#### BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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## WHAT AND WHO ARE BOYS AND GIRLS?

Next week Birmingham and vicinity is going to be asked to make its annual contribution to the local Y. M. C. A. It we stop to analyze the situation, flest we become "tired of drives for money") we will find that the kind of stuff the Y. M. C. A. gives out is merely intellectual guidance for our boys and girls; it provides a stimulus to the making of moral and physical growth in our young. Life is continued by the daily replenishment of the

necessities that enter into its composition; we must eat every day, keep the furnace filled with new coal, purchase new goods when the old wear out—so why shouldn't we expect to replenish the coffers that finance the

Y. M. C. A.?

Here's a little idea of what any boy (or girl) may be made into—you've probably read it before, but it won't do any harm for you to replenish your memory again with:

What Is A Boy?

He is a person who is going to carry on what you have

Here to sit right where you are sitting and attend to those things you think are so important when you are

You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out depends upon him. Even if you make leagues and treaties, he will have

to manage them.

He is going to sit at your desk in the Senate, and occupy your place on the supreme bench.

He is going to move in and take over your prisons,

churches, schools, universities and corporations.

All your work is going to be judged and praised or condemned by him.

Your reputation and your future are in his hands.
All your work is for him, and the fate of the nation
and of humanity is in his hands.
So it might be well to pay him some attention.

#### THE MEANING OF YOUR "HOME TOWN"

In the smoking compartment of a Pullman not very long ago a man told his fellow travelers a great many good things about his, home town. Indeed, he told so many that one of his fellow travelers thought he would visit that itown and, if he found it as represented, would move his business there. In due season the traveler did visit that town and on returning to his city office observed that the representative of the town whom he had met on the train "had drawn on his imagination tremendously." He may have and he may not have-it all depends on the view-

To the resident it may have been an ideal town; to To the resident it may have been an ideal town; to the stranger it may have lacked many things which he regarded as essential. To the resident, substantial well to do people living in comfortable homes with plenty of breathing space about them, having gardens and shrub-bery, with a community center building, and just enough industry to give opportunity for livelihood, it may have been desirable. On the other hand, its unpaved streets, lack of street cars, theaters, and so on, may have stamped lack of street cars, theaters, and so on, may have stamped the town to the city man as undesirable for home or busi-ness. The one lived there, perbaps all his life; while the other could only exist there without the excitements and pleasures to which he had been accustomed, though in the great city where he lived he did not know even his next door neighbor.

But beyond these things there may have been other reasons, and one of them may be this—the resident had helped make the town what it is; the other had no sentiment in the matter whatspever, simply a cold calculated estimate. Men who create take pride in their creations. Good home-makers are generally good town-makers, because they want good homes in good towns. They have public spirit, civic pride, and loyalty, because when men work together for the common good they stick together for greater progress. Men iri small towns know what they have accomplished; those who live in large cities have to guess at what they have done—too many find little op-portunity to do anything, so engrossed are they with their own private business. There's a reason why the one has sentiment while the other has none.

Of course, in all towns as well as in all cities there are men who can talk biggest when they are away from home where they are not known. Generally these are men who

men who can talk biggest when they are away from home where they are not known. Generally these are men who shirk duty and dodge responsibility, hever contributing as they should to community progress. There are, too, in both towns and cities men who will not go along unless they can see some special personal benefit to accrue from the efforts they are asked to make. Some one has said, it takes all kinds of people to make a world, and this is true of cities and towns which go to make up the world.

But in spite of all this it still remains a fact that a man's home town, the town that he has helped to make, to develop, and to beautify, is to him all he thinks it is. To others to whom he may be describing it, he may seem to draw on his imagination; to the man who has, no sentiment he may seem to be over-enthusiastic, but really he isn't.

This country needs more men from home towns, men who will sound the advantages of living in the small village, with its little industry, its freedom from annoyances, its comforts, and delights. And this country needs more home towns, attractive enough in every way to keep within them the young men and women who, fired by ambition to become wealthy, finally feel that they must try their tuck in our great cities. For it is these home towns which are, really the backbone of the country, because in them dwell people who have time to read and think and figure jout their duty and obligation to the state and nation; because in them they of ideals leads them to take positions on the cause in them there is a moral atmosphere which breathed by people of ideals leads them to take positions on the

great questions of the day invariably in promotion of the

true welfare of the people as a whole.

Home towns! Let's have more of them; men from home towns, more of them. The country needs both.

#### MAKES SPRING NERVES TINGLE

The first garden catalogue arrived during the cold spell and the last a few days ago, making seven all told. Their pictured glories include magnificent roses (there are several new kinds offered this year) and stupendous vegetables (there is a new, large tomato this year, not yet named), acres of gladioll (the "ruffleds" form the largest class this season), and scores of fancy shruts from honey-suckle to lilac, deutzia and the familiar spirea.

There is a new rambler, and of course those you put in last season will bloom this. They do well here, while for some reason the nasturtiums and sweet-peas don't always flourish in Birmingham. But the ragged sailors do and a whole army of other fine and friendly flowers, to be grown from seed.

and a whole army of other fine and friendly flowers, to be grown from seed.

Yes, this is only the threshold of February, but now is the time to plan your garden. March—April—May—oh, well, the day's will soon be open to potter about a little, and clear away the wind-accumulated debris of winter. Shall it be vogetables this year—and to what extent? That is always a vital question. Even the most trifling gardener expects to grow a bit of lettuce, down by the rhubarb clump which grows itself. Tomatoes, too—save a decent space for the tomato plants.

Perhais you will change your mind by spring and

Perhaps you will change your mind by spring and turn your yard into a putting green; or keep a dog. But never mind, ponder the rosy catalogues and plan the gar-It's great stuff for February days.

# FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS-of Long Ago

Just Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Un the Historical Background Of the Birmhygham Of Today

Mrs. C. B. Turner will deliver a gives a sight clue to their identity for select readings at Library Hall and Jule is in hopes that the Aulty Friday evening. Mrs. T. is the wife parties eventually may be discovered of the delivery of the period of the powers.

25 YEARS AGO

#### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

probe regarding the possible forevers by the regarding the possible forevers and the foreverse f

mobile tire I fail to see how any willage lot owner can well afford not be most an extra mental to the results of the control of the presence of trees on business streets, however, it must be remembered that when the trees are entirely surrounded by pavement, and welfare of the trees is a precarrious proposition. If it is a question between cutting down a few trees with traffic or to maintain the trees and endanger the lives of our citizens and guests I would not hesitate long to condemn the trees. By this statication of the control of the

sate the village, and it is readily again. In recent issues of your paper 1 within the village to take care of the poole regarding the possible removal of trees from certain streets in Birmigham.

Skielan Bellow and it is readily again that a provision must be made within the village to take care of the color of trees from certain streets in Birmigham.

RALPH I. CORYELL.

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of the peditor of the Portiac Gaette, and is quite a local celebrity as a reader of rare powers.

The following new books have been added to the Ladies' Library's will be the part of the post week.

The following new books have been added to the Ladies' Library's will decorate to Miss Sixt's and Miss Foots, of Device Days, "Ben Hur, "Boys of '61," "The Building of the Nation, "James," Maried: "And an Dollymine "Qui I lantation Days."

Married: "Add and Dollymine "Qui I lantation Days."

Married: At the residence of the bride's parents, Wednesday, February 12, C. E. Badges and the bride's parents, Wednesday, February 12, C. E. Madge and the great of her bride's parents, Wednesday, February 12, C. E. Madge and also methods of many the good of his sister, Mrs. P. Blakeslee visited at ypailing the properties of the post of the containing about five acres of office, containing about five acres office, containing about five acres of office, containing about five acres of the containing acrea of the containing acrea of the containing acrea of the containing

#### Wife and Husband Both Ill With Gas

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Second Floor, First State Bank Bldg. NORTH WOODWARD AVENUE

(Signed) Martha Dewey Wilson

Bloomfield Township Treasurer.