

LETTER WRITTEN IN PONCE, PORTO RICO

STRANGE HAPPENINGS THERE ON EVACUATION DAY.

At Noon, When the Stars and Stripes Were Unfurled, the First Quarter of a New Moon Appeared Directly Over the Colors, and Beneath the Lower Point of the Moon a Single Star Appeared—Something About the First American Paper.

Several letters written by Sergeant (formerly corporal) W. E. Rafter, of Company I, First Regiment, United States Volunteer Engineer Corps, have been published in this Tribune to the great interest of his many friends and the numerous readers of the paper.

I should have answered yours of the 25th all before now, but I was down with malaria for a week and your letter was a great consolation to me. I can assure you, we have been ordered to pack all our personal effects and our personal effects and winter underwear this week.

It is amusing to go through our camp and see the messes the boys have gathered for the homeward trip. Donkeys, roach-backs, parrots, lizards and dogs and birds of a dozen different species.

We had a strange happening here on evacuation day. Exactly at noon when the colors were raised and the glorious Stars and Stripes were unfurled, the first quarter of a new moon appeared directly overhead and directly beneath the lower point was a most brilliant star as bright as any I have ever seen.

My gang of natives were very deeply impressed by the sight. A very impressive ceremony occurred last Monday evening after dress parade, when we presented Lieutenant Colonel Hughes with a handsome gold watch, the gift of the men in the ranks.

More Americans are noticeable on the streets every day. They seem to be in a hurry, and they are carrying money in their pockets. It is a sign that they are ready to go.

I have been promoted to sergeant and feel exceedingly proud of it as it also means an increase of \$6 per month. Our regiment is to go to Cuba.

The "Stars and Stripes Banner" is played every evening at dress parade and "The Stars and Stripes Forever" at grand manoeuvres, so the boys are feeling proud of "old Glory" than ever before.

Captain Higgins is noticeable on the streets every day. He is a very fine looking man and is very popular with the natives.

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Enclosed with his letter was a copy of the first American paper published in Porto Rico. The paper is styled "The Journal." A Daily American Paper is the sub-head, and the first number was issued in Ponce (city), Porto Rico, on November 5, 1898.

GENERAL DIRECTORY. On the first page, left-hand column, is found a general directory of Playa county, of Ponce, and Ponce City. The other two columns are full width advertisements of dealers in dry goods, groceries, etc.

THEY CURE STOMACH TROUBLES AND INDIGESTION ANYWAY, WHETHER YOU HAVE FAITH IN THEM OR NOT. Mere faith will not digest your food for you, will not give you an appetite, will not increase your flesh and strengthen your nerves and heart.

STUART'S DYSPEPSIA TABLETS. These things, because they are composed of the elements of digestion, they contain the juices, acids and pepsines necessary to the digestion and assimilation of all wholesome food.

THEY INVIGORATE THE STOMACH, MAKE PURE BLOOD AND STRONG NERVES, IN THE ONLY WAY THAT NATURE CAN DO IT, AND THAT IS, FROM PLINY'S WHOLESOME FOOD WELL DIGESTED. It is not what we eat, but what we digest that does us good.

THE TRUE STORY OF THE Confiding Woman, the Cynical Man and the Bearded Lady.

The scene is a comfortable sitting room. Mr. Lovegood is buried in a book and his wife is scanning the advertisements in the evening paper. Suddenly Mrs. Lovegood says: "Say! dear, in a voice that makes Mr. Lovegood almost drop his book. 'Well, what is it?' he says with a laugh, 'another real genuine bargain offer?' 'I don't know that you call it that,' she replies. 'But, yes, you do,' she continues, 'for it is a bargain offer of free medical advice.' 'Let's hear all about it, my dear,' says her husband. 'But

of one of the best medical institutions in the world. There's nothing new about this free consultation by letter, my dear, it has been a feature of Dr. Pierce's practice for years; in fact, for more than a quarter of a century. Write to him because you'll get the best advice and no string tied to it, so to speak.

"But," queried Mrs. Lovegood, "do you think even though Dr. Pierce is a qualified physician, and ranks so high as a specialist, he can treat disease by correspondence?" "I don't see why not," answered Mr. Lovegood. "Medical science is wheeling into line with everything else, and dropping the hocus-fucus of the middle ages. The 'divinity that hedged by the priest' is a thing of the past. A man is taken for what he is and what he can do. Of course, the members of the profession who are not specialists would naturally fight an in-

novation which took away their patients and their profits. But when a new idea makes for public good it can't be destroyed. They used to say no steamer could be built to cross the Atlantic. She couldn't carry coal enough. One prominent Englishman, the leader in the House of Commons, in the heat of a debate, declared that if ever any steamer crossed the Atlantic, he'd eat it, machinery and all. I take it that the objections to treatment by correspondence have as little foundation in fact as the objections to the possibility of steamships crossing the Atlantic.

"It reminds me of that story about the man who had been arrested for some offense. He sent for a lawyer, who, when he had heard the story, said: 'Why, man alive, they can't arrest you for that!'" "But," said the prisoner, "they've done it."

"It does not seem any use to argue about the possibility of being treated successfully by correspondence with Dr. Pierce when there are thousands of people in the world who have been successfully cured by Dr. Pierce and his staff of specialists."

"Then," said his wife, "it doesn't follow that any and everybody could treat successfully by correspondence. It is a movement in advance of ordinary practice, by those specially qualified who have given special study and special effort to some branch of medicine. Is that your idea?"

"Precisely, my dear," Mr. Lovegood answered, preparing for continued reading. "You have got the whole thing now. It isn't because some one advertises to give medical advice by correspondence that you can necessarily assume the advice will be valuable or helpful. Anybody can make such an offer. It is wise to go behind the promises and the claims made and see if they bear investigation. In Doctor Pierce's case the closer the examination of his claims and record the greater the confidence which he will inspire. Dr. E. V. Pierce is at the head of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y., a medical and surgical institution which in its scientific equipment, its laboratory, its staff of nearly a score of experienced physicians and surgeons and its variety of daily practice, is not a thing to be got by any medical institution in the country."

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He avers that he intended all along to return the property, but his wife continued sick and he could not leave her. The fact that he had promised to send back the horse and carriage if he could not return himself had escaped his mind.

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THE BEARDED LADY. An illustration from the advertisement showing a woman and a man in a domestic setting.

You know I'm a little dubious about your bargain. You seem so often turned out to be gossamer. Well, then, it's an offer by a woman (physician) to give free medical advice, by letter, and it says it's better to write to a woman because a man can't understand a woman, just because he's a man and it says, too, that it's just revolting to go to a man physician anyhow. And Mrs. Lovegood stopped because she was out of breath.

"I bet you," said her husband, "that the advertisement don't say she's a doctor, but a physician. 'Why, yes it does,'" said his wife as she looked at the advertisement. "Well, no, I guess it doesn't say she's a physician, but it means the same thing, for it says that 'it is a woman whose experience in treating women's diseases is greater than that of any living physician, male or female.' Mr. Lovegood chuckled and said: 'That's what I love about you, my dear. You are so ready to believe without question when there's a bargain in view. If you were a little fish, I'd catch you every time with a rubber worm. If I put a bargain sign above the hook—'

"Oh! do be serious for once," cried Mrs. Lovegood. "Then, to be serious," he replied, "this woman doesn't claim to be a physician. She would claim to be a physician, but she doesn't. She is trying to convey the impression in every other way than by a direct claim that she is a physician. She is not therefore a physician and can never have practiced medicine. Yet not being a physician and therefore never having practiced medicine, she claims to have had 'experience in treating women's diseases, greater than any living physician.' Now the question is, since she never practiced medicine, where did she get that experience?"

"Well, that is so," Mrs. Lovegood somewhat reluctantly admitted, "but then she is a woman. 'I'm not a sure about that even,'" said her husband. "It looks to me as if some man was 'working' the women with the 'bearded lady' act."

"You are too literal, my dear," said Mr. Lovegood. "What I mean by the 'bearded lady' act is that some man is posing as a woman, writing out a woman's signature or using a woman as a stalking horse, assuming a woman's character to mislead. The 'bearded lady' of the show is always a freak and generally a fraud. The point in this advertisement we are discussing is that they are asked to write to a woman, the implication being that the woman is competent to give and will give you qualified and valuable medical advice. But as it isn't specified that the 'woman' is a physician there's no infringement of the law. The man understands that there isn't a qualified doctor around the place, and the whole so-called 'medical correspondence' is done by a lot of girl clerks."

"Oh," Mrs. Lovegood interjected, "that's what it means then when they say that 'only women see the correspondence.'" "Exactly, my dear," continued her husband, "and suppose the woman in the advertisement is a real woman and not the 'bearded lady,' there's your dressmaker, who is also a woman, not to speak of Mrs. Flannigan, the cook's mother, who is a really excellent woman. If a woman's not a doctor, then one woman's as good as another and it's foolish going to a stranger hundreds of miles distant for the sympathy which friends at home can better supply. And as for a man not understanding a woman's diseases because he's a man, that is the cheapest sort of clapnet. Who have done the doctoring in the past two thousand years? The men. Where must the modern woman physician go for her knowledge? To schools taught by men and books written by men. If this woman, who claims men don't understand woman's diseases, should ever take to the study of medicine, she'd have to be taught everything she knew by the men who don't know anything according to her opinion. The problem is, how a man who don't know anything about woman's diseases can teach a woman to know everything about them. I give it up."

"Then you wouldn't write," said Mrs. Lovegood, doubtfully. "Write to a woman? What's the use of writing to a woman? If you want to write, write to a doctor. The first question in sickness is not a question of sex but a question of medical ability and qualifications. There's no sex in medicine, anyhow. If you want to write, why not write to a man of medical standing, a specialist like Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y. You know he's a regularly graduated doctor. You know he's a good one and at the head of a great medical institution. You know he's had thirty years' experience and has, with the aid of his staff of nearly a score of skilled specialists, treated more than half a million women, who freely confided in the integrity of the man and the skill of the physician. President Garfield once said of Dr. Pierce: 'He is one of the best men in the world, and he is at the head

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Christmas.

Christmas shoppers will find an interesting line of China and Glassware Novelties in our stock, from all parts of the world.

Dinner Sets, Chamber Sets, Tea Sets, China Clocks, Fern Dishes,



Jardiniere and Pedestals, Tobacco Jars, Pipe Racks, Etc.

Call and examine our stock. No trouble to show goods.

THE CLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO.

422 Lackawanna Avenue.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Just Received One of the Finest Selections of DIAMONDS

Fine Gold and Gold Filled Watches

In the city; also a full line of Solid Gold Rings, Pendant Chains and Sterling Silver Goods.

C. LUTHER

107 Wyoming Avenue.

CAMERAS AND KODAKS,

Bicycles, Skates, Sleds, Games, Sweaters, Athletic and Gymnasium Goods

For the Holidays.

A. E. Rogers' Jewelry Store

213 Lackawanna Avenue.

We are authorized agents for the Eastman Kodak Co., and carry a complete line of supplies for the amateur and professional photographer.

A Neat Pair of Slippers

Makes the Most Appreciated of Christmas Gifts. We have an elegant assortment, Prices From 49c Upward.

FLOREY & BROOKS

211 Washington Ave. Opposite Court House.

THIRD NATIONAL BANK OF SCRANTON.

Special Attention Given to Business and Personal Accounts. Liberal Accommodations Extended According to Balances and Responsibility.

Capital, \$200,000. Surplus, 400,000.

WM. CONNELL, President. HENRY BELIN, Jr., Vice Pres. WILLIAM H. PECK, Cashier.

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