LETTER WRITTEN IN

STRANGE HAPPENINGS THERE ON EVACUATION DAY.

At Noon, When the Stars and Stripes 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 The Tribune, to the great interest of his many friends and the numerous readers of the paper. Probably one of the most interesting written by him is one received by George Danforth, secretary in Hon-William Connell's coal offices, Connell building. Mr. Danforth has kindly consented to its use and it is printed herewith. It was mailed at Ponce, Porto Rico about Nov. 12, 1898, just previous to the regiment's departure for the states. Sergeant Rafter said:

I should have answered yours of the 28th all before now, but I was down with malaria for two weeks and your letter was a great consolation to me, I can as-sure you. We have been ordered to pack all our loose camp equipments for our homeward trip and expect the arrival of our overcoats and winter underwear this week. It seems too bad to go home now to cold America as I sleep here now without covering of any sort and it seems queer to read about blizzards, etc.

It is amusing to go through our camp and see the muscots the boys have gathered for the homeward trin. Donkeys, razorback hogs, parrots, lizards and dogs and birds of a dozen different species. I have a few souvenirs so far and will member you when giving them out. Have a large number of canes in the rough, consisting of twenty different kinds of un-tive woods. I will finish them up myself during my forlough.

STRANGE HAPPENING.

We had a strange happening here on evacuation day. Exactly at noon when the cannon rearest and the glorious Stars and Strices were unfurled on all public buildings, the first quarter of a new moon appeared directly overhead and directly beneath the lower point was a most brill-lay star as though suspended therefrom, It remained in sight several hours evok-ing much comment from all who were fortunate cough to witness it.

My gaing of natives were very deeply impressed by the sight. A very impress-ive ceremony occurred last Monday evening after dress parade whot we presented Licutenant Colone: Hodges with a bandsome gold watch, the gift of the men in the ranks, he consideration of many favors he has rendered for their benefit. He was so everyome with emotion that would have be the rendered for their benefit. be could lurdly retrain long enough to thank the lays for the sift. The official photographer took several views of the ceremony and we down it will be pro-duced in some paper are

More Americans are noticeable on the irrests every day. We have several American bake a here now and to say they are coining money is drawing it hight they can hardly supply the demand.

I have been tramped to sergeant and feel exceedingly proud of it as it also means on increase of 306 per month. Our bard rave an open air concert in the phase at Prize Triesday evening which was mirely excluded.

Was Elberg "Greatfed."
The "Stor Sociaged Hanner" is played feerly evening at dress parade and "The Stats and Strikes Forever" at guard mount, so the boys are feeling promeer of "Old Glery" than ever before.

BANQUET IN PHILADELPHIA

Captain Eugene Efficott and First List next J. George Morgan have invited th boys of Company I to a bannet in Phil-adelphia during their turlough, and I think all the Sc anton boys will accept a beast I will. Our officers have spared to mins in looking after the members of Company I at all times. Our captain has sailed for Washington, D. C., to submit his map of surveys of the island to the authorities. We, as a regiment, were highly complimented in a general order on General Brooks for the manner if which we performed our duties and in our apparatuse on the streets and in camp.

concludes his letter with a description of guard duty at the General hospital and commends the care of patients. It was at this hospital that the Scranton boys were cared for and all recovered. He also writes of having turkey for dinner Sundays and quaintly asks "if that is good treatment."

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. It is four-page sheet, 812 Inches by 12 inches in size and three (21/2 inch wide) columns to each page.

GENERAL DIRECTORY. On the first page, left-hand column

is found a general directory of Plays county, of Ponce, and Ponce City. The other two columns are full width advertisements of dealers in dry goods, groceries, etc. A "notice" on this page "Lost-My son, aged 12; will the American soldiers and others please notify me should any come across a white boy looking as one that has run He answers to Sixto Ruiz, (Signed) Bartolo Rodrigues, mayor of Guadeloupe." (This latter is the largest of the Leeward Islands and is a French colony. The boy probably was visiting in Ponce and got mixed up with the soldiers.)

The second page and part of third is

NO FAITH CURE

ABOUT STUART'S DYSPEPSIA TAB-LETS.

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, not increase your flesh strengthen your nerves and heart, but Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will do things, because they are composed of the elements of digestion, they contain the juices, acids and peptones necessary to the digestion and assimilation of all wholesome food,

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will diest food if placed in a jar or bottle in water heated to 98 degrees, and they will do it much more effectively when taken into the stomach after meals, whether you have faith that they will

They invigorate the stomach, make pure blood and strong nerves, in the only way that nature can do it, and that is, from plenty of wholesome food well digested. It is not what we eat, but what we digest that does us good. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by nearly all druggists at 50 cents for full sized package, or by mail from the F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

devoted to editorials, etc. Albert Cordova (not the one who used to be here) is proprietor, and Irvy Hart, editor, PONCE, PORTO RICO thereof. Subscription rates, \$6 per year, etc., and three cents per single copy being issued every day except Sunday. The leading editorial is a column in length and is signed by the proprietor

of the paper. It is headed "To the American Citizens," and deals with the paper's bow Were Unfurled, the First Quarter to the public and bid for consideration. Such announcements as "we must also of a New Moon Appeared Directly salute Generals G. W. Henry and Brooke," and "we hope to see this a prosperous country, etc.," are noted, After a discussion of his (the proprietor's) absence from Porto Rico for several years, and his return at this time, he says: "Today we feel happy when we see the streets crowded with Americans, etc." The article concludes with your kind assistance, we have no doubt that we will succeed in our enterprise.

LDITORIAL UTTERANCES. The other editorials are headed 'Americans in Porto Rico," "Our Intentions" (being four such), and "An Appeal to Our Citizens," One item headed "Personal" bears reproduction. "To General Henry: Out of patriotism and enthusiasm for progress, we offer our columns, free for any short gov-ernment notice, or any other short pullication by officials, that is for the benefit of the public at large." The remainder of the third page is devoted to short notes on Foreign and Local News, The fourth page is devoted to full-page

Anent first editions of American papers in our new far-off possessions,

advertising.

the following should also be interesting. A. Frank Carrick, of Wilkes-Barre, a former borough engineer in this valley, now in Calumpit, Luzon Island, Philipplaces, forwarded a copy of the first edition of "The Manila Times" to the Wilkes-Barre Times, with the follow-ing comment: "I enclose you a copy of the first paper published in the English language in the Philippine islands. It has been followed by several others, some published in English, some Spanish, some Tagala (the province native language), and one a mixture of all three. Surely for a population of savages on a Pacific island we are blessed with periodicals, some twelve or fourteen now being published in Manila." The Times (Wilkes-Barre) thus describes the paper received by them: "Volume One, No, One, of the Manila Times was published on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1898, by Chofre & Co. It is a fourpage affair, about quarter the size of this paper. The price is one nickel and no advertisements appear. There is a page and a half of news, all telegraphic but no local reports." It will be noted that this paper appeared nearly a month before "The Journal" of Ponce City, Porto Rico.

CAPTAIN HIGGINS IN CUBA.

Work the Members of the Signal Corps Are Doing There.

From the Havana correspondent of the Philadelphia Evenin Telegraph comes a very complimentary reference to Captain Ambrose Higgins, of Pittston, who has charge of a United States signal corps which is now stationed in Pinar del Rio province, Cuba, in charge of the telegraph lines.

Captain Higgins is well known in

this city, where his brother, Frank Higgins, now a prominent Philadelphia physician, was employed several years ago in the Postal Telegraph of-Captain Higgins himself once had charge of the above company's Pittston office. The correspondent of the Telegraph writes: "It will be in- "Well, that is so," Mrs. teresting to Philadelphians and Pennylvanians to know that the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Signal corps, accompanying the 202d New York will have the distinction of being the first Penn sylvania troops to land in Cuba, and Captain Ambrose Higgins, their commander, the first Pennsylvanian to se foot on Cuban soll as part of the Unit ed States army. In an interesting char with Captain Higgins, he stated that out of the fifty-five members of his company, which had been recruited in Philadelphia and surrounding country, forty-five bad made the trip, the other ten being absent on furlough and sick leave. His company, containing many skitted electricians and me chanics, has charge of all telegraphic and telephone communications in the western part of the island, the men having had considerable experience in this direction at Montauk Point, Washington barracks and other places. The men are in the best of health, barring the inconvenience of wearing heavy clothing with the mercury hovering in the neighborhood of 85 degrees and they are looking forward to a winter in Cuba with a great deal of pleasure.

HIS SILVER JUBILEE.

Celebrated by Rev. Felix McGuckin, of Nanticoke, Yesterday.

An interesting event in the priesthood of Rev. Pelix McGuckin, who was appointed from this city in February, 1886, to the parish of Nanticoke, oc-curred yesterday at the latter place. Rey, McGuckin celebrated the close of twenty-five years or silver jubilee in the priesthood, almost thirteen of was spent in Nanticoke. Rev. Bishop Hoban and forty-five prominent priests were present.

The order of the morning service was the celebration of a mass at 10 o'clock. The officiating priests were: Arch priest, Rev. Father O'Malley, Kingston; deacon, Rev. Father Jordan, Old Forge; sub-deacon, Rev. Father O'Reilly, Wilkes-Barre, master of ceremonies, Rev. Father Winters, Ply-mouth. After the services dinner was

erved in the parochial residence. In the afternoon the children of the parochial school gave an entertainnent, after which refreshments were served them. Rev. McGuckin is very well known here and highly respected. He is a thorough and able man and during the thirteen years he has been in Nanticoke he has built up a flourishing congregation and has erected large and commodious buildings.

CONSUMERS' ICE COMPANY.

Stockholders Elected Directors and

Latter Organized Yesterday. The following board of directors was elected yesterday by the stockholders of the Consumers Ice company: I. F. Megargel, William Connell, A. D. Blackinton, P. J. storan, E. B. Sturges, Robert Reeves, R. G. Brooks, J. H. Steele, C. D. Jones.

The directors organized by electing Mr. Megargel, president; Mr. Connell, vice-president; Mr. Blackinton, treasurer; C. H. Schadt, manager, and John A. Schadt, secretary.

The Root of Evil.

"Why should the millionaire be con "I don't know "Because \$1,000,000 is such a naughty

Confiding Woman, the Cynical

Man and the Bearded Lady.

The scene is a comfortable sitting Mr. Lovegood is buried in a book and his wife is scanning the advertisements in the evening paper, correspondence?" Suddenly Mrs. Lovegood says: 'Say! "I don't see wh lear," in a voice that makes Mr. Loveis it?" he says with a laugh, "another real genuine bargain offer?" "I don't inued, "for it is a bargain offer of free it, my dear," sain her bosband, "But] specialists would naturally fight an in-

THE TRUE STORY 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

"I don't see why not," answered Mr. Lovegood, "Medical science is wheelgood almost drop his book. "Well, what ing into line with everything else, and dropping the hocus-pocus of the middle ages. The 'divinity that hedged by' the know that you'd call it that," his wife priest and physician is a thing of the replied. "But, yes you might," she conand what he can do. Of course, the medical advice." "Let's hear all about members of the profession who are not



ou know I'm a little dublous about (novation which took away their pa turn out to be goose," t's an offer by a woman (physician) to give free medical advice by letter, and steamer could be built to cross the At ecause a mar can't understand a wosays, too, that it's just revolting to go Lovegoor stopped because she was out or breato.

"I be: you," said her husband, "that the advertisement don't say she's a woman physician." "Why, yes it does," said his wife, as she looked at the advertisement. "Well, no, I gueso it eating women's diseases is greater for that?" than that or any living physician, male Mr. Lavegood chuckled done it. or temate. and suid: "That's what I love about above the hook,"

Mrs. Lovegood. "Then, to be serious." claim that she is a physician. She is not therefore a physician and can never that your idea?" have practiced medicine. Yet not being a physician and therefore never to have had 'experience in treating women's diseases, greater than any living she never practiced medicine, where

somewhat reluctantly admitted, "but she Woman sure about that even," said her hus band. "It looks to me as if some man was 'working' the women with the bearded lady act.

"Bearded lady act!" Do you mean t say that they have dince museum treaks for doctors? Why you must be foolish, or else amazing y prejudiced," cried his wife.

"You are too literal, my dear," said Mr. Lovegood. "What I mean by the bearded lady not is that some man is osing as a woman writing over a wanan's signature or using a woman as a stalking horse, assuming a woman' haracter 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 you 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 'wo man' is a physician there's no infraction of the law. The probabilities are 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 corre-

"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 woman's diseases because he's a man, that is the cheapest sort of claptrap. 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; what for?" said her husband. 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 stuff 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

your bargains. Your swans so often tients and their profits. But when a "Well, then, new idea makes for public good it can't be destroyed. They used to say no it says it's better to write to a woman lantic. She couldn't carry coal enough. One prominent Englishman, then leader man, just because he's a man, and it in the House of Commons, in the heat of a debate, declared 'that if ever any to a man physician anyhow." And Mrs. steamer crossed the Atlantic, he'd eat it, machinery and all.' I take it that the objections to treatment by corre spondence have as little foundation i 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 doesn't any she's a physician, but it some offense. He sent for a lawyer, means the same thing, for it says that who, when he had heard the story, said: it is a voman whose experience in Why, man affive they can't arrest you "But," sald the prisoner, "they've

"It does not seem any use to argue

you, my dear. You are so ready to be- about the possibility of being treated here without question when there's a successfully by correspondence with bargain in view. If you were a little Dr. Pierce when there are thousands of fish, I'd catch you every time with a people to stand up and say 'We have rubber worm if I put a bargain sign been successfully treated, we have been entirely cured by Dr. Pierce and his "Oh! do be serious for once," cried staff of specialists."
irs. Lovegood. "Then, to be serious." "Then," said his wife, "it doesn't fol-

he replied, "this woman doesn't claim low that any and everybody could treat to be a physician. She would claim to successfully by correspondence. It is a e a physician if she could, because movement in advance of ordinary pracshe is trying to convey the impression tice, by those specially qualified who in every other way than by a direct have given special study and special effort to some branch of medicine. Is

"Precisely, my dear," Mr. Lovegood answered, preparing to continue his having practiced medicine, she claims reading. "You have got the whole to have had experience in treating wor thing now. It isn't because some one advertises to give medical advice by physician.' Now the question is, since correspondence that you can necessarily assume the advice will be valuable or helpful. Anybody can make such an "Well, that is so," Mrs. Lovegood offer. It is wise to go behind the promises and the claims made and see t Pierce's case the closer the examination f his claims and record the greater the onfidence which he will inspire, Dr. R. V. Pierce is at the head of the Inalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, a Buffalo, N. Y., a medical and surgical nstitution, which in its scientific equipnent its laboratory, its staff of nearly score of experienced physicians and urgeons and its variety of daily practice, is on a footing with any medical nd surgical institute in the country." And just here the infant heir of th ouse of Lovegood voiced a message to 'a woman' who was in every way pualified to give him the desired attenion, which she promptly did.

MR. ROBERTS WAS KIND. But His Kindness Was Bestowed on

An Ingrate. John Alonzo, a woodchopper, living up at "No. 16 fill" above Moscow, was brought to the county fail, Saturday night, to await a jury's adjudication as to whether he is a deep base ingrate or just absent minded.

Four weeks ago he appeared at A. D. Roberts' lumber camp on the moun-tain four miles east of Olyphant, and applied for work, which was given him. Five days later word came from his home that his wife was very sick, His employer, out of the goodness of his heart, drove the fellow as far as Dunmore, advanced him money to buy groceries and some nourishment and then moved still further to pity, let him take his horse and carriage to go the rest of his journey, it appearing that he could not make a train that night that would take him to the bedside of his sick wife.

Alonzo was to return on the follow ing Monday and if he couldn't return he was to send the horse and carriage back. He did not neither. A constable from Olyphant was put on the track of the missing man and property. It was known that he lived somewhere near Moscow and after a week's search in that indefinite region he and the horse and carriage were found.

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

THE OLD WAYNE AGAIN. Defendant in an Equity Case at

Elmira, N. Y. following from the Elmira Ad-

ertiser of yesterday has reference to the Old Wayne Mutual Life Insurance company, which many persons hereabouts remember with sorrow, An agent of the company was convicted in quarter sessions' court here last week. The Advertiser says:

The Old Wayne Mutual Life Insurance sociation was the defendant in an acion brought against them by Hannah J. Hungerford, of this city, in Supreme court yesterday. It was an equity case, There was no appearance for the defend-ant. Attorney J. John Hassett appeared or the plaintiff.

He asked that the action proceed t trial before court. This was ordered an trial before court. This was ordered and after hearing the evidence of the plaintiff. Hannah J. Hungerford, and Sheriff John son Little, Justice Smith, in the absence of Dr. Pierce: 'He is one of the best of opposing testimony, gave judgment for men in the world, and he is at the head \$164.19, the amount claimed by the plain

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,



Jardinieres 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 CHRIST MAS TO ALL Ready

lust 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,

Pendent Chains and Sterling Silver Goods.

All Goods Warranted as Represented at the Reliable. Established 1857.

C. LUTHER 107 Wyoming Avenue.

CAMERAS AND KODAKS,

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

For the Holidays.

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

FLOREY & BROOKS

211 Washington Ava.

Opposite Court House.

THIRD NATIONAL BANK OF SCRANTON.

Special Attention Given to Business and Personal Accounts.

Liberal Accommodations Ex-tended According to Balances and Responsibility. 3Per Cent. Interest Allowed on

Interest Deposits. \$200,000

400,000 WM. CONNELL, President.

HENRY BELIN, Jr., Vice Pres. WILLIAM H. PECK, Cashler The vault of this bank is pro-

tected by Holmes' Electric Protective System.

tiff. This is only one of several actions brought against the Old Wayne association recently. Chamberlain's Colie, Cholera and

Diarrohoea Remedy can always be depended upon and is pleasant and safe to take. Sold by all druggists, Matthews Bros., wholesale and retail agents. I Can't Find it!

Yes you can by calling at Davidow Bros.', 227 Lackawanna ave., as their assortment is the largest in the city, "

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought

Signature of

For the Rush

Christmas Gifts Are Here in Abundance.....

Diamonds, Rings, Pendants, Brooches, etc., Solid Gold and Filled Watches, all the best makes, Rich Cut Glass, Fine Decorated China Lamps and Globes, Porcelain and Gilt Clocks and Bronzes, Gold-Headed Canes and Umbrellas and a large and handsome line of Sterling and Silver Novelties and Quadruple Plated Silverware.

All together it makes the most attractive array of useful and ornamental Holiday Gifts to be found in any store in the city. We invite shoppers to visit our store, as it will prove interesting as well as profitable.

A. E. Rogers' Jewelry Stor

213 Lackawanna Avenue.

A Neat Pair of Slippers

Makes the Most Appreciated of

Christmas Gifts

We have an elegant assortment, Prices From 49c Upward.

A beautiful Calendar for 1899 and a "Peter and Patty" picture book given with each sale. These books are just out and will please the little boys and girls immensely.

Standard Shoe Store,

HANDIEST STORE IN THE CITY.



Book Binding

Neat, Durable Book Binding, is what you receive if you leave your order with The Tribunc.