, as I wanted to see if could hold it down and now I am pretty sure I can. Won't Joe A. feel sorry! He could have got a job also, for when I landed they wanted some men the worst way and could not get anything but natives. But he would have had to be a teamster at the same wages I get, and all they do is to take care of four mules and drive them, they hardly ever have to load and unload; just sit on the wagon and they detail soldiers to do the work. I hired out for a teamster but this office was vacant and Little came out and put me in charge when I had been at work about five hours. The other assistant is working here under me now; he got to knowing too much. I guess he was mad and was going to quit, and says he will pay-day. But he beans me so ill will, as he knows I am not to blame. We are the best of friends and I think he will stay, as he told me last night

(*Continued on 5th page.*)

Traver Clothing Is Honest Clothing, Made to wear and does it.

OF COURSE WE DO.

This paper will probably reach you right in time for our "Merry Christmas" greeting.

Yes, most sincerely do we wish you a "Merry Christmas" and a happy holiday time, and prosperous years to follow.

We sell Clothing for Men, Boys and Children, we sell headwear for them too, and we sell furnishings.

We make quality the first requisite, give your money back if you are not satisfied just as cheerfully as we took it. We are here every day in the year, and we want your trade.

Of course during the holiday week special bargains prevail in every department, and we'd like to share among them.

R. H. TRAVER,

Detroit, - Mich.

HOT STUFF FROM PONCE, PORTO RICO.

To GEORGE H. MITCHELL,
Editor of Birmingham Eccentric.

DEAR SIR:—Please send me a snowball. It is hotter down here than any place I ever heard them talk about. Send it soon.

Yours truly,
WM. J. BARKER,
19th Infl. Co. G.,
Ponce, Porto Rico.

November 16, 1898.

Say, Bro. Barker, wish we could send to you a basket of turkey and cranberry sauce to divide up with John Wulff and Liman Hood. Here's luck and best wishes to the boys in blue in P. R.

Children's Books.

Whitehead & Mitchell have just received a full line of Children's Holiday Books and religious books for children, at the extremely low price of twenty-five cents, which are suitable for Christmas gifts. A complete line of fable and fairy books and booklets have been received, which will be closed out at extremely low prices.

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.

Stationery for the Holidays.

Stationery in beautiful boxes for Christmas presents. Hundreds of articles. Stationery of all the latest styles shapes and colors. Our styles are the best, you would certainly be stuck on them.

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL.

A CARD.

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to refund the money on a 50-cent bottle of Greene's Warranted Syrup of Tar if it fails to cure your cough or cold. We also guarantee a 25-cent bottle to prove satisfactory or money refunded.

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL,
May 18 Birmingham, Mich.
LOUIS STORZ, Royal Oak, Mich.

Christmas Services at St. James.

The following program will be rendered by the vested choir of St. James' church Christmas morning at 10:30 o'clock:

Processional—"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing!"	Mendelssohn
Venite	Mendelssohn
Te Deum	Ives
Jubilate	Warren
Responses	Beethoven
Gloria Tibi	Gounod
Offertory Anthem "Hosanna in the Highest"	Mainer
Sanctus	Calkin
Gloria in Excelsis	Gilbert
Recessional—"Angels from the Realms of Glory"	Smart

Notice to Taxpayers.

Troy Taxpayers are hereby notified that I will be at Colerain postoffice Mondays, Troy Corners Tuesdays, Big Beaver Wednesdays, Birmingham Exchange Bank Thursdays and at my own home every Friday until January 10.

FRANK SCHLAACK,
Town Treasurer.

Notice to Taxpayers.

I will be at the following places to receive taxes: At town hall Southfield, Tuesday, December 27, at Bity's mill Thursday, Dec. 29, at Harmon D. O. Tuesday Jan. 3, 1899, at Beddow, Thursday, Jan. 5, from 9 o'clock a. m. to 3 o'clock p. m., and every Friday at home in Franklin during the tax season.

R. C. CUMMINGS,
Treas. Southfield Township.

ACTIVE SOLICITORS WANTED EVERYWHERE for "The Story of the Philippines" by Murat Halstead, commissioned by the Government as official Historian to the War Department. The book was written in army camps at San Francisco, on the Pacific with Gen. Merritt, in the hospitals at Honolulu, in Hong Kong, in the American trenches at Manila, in the insurgent camps with Aguinaldo, on the deck of the Olympia with Dewey, and in the rear of battle at the fall of Manila. Bonanza for agents. Brimful of original pictures taken by government photographers on the spot. Large book. Low price. Big profits. Freight and Credit given. Drop all trashy unofficial war books. Outfit free. Address, P. W. Barber, Sec'y., 358 Insurance Building, Chicago.

Under One Roof.

-Detroit's Largest Store-

Fifteen Big Stores in One. The largest store, the best stock of Holiday Goods at the lowest prices in the state.

Under one roof are fifteen first-class stores—more than 100 distinct departments. Throughout the huge building there runs one ruling motive—to serve you better this Christmas than ever before.

Nine great floors (211x100 ft.) laden with beautiful and useful gifts. Broad aisles, splendid light, day or night, prompt attention, complete telephone service, four large, commodious passenger elevators, and one o'clock delivery for your entire purchases make Xmas shopping at the Big Store a delightful and profitable recreation. Inclement weather can be defied with perfect comfort here, time saved, and loss of temper caused by jostling through the slippery streets prevented—

Whatever You Want is Here and at Money Saving Prices.

Rest comfortably in our roomy reception room when tired; lunch in the great cafe when hungry; then at the close of the shopping excursion over a cup of afternoon tea on the seventh floor, check off your purchasing list and supply anything overlooked before leaving the building. Then home! happy in the knowledge that your entire purchase will be there (perhaps sooner than you are) in one complete delivery—not straggling in from a dozen different places with a dozen chances of mishap.

AGAIN WE SAY, Come early, do your trading in the morning if possible and avoid the inevitable afternoon crowds.

We make it an object to have you do so. To each buyer of one dollar's worth or more in any one department throughout the Big Store this week, between the hours of 8 and 10, we will give a HANDSOME ILLUMINATED '99 CALENDAR (9x12 in.)—same as sold right in this store at 25c. (Samples in front window.

Hudson's Big Store.

Detroit, Mich.