

BLUNDERS THAT COST.

Von Moltke's History Shows How Many Lives Were Thrown Away

DURING THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR

Mistakes of the Red Prince and the Importance of Caution.

WOLSELEY AFTER THE TRANSLATORS

The third and last of Lord Wolseley's letters, reviewing Von Moltke's book of the Franco-German war, secured especially for THE DISPATCH, appears below:

In the short space which remains to me I only propose in this article to deal with the earlier part of the Franco-German war. I shall endeavor to select from what Von Moltke has written about it, those comments in which he deals with those debatable questions on which the Staff History is silent, or has not ventured to criticize or to pronounce upon authoritatively.

At the battle of Mars la Tour, as every military student knows, the Third German Army Corps under Alvensleben, with two divisions of cavalry, held the whole French army at bay. Seven hours of hard fighting were endured before any assistance arrived. In the evening, just before dark, Prince Frederick Charles reached the battlefield and assumed command. Before that time, the Tenth Corps had also arrived upon the ground, and some other reinforcements had been received, but no more could be expected or desired was to retain the advantages already gained. Yet the Red Prince ordered a general attack upon the whole French front by the very inferior force then at his disposal.

One of the Mistakes of the War.

This was undoubtedly a serious blunder, and the mode in which Von Moltke conveys to his reader that he thought so, is eloquent but unmistakable. He describes the fearful losses the German troops had sustained in officers, men and horses, the exhausted condition of those who remained, and their great difficulty in maintaining the fight, and in holding the French Army where it then was. He says, "The result of this ill-judged challenge the very superior forces of the enemy by a renewed attack, and when no further reinforcements were to be hoped for, placed in a most unfavorable position, and gained at such a cost." Nevertheless, about 7 P. M., an order of the Headquarters of the Second Army (decreed a renewed and general advance upon the enemy's position, which Von Moltke describes the unfortunate and fruitless result of this attempt, already so well known, but not clearly indicated in the "Official History."

Again, further on, hitting the Red Prince with still more directness, he thus comments upon the movements which immediately preceded the Battle of Gravelotte: "As the Commander in Chief of the Second Army ordered the Twelfth Corps to form the extreme left of that army, although it was then on its right, a considerable delay occurred through the confusion of the columns." The result of this ill-judged order was that the Guard Corps was not able to advance until nearly 9 o'clock A. M. This was a serious mistake, and it might have been a disastrous-bearing upon the issue of the battle, fought, as it was, under such peculiar conditions.

A Peculiarity of the Battle.

The reader must remember that in this, the greatest battle of the war, the best sides fought with their backs to their enemy's country. The German army, moving into position from the south, had to form line to its right by successive Army Corps. It was consequently of the utmost importance that this line should be formed with the least possible loss of time. The orders for this battle were issued at 2 A. M., and it was light enough to have moved easily at 3 A. M. A delay of six most important hours followed upon this definite mistake on the part of Prince Frederick Charles.

But if Count von Moltke is ready to point out the errors of others, he is equally prepared to find fault with himself. He tells us it was a mistake on his part to have allowed the German 2nd Army Corps, which only reached the field of battle late in the evening to attack when it did. The hour was too late to admit of any useful result from such an attack then, and the services of such an Army Corps in fact would have been invaluable the following day.

He does not record with equal clearness his opinion upon the causes of the other disasters which befell the Germans in this battle. He assumes these causes are now very generally well known, and he evidently does not wish to write anything that might be distasteful in very high quarters. This is very natural, but when Roy's sonnets hold commands in the field, they must expect to have their conduct and actions as closely criticized by those who write upon the war as would be the orders of Generals Smith or Jones. The verses of the Royal rhymist which will not scan, can no longer be accepted as poetry.

What Von Moltke Might Have Told.

There is, however, a graphic description of the terrible repulse experienced by the Ninth Corps, with which the battle began. Besides the battery that was directly attacked by the French infantry, he tells us all the remaining batteries were by 2 P. M. almost incapable of taking any effective part in the fighting. He is very reticent as to the causes of this disaster, and his reticence on the point is very much to be regretted. Neither does he tell us anything regarding the circumstances which led to the retirement of General Steinmetz. It is commonly reported to have grown out of a quarrel between that gallant old soldier and Prince Frederick Charles. He certainly seems to lean rather toward the side of General Steinmetz and against that of the Prince. Earlier in this work, he notices, what is well known to all students of this war, that during the movements which preceded the battle of Spicheren, Steinmetz had pushed his troops into a much more advanced position than had been intended for him, and that some serious overlapping and crossing of brigades, etc., was the consequence. Here, in describing the attack made by the Eighth Corps from Gravelotte toward St. Hubert, the Quarries and the Mosow farm, where such enormous losses were incurred, he casually mentions that the attack was ordered by Steinmetz. To him he also attributes the subsequent advance of the First Cavalry division and four batteries over the very narrow defile formed by the road as it there crosses the Mosow river. But he almost implies that the latter movement, if mistaken, as it was certainly unfortunate, was yet a very natural one under the circumstances.

The Defenses Left to Steinmetz.

Taking the view which is implied in Von Moltke's works as to the responsibility for what happened, any friend of Steinmetz would be able to make out a very good case for him. The orders given to Steinmetz were not to seriously attack the French left until the second army was in a position to close upon Bismarck's right. But, in the pursuit of the Red Prince, Steinmetz was responsible for the unnecessary waste of life incurred by his beginning the attack too soon, the reply is obvious; Steinmetz could not be expected to know anything of the six hours' delay occasioned by His Royal Highness' orders for the Twelfth Corps to form the extreme left of his army, to which I have just referred. Steinmetz could not, therefore, be expected to calculate upon such unexpected and unnecessary slowness of movement on the part of the rest of the second army under Prince Frederick Charles. He naturally calculated it had marched at an ordinary pace over the distance to be traversed, and when he attacked, he did so under the justifiable assumption that it must have long before

reached a position opposite the French right, which was then believed, at army headquarters, to be no further north than Monday.

Then, again, it must be remembered that, at noon, General Steinmetz, hearing the very heavy firing at Verneville, naturally concluded the Second Army had then reached the French right, and was already closely engaged with it. He was, however, warned by the King's headquarters not to take this firing of itself as a signal for his attack. But yet, if accused of beginning his attack on the French left too soon, he might fairly plead in defence of the hour when he began it, that his calculations as to when the attack on the second army on the French right would begin to tell, had been thrown out six hours by the Prince's unexpected orders to the Twelfth Corps.

Another Mistake of the Crown Prince.

Von Moltke, however, acquits him of blame, and says the French General owed his escape to the recall, by order of the Crown Prince's headquarters, of the two cavalry divisions which had been detailed to pursue him. This order of recall had been issued without due reflection. A report had been received from Rheims that the French were there in force, and in great haste it was accepted as true. This is a most interesting point to all who have ever had to quickly weigh the value of reports received in the field, and to plan operations upon their appreciation and their reading of them. I know of nothing more difficult in the many responsibilities which fall to the lot of a commander. The greatest coolness of head and clearness of vision, knowledge of your enemy, and the most intimate and thorough appreciation of the topography, is required. So many of even the best staff officers are often carried away by the circumstantiality of the evidence forthcoming to prove some report, such a large proportion of officers seem to recognize and obtain reliable information are disposed to magnify the forces of the enemy which they encounter, or see at a distance, that a very judicial mind indeed is required to duly weigh what they are told, even upon "the best authority." And yet success in war depends very much upon being able to discover or divine, not only the enemy's actual movements, but his objects, plans and intentions. Without this gift, for gift it is, no man can ever be successful as an independent leader in the field.

Castro's Characteristic of Von Moltke.

In the instance referred to, the over-readiness with which this report was believed at the Crown Prince's headquarters, is a striking contrast to the great caution with which Von Moltke accepted the information he obtained of MacMahon's Notherly movement towards Metz. It was not until his mind was positively assured about it that he ordered the great change of direction in the march of the German armies which finally cut off MacMahon from Metz, and which led to the battle and capitulation of Sedan. Von Moltke does not draw attention to this contrast, but it is a very interesting one, and it is very instructive. It may possibly suggest to some who have not considered the point before, an explanation, if not a defence, of the information he received the first news of Napoleon's march upon the allied armies at the opening of the Waterloo campaign.

WOLSELEY.

THERE will be a special sale of fancy articles and fine linen work suitable for Christmas, on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 24 and 25; and of cakes, pies, puddings, croquettes, etc., to be held Wednesday, November 25, for Thanksgiving at The Woman's Exchange, 628 Penn. avenue.



The old soldiers of this vicinity are very indignant over some remarks attributed to Warden Michael J. Cassidy, of the Eastern State Penitentiary. The feeling has reached such an extent that a movement has been started to effect Warden Cassidy's removal from office. Several Grand Army posts have passed resolutions, and the following from Colonel John B. Clark Post 162, of Allegheny, is a sample:

"WHEREAS, On September 30, while visiting the Western Penitentiary, Michael J. Cassidy, Warden of the Eastern State Penitentiary, without just cause or provocation denounced the soldiers of the late war as thieves and robbers; said that the pension laws were a fraud on the Government, the soldiers having went out for the money there was in it, and that the Government did not owe them a cent, and made other remarks unfit for publication and unworthy of any citizen of this great State, and especially one holding the high and honorable position of said Cassidy; and

Whereas, While it is true the Government, in finding us board and clothes and paying \$13 per month, carried out its part of the contract, no honest man supposes or says that it was by these means the great armies of loyal citizens were raised to march, fight and perchance die, that the Government might not perish from the face of the earth; and

Whereas, While the men who for love of country, leaving behind all that men hold dear, thronged to the field and stood as a mighty barrier between the armed foe and the nation's life, enduring hardships, privations and death uncomplainingly; this loud-mouthed braggart, who in these latter days dares to assail the men who did what he lacked the moral courage to do, was enjoying the comforts of home, the pleasures of society and friends, his life and limbs in perfect safety behind the prison walls of the Cherry Hill Penitentiary, in the city of Philadelphia, as Warden, which position he has held continuously until the present time; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the fact that this man, holding such opinions, and expressing them in language common with the rabble, is permitted to fill this office is a disgrace to the loyal citizens of this grand old Commonwealth, and a direct insult to the men who made it possible for him to live under the protection of the old flag, and that we hereby enter our solemn protest against the further continuance of this man in public office.

Mr. Cassidy was written to concerning his alleged utterances with the following result:

EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY, PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 17.

To the Editor Sunday Dispatch:

Your kind letter of the 16th reciting the action of the soldiers of Pittsburg on Wednesday, November 21, and of cakes, pies, puddings, croquettes, etc., to be held Wednesday, November 25, for Thanksgiving at The Woman's Exchange, 628 Penn. avenue, was received this morning. In reply will state that a short time ago I received a letter through Chaplain Milligan from a prisoner in the Western Penitentiary with papers to be filled up and verified by me, making

claim for pension on rheumatism. This man had served a 13 years' sentence in this prison and was discharged last November. He was by shortly afterwards convicted of robbery and sent to the Western Penitentiary. I returned the papers to the Chaplain stating the man was a fraud, that he had not complained while on the farm that the Government had paid him all he was worth and that there are a number of such persons in this prison receiving and applying for pensions.

"To this class of pensioners I referred, and had no reference to soldiers or the Grand Army of the Republic. The men who served the country in time of peril are justly entitled to every consideration from their fellow men, and no one has more regard and veneration for the men that stood up for the cause in which I was earnest, decided and positive partisan than

"Yours respectfully,
"MICHAEL J. CASSIDY."

Commander Boyer's Official Visit.

The visit of Department Commander Boyer and staff to Western Pennsylvania will commence on Monday, December 7. The visit will be in Pittsburgh on Wednesday, December 9, when a grand camp fire will be held in Old City Hall. Camp fires will be held in Greensburg on Thursday, in New Brighton on Tuesday, in Butler on Thursday and in Conneville on Friday, at which Department Commander Boyer and his staff will be present. These will be grand rallies for the territory surrounding the place of the Executive Committee.

These facts were brought out at a meeting of the Executive Committee on Monday, December 7, at the Pension Office on Friday evening. The committee will hold another meeting at the Pension Office next Wednesday evening to make further arrangements for the Department Commander's visit. Commanders of Allegheny county posts are requested to assemble with the committee on that evening.

At Friday night's meeting the Chairman was instructed to use his influence with the National Council of Administration to have the date of the Washington encampment changed to an earlier date than September 8. The general feeling in this locality is that the encampment should be held on August 31.

Grand Army Gossip.

Post 206's Washington Club is flourishing.

COMRADE F. J. WHEELER of Post 162, is slowly improving.

COMRADE L. WATERS, of Post 206, visited Post 88 last Tuesday.

COMRADE JOSEPH B. EATON, of Post 5, has been on the sick list for two weeks.

COMRADE D. A. JONES, of Post 161, was nominated for chaplain last Tuesday evening.

COMRADE JOSEPH W. MORGENTHAU, of Post 154, was a visitor of Post 167's meeting Thursday night.

NOMINATIONS will be made by Post 88 next Tuesday, when an interesting time is expected.

POST 181, of Braddock, has donated \$10 to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument fund of Mead's post.

COMRADE W. L. MCCORMICK, of 88, residing on California avenue, was reported seriously sick last Tuesday.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JOHN BRAUN, of Post 157, will be elected Commander for next year without opposition.

All the comrades were greatly grieved at Adjutant General McClelland's illness, and hope he will soon be well.

COMRADE D. A. JONES yesterday received his commission as an aide de camp on the staff of the Commander of Post 167.

ANOTHER application was read at Post 489's meeting last night a week. Nominations will be made next Saturday.

POST 127 will hold no meeting next Thursday, it being Thanksgiving. Nominations will be continued to Thursday a week.

POST 126, at its last meeting, passed a resolution thanking Warden Meales for the appointment of a soldier to a position in the jail.

POST 88 last Tuesday adopted resolutions of condolence and sympathy with the family of the late senior Vice Comrade Robert Harper.

The first Sunday in January, 1892, has been fixed upon by Post 88 for the holding of memorial services in memory of the dead of the year.

C. J. WILLIAMS wants the comrades who went the gun at the rifle to come and get

the prize at his home at Marshall. Tickets 100 won the shooting iron.

The musical and literary entertainment of the ladies' auxiliary to Post 480, given at Vaughan's Hall, Bloomfield, last night, was the success that was anticipated.

NOMINATIONS commenced last week. They will be continued next week, and by some posts into the first meeting night in December, when the elections will be held.

The Thanksgiving evening reception of Camp Sons of Veterans, will be a very enjoyable affair. Toerge will play and Caterer Luther will serve the refreshments.

On Wednesday evening Past Deputy Commander Denison, Pension Agent Benough, and Thomas J. Sample attended the memorial volume presentation of the Sharon Post.

COLONEL H. M. REEHER, of the Sons of Veterans, returned from Reading last week. He reports a large gain in membership in the last six months. Twenty-three new camps have been mustered and several charters have been applied for.

Post 206 objects to the time set by the committee for the national encampment. The members favor holding the encampment in August, believing that more Grand Army people of their friends would be present than in the last of September.

Post 206 will give a Thanksgiving entertainment in the hall on Arthur street on Thursday next, commencing with a dinner at 12 M., to continue during the afternoon and evening. The Ladies of the G. A. R. have their first meeting on Thursday with refreshments; some good speaking and singing, with other music.

The ladies of Colonel John B. Clark Circle No. 11, Ladies of the G. A. R., will give another of their delightful balls, the first of this season, in the Cyclorama parlors, Tuesday evening, December 1. The following well-known ladies will vouch for the success of the affair: Mrs. W. S. Patterson, Mrs. James Davis, Mrs. Charles E. Sherrill, Mrs. W. T. Bradberry, Mrs. Jessie Deer, Mrs. E. G. Mason, Mrs. Austin Pearce, Mrs. E. A. Jones and Mrs. J. C. Schreiner.

LAST Tuesday, Clark Circle No. 11, Ladies of the G. A. R. Social, met at Mrs. E. Hunn's, 2001 North Avenue, East End, and had a delightful time. The ladies were in good luck at the home of Sister Sherrill and was doubly celebrated, it being the tenth anniversary of Sister Sherrill's wedding. Some handsome presents in tin were brought, and after the elegant lunch the evening was spent with music and last but not least a cake walk, in which all joined heartily.

COSTIVENESS

If not relieved by judicious and timely treatment, is liable to result in chronic constipation. As an aperient that may be used with perfect safety and satisfaction, Ayer's Pills are unsurpassed. Unlike most cathartics, these pills, while they relax and cleanse, exert a tonic influence on the stomach, liver, and bowels, causing these organs to perform their functions with healthy regularity and comfort. Being purely vegetable and free from mineral drug of any kind, they are attended with no injurious effects. Good for old and young of every climate, Ayer's Pills are everywhere the favorite. G. W. Bowman, 26 East Main street, Carlisle, Pa., says: "Having been subject, for years, to constipation, without being able to find much relief, I at last tried Ayer's Pills, and I deem it both a duty and a pleasure to testify that I have derived great benefit from their use. I would not willingly be without them."

Ayer's Cathartic Pills Every Dose Effective.

BEHOLD THE RESULT OF OUR ENORMOUS PURCHASE FOR SPOT CASH OF FURNITURE AND CARPETS!

We are enabled to offer these goods at prices so low as to defy all competition. It will pay you to come miles to indulge in the WONDERFUL BARGAINS now offered.

THESE :: PRICES :: WILL :: INTEREST :: YOU: FOR CLOSE BUYERS OF BEDROOM SUITS. FOR CLOSE BUYERS OF PARLOR SUITS. 38 Suits, 3 pieces, Oak or XVI. Century.....\$ 18 14 Suits, 3 pieces, Oak or XVI. Century.....\$ 15 80 Suits, 3 pieces, cheval dressed.....\$ 25 42 Suits, 3 pieces, Oak.....\$ 47 Also 8 other designs to choose from, ranging in price from \$12 to.....\$400

FOR CLOSE BUYERS OF 75 various designs in Dining Room Chairs, 50c to \$ 10 50 various designs Extension Tables, \$3 to.....\$ 50 100 handsome styles in Sideboards, oak or walnut, \$13 to.....\$250 60 patterns Hatracks, very rich and elegant, \$4 to \$225 25 patterns Folding Beds, \$20 to.....\$ 175 100 patterns Fancy Tables, 75c to.....\$ 15

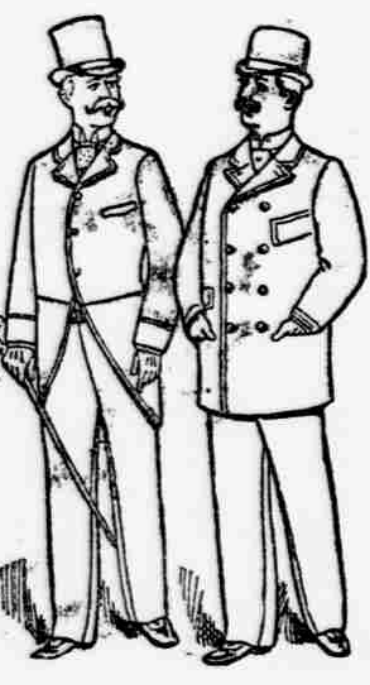
FOR CLOSE BUYERS OF CARPETS. RUGS. 1,000 yards 3-ply Ingrain.....70c 3,000 yards All-wool Extra Supers.....65c 500 yards Brussels.....50c 200 Smyrna Rugs.....\$1.25 to \$8 125 Moquette Rugs.....\$2 to \$10 75 Fur Rugs.....\$3 to \$8

LADIES' COATS, PLAIN AND FUR-TRIMMED. Terms, Cash or Credit, One Price. NOTICE—No discount allowed under any circumstances during this sale.

PICKERING'S, COR. TENTH ST. THE HOUSEFURNISHER, PENN AVENUE.

WE WILL TALK TURKEY!

WE WILL TALK TURKEY ALL THIS WEEK!



In a Thanksgiving offering of Men's Fine Suits. We are exhibiting a greater assortment than you'll have the time or patience to look at. Our stock, our variety, our styles, our prices are arresting the attention of the intelligent. Quick trade is the keynote and low prices the music of our talk about suits.

FROM NOW UNTIL THANKSGIVING We shall crowd every suit we possibly can down to the special price of

TWELVE DOLLARS!

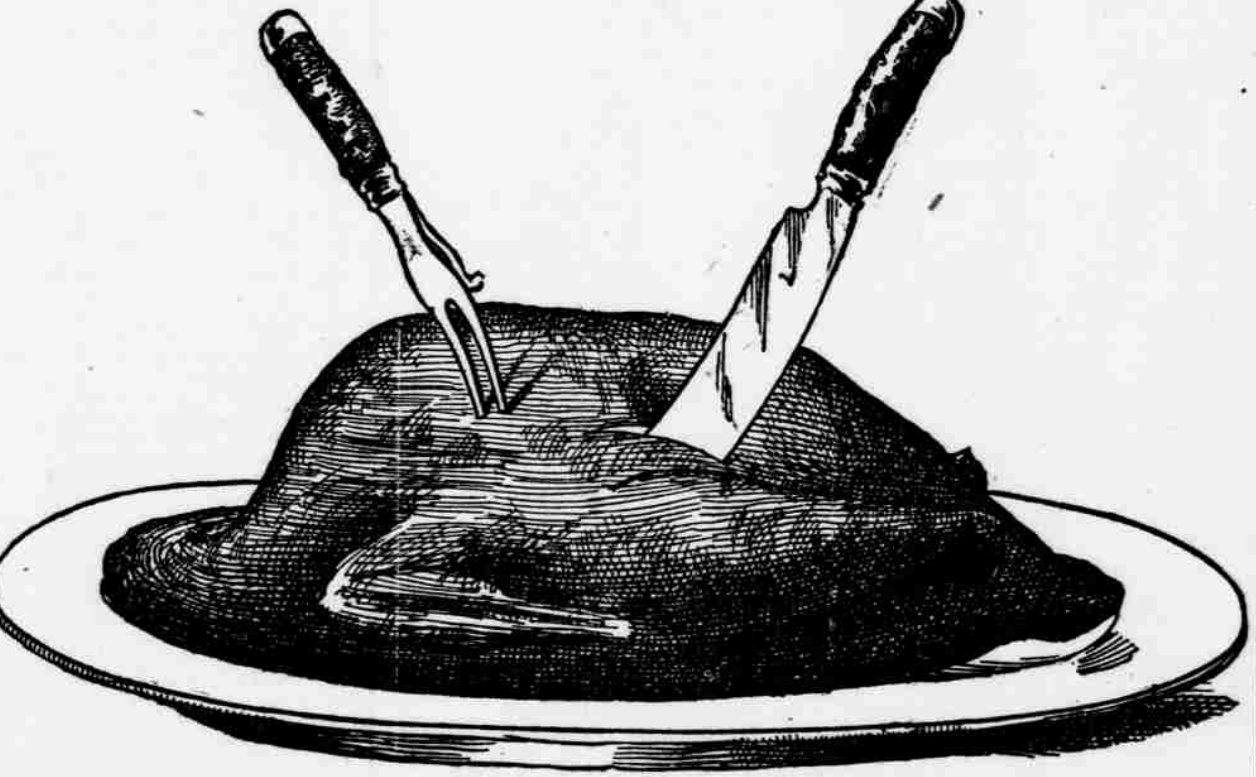
And at this price will show you a line of Sacks and Frocks the value of which, when seen, will speak louder than a whole page advertisement about them.

STORE OPEN THURSDAY, THANKSGIVING DAY, UNTIL NOON ONLY

GUSKY'S 300 TO 400 MARKET ST.

ON NEXT THURSDAY!

And we are going to talk it in our usual practical manner by distributing at our store on Thanksgiving morning 600 Turkeys to the many poor but deserving families of the two cities.



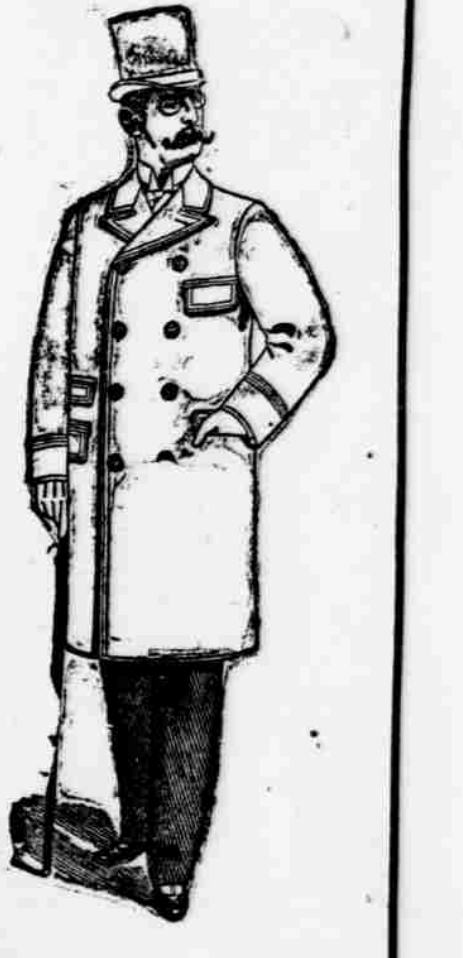
Those who desire to participate in this distribution will make early application for tickets to the following charitable associations: Pittsburg Association for the Improvement of the Poor, the Dorcas Society and the Ladies' Relief Society of Allegheny. The officers of these societies have kindly consented to distribute the tickets, without which the gift is not obtainable.

THANKSGIVING OFFERINGS:

In Boys' and Children's Clothing, Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Shoes, Shirts, Neckwear, Hosiery, Trunks, Satchels, and any quantity of other articles you need. YOU HAVE CAUSE TO GIVE THANKS That at least one store in this city offers you the best of goods at a minimum of cost. Not a cent's worth of trash here, not a dollar's worth of shoddy, but prime value in every financial transaction.

LET US TALK TURKEY JUST ONE MOMENT!

With you from the Overcoat standpoint. Welcome winter is here at last. It is probably come to stay. Now's the time that business in this line is a certainty with us. Many dealers take advantage of the brisk demand and put prices up to the highest point now, reducing them later on. We believe in selling you our goods cheap RIGHT NOW, when you most need them.



On the point of STYLE AND ECONOMY YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO BUY AN OVERCOAT OUTSIDE OF OUR STORE.

Ours are the best results of brains from designer to maker, and the most chronic critic can find nothing to criticize in any point.

STORE OPEN THURSDAY, THANKSGIVING DAY, UNTIL NOON ONLY

GUSKY'S 300 TO 400 MARKET ST.