BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878 by Whitehead & Mitchell)
sed every Friday at Birmingham, Michigan, in The Eccentric B
128-128 North Weedward Avenue. Telephones 11 and 12GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher

ed as Second-Class matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Mich.

All newspaper and advertising, "copy" must be in The Eccentric Office by Wednesday noon of each week.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1925

MODERN CYNICISM

Back 2000 years ago there was a tribe of Greek Back 2000 years ago there was a tribe of Greek philosophers who taught that civilization is a curse, and that satisfaction is obtained only by gratifying sensual appetites. Their tribe has continued with modifications down to the present. Henry Ward Beecher defined them as people who could never see a good quality or who never fall to see, a bed one.

fail to see a bad one.

If a movement is started for a good cause, or someone proposes some plan of social or political reform, such people see some sinister motive behind it, and think that someone is trying to make money out of it or gain advance-

someone is trying to make money out of it or gain advance-ment for himself.

The tynical element generally deny that the world is making progress, and they think that while civilization brings material gains, it does not add to happiness or pro-duce moral improvement. Many of them feel it is no age to advocate any movement to abolish wars, since human nature will in the future be about the same as it has been in the past, and as nations have always fought each other in past ages, they will do so indefinitely. The world, according to them, is running around in a certain tread-

according to them, is running around in a certain treatmill that produces motion, but gets as nowhere.

No matter how cynical any of us feel, no one of us
wants to go back to barbarism or to ancient times, and
throw away the finer spirit and more generous humanityof these days. On every hand one can find evidence of
philanthropy and good feeling which never existed 100
values and

years ago.

All moders towns have their cynics. There are some in Birminsham. They deery and depreciate many suggestions and efforts for improvement. If we lister to them we shall get nowhere. But any city and any sounty that has faith in they possibility of better things and will work for them! can gain them to a large extent.

ADVENTUROUS YOUTH

Some think American youth is headed toward de-terioration. The noted preacher, Rev. Dr. Harry Fosdick of New York, evidently does not share that idea. Return-ing from a recent visit to Harvard university, he told his congregation that he was more enthusiastic than ever over "this splendid, bewildered, aliventurous, hopeful genera-tion."

"this splendid bewildered, attenturous, hopeful generation."

The more thoughtful young folks are dissatisfied with the world as it has been, and have a willingness to take some changes in the effort for better things. Whether, they are any more unselfish than the former generation remains to be proved. But at least they will not cling to the old ruts, if they see an opportunity to escape into smoother going.

Their older friends may be disturbed at times because this spirit of adventure leads them to take chances. They may give up a steady job and strike off into some new opening, where people of the older generation would have blodded along in the accustomed paths.

They do not seem to fear defeat as the older people did. They are willing to be knocked down a few times.

did. They are willing to be knocked down a few times, rather than to miss what seem to them to be real opportunities. They look at the world as a kind of game in tunities. They look at the world as a kind of game in which they must take their turn at some poor hands, but they have confidence that eventually they will come out

ahead.

If this spirit is accompanied with a desire to be of This spirit is accompanied with a desire to be of service to the world, and does not concentrate on search for money and power, it ought to be very useful. The older people have no doubt been too fearful of change, too reluctant to run risks of defeat, so that they often missed opportunities of enlargement. One can't help feeling that a lot of these foung people are going to do very big things, with their earnestness and lack of fear.

MAGNIFICENT GENEROSITY

Everyone who is interested in social progress must have been made happy by the announcement a short time ago that two men of great wealth, James B. Duke and George Estaman, had made public giftsiaggregating \$55, 990,000, mostly to educational purposes. It is impossible to form any conception of the benefit that will come to the

country by this superb offering.

Thousands of young people, who otherwise would have accomplished but little, will be enabled to develop have accomplished but little, will be enabled to develop, their latent talents. They will go on to fine actievement, with happiness for themselves and blessings to the com-munity. These graduates of the institutions thus assisted will be centers of inspiration and good citizenship. They will spread enlightened ideas in the communities where

they settle.

The principles that they help to communicate will help in lifting up the masses of the people and will turn them away from false ideas and low standards, and en-courage higher and more intelligent aims.

fourage higher and more intelligent aims.

Mr. Eastman, in his statement accompanying his wonderful gift, made the vary significant remark that "for some time past the accumulation of money personally has lost its importance to me." Yet that has not led him to abate his zeal or energy for his business. His first aims have become the continued success of his business, and promotion of the welfare of the people who work for him.

him.

When a man of great wealth takes that point of view, he has reached a level far above that of ordinary money getting. He ought to be very much happier than those who simply earn money for their own benefits. Such an example ought to say to many other men of great wealth, that they would increase their own personal happiness and create a name for themselves that would be forever remembered, if they would "go and do likewise."

SNOW

Oh, lovely snow, so white and sparkling, Like living gems of crystal sand. You fall from heaven like tiny feathers And turn the earth to fairyland.

You change the meanest little hovel Into a palace. Everything With charm and beauty rare you cover. Enchantment to the earth you bring.

Each child adores you, loves you truly.
With joyous shout and laughter gay.
They toss you, roll you, revel in you.
To them you bring a happy day.

A sleigh-ride lures the grown-up children, With jingling bells and prancing team. Their happy hearts and smiling faces With perfect joy and radiance beam.

The shut-ins from their chamber windows
Gaze out upon a world so white,
And pure and clean and bright and shining.
To marvel at so fine a sight.

Oh, lovely snow, so pure and dazzling,
Like diamonds strewn on every hand.
You clothe the earth in wondrous beauty
And turn it into fairy land.

—Beatrice McDonago.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

ust Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The terms That Make Up the Historical Background Of the Birmingham Of Today

Last Saturday aftermoon, the resistant of the northeast quarter of Last Saturday aftermoon, the resistance of James Sharp, studed about law steps. The studence of James Sharp, studed about law Steysus, containing statistics (46) and the gravel, together with nearly all off of the morphast quarter of Settini twenty of the cause of the blaze is unknown. The cause of the blaze is unknown. The cause of the blaze is unknown fast the stranger of the statistic of the blaze is unknown. The statistic of the blaze is unknown. The statistic of the northeast quarter of the statistic of the statistic of the northeast quarter of the statistic of the statistic of the northeast quarter of the statistic of the statistic of the northeast quarter of the statistic of the statistic

The Prints of the Amount.

The property was insured, but have not learned the amount.

On last Fridag evening; the Senior class presented "Tony the Convict."

1134-8 Ford Building.

11-42 to a crowded house. The drama was a very literesting, one, and plainly strate of MCHIGAN—The Probate Court in any or every form, brings ruin to those who practice it.

Those who practice it.

Problems STATE DP MICHIGAN—The Probate Court in the Court of Octions of the Court of Octions of the Court of Court, or the Court of Position. In said court, or the Court of Position. In said court, or the Court of Position. The Probate Court in the City of Position. In said court, or the Court of December 1. The Court of Co

"Pink Tea", at St. Jarues church, served the served the served the served the served by the pink and white maidean.

By request, "Tony the Convict" will be with us one week from tonor-ow (Saturday evening). Everylogy go, Admission, only lbc.

Reverylogs and the served the se

will be with us one week from converore (Saturdays evening). Everyflody review, snambs and adjust all claims and court and adjust all claims and court and adjust all claims and catches the present and adjust all claims and court and adjust all claims and catches the property of the control of the court and adjust all claims and adjust and adjust and adjust and adjust and adjust all claims an

seems as though everybody, who save a seem as though everybody, who save a farm for sale this spring, is in a big burry about it. Well, that looks as if they are auxiliariated and seems of the save auxiliariated and are the closely auxiliariated and seems of the save auxiliariated and are the closely interest of this kind due to closely interest of this kind of the closely interest of this kind of the Color Robert's farm, which is offered for sale at \$70 per acre, fifty-two issues for \$1.50 adv34.355

WE HEARD IT SAID BY

Harold W. Sadler, editor Oskland 1924 licenses from other states. The law requires if you go into another state, that you must have your 1925 plate; but ears from Mississippi Massachusetts and M.

Recessary.

Burton P. Daighbriy, county clerk
"I would like very much to see the little to the present county building cleared up, so that, when the proper time comes, the property could be sold and the money used to defray most of the cost of erecting another court boase. Only the county for many years to cone."

The county for many years to cone."

Here, S. Ser, villeer manager, see the little was the county for many years to cone."

Harry S. Starr, village manager; am in accord with the belief that

residence of Mr. Higby, by the Rev.

so as to exclude the air. The newsMr. Stevenson of Frankin, assisted,
by the Rev. Mr. Sparling of Farming,
hythe Rev. Mr. Sparling of Farming,
hyther Rev. Mr. Spar Mrs. Leigh Lynch, President of the ocal branch of the A. A. U. W One of the finest things that has

By Frank T. K

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