

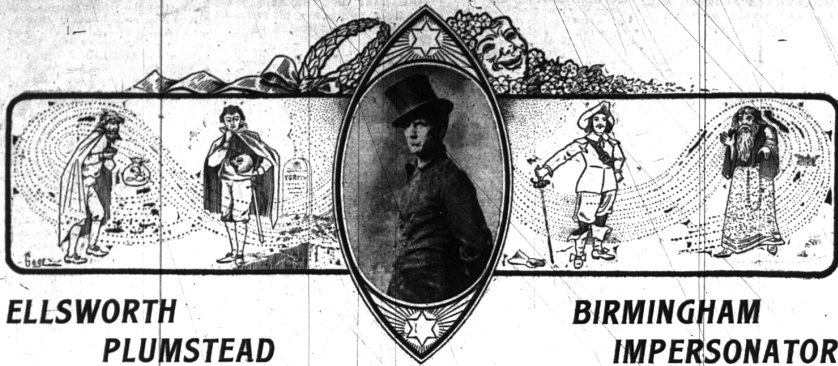
BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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

THIRTY-SECOND YEAR. NO. 51.

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY APRIL 22 1910.

WHOLE NUMBER, 1670



ELLSWORTH PLUMSTEAD

BIRMINGHAM IMPERSONATOR

We are pleased to print the following selection which we find is a recent number of the Lyceum and Talent, a magazine devoted to the profession printed in Chicago. Our "Plum" is a winner.

BY EDWIN L. BARKER.

"Ellsworth Plumstead is an artist of the quiet, natural school. His characters are not put on; they live. He can be funny without being clownish; he

have made Chevalier famous. In his best moments Plumstead is the equal of the best moments of Chevalier. It is quite a thing to be an artist, but it is quite another thing to be an artist so scarily entertaining. A man may be so loaded down with art that it makes him heavy and dull. In that case he is artistic but not entertaining. A nice blending of the art qualities and the entertainment qualities make an enter-

taining corpse tingling in his blood before he knew just what it meant to be an entertainer. He studied music, and he sang songs, and he acted out on the stage, and he went up into the gallery to observe the artists who long since closed their eyes in dreamless sleep. He was laying the foundation, Plumstead was. And then he heard Leland Powers read "David Copperfield," and young Plumstead, for the first time, understood the meaning of the words entertainer and artist.

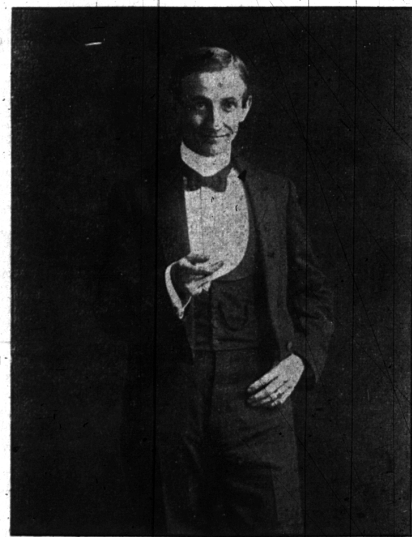
Please pardon the digression, but I can't help it. I know how Plumstead felt, for Leland Powers' delightful gentleman and the greatest artist the lyceum has ever known—made me understand. If the truth were known I wonder how many entertainers there are who owe their inspiration to Leland Powers and his matchless impersonations?

But back to Mr. Plumstead and his impersonations. With the Powers' high standard ever before him he set to work in earnest. Then he learned some of the poems of that vegetarian philosopher, Edmund Vance Cooke, forced himself into the presence of the poet and made the rhymster listen to his own "staph." Oh, he has a lot of persistence, has Plumstead. It takes work to be an artist—that is, an artist who is delightfully entertaining and still an artist. It is difficult to listen to the applause and not fall over the line that separates the natural and the delightful from the grotesque and the disgusting. And this is what Plum-

stead never does—I, mean never fall over the line.

See him as the old actor in "The Fallen Star," or as "The Other One Was Booth," or as Ezra telling how he sang first base. It is all life, and the eccentricities of life always are more funny and more entertaining than the things that some entertainers try to claim off on us as counterparts of life. Then there is his "The Vagabonds"—you remember that old one about "Roger and I." It is old, that's true, but is new when Plumstead lives it, so new that you will take oath that you never heard it before. And the boy, and the song that goes with it—that is from life, too.

I have written much, and I have written little. I have told only half of the half I would like to tell—no, I have not told that much. But the evening of story and song and laughter and tears is at an end. It has been a short evening. Every man and woman who has sat there for two hours will tell you so. And they believe it, too, until their watches correct their judgment. And so I will leave Ellsworth Plumstead, entertainer, gentleman, just as he leaves his audiences night after night. He is bowing and smiling, and the men and women and children are smiling back at him and applauding, and all he and they are happy. There is no happiness like the happiness of knowing that one has given an artistic, delightful entertainment, and there is no joy like the joy of having been present at such an entertainment.



can be pathetic without being slushy. He is a gentleman and he is climbing." These lines were written by me more than five years ago—in November, 1904 to be exact—and I have lived to look them in the face without an apology.

Plumstead—"Plum," his friends call him, and his friends are wherever good entertainment is appreciated—has climbed several rungs up the ladder since five years ago. He has traveled up and down across the country, and always the good report has followed. I am going to make a comparison. I know that, generally speaking, comparisons are regarded as something odious. But methinks the odiousness will change to an odor quite delightful before the comparison has reached its end. There is a great English entertainer who is an artist and as delightful as he is artistic. His name is Albert Chevalier. Perhaps you have heard of him—maybe you have enjoyed his art and all its delightfulness. I am paid a salary of \$2,000 a week. He is paid a salary of \$2,000 a week. He is not violating a confidence when I state that Mr. Plumstead does not receive quite that sum—no, not yet. But Plumstead has the same artistic qualities that

entertainer delightful. Among the scores of entertainers that I have heard, Ellsworth Plumstead stands as one of the few who have this nice blending. He is to the Lyceum what Chevalier is to the larger world of entertainment. He deserves the two thousand a week, even though my occult powers compel me to whisper the gloomy prophecy that he will never get it.

It would take a book of many pages to tell half the good things that might be told of Ellsworth Plumstead. When you want to know a man drop into his home and get acquainted with his family. That is true of us all. Judge by this rule, Plumstead stands higher as a man than he does as an entertainer, and that is saying much. I do will tell you that he lives in Detroit. But he doesn't. He lives in Birmingham, a suburb of Detroit, which, to be exact is in Michigan.

Entertainers are born, not made. Those who are not entertainers also are born, but they were not born entertainers, neither have they been made such. To prove that I am right he knows that Plumstead felt the enter-



INDUSTRIAL EXPO.

Greatest Civic Event in Detroit's History to be Held June 30 to July 6 at the Wayne Pavilion

The great Industrial Exposition, to be held in Detroit June 30 to July 6, will be a miniature world's fair. A huge temporary exhibition building and the Wayne Pavilion will contain an electrical show, a machinery display, a transportation exhibit, a paint, oil and varnish exhibition, a food fair, an automobile show, a textile exposition, a furniture display and a host of novelties and specialties. It is estimated that the total value of exhibits will be between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000. There will be more than 200 exhibitors and the splendid support given the project assures the fact that the exhibition will rank with Cleveland's exposition of last year as the two

greatest civic exhibitions ever held. The temporary structures are to be hurried to completion so that there will be ample time to carry out the pretentious decorating and lighting plans that are to make the display one of unsurpassed beauty. A great electric tower will be one of the many features of illumination and will attract the attention of the hundreds of thousands of passengers on the boats passing up and down the Detroit River. So that there may be no doubt concerning the meaning of the tower, one of the largest electric signs in the world will be set in place on the river front, announcing the names and dates of the exposition in heroic letters that will be plainly visible from the Canadian shore. That the exposition will be the greatest civic event in Detroit's history is assured and the prediction is freely made that more than 300,000 visitors will be attracted. The processes of manufacture as well as the products of Detroit's factories will be displayed and the running machinery will have a musical accompaniment from two large concert bands.

No effort is being spared by the committee of 275 manufacturers whose companies represent a capital of \$150,000,000, to make the Detroit Exposition the most important epoch in the city's history.

Saved From the Grave.
"I had about given up hope, after nearly four years of suffering from severe lung trouble," writes Mrs. M. L. Dix, of Clarksville, Tennessee. "I used two bottles of Foley's Kidney Remedy with good effect, and the third bottle put me on my feet and I resumed work as conductor on the Lexington, Kentucky, street railway. It gave me more relief than any medicine I had ever used, and it will do all you claim in cases of rheumatism, by eliminating the uric acid from the blood. Sold by all druggists."

One Conductor Who Was Cured.
Wilford Adams is his name, and he writes about it: "Some time ago I was confined to my bed with chronic rheumatism. I used two bottles of Foley's Kidney Remedy with good effect, and the third bottle put me on my feet and I resumed work as conductor on the Lexington, Kentucky, street railway. It gave me more relief than any medicine I had ever used, and it will do all you claim in cases of rheumatism, by eliminating the uric acid from the blood. Sold by all druggists."

WANTED.
At once. Men to represent us, either locally or traveling. Now is the time to start. Money in the work for right man. Apply at once and secure territory. **Allen Nursery Co., Rochester, N. Y.**

WALL PAPER

New Patterns and Designs For Spring of 1910

5,000 Rolls Now In! More Coming

Price from 4c to 25c per Roll

New Spring Line of Men's Work Shirts, 50c

F. BLAKESLEE

BIRMINGHAM

"In the Spring time the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love,"

And you will need Dishes to commence housekeeping with.

See Those Dinner Sets

Corn Peas 3 for 25c

Tomatoes Extra Standards

All GOOD grades of goods. Stock large. Prices reasonable.

Spencer & Ferguson

SHOES GROCERIES FURNISHINGS

Disinfectants That Disinfect

Protect Your Animals KILL Those Pests

TOBACCO DUST

FOR Vermin on Horses Gattle Poultry or Sheep

Lee's Lice Powder

HESS & CLARK'S INSTANT LOUSE KILLER

In packages. Also all kinds of LIQUID DISINFECTANTS.

Druggist **Jas. W. Cobb** Grocer

Birmingham

H. B. Parks & Co.

Birmingham

Dealers in All Lines of

Farm Machinery

OLIVER SYRACUSE and MOORE

Weber and Columbus Wagons; Empire, Ontario and Dowagiac Drills; Binders; Mowers; Rakes; Gasoline Engines; Appleton Huskers and Grinders; Corn Planters; Manure Spreaders; Harrows; Drags; Rollers, Etc.

Buick and International Automobiles

Handsome Presents

See Our Beautiful Display of

Diamonds Watches Jewels Clocks Silverware and Cut Glass

We Save You 30 per cent on Woodward Ave. prices

THE QUALITY OF EVERY ARTICLE WE SELL IS FULLY GUARANTEED

THE ADOLPH ENGGASS JEWELRY CO.

Established 1865

Opposite Hudson's 22 GRATIOT AVE.

Only a few doors from Woodward Avenue

DETROIT

Do You Know

A. R. PARKS' Bone Grinder

Is running now day and night and thus now you can buy any quantity you may need at a price that is right. MARE HENS LAY. Ground Bone will do it.

A. R. PARKS.

JNO. D. RIKER, M. D.

Practice limited to EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT

PONTIAC, MICH.

H. F. Smith

Electrician

Estimates cheerfully given on all kinds electrical work.

WIRING FIXTURES BENCH REPAIRS

Phone No. 80

Royal Oak

MADAM STRYKER—Electrolysis, manicuring, shampooing, hair dressing, electric and vibratory face massage, electric scalp treatments, hair dyeing and bleaching, colored articles, hair manufacturing, wigs, puffs, pompadours and doll wig made from human hair, corns removed without pain, bones and ingrowing nails treated. Daily block, Room E. 2nd Floor, 222 Corner Saginaw and Huron Streets, Pontiac.

FOLEY'S HONEY-STAR

For children's tooth pain. Use instantly.

Globe Housecleaning Co.

Dickinson & Harris

Will do your work as usual. Leave orders now, before the rush.