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The above is the home of Prof. & Mrs. T. R. Debnam of
Oklahoma City. Prof. Debnam is Principal of the
Douglas School at Oklahoma City.

LANSING, MICH., State House
Executive Office:—For more than
an hour a poor colored woman, poor
in the goods of the world, but rich
in her mother love, sat in the outer
office awaiting the arrival of Gov.
Osborn. In her face was a look of
yearning, of hope, yet of fear. The
Governor came, the colored woman
was shown into the executive office.

It was her boy she had come to
talk about. Her boy had gone
wrong and was confined in the Pen-
itentiary. She pleaded for a pardon
as only a mother can plead. Her
boy had been a good boy in prison.
He knew he had done wrong, but
would never do it again. She want-
ed him at liberty once again.

These stories the Governor is forced
to listen to daily, and always
they are new; always they touch
him deeply, more especially because
in most instances it would not be
good public for him to comply with
the request of the mother. He told
her of the situation and she listened
with tears rolling down her cheeks.

Presently two senators and a
newspaper man entered. The Gov.
greeted them and the colored wo-
man rose.

"I am intruding Governor," she
said, as her tears flowed afresh. "I
want to thank you for hearing me,
but I will go now. I am in the way,
but I wanted to tell you of my boy."

Instantly Gov. Osborn was on his
feet. His hand was held out to the
old colored woman.

"I invite you to be seated," he
said. "You are not intruding."

You are as welcome as the Presi-
dent of the United States and are

more entitled to talk to me, because
you, a mother whom I cannot but
love because I love my own mother,
you are here to plead for your son
as my mother would plead for me.

You are as welcome to this office
as my mother would be, and to the
mothers I always try to pay the
most respect. I cannot do just as
you desire me to do at this time, but
I can possibly do something a little
later. I am only sorry that as Gov-
ernor it is not given to me to make
every mother happy, to grant every
wish of all those mothers. But all
I can do now is to advise you.

You take the matter to the par-
don board. They meet soon. They
will investigate the case of your boy
and I will ask them to investigate it
thoroughly.

If their investigation shows it
be proper in the interest of all the
people and all the mothers that he
should be released, I shall most cer-
tainly release him, and I want to
assure you that nothing I could do
would give me greater pleasure than
to give you back the boy whom you
love.

In the little crowd present every
eye was dimmed. The old colored
woman rose, took the proffered hand
of the Governor of Michigan and as
she, in choked voice thanked him,
kissed his hand and went away with
the firm conviction that the Gov-
ernor of Michigan loves the poor
mothers as he loves the rich, and
that some day when it shall be for
the good of all the mothers of the
State, then he have returned to her,
her boy. Meantime she realizes as



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