

# BOOKS AND HOLIDAY GOODS

of Every Description.

## GIFT BOOKS

In Morocco, Silk, Seal and Fancy Cloth Binding. Art Books, Illustrated books in sets, of standard Authors in Cloth and Leather Binding, from two to twelve volume sets.

## JUVENILE BOOKS

The Young Folks are well taken care of this season with charming books from five cents up. Our line of the Knock-about Club at 50c is very popular, and are good books for the Young People.

## WHITE BOOKS

Our cases are full of these dainty gems of book binding. Christmas Cards and Booklets. Our line is large and prices astonishing.

## FOUNTAIN PENS

Glass Trays, Fancy Decorated Glassware. Glass Medallions in all sizes, St. Croix in at 25c to \$1.50. Hundreds of different kinds.

## FRAMED PICTURES

Water Colors, Engravings. Very large assortment. Very low prices. From 35c up.

## BIBLES

We wish to circulate the good book as much as possible, and in order to do so have marked them very close. Pocket Bibles from 25c up. Teachers' Bibles from 50c up. Small Bibles with large print. Teachers' Bibles with large type. Family Bibles.

## KODAKS

For the Holidays we sell the Vibe Camera. 24 Glass Plates or 72 cut Films can be carried in it and exposed without reloading. Size 4 1/2 x 4 1/2. Price \$5.00.

## PERFUMES

In Fancy Bottles. Our French Roses, Cliban Roses, California Lilac are very popular. Perfume Atomizers, large line and the very best Atomizers made.

## TOILET SETS

Manicure Sets, Smoking Sets, Glove and Handkerchief Boxes, Necktie Boxes, Diaries for 1899, large assortment. Call and examine before purchasing. No trouble to show goods.

**CONNELL BROS.,**  
BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS.

## The Growing of the Christmas Tree

It grows in gladness, fair and green.  
A symbol of eternal hope:  
It whispers of the Great Unseen  
On wilderness and cheerless slope.  
The changing seasons come and go,  
Yet always beautiful to see.  
In summer's heat or winter's snow,  
Appears the fadless Christmas tree.  
The sparkling dew of summer fills  
Its verdant boughs with jewels rare,  
And winter hangs his icicles  
Like dazzling diamonds there:  
The frost king decks it like a bride  
With wreaths of magic filigree,  
And fleecy snowdrifts often hide  
The beauty of the Christmas tree.  
The timid wild birds build their nests  
Within its shelter, free from fear;  
And in its shade the squirrel rests,  
Nor dreams of danger drawing near:  
In happy days of early spring,  
When jocund nature thrills with glee,  
The robin and the bluebird sing  
Their sweetest in the Christmas tree.  
But half its charms do not appear  
In summer's dew or winter's rime,  
Until the season of the year  
That brings the happy Christmas time.  
Ah! then, indeed, it glows, it gleams  
With gems that sparkle joyously  
And realize the happy dreams  
Of childhood in the Christmas tree.  
Long may it grow! long may it sway  
O'er childhood's dreams, last everywhere,  
Till all the world keeps Christmas day!  
And every heart is free from care!  
May all its boughs with fadless joys  
Be filled through all the years to be,  
For all the precious girls and boys  
Who cluster round the Christmas tree!  
—John E. Barrett.

## Mrs. Christmas

It was in the afternoon. High up in the mountains on the line of the Black Forest railway, is one of those small cabins which at regular intervals line the side of all European railroads, housing those poorly paid men whose duty it is to inspect from time to time the roadbed for a certain distance and warn passing trains of eventual danger. A door opened and a woman's head appeared, breaking the monotony of the snowy landscape. The head was quickly withdrawn. Inside in the overheated room her husband, the flagman, lay on his bed in a fever. It had attacked him suddenly, he knew not how, and now he wanted neither to hear nor see anything; only to sleep.

His wife had brewed a hot tea for him and made him drink it. She was in hopes to rouse him by it, for little Jakob, their only son, had been at her all day, saying: "Mother, dear, won't you go down to the village and get me something for Christmas? See, the tree is already stuck in the pot, and all I need are apples and nuts and a big, big herzeblekuchen, (a large frosted cake in the shape of a heart.)

But whenever she put a warm wrap around herself and allowed the boy to drag her to the door, a sudden fear for the loud breathing husband would seize her, and she would return to his bedside.

Little Jakob finally broke out into bitter crying, that on this holy eve he was to have nothing but a bare tree, which seemed to him the greatest sorrow that this world could hold. The mother, with a sudden impulse, said to her husband: "In two hours I am back again. It is Christmas eve, and no child ought to be allowed to go empty handed. Don't you think I could get something for our little boy?"

"Yes, yes," he nodded in assent. "I am feeling a little dumpy yet. When I've had a sleep, I shall feel better."

"Listen, Jakob." The mother then turned to the boy. "Watch closely. When the hand of the clock shows 5 minutes of 5, you must wake up your father, get his flag for him, and not stop until he is out there when the train comes. Do you hear me? You must not let up until he does it. I charge you with it."

Jakob promised. "I will not rest, mother, but don't forget I need apples and nuts a plenty, and a great big herzeblekuchen."

The woman was already battling outside with the wind and snow, when the child's clear voice rang out after her: "There must be almonds in it. Goodby, mother, and give my best regards to the Christ Kindl, if you meet him on the way!"

Then Jakob went to his tree, gazed on it rapturously, and from time to time clapped his hands, for in anticipation he already saw all the branches and twigs hung with apples and nuts. Though the mother could not return before 6 o'clock, and the clock was now striking only 4, Jakob nevertheless every little while went out doors to see whether she was not coming, returning every time with his head full of snowflakes. Then he would plant himself with great conscientiousness in front of the old clock, watching the swinging of the pendulum.

father! Get up! Listen, dear father! Do listen to me!"

"Yes, yes," the man murmured. "I am there already." And he turned to the wall again.

"There is nothing left but for me to go out," the boy said to himself, "for somebody must be out there."

With quick decision he slipped into his father's heavy overcoat, drew the cape over his head and seized the flag. He arrived just in the nick of time at his post, for a few moments later the train thundered by the grotesque little form. The snow had covered him from head to foot. With great seriousness he presented the flag, and the rosy child face beamed most sweetly from under the snow-covered cap—a storm-wafted Santa Claus on a solitary night.

As such he may have appeared to the youthful lady who stood in the open window of a compartment car, gazing into the silent Christmas night, for suddenly she beckoned with her hand, and the next instant a heavy object came flying from the passing train right before Jakob's feet.

He picked it up and hurried into the house with it. There, after dropping his father's heavy overcoat, he hastened to the window to examine his present in the bright moonlight. It was a small, fine purse. He opened it and found it almost filled with bright new silver coin. Jakob fairly screamed with delight. He never thought of a giver, for wasn't it Christmas? No wonder that presents fell from heaven.

He commenced to cover the twigs of his little Christmas tree with the coins, which was no small trouble, for they would continually drop off again, so that finally Jakob, quite exhausted, placed his head on his arms and fell asleep under his silver spangled tree. He did not hear when his mother returned, covered with snow and panting from exertion as she entered the room. She first set down her basket and then hurried to her husband's bedside. He was breathing evenly, and on the floor was his overcoat. He had been able to fulfill his duty. "God be praised!" the woman murmured and turned to the window where the tree was and her little boy was sitting motionless. Softly, on tiptoes, with the basket full of apples and nuts, the herzeblekuchen in her hand, she stepped behind the child's chair. But what was that? Was the moon shining with extraordinary brightness tonight that a silvery shimmer seemed to proceed from the tree as well as from the curly hair of sleeping Jakob? The woman brushed with her outstretched hand over the head of the child and with a silvery tinkle little objects fell right and left to the floor. "Great Heavens!" she exclaimed, causing Jakob suddenly to start up. First he looked around somewhat scared, but then, hopping from one leg to the other in exuberant joy, he exclaimed: "Yes, yes; everything belongs to me. Look, just look, mother!"

The woman first of all made a light. Her husband now woke up, too, leaping from his bed with both feet at once. "My God," he said, "the train has passed! Of course you have been out there, wife?"

His wife turned deathly pale. "I have just returned," she gasped.

"But I was out there," chimed in Jakob. "When father didn't want to wake up at all, I just took the flag and the overcoat and did everything all right. Nobody knew me, but the Santa Claus threw a heap of money from heaven down to me—all new money."

Feeling quite miserable yet from the spell of fear he had just passed through, the flagman, with trembling knees, allowed himself to drop into the nearest chair. "Have you really been out there?" he inquired.

"Of course. You can depend on it," Jakob assured him.

The flagman's wife examined the purse and found in it a card, with the inscription, "A Merry Christmas." It took a long time until they succeeded in spelling out the words. Finally she said: "Oh, I know! It means Frau

## NO CURE, NO PAY.

If we can name and locate your disease or weakness without asking you any questions, you should be convinced that we are specialists and can cure you. Yet, to further prove it we will guarantee a cure or no pay, and No Pay Asked Until Cured if you deposit money in bank as security.

**WE CURE** Catarrh, Asthma, Bronchitis, Rheumatism, Pimples, Eczema, Scrofula, Ulcers, Tumors, Cancers, Ruptures, Varicocele, Epilepsy, Fits, Paralysis, Heart, Lung, Skin, Blood, Kidney, Bladder, Private Diseases, etc.

No matter what your disease, or who has failed to cure you, consult us. Consultation free to those who want treatment. We can show hundreds of cures, many in your own county, who you know. **G. A. MUNCH, M. D., the Eminent Specialist** can be consulted at the following hotel parlors.

If impossible to see him, write, enclosing two stamps, for information, etc., to

**Detroit Medical and Surgical Institute,**  
145 Pine St., Detroit, Mich.  
Hotel Phelps, Wednesday, Dec. 14th.  
Hotel Belding, Thursday, Dec. 15th.  
Bailey House, Saturday, Dec. 17th.  
Wheeler House, Monday, Dec. 19th.

Marey (provincial German for Mary Christmas. God bless her! She must be a very kind hearted lady!"

"Very likely she is Santa Claus, mother," ventured Jakob as he sailed into his apples and nuts.

The fastest flowing river in the world is the Sutlej, in British India, with a descent of twelve thousand feet in 180 miles.

Despite the fragility with which their sex is credited, the number of British female centenarians greatly exceeds that of the men, 225 women out of every 1,000,000 reaching the century mark, while only eight men out of the same number round out 100 years.

The German Fire Department

"I have the honor to announce, captain, that the fire is in the fourth story, and our ladders and hose will reach only to the second."

"Indeed? Then we'll have to wait till the fire gets down to the second."

—Fliegende Blätter.

If you want a first class job bring it to the BANNER office.

## ROYAL Neuralgia Cap

A Marvelous Invention.

A new, novel and effective cure for NEURALGIA, INSOMNIA, HEAD-ACHES, DIZZINESS, HAY FEVER, NERVOUSNESS, LOSS OF MEMORY and ALL HEAD TROUBLES.

**DISCARD ALL MEDICINES**  
Which for above diseases are not only injurious, but expensive, and USE A ROYAL NEURALGIA CAP, which gives you a six month's treatment and positive cure for only ONE DOLLAR. Used by Men, Women and Children.

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28 Lafayette Ave., DETROIT, MICH.

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**HOLMES BROS.**

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Sew Through the Four Loops.



PRACTICAL, SENSIBLE

They Stay Hooked.

No Pulling Loose.

No Gapping.

Leave Surface Flat.

HANDSOME AND NEAT.

Kalamazoo Corset Co.,

SOLE AGENTS, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

SOLD BY..

H. J. LEONARD.

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Large and Elegant Assortment of New Shoes now coming in. The Latest in Styles, the Best in Quality and the Lowest in Price. This is what we aim to give you. Come and see us before you buy.

**THE CITY SHOE STORE**

E. R. Spencer, Prop'r.

**FOR THE FALL TRADE.**

Good Meats Make You Healthy!

I am better prepared than ever to furnish the finest cuts of Beef, Pork, Mutton, &c. Orders for all kinds of Meats furnished promptly. Sausage a specialty. Wait for the Wagon which will be driven by Fred McNitt.

**W. L. HALL.**

## DO YOU INTEND TO BUY A

COAT, CAPE, MACKINTOSH, WRAPPER, SHIRT WAIST, SKIRT, UNDERWEAR, HOSE, CORSET, GLOVES, MITTENS, YARN, DRESS GOODS, RIBBONS, LACES, MUFFS, CHILDS' FUR SETS, BLANKETS OR DRY GOODS OF ANY KIND

Come and see me and I will save you money.

**C. G. O'BRYON.**

# Grand Opening of the PENNY STORE

The public are cordially invited to attend the opening of our store on

**Saturday, Dec. 3.**

When we shall have on sale a full line of BAZAAR GOODS, NOTIONS, TINWARE, GLASSWARE, LACES, HANDKERCHIEFS and TOYS. We have the largest line of Toys for the little folks that was ever brought to the City of Belding. We have, in part

Guns,	Perambulators,	Desks,	Velocipedes,
Drums,	Sleighs,	Bed Steads,	Rocking Chairs,
Games,	Brooms,	Mechanical Toys,	Drawing Slates,
Dolls,	Dust Pans,	Carpet Sweepers,	Fine Stationery,
Chairs,	Banks,	Stoves,	For the larger folks,
Carts,	Bureaus,	Trunks,	Lamps,
Wheelbarrows,	Dressers,	Black Boards,	Crockery,
Doll Cabs,	Wash Tubs,	Shoo Fly,	Fancy Glassware,
Pianos,	Wash Boards,	Cribs,	Brushes of all kinds,
Iron Toys,	Magic Lanterns,	Flat Irons,	Hobby Horses,
Albums,	Collar Boxes,	Cuff Boxes,	Gloves Boxes,
Jewelry,	Wooden Ware.		

## A Few of Our Bargains:

<b>Notions.</b>	Steamers, No. 8.....22c
Ladies Hat Pins, 3 for.....1c	Milk Pans.....2c, 3c, 4c and 5c
Pins per Paper.....1c	10 Quart Flaring Pail.....8c
Needles, per Paper.....1c	10 Quart Galvanized Pail.....16c
2 Papers Needles, Gold Eye.....5c	Wash Boilers, Copper Bottom.....65c up
Carpenter Tacks, per Pack.....1c	
2 dozen Hooks and Eyes.....2c	<b>Bargains of all Kinds.</b>
4 Bunches of Hair Pins.....1c	6 Tumblers for.....10c
Lamp Wick, per yard.....2c and 3c	Clothes Pins, per dozen.....1c
Shoe Strings, per pair.....1c	25 Envelopes for.....3c
Corset Strings.....1c	24 sheets Writing Paper.....3c
	Sanford's Ink, per bottle.....3c
	Tablets up from two for.....1c
	Tissue Paper, any color, per sheet.....1c
	A fine Broom up from.....10c
	A 10c Curry Comb for.....5c
	Hand Brush.....3c

This is only a few of the different bargains to be had at the Penny Store. A useful souvenir will be given to each lady on Saturday, our opening day.

Remember the store and date of opening. Bring the Children. The store is a regular Children's Paradise.

Respectfully,

**A. Behrendt,**

PROPRIETOR OF PENNY STORE.