

# THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 a Year.

Devoted to the Interests of Merkel and the Merkel Country.

Eight Pages.

VOL. XII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, DECEMBER 20, 1901

NO. 44.

### One Boy's Mistake.

This is not an imaginary tale. It is out of the bitter experience of one who has just come to an untimely end. I knew him well. Gifted with talents that would easily have sent him to Congress as a representative of a great body of intelligent people, a favorite in the society of men of the finest culture, with wealth at his command such as few possess, and with a shrewdness which would have helped him to avoid the pitfalls into which others might easily have fallen, he yet made a miserable failure.

I knew him when, as a boy, he pitched the ball for his nine, and the shouting hundreds paid tribute to his skill. He never lost his nerve, even in the greatest excitement. Where others failed he succeeded. His tongue and manner led him to complete victory in every oratorical contest, and his brilliancy won him entrance into the brightest homes. His natural gifts exceeded his acquired gifts, great as these were, for all that modern culture could give was at his command and eagerly sought.

What was the secret of his failure? How could so shrewd a fellow make a mistake? Wealth, learning and position were already his and it needed but the magic of his touch to leave behind an enduring fame.

Let me tell you the secret. He left out Christ. Every Sunday he attended church, even acting as usher. The services left his soul untouched, or, if they did call him to repent, his iron will thrust the call aside. He went to a Christian college, but although he daily associated with boys of his class, twelve of whom became ministers, their example counted for naught. Some of the boys talked to him about accepting Christ. "I have no desire to accept Christ and probably never shall be connected with

any church," was his firm and decided stand. He acknowledged the excellences of religion, and later in agony at the death-bed of his mother he was known to have prayed, but this did not seem to leave any impression on his mind. He absolutely shut religion out of his life.

In the building up of his profession cares came. The grandfather who had shaped his life in many ways died. He had loved his grandfather as few grandsons do, and his death was a great blow. Without the consolation of religion he cast about for relief and found it in the cup, but he was always in perfect control of himself, as moderate drinkers claim to be. Cares multiplied and little things magnified in his mind.

He was engaged to a beautiful Christian girl who refused to marry him until he reformed. Putting aside drinking and tobacco and cards he stopped off short, and those who knew his iron will predicted he would win out on moral principles alone. But it was too late. That splendid intellect, which now depended on stimulants, became confused and disjointed and the boy of so much promise is dead, slain by his own hand.

Had he accepted Christ early in life, he would have shunned the evils, and leaning on the strong arms of his Savior, have manfully met the difficulties in his path. Every life carries its own message. Sometimes it is a danger signal warning us to beware of its follies. Sometimes it is a welcome hand beckoning us forward. What shall ours be?—O. B. Joyful in Ram's Horn,

Miss Ina Long left Sunday night for a visit to relatives at Eastland.

Olin Balch is spending the holidays at Waco.

### Sons and Daughters of Confederacy.

Merkel Camp No. 79, U. C. V.'s, are requested to meet at Ferrier Hall on Tuesday night, Dec. 31, 1901, for the purpose of organizing a Sons and Daughters Camp of U. C. V.'s, and to transact such other business as may come before the Camp.

#### PROGRAM.

Invocation—Rev. R. S. Heizer.  
Music—Merkel Band.  
Talk—Prof. Sewell.  
Music.  
Talk—Rev. R. S. Heizer.  
Music.  
Talk—Capt. J. T. Tucker.  
Music.  
Organization.  
Music.  
Closing ceremonies.

A. A. Baker, Cap.  
J. A. Leeman, Adjt.

Everybody invited—admission free.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR THE METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Dec. 14.

Opening song by choir—Welcome Bells of Heaven.

Invocation—A. A. Baker.

Christmas greeting—Otti Coggin.

Recitation—Will Hamilton.

Recitation—Lillie Allyn.

Song by choir—The Coming of the King.

Recitation—Ross Jennings.

The Message of the Chimes—May Dodds, Fay Brown, Roy Elliott, Will Buchanan.

Song by choir—Ring out, ye Christmas Bells.

Address—J. K. Pittard.

Distribution of presents.

Closing song.

### CHRISTMAS TREE EXERCISES AT UNION RIDGE.

To get and place tree in house—C. D. Cears, Jim Pee, W. A. Harris.

To receive and arrange presents on tree—Mesdames Sears, Barnett, Derstine; Misses Alice Humphrey, May Derstine, Lillie Winfrey; Messrs. Charlie and Emmett Winfrey.

To take presents from tree—Jim Barnett, S. A. Derstine.

To call names—W. A. Harris.

To deliver presents—Misses Emily Sears, Eddie and Annie Pee, Mr. Lee Sears.

#### A Long Message.

Under the above heading the Cleburne Enterprise of last week devoted considerable space to the description of a message of 207 words received at the Cleburne office, which was said to be the longest message that has passed through that office. A reporter of The Mail read the article to Agent McCord with the question, what was the longest message you have ever received? His reply was, "Oh, several thousand words." He then showed the reporter a message received from Dallas the day before which contained 107 words, sent at a cost of \$3.31; also one sent to Belgium costing \$9.85. This last message contained only 30 words, the additional cost

...EVERYTHING AT...

## WHOLESALE COST

at THE STAR STORE.

In order to close out all goods as near as possible by Jan. 1st, we offer our entire stock at ACTUAL COST. Our stock is broken in many lines, but we still have a pretty fair assortment of Men's and Boys' Clothing and Ladies' Capes. Big lot of regular 10c Cotton Flannel, good width, heavy fleece, for only 7½c. Double width Percale 4½c. Calicoes 3½c. Yard wide Percale, suitable for Boys' Waists and Shirts, only 7½c. Good width heavy weight Outing worth 12½c, only 6½c. Nice line Bed Comforts, Blankets and White Quilts. Heavy weight, fleece lined Ladies' Vests, only 18c. Ounita Union Suits 45c, worth 75c. A few Table Covers and Scarfs; make nice Xmas Presents for the ladies and girls. Candy 10 and 15c lb. A box of 10c Roseberry Cigars would make nice present for husband or sweetheart. 50 for \$3.00. Come at once and take advantage of this sale. Goods will not last long at these Prices.

Yours truly,

## The Star Store Co.

We still pay the Highest Market Prices for Cotton.

Two 3-drawer Queen Sewing Machines for sale at a bargain. The Star Store Co.

#### Schley is Censured.

The naval Court of Inquiry appointed to pass on Rear Admiral Schley's conduct during the Santiago campaign, has rendered its verdict. The majority report, signed by Admirals Benham and Ramsey, pronounce him censurable on all but one count and is a severe arraignment. The minority report of Admiral Dewey gives Schley all the credit, declaring that he was Commander-in-Chief during the battle and that his is the glory of a well-earned victory. All over the country the report of Dewey is regarded as entirely offsetting the other. Fully seventy millions of people share in this verdict and rejoice in the decision of Admiral Dewey.

I have a tree in my garden planted three years ago. It has not blossomed or borne fruit as it should. I have often wondered why it has not been a source of profit and pleasure. Today I have discovered the reason. On bending the tree slightly it broke off, showing that it was black-hearted, there being only a rim of healthy wood on the outside of the trunk. No tree can yield permanent good when possessed of a black heart. Neither can a man or woman be productive of good works or of happiness, if they are false-hearted.—Ex.

#### THE HOME GOLD CURE.

An Ingenious Treatment by Which Drunkards are Being Cured Daily in Spite of Themselves.

No Noxious Doses. No Weakening of the Nerves. A Pleasant and Positive Cure for the Liqueur Habit.

It is now generally known and understood that Drunkenness is a disease and not weakness. A body filled with poison and nerves completely shattered by periodical or constant use of intoxicating liquors, requires an antidote capable of neutralizing and eradicating this poison, and destroying the craving for intoxicants. Sufferers may now cure themselves at home without publicity or loss of time from business by this wonderful "HOME GOLD CURE" which has been perfected after many years of close study and treatment of inebriates. The faithful use according to directions of this wonderful discovery is positively guaranteed to cure the most obstinate case, no matter how hard a drinker. Our records show the marvelous transformation of thousands of drunkards into sober, industrious and upright men.

Wives, cure your husbands! Children, cure your fathers! This remedy is in no sense a nostrum, but is a specific for this disease only, and is so skillfully devised and prepared that it is thoroughly soluble and pleasant to the taste, so that it can be given in a cup of tea or coffee without the knowledge of the person drinking it. Thousands of drunkards have cured themselves with this priceless remedy and as many more have been cured and made temperate men by having the "CURE" administered by loving friends and relatives without their knowledge in tea or coffee, and believe today that they discontinued drinking of their own free will. Do Not Wait! Do not be deluded by apparent and misleading "improvement." Drive out the disease at once and for all time. The "Home Gold Cure" is sold at the extremely low price of One Dollar, thus placing within the reach of everybody a treatment more effectual than others costing \$25 to \$50. Full directions accompany each package. Special advice by skilled physicians when requested without extra charge. Sent prepaid to any part of the world on receipt of One Dollar. Address Dept. 1, Edwin B. Giles & Co. 230 and 232 Market St., Philadelphia.

All correspondence strictly confidential. E 126

#### Hops and Wisdom.

Both are contained in Chamberlain's Laxative Chill Cure. Try them. Price 25¢ cure—no pay.

I have added livestock to my

## BLACK LEG VACCINE

### PARK-DAVIS PASTEUR'S EXCELSIOR

We are agents in Merkel for these well-known brands of Black Leg Vaccine. They are the best on the market to-day. We can supply your wants for almost any quantity, and our prices are as low as you will find anywhere in this country. If you need anything in this line we should be glad to figure with you on either large or small quantities.

#### SAVE YOUR CALVES



FROM 12 1-2c TO 60c A ROLL

RUST & PITTARD



# THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Entered in the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as second-class mail matter.

### Subscription Rates.

One year \$1.00  
Six months .50  
Three months .25  
Invariably in advance.

### ADVERTISING RATES

per month  
One inch space \$ 5.00  
Two inch space 8.50  
Quarter column (1-1-2 inches) 2.50  
Half column (3 inches) 4.00  
One column (18 inches) 7.50  
Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts.  
Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

### SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the name of the place under which they are written. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

NO. 5661

### REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

## The First National Bank of Merkel

At Merkel, in the State of Texas, at the  
Close of Business, Dec. 10, 1901

### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts	\$ 85,190.19
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	1,391.21
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	15,000.00
Premium on U. S. Bonds	956.25
Banking house, furniture and fixtures	6,000.00
Due from Natl Banks (not reserve agts)	4,971.70
Due from State Banks and Bankers	2,357.87
Due from approved reserve agents	7,005.94
Checks and other cash items	348.00
Notes of other National Banks	900.00
Frac. paper currency, nickels & cents	10.70
LAWFUL MONEY RESERVE IN BANK, VIZ	
Specie	\$2,923.10
Legal-tender notes (4,000)	6,923.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer	
(per cent of circulation)	750.00
TOTAL	131,804.86

### LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$ 30,000.00
Surplus fund	1,500.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	3,905.07
National Bank notes outstanding	15,000.00
Due to other National Banks	35.16
Individual deposits subject to check	76,596.47
Notes and bills rediscounted	4,788.16
TOTAL	131,804.86

### STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR, SS:

Geo. S. Berry, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

GEO. S. BERRY, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18, day of December, 1901.

J. J. MILLER, Notary Public.

[SEAL] CORRECT—Attest:

J. T. WARREN,  
G. F. WEST,  
C. M. LARGENT, } Directors

Attorney S. P. Hardwicke of Abilene was in the city Wednesday. The judge was just in from a business trip east and, being worn out, was taking a nap while on the night train, the conductor failing to wake him up until Merkel was reached. He spent the day here, visiting The Mail on his rounds.

A report of the condition of the First National Bank appears in this issue, to which your attention is called. The report is a very creditable one and shows the institution to be in a highly prosperous condition.

Neil Sargent hauled out lumber for a new house, yesterday.

J. C. Watkins has sold his blacksmith shop to Mr. Lundy of the Divide, and is advertising his other property for sale. Mr. Watkins has been in business here for four years, and has always proved an honest, whole-souled man with whom it is a pleasure to deal.

Mr. Dye and three other gentlemen from the shinnery, north of town, passed through Merkel yesterday from a hunting trip on the Concho. They killed 41 deer while absent, all of which they brought home with them, so we are informed. They are to be congratulated upon such a valuable haul, and we will envy them many feasts which they will enjoy during next year. Deer is a rarity.

A prominent lumberman and an old

A. J. Snell wanted to attend a party, but was afraid to do so on account of pains in his stomach, which he feared would grow worse. He says: "I was telling my troubles to a lady friend, who said: 'Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy will put you in condition for the party.' I bought a bottle and take pleasure in stating that two doses cured me and enabled me to have a good time at the party." Mr. Snell is a resident of Summer Hill, N. Y. This remedy is for sale by Rust & Pittard.

Let's see. Merkel people were sufferers to the extent of about \$50,000 in the fire, over and above insurance. One-fiftieth of this amount invested in fire apparatus would have reduced the loss to \$20,000 or less, and that's where the business proposition comes in. Can we afford to overlook this matter? A fire even now would destroy ten times as much property as the protection would cost, it makes no difference in what business house it starts; besides, in five years the saving in insurance would more than double the cost of fire apparatus. These things must be looked after if Merkel is to enjoy the growth and prosperity which is her natural heritage.

### A Million Voices

Could hardly express the thanks of Homer Hall, of West Point, Ia. Listen why: A severe cold had settled on his lungs, causing a most obstinate cough. Several physicians said he had consumption, but could not help him. When all thought he was doomed he began to use Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption and writes—"it completely cured me and saved my life. I now weigh 227 pounds." It's positively guaranteed for coughs, colds and lung troubles. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's.

A good horse and buggy for sale. Will take milch cow as part payment. Enquire at this office.

R. B. Ustick and family arrived Tuesday from Alabama whither they moved only a short time ago. Mr. Ustick says he aims to stay this time if the people will let him. We are glad to have him with us again.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Coggin visited relatives here Monday.

J. R. McAdams has bought the lots north of the Largent corner and let the contract for a large iron building, work on which is already under way. Mr. McAdams is to be congratulated upon his excellent judgement in pinning his faith to Merkel.

It may be a coincidence, but is a fact nevertheless, that the Sweetwater fire occurred just eight weeks after the Merkel fire. Both occurred on the same day of the week and were discovered about the same hour of the night.

Weather prophets predict that this will be the hardest winter for years, and coming in the face of the drouth will occasion much suffering. The cynic will now proceed to exclaim, "and fodder is scarce, too."

This winter will afford the best possible time for thinning out the prairie dogs. Grass is short and all vegetation scarce, and the impudent pups will readily devour anything put before them. Kill out the dog.

If you want

# To Be Slaughtered

We will commence Friday December 6th, to sell our entire stock at Slaughter Prices. A great many lines we will sell regardless of Cost. The house we are in has been rented by G. V. Cane & Co., and that will throw us without a house. And so far we have been unable to get another that we can go into. So we will be compelled to sell our entire stock of

## Clothing, Dress Goods, Millinery and Shoes

AT ABSOLUTE COST FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS.

We mean every word we say in this ad., and will carry out exactly what we say.

# Rollins & Young.

### Honey in the Lee Statue.

Hundreds of pounds of honey have been discovered in the great equestrian statue of General Robert E. Lee at Richmond, Va. Both the horse and rider are hollow, and it appears that ever since last summer bees have been going in and out at the parted lips and nostrils of General Lee and his steed. The bees are almost numberless, and they have been making honey constantly. There is no way of getting inside the statue without damaging it, and the bees will be left alone in their iron home.

### Nut Trees for City Streets.

A Philadelphia man suggests that treses planted in public squares and on streets should be of the nutbearing variety. He believes that a sense of honor would be cultivated in boys, even in the worst neighborhood, if it were explained that the nuts belonged to them, and that they would only damage their own property if they interfere with them before the proper time. Then, when the nuts were ripe, they would be taken from the trees and sold to the boys for a few cents.

### The Best is the Cheapest.

Not how cheap, but how good, is the question.

The Twice-a-Week Republic is not as cheap as are some so-called newspapers. But it is as cheap as it is possible to sell a first-class newspaper. It prints all the news that is worth printing. If you read it all the year round, you are posted on all the important and interesting affairs of the world. It is the best and most reliable newspaper that money and brains can produce—and those should be the distinguished traits of the newspaper that is designed to be read by all the members of the family.

Subscription price, \$1 a year. Any newsdealer, newspaper or postmaster will receive your subscription, or you may mail it direct to

The Republic,  
St. Louis, Mo.

To whom it may concern:

Parties indebted to us will please come in and settle at once, either with C. W. Harris at Nubia or at our gin at Merkel. 3t Harris & Hunt.

### A WORTHY SUCCESSOR.

"Something New Under the Sun."

All doctors have tried to cure Catarrh by the use of powders, acid gases, inhalers and drugs in paste form. Their powders dry up the mucous membranes causing them to crack open and bleed. The powerful acids used in the inhalers have entirely eaten away the same membranes that their makers have aimed to cure, while pastes and ointments can not reach the disease. An old and experienced practitioner who has for many years made a close study and specialty of the treatment of Catarrh has at last perfected a treatment which, when faithfully used, not only relieves at once, but permanently cures Catarrh, by removing the cause, stopping the discharges and curing all inflammation. It is the only remedy known to science that actually reaches the afflicted parts. This wonderful remedy is known as "SNUFFLES, the Guaranteed Catarrh Cure" and is sold at the extremely low price of One Dollar, each package containing internal and external medicine sufficient for a full month's treatment and everything necessary for its perfect use.

"SNUFFLES" is the only perfect catarrh cure ever made and is now recognized as the only safe and positive cure for that annoying and disgusting disease. It cures all inflammation quickly and permanently, and is also wonderfully quick to relieve Hay Fever or Cold in the Head.

Catarrh when neglected often leads to Consumption—"SNUFFLES" will save you if use it at once. It is no ordinary remedy, complete treatment which is positive and guaranteed to cure catarrh in any form according to the directions on each package. Don't delay, once, and write full particulars, and you will receive the discoverer of this wonderful remedy without charge. Regular price of "SNUFFLES" Catarrh Cure. Sent prepaid to States or Canada address Dept. 1, E. 2382, Market St.



# ELLIOTT & MILLER

DEALERS IN

## ...Wind Mills, Pumps and Water Supply Goods...

We keep in stock the Star steel mill, direct stroke and back gear; Eclipse wood mill, Dandy and Aermotor steel mills; a full assortment of pumps, piping from 1/4 to 2 in., plain and galvanized; brass cylinders and working barrels from 2 to 4 in. We buy in car lots and can make Fort Worth prices on anything in our line.

# J. M. C. KING & CO.

DEALERS IN

## Pharmacy Drugs and Medicines.

Nice line Sundries and Toilet Articles.

Prescriptions Accurately and Promptly Compounded, Day or Night.

ARE YOU DEAF?



ANY HEAD NOISES?

ALL CASES OF DEAFNESS OR HARD HEARING ARE NOW CURABLE

by our new invention. Only those born deaf are incurable.

HEAD NOISES CEASE IMMEDIATELY.

F. A. WERMAN, OF BALTIMORE, SAYS:

Gentlemen:—Being entirely cured of deafness, thanks to your treatment, I will now give you a full history of my case, to be used at your discretion.

About five years ago my right ear began to ring, and this kept on getting worse, until I lost my hearing in this ear entirely.

I underwent a treatment for catarrh, for three months, without any success, consulted a number of physicians, among others, the most eminent ear specialist of this city, who told me that only an operation could help me, and even that only temporarily, that the head noises would then cease, but the hearing in the affected ear would be lost forever.

I then saw your advertisement accidentally in a New York paper, and ordered your treatment. After I had used it only a few days according to your directions, the noises ceased, and to-day, after five weeks, my hearing in the diseased ear has been entirely restored. I thank you heartily and beg to remain Very truly yours,

F. A. WERMAN, 730 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.

Our treatment does not interfere with your usual occupation. Examination and advice free. **YOU CAN CURE YOURSELF AT HOME** at a nominal cost. INTERNATIONAL AURAL CLINIC, 596 LA SALLE AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.

## A CHANCE TO GO HOME

For your Christmas and New Year is offered by the Texas & Pacific Railway Company. This popular line which has always been most prominent in handling Holiday excursion will sell round tickets between all points on their line in Texas and Louisiana and to points on other lines in Texas on December 23, 24, 25, 26, and 31, and January 1, with final limit to return as late as January 3, 1902, at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip. Also on December 21, 22 and 23, will sell round trip tickets to points in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Indian and Oklahoma Territories, North and South Dakota, Nebraska. All Southwestern States and to Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colorado and to Mexico at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip. These latter tickets to be limited to return 30 days from date of sale. Choice of inviting routes will be offered and every politeness will be shown and every effort made by our employes to see patrons are enabled to make trip pleasantly and comfortably, and our equipment cannot be equaled.

For further information in regard to sleeping car accommodations rates, etc., see any Ticket Agent or write H. P. Hughes, Traveling Passenger Agent, Ft. Worth, or E. P. Turner, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, the Texas & Pacific Railway Co., Dallas, Texas.

## A Talked-of Memorial College.

The late president was to have laid the cornerstone of the Ohio college of government—one of the buildings of the group of the American university at Washington—next month, and it is probable that the honor will now devolve upon President Roosevelt. The building will be of marble and will cost \$250,000. The suggestion has been that it shall be a memorial to President McKinley and that it shall be known as the McKinley memorial Ohio college of government.

## Croker's Cherished Cartoons.

Richard Croker has published for his private diversion and the satisfaction of his literary friends a volume of some 300 cartoons of which he is the subject. It is probable that during the last five years Mr. Croker has been the subject of more than 3,000 cartoons.

## American Women's Crowns.

Mrs. John Jacob Astor, wore lately at a ball a crown which was an exact production of the one worn by Queen Victoria on her Jubilee day, and Mrs. Clarence Mackay has one closely resembling it.

# DRUGS..

EVERYTHING NEW!

I have opened up a stock of Pure, Fresh Drugs, Patent Medicines, Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, Sundries, Etc., next door to First National Bank, and invite the patronage of all.

All Prescription Work is done by a Registered Pharmacist, insuring best results

Nicest line of Christmas Goods in the town.

F. M. DAVIS.

# MILLINERY

AT COST.

In order to reduce stock, I have decided to reduce all Winter Millinery, including Trimmed Hats, at ABSOLUTE COST. Come and avail yourself of these very low prices for new and seasonable goods.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople

# H. D. CLARK

## Groceries, Grain and Hay

Country Produce

See me for Seed Oats, clear of Johnson Grass

Your Patronage Invited. The Lowest Possible Prices to All.

Two 3 inch Weber wagons for sale—part cash, balance next fall. The Star Store Co.

Miss Lucy Leeman came in from Weatherford Saturday to spend the holidays.

## A Library of Women's Books.

A cable dispatch has reported the death in St. Petersburg of a Mme. Kaissavoff, whose passing fame rests on the fact that she had collected a library of nearly 18,000 volumes, all written by women. No book by a male author ever had a place on her shelves.

It is momentarily astonishing to read of such a library. One feels at first that the collection of books must lack variety, since so many fields of literature seem to have been in the particular and almost exclusive possession of masculine writers. Woman has popularized a number of the sciences. Even so dry and abstract a topic as political economy has found its able exponent in Harriet Martineau. But the search for woman historians, biographers, mathematicians and theologians of distinction is difficult.

Great woman poets—Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Jean Ingelow and the rest—are of fair number; novelists—George Eliot, Miss Mullock, Charlotte Bronte, Mrs. Stowe—their name is more than legion; in belles lettres Lady Mary Montagu, Mme. de Sevigne, Mme. de Stael and a host are ready; Louise Mulback stands at the fore of historical novelists; George Sand leads with the novel philosophical. When the collector stands in these lines the places fill rapidly, and the women writers of the present day are steadily creating a demand for more shelves.

It is a unique and must be a thoroughly interesting library that is bequeathed in the Russian capital. The expressed desire will be generally echoed that it shall not be scattered, but shall become the undivided possession of some great college of women.

## Fortune Knocks Once at Every Man's Door

and this may be the rap that will tempt you to court the fair goddess that rules the world.

The days of '49 were a wild scramble of the adventurer to find the yellow metal that has brought prosperity in its wake wherever found and made more millionaires than any other one industry. Mining for precious metals has been gradually narrowing down to a science until today it is considered the safest avenue for the investment of money with almost surely the largest returns.

## INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

of small sums in the co-operative plan of mining has put not a few men and women on the road to prosperity. The company doing this advertising has four undeveloped but promising claims in a proven mining district and offers an attractive proposition to secure the co-operation of money to be used in the development of its property. It is now placing the first installment of treasury stock on the market at a nominal figure, and if you are interested, write for prospectus and other information. Address

Spanish Gulch Gold Mining Co., The Dalles, Ore.

## Attentive to Business.

Mrs. Jack Gardiner, whose place, now being built in Boston, has created considerable comment, spends an average of eight hours a day with her workmen, watching carefully every detail of the work.

## Left All to the Parish.

Rev. Father Wiczorek, priest at St. Hedwig's Polish Catholic church in Toledo, Ohio, who died recently bequeathed to the parish his entire fortune, amounting to nearly \$100,000.

# HAVE A LOOK

And you will be convinced we have the best all-around general line in the country, consisting of

John Deere Working Plows :: Standard Disc Plows  
John Deere Sulkey Plows :: Standard Cultivators  
John Deere Cultivators :: and  
John Deere Disc Harrows :: Hancock Disc Plows

The Old Reliable

## Studebaker Wagons,

Are the Best.

## Buggies, Phaetons, Surries and hacks.

All Grades and Kinds. We have some Genuine Bargains.

## LOOK at OUR

FURNITURE  
COOK STOVES  
HEATING STOVES  
All kinds HARDWARE

Our Motto:—

Prices Below Our Competitors

...GEO. L. PAXTON, Abilene

Smith & Davis can furnish you with what you want to eat. Phone No. 43.

No equal on earth has Hunt's Lightning Oil for rheumatism and neuralgia, as well as sprains, cuts, burns, bruises, and insect stings. Guaranteed. 1 and 50 cents.

The Pride of Heroes. Many soldiers in the last war wrote to say that for scratches, bruises, cuts, wounds, corns, sore feet and stiff joints, Bucklen's Arnica Salve is the best in the world. Same for burns, scalds, boils, ulcers, skin eruptions and piles. It cures or no pay. Only 25c. Rust



# PRICE AND QUALITY!

## These Are the Levers Which do the Prizing at FITTS & SMITH'S

We bank on the Quality of our Goods, and we are satisfied to sell them on their merits alone. At the same time we want to remind you that we will compare prices with any concern in the country. Our stock, as you know, is bran new. Besides its newness it also has style and up-to-dateness to recommend it to you. Prices Right, Quality the Best and Style in Keeping with the Times--what more could you want? Are not those the essential points to be considered in the purchase of Dry Goods? We will verify these statements if you will come to our store and let us show and price our mammoth stock of Goods to you.

We want to show and price our Goods to you, whether you buy or not.  
You will be pleased at the variety and assortment.

### Your Money Back if You Are Not SATISFIED.

# FITTS & SMITH, SPOT CASH MERCHANTS.

## THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Entered in the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as  
second-class mail matter.

### Subscription Rates:

One year	\$1.00
Six months	.50
Three months	.25
Invariably in advance.	

ADVERTISING RATES		per month
One inch space		8.50
Two inch space		1.00
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches)		2.50
Half column (9 inches)		4.00
One column (18 inches)		7.50

Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

### SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the word do plume under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

### A SURE THING.

A new school building is a sure thing. The required number of subscribers have been secured to the petition and only the preliminaries necessary to the ordering of an election are to be gone through with, when notices of an election will be posted and the election ordered. We understand that the petition has already been presented to County Judge D. G. Hill, therefore it will only be a few days until some action will be taken in the premises. The law requires that ten days notice shall be given before an election is held, and as it will require another thirty days in which to vote in bonds, it will be early spring before work will be commenced on the building, if the election is favorable to incorporation. In the face of these difficulties all possible haste should be made by those having a letter in hand.

building will work for the town is incalculable. Property holders should be in favor of it because it will increase the value of their property. Patrons of the school should be in favor of it because it insures better school facilities and more comfortable quarters for their children. Business men should be in favor of it because it means an increased population and a corresponding increase in their business. It will be a blessing to all of us.

One of the first questions asked by a prospector is, how is your school? With a new school building and another teacher added to our already excellent faculty, there will be no trouble in convincing new comers that we have one of the best schools in the State. Merkel is no longer a town whose growth is to be stunted by inferior school facilities. Then be sure to vote for school incorporation.

### PLANT TREES.

This is the tree-planting season of the year, and there is room in Merkel for great improvement along this line. Nothing adds more to the looks and value of a home than beautiful shade trees. It makes no difference how small your home may be, it is home in the truest sense and as such should be made as comfortable and attractive as possible. At a very small cost every one can have shade trees and shrubbery. Make your home pleasant by surrounding it with these comforts. Plant trees.

### SLANG.

The almost general use of slang is deplorable. As the

naval victory, came exclusively by the young, neither is it confined to either sex, but nine out of every ten persons you meet on the street will respond to your words of greeting with some phrase not found in the dictionary. Slang is used to an excess by the young girls who are growing up, possibly for the sole purpose of making an impression. Among the boys it is the masher—the fellow who is stuck on himself—that leads the slang fashion, and his followers do the spreading act. The habit easily grows upon the older generation. Slang from girls shows silliness and an inclination to be fast. Chaste, modest girls are scarce these days. It's generally the girl who can step the furthest over the bounds of propriety that is the most popular and the highest flyer, but in the end it is the modest, Christian girl that reaches the standard of perfection in wifehood and motherhood. Girls, don't use slang, for "by thy words thou shalt be judged," says Holy Writ. Good English is sufficiently expressive for any occasion or emergency. It is much more elegant and refined, too. This extensive and constantly growing habit should be condemned from every pulpit and through the editorial columns of every reputable newspaper.

### THE VERDICT.

The verdict of the court of inquiry censuring Admiral Schley was forecasted long before the court had adjourned and occasioned no great surprise. The minority report signed by the hero of Manila, however, which gave Schley all the credit for the great

of people. It was agreeable, also, to the hero of Santiago. It is more than probable that Congress will investigate the affair and if so, will no doubt find something "terribly rotten in Denmark" that was not brought to light at the inquiry.

All honor to Dewey! All honor to Schley!

### CHRISTMAS.

Before another issue of The Mail reaches its subscribers, Christmas will have come and gone. How much of pleasure and happiness the day holds for you, we know not, but certain it is you have the making of it. Around the word Christmas clings tender thoughts and pleasant memories; there should be a lingering reverence for all things good and pure. It is emblematical of the birth of the beautiful Child of Bethlehem and as such should appeal to our better sensibilities. We can honor this day as befitting a Christian people, with thankful hearts and joyous spirits; or we can give ourselves up to riotous pleasures. Let us observe the day as becomes a happy and prosperous people.

The Mail extends its very best wishes to you, dear friend, and hopes that Santa Claus will fill yours stockings full to overflowing with good things.

### THE POLL TAX AMENDMENT.

Under the terms of a resolution passed by the Legislature last winter there will be submitted to the voters of Texas at the next general election a proposition to amend the State Constitution by adding the following

tors (voters):

"Provided further, That any voter who is subject to pay a poll tax under the laws of the State of Texas shall have paid said tax before he offers to vote at any election held in this State and hold a receipt showing his poll tax paid before the first day of February next preceding the election. Or if such voter shall have lost or misplaced said tax receipt he shall be entitled to vote upon making affidavit before any officer authorized to administer oaths that such tax receipt has been lost. Such affidavit shall be made in writing and left with the judge of election, and this provision of the Constitution shall be self-enacting without the necessity of further legislation."

Don't forget that now is a good time to plant trees. You could do nothing, considering the amount of money to be expended, that would add more to the beauty and value of your home than plenty of nice ornamental and shade trees and shrubs.

It is said to be definitely decided that President Roosevelt will not accept the offer of Andrew Carnegie of \$10,000,000 of steel bonds for the purpose of founding an institution of higher education at Washington. The offer will be accepted only when made in cash or United States bonds.

Assistant Attorney General R. A. John of Georgetown will be a candidate for Attorney General.

Give yourself over to Christmas cheer, but not the kind that comes of the flowing bowl.

Merkel is



attractive man thrives on good food and sunshine, with plenty of exercise in the open air. Her form glows with health and her face blooms with its beauty. When troubled with a constive habit, she takes a few doses of Herbine to cleanse her system of all impurities. Price, 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

J. T. Warren sold a car of flour in two weeks. "Peace-Maker" did it. It doesn't take the people always to find out a good thing.

Dr. Leeman and I. S. Allen returned Saturday from Houston where they attended the session of the Masonic Grand Lodge. They report a profitable meeting.

J. W. Scott was over from Nugent Friday and remembered The Mail. Mr. Scott enjoyed a reasonable prosperity this year, having made 19 bales of cotton, and is well satisfied with his new home. He is good citizen and a first-class farmer, and The Mail wishes him a full measure of success.

#### A Happy Home.

They are a wise young man and woman who start out in their married life in a home of their own in some place where they will have green grass about their house even if it is only a few feet. It makes no difference how humble or how modest the house may be. The smallest box of a house with a plot of green is a temple of common sense compared to the finest flat or boarding house in the city. If there is anything appropriate in this life it is that young people should live somewhere each day they can see their own unfolding lives reflected in the unfolding workings of Nature. There is no beginning in the home sense to a young married life so true, so wise, so lasting and so satisfactory as that. No life in a city is comparable with that which is lived in a small house with green things growing over and around it, where God's pure sunshine bathes and sweetens every side of the house during the day, and where the surest life giving odors that God gives to His children; the odors of soil and growing things are blown into the house while we sleep.—Edward Bok in Ladies' Home Journal.

#### Short Rules for Long Comforts.

- Put self last.
- Be prompt at every meal.
- Take little annoyances out of the way.
- When good comes to any one, rejoice.
- When anyone suffers speak a word of sympathy.
- Tell neither of your own faults nor those of others.
- Have a place for everything, and everything in its place.
- Hide your own troubles, but watch to help others out of theirs.
- Never interrupt any conversation, but watch patiently your turn to speak.
- Look for beauty in everything, and take a cheerful view of every event.
- Carefully clean the snow and mud from your feet on entering the house.
- Always speak politely and kindly to servants.
- When inclined to give an angry answer press your lips together and say the alphabet.
- When pained by an unkind word or deed ask yourself, "Have I ever done an ill and desired forgiveness."—Soldier and Ser-

Disease and danger lurk in the vital organs. The blood becomes vitiated and the general health is undermined whenever the stomach and liver fail to perform their functions as nature intended. Herbine will tone up the stomach, regulate the liver, where other preparations only relieve. Price, 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

#### Dress Making.

We have opened a dress making establishment in the Vaughan building, south of depot, and should be glad to have the ladies of Merkel and surrounding country call on us. Work first-class; prices reasonable.

Mrs. Waldroup,  
Miss Hammonds.

Horse and buggy for sale; worth \$175, but \$125 cash will buy them. Buggy good as new, horse in good condition. Apply at this office.

Cheapness without worth is high priced. We give you value with price.

J. T. Warren.

S. R. Curtis was a pleasant caller Monday and shoved his subscription up a couple of years.

Clothing going regardless of value. Call and inspect same before buying. We will save you money.

J. O. Hamilton.

Of all things for Christmas presents there are not any that last as long or that give so much comfort as good books. Of an immense assortment of these active, living products of the hearts and genius of men we invite your inspection. Rust & Pittard.

Mr. H. H. Tettlee and Miss May E. Campbell were married at the Campbell home, southwest of town, Sunday, Rev. A. A. Baker officiating. They are very popular young people and have the best wishes of a host of friends for a long and happy life. The Mail joins in congratulations.

#### Stockholders Meeting.

The stockholders of the First National Bank of Merkel, Tex., are hereby notified that the regular meeting of the stockholders of said bank for election of directors for the ensuing year, and such other business as may come before it, will be held at office of said bank in Merkel, Texas, Tuesday January 14th, A. D. 1902.

Respectfully,

Geo. S. Berry, Cashier.

The first freeze of the season made its presence felt here last Thursday night. It was one of the coldest spells ever known during the early part of December.

## 5 Facts About JEWELRY.

- 1 Every article in my stock is thoroughly good and reliable.
- 2 My lines are so comprehensive and varied as to insure satisfactory selections.
- 3 My guarantee stands behind every article I sell, and my reputation is well known.
- 4 Quality and style considered, my prices are the lowest possible.
- 5 I insist on pleasing you, for I desire to make every customer a permanent customer.

**W. T. CORDILL,**  
THE JEWELER

# It's Not the Saying

## But the Doing that Counts.

For the benefit of those who may never have tried our way of doing, we will call attention to our facilities for supplying your needs in

### DRY GOODS and GROCERIES

#### Blankets and Comforts.

We have a good assortment, in fact, too many for the time of year. Will make special prices on them during the next few days.

#### Wraps.

We had a little jag of Jackets and Capes which were back ordered and came in after the fire. We need the money that is in them and you can own them at what they cost.

#### Shoes

Any old shoe will sorter do for warm weather, but you ought to get a pair of of Hamilton and Brown's for winter. We have a complete stock on hand

WE ARE

The Price-Makers.

# J. T. WARREN

Praise the bridge that carries you over either a flood or cough. Ballard's Horehound Syrup has brought so many over throat and lung troubles, such as coughs, colds, bronchitis, etc., that its praises are sung everywhere. Price, 25 and 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

We have a complete stock of Hamilton-Brown Shoes; every pair new and up-to-now.

J. T. Warren.

Every business house in Merkel should close on Christmas day. The two holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas, should be rigidly observed—Thanksgiving because it shows our gratitude for the blessings we have enjoyed, and Christmas because it shows a proper conception of our duties and obedience to the Divine Word. By all means let us close up shop Christmas day.

160 acres of land, adjoining town, for sale. See H. C. Williams.

Christmas tree exercises will be held at Union Ridge school house, five miles northwest of town. Read the program.

Christmas comes but once a year. But its memories are for all the year 'round, and so should its tokens be. If you buy Christmas presents of Rust & Pittard you are sure to get something substantial.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Woodard relatives at Roscoe Sun-

Worms take refuge in the small intestine, where they can easily multiply. White's Cream Vermifuge will destroy these parasites. The verdict of the people tells plainly how well it has succeeded. Price, 25 cents at F. M. Davis'.

What do the business men of Merkel think about organizing a hook and ladder company.

Rust & Pittard have an immense assortment of Christmas presents suitable for every member of the family. Be sure to give us a call.

J. L. Vaughan sends in a dollar from Chihuahua, Mexico, to keep The Mail a-coming.

#### NOTICE.

We have put on a delivery wagon, and can get all goods out promptly. Delivered free to any part of the city. Phone us your orders.

J. O. Hamilton.

D'ri and L., The Crisis, Richard Carvel, Lazarre, Captain Ravenshaw, The Sky Pilot, She Stands Alone, Black Rock, etc., are all new books and copyrights, ranging in price from \$1.00 to \$1.50. Rust & Pittard.

Isaac N. Taylor, the attorney, has moved to Abilene where he will engage in the practice of his profession. Mr. Taylor is a Christian gentleman and worthy of the highest confidence of the Abilene people.

Many poor old fat young hogs had the bucket last week.

Tabler's Buckeye Pile Ointment has been thoroughly tested for many years, and is a positive cure and is a positive cure for this most distressing and embarrassing of troubles. Price, 50 cents in bottles. Tubes, 75 cents at F. M. Davis'.

We have our own delivery now and can get goods out as soon as ordered. Try us.

J. T. Warren.

The Texas & Pacific handled 2,719 cars of freight last Friday over its lines, breaking all previous records.

A full line of boy's knee pants and youth's long pants just received at

J. O. Hamilton.

Drummers and others in a position to know say that there is a contemplated change of schedule over the Texas & Pacific and that double daily passenger trains are soon to be put on between El Paso and Fort Worth, but the officials of the road have so far maintained a rigid silence as to their intentions. Such a change would meet with general satisfaction and gratitude up and down the line.

All persons indebted to us will please call and settle at once and greatly oblige.

The Star Store Co.

Will Calvert has a good, gentle work mule to sell cheap for cash, or for good note.

The cold snap is hanging to us like a brother.



# If You Must Economize

Then go where you can get the Greatest Measures of Values. That place is here. Our prices on any and all articles are at all times the lowest to be found, Quality considered. Commencing Saturday, Dec. 13, and continuing for two weeks we will make prices that will prove to economical buyers, that if they would make **DOLLARS DO DOUBLE DUTY** they should go to Sharp's. **THESE PRICES DO THE TALKING:**

\$1.25 Shirts at .....	75c	\$5.00 Men's Suits go at .....	\$4.00	\$1.00 Jeans Pants go at .....	75c
75c Shirts at .....	55c	8.00 Men's Suits go at .....	6.50	65c Overalls go at .....	50c
65c Shirts at .....	45c	6.50 Men's Suits go at .....	5.00	\$1.75 Casmere Pants go at .....	\$1.25
12 1/2c Silk finish Fleece at .....	8 1/2c	12.50 Men's Suits go at .....	9.00	\$1.25 Capes go at .....	75c
16 1/2c Silk finish Fleece at .....	12 1/2c	5c Calicoes go at .....	4c	\$2.00 Capes go at .....	\$1.25
Other goods in proportion.		6 1/2c Calicoes go at .....	5c	50c Capes go at .....	35c

## J. P. Sharp & Company.

### As Exuberant as a Boy.

"The presidency has quieted Roosevelt down," says a man who claims to have known the present occupant of the White House when he wore knee pants, "but there was so much of real boyhood born in him that there is lots of it there yet, and it will crop out when he is 90. I remember when he came back from that whirlwind stump speaking Western tour of the last McKinley campaign. He rushed out of a cab and into the Fifth avenue hotel, made a dive for the public wash-room, and began to plunge about in water and towels until all the dust of travel was gone. As he emerged, red and shining, from the largest towel in the house, I hit him on the back, and in congratulation of his tour said: 'Teddy, you're a hummer.' 'Ain't I, though?' he shouted like a schoolboy, and the blow he gave me on the back is smarting yet. It was not egotism; it was but a blowing off of the steam of an exuberant enthusiasm."

### A Good Cough Medicine.

(From the Gazette, Toowoomba, Australia.)  
I find Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is an excellent medicine. I have been suffering from a severe cough for the last two months, and it has effected a cure. I have great pleasure in recommending it.—W. C. Wockner. This is the opinion of one of our oldest and most respected residents, and has been voluntarily given in good faith that others may try the remedy and be benefitted, as was Mr. Wockner. This remedy is sold by Rust & Pittard.

Phone G. M. Sharp when you want feed.

### Crawford's New Story.

F. Marion Crawford's next story, "The Harvest of the Sword," is to begin a serial course in the Sphere (London) some time in 1902. Its time is that of the strife of Guelphs and Ghibelines, and Dante, Francesca da Rimini and Count Ugolino are among the personages introduced.

### Strong Effort for Cancer Cure.

The German emperor is reported to have made an order for a commission of experts to be appointed with a view to the most radical and exhaustive investigation of cancer that can possibly be made. The deaths of his father, mother and uncle from this cause have naturally given this scourge a terrible interest in his eyes, which has as naturally been shared by those allied in England.

### Pugilist's Son a Preacher.

The Mace family, like the Jeffries family, has one representative engaged in religious work. Alfred Mace, son of Jem Mace, the famous English pugilist of the days when gloves were not good form, reached San Francisco last week on an evangelical tour of the world, and preached Sunday afternoon in Metropolitan hall. This sermon, says the Call, of San Francisco, is the first of a series, as he is to remain until December 1, when he will sail for New Zealand. He does not travel on his father's reputation, but is thoroughly in earnest and thinks only of his work. He has been an evangelist for twenty-four years. He is said to be a forceful speaker.

### CORD WOOD FOR SALE.

150 cords of wood either for cash or in 5 and 10 cord lots to good men, payable Oct. next. Wood is four miles southwest of Merkel.

T. J. Parton.

### A GOOD THING.

German Syrup is the special prescription of Dr. A. Boschee, a celebrated German Physician, and is acknowledged to be one of the most fortunate discoveries in Medicine. It quickly cures Coughs, Colds and all Lung troubles of the severest nature, removing, as it does, the cause of the affection and leaving the parts in a strong and healthy condition. It is not an experimental medicine, but has stood the test of years, giving satisfaction in every case, which its rapidly increasing sale every season confirms. Two million bottles sold annually. Boschee's German Syrup was introduced in the United States in 1868, and is now sold in every town and village in the civilized world. Three doses will relieve any ordinary cough. Price 75c at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Prize Almanac.

### Lockjaw from Vaccination.

New York medical men are much interested in a series of cases in New Jersey, where death from lockjaw has followed vaccination. Five children have been stricken in this way in Camden alone, and four of them have died. The last case, a girl of 16, was vaccinated a month ago. The usual results followed at first and no complications presented themselves. Ten days ago she was taken sick and went to bed, and after a little the symptoms of lockjaw appeared. As the disease progressed, and the muscles of her body were attacked, she suffered great agony. Antitoxin was resorted to, but from the beginning her case was pronounced hopeless.

### Long in Use in China.

A Chinese manuscript in the Paris library indicates that anaesthetics for surgical purposes were used in China 1,700 years ago. It states that when a surgeon conducted a serious operation he gave a decoction to the patient, who, after a few moments, became as insensible

### GOOD ADVICE.

The most miserable beings in the world are those suffering from Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint. More than seventy-five per cent of the people in the United States are afflicted with these two diseases, and their effects; such as Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Habitual Costiveness, Palpitation of the Heart, Heart-burn, Waterbrash, Gnawing and Burning Pains at the Pit of the Stomach, Yellow Skin, Coated Tongue and Disagreeable Taste in the Mouth, Coming up of Food after eating, Low Spirits etc. Go to your Druggist and get a bottle of August Flower for 75c. Two doses will relieve you. Try it at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Prize Almanac.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

### Evolution in Big Hotels.

"The evolution in hotels during the past few years has been interesting," said a prominent New York Boniface recently. "Of course, the most noticeable features are the extensive modern improvements, such as baths, wash stands, telephones, etc., in each room and the generally improved equipment of the buildings. A feature which is not so noticeable, but one which is very important to the hotel man, however, is the decrease in the size of the rooms. Hotel rooms used to have high ceilings and were long and broad. Now they are mostly small, with comparatively low ceilings. Sometimes I hear guests ask each other why the rooms are so small nowadays, and they seldom hit on the right reason. It is because the cost of erecting and operating a hotel is much greater than formerly, while the extent of the patronage is about the same. It is necessary to make the rooms small in order that the same space may bring bigger returns. Take one big room which used to produce, say \$3 a day, and it is now cut in two, so as to make the same space produce \$5 or \$6 a day. But it is necessary that it should be so. Look at the difference in the cost of modern hotels in the expense of maintaining them. A hotel that cost \$200,000 now costs

J. T. Warren, Pres.  
S. F. West, V.-Pres.  
Geo. S. Berry, Cash.

## The First National Bank

of Merkel

**CAPITAL, \$30,000.**

Surplus and Undivided Profits - - - **\$1704.86**

*We guarantee satisfaction to our customers, and offer them the services of a reliable and conservative Banking Institution which is at all times willing to extend every courtesy consistent with sound business methods*

**We solicit your business**

### Saved at Grave's Brink.

"I know I would long ago have been in my grave," writes Mrs. S. H. Newsom of Decatur, Ala., "if it had not been for Electric Bitters. For three years I suffered untold agony from the worst forms of indigestion, waterbrash, stomach and bowel dyspepsia. But this excellent medicine did me a world of good. Since using it I can eat heartily and have gained 35 pounds." For indigestion, loss of appetite, stomach, liver and kidney troubles Electric Bitters are a positive, guaranteed cure. Only 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

Persistent and continued advertising is the kind that brings success. Try it.



### Nobility Recommends Nervine.

The above portrait is that of Countess Mogelstud, of Chicago, Ill., whose gratitude for the benefit received from the use of Dr. Miles' Nervine prompted her to make this statement:

"It affords me great pleasure to add my testimony to the very excellent merits of Dr. Miles' Nervine. Although I am past 80 years of age I find it soothes the tired brain, quiets the irritated nerves and insures restful sleep. I never feel contented without a bottle of it in the house." Gratefully yours,  
CHRISTIANA MARIA,  
Countess Mogelstud.

### Dr. Miles' Nervine

is a nerve tonic and strength-builder that starts right in restoring health immediately.  
Sold by all Druggists.  
Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.



Buy the Best Stove  
The  
Celebrated  
Bridge and  
Beach.

Yellow  
Kid  
Disc Plows

They will do  
the work  
every time.

# Queensware

I am overstocked on Queensware and until Jan. 1 will sell

● AT COST ●

this line of goods. Many articles suitable for Christmas Presents and worth double the prices asked for them. Come and take a look at the goods.

**W. H. DICKSON**

Baker Perfect Barbed Wire is the BEST...

Headquarters for  
Hardware  
Implements  
Glassware  
Etc.

Bible and  
Lansing  
Wagons

Best High-Grade  
wagons on the  
Market....

Homes for the  
Homeless.

\$100 Per Section.

For \$100, we will get you one section of school land under a guarantee--no land no pay.

Mr. Kinchen, of this firm, is an ex-County and District Clerk of Stephens county, and an up-to-date lawyer--the man who settled the famous Block 97, of Scurry county. Got more homes for the homeless than any man in the State.

For further information address

**KINCHEN & HILL,**  
Lubbock, Texas.

For patented land, write B. F. Hill, Sec., of the Western Land and Abstract Co. From 1 to 10,000 acres for sale. Rates reasonably cheap: terms easy.

Wanted—A second-hand buggy. Must be in good condition and cheap. Stanhope or Phaeton preferred.

E. M. RUST.

Merkel, Texas.

S. W. Sheppard has the finest lot of Christmas candies and sweet meats ever brought to the town.

Buy your Grain, Hay and Salt from G. M. Sharp, the only exclusive Grain Dealer in Merkel.

Hamlet: "Angels and ministers of grace defend us: be thou a spirit or health or goblin damned," if I know a better place to buy Wind Mills and pumps than from Elliott & Miller.

For Sale.

My home place in Merkel. 10 or 12 Sewing Machines; your choice for \$3.50. 160 acre farm in the Canyon. I would appreciate a prompt settlement of all accounts due me. Please call at once and straighten up, as I am selling out and want my money.

Big Springs is to be incorporated for school purposes and \$15,000 worth of bonds will be voted for school purposes.

## Long Hair

"About a year ago my hair was coming out very fast, so I bought a bottle of Ayer's Hair Vigor. It stopped the falling and made my hair grow very rapidly, until now it is 45 inches in length."—Mrs. A. Boydston, Atchison, Kans.

There's another hunger than that of the stomach. Hair hunger, for instance.

Hungry hair needs food, needs hair vigor—Ayer's. This is why we say that Ayer's Hair Vigor always restores color, and makes the hair grow long and heavy.

Go to G. M. Sharp's for your bran, oats and wheat chops. G. M. Sharp will have 3 cars of corn for Christmas. Call and leave orders.

DR. JOS. H. WARNICK, PRES.  
WM. H. DUNNING, CASHIER.

## Jos. H. Warnick

BANKER

CAPITAL, \$15,000

DOES A GENERAL BANKING AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS.

Our vault equipment is modern in every respect. We are using the Mosler Patent Screw Door Safe, with triple Yale Timer, affording the greatest possible security. It is our purpose to deal justly and liberally with all. Our patrons will receive every courtesy and accommodation within the range of prudent Banking.

## Talk That Talks...

It's nice to do business with plenty of nice, new goods and plenty of appreciative customers. We have the

## Right Goods at Right Prices!

Our stock of General Merchandise is complete, and we should be glad to show and price it to you.

J. O. HAMILTON.

## Big Cut In Lumber Yard!

We have moved and remodeled our old sheds, erected a new one in center of yard and have filled all with a brand new stock of Lumber, Shingles, Sash Doors, Brick, Lime, Cement Building Paper, etc.

This cut has widened our yard driveways all around, which enables us to serve as many more of our customers at the same time with the best material ever brought to Merkel.

Our Lumber is of all dimensions—short, wide and long, thick, but dry and bright, these things it takes, you know; To make your home good tight and strong—It is to your interest to buy of Burton-Lingo.

**BURTON-LINGO CO.,**

Lumber Dealers

J. S. Barnes,

Manager

THE MERKEL MAIL—ONLY \$1.00 PER YEAR

ALL THE NEWS

### THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

When you read a thing you like to feel that it's the truth. The Dallas Semi-Weekly News gives the facts in the case.

SPECIALLY EDITED.

If you'll read The News a while you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not haphazard go into the makeup of The News.

TWO PAPERS YOU NEED.

You need The Merkel Mail, because it's your local paper. It gives a class of news you can't get elsewhere. You need The News because it gives you all the State news. The Merkel Mail and The Semi-Weekly News one year for only \$1.75, cash in advance.

The News is promptly stopped at expiration of time paid for.

### Foils a Deadly Attack.

"My wife was so ill that good physicians were unable to help her," writes M. M. Austin of Winchester, Ind., "but was completely cured by Dr. King's New Life Pills." They work wonders in stomach and liver troubles. Cure constipation, sick headache. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

When wanting anything to eat 'phone 43.

### Dora Dots.

S. W. Hampton and wife went to Abilene Thursday.

A slight snow fell at Dora Friday.

J. M. Bryson, who has been sick for the last three weeks, is improving.

No preaching Sunday on account of the cold weather.

Singing Sunday night at A. R. Sanders'.

Albert Elliott went to Merkel Monday.

J. E. Bryson went to Merkel Monday.

John McCoy went to Abilene Monday.

Miss Kate Elliott left Monday for Callahan county on a visit.

R. W. Ground carried the mail Tuesday.

S. A. D. Ground killed hogs. John Bloxom went to Nubia Monday.

Mrs. Lillie Beall and Miss Nettie Hawkins are peddling now days.

Will close with success to the mail.

KAT KLAW.

### Coughs and Colds in Children.

#### Recommendation of a Well Known Chicago Physician.

I use and prescribe Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for almost all obstinate, constricted coughs, with direct results. I prescribe it to children of all ages. Am glad to recommend it to all in need and seeking relief from colds and coughs and bronchial affections. It is non-narcotic and safe in the hands of the most unprofessional.—Mrs. Mary R. Meleudy, M. D., Ph. D., Chicago, Ill. This remedy is for sale by Rust & Pittard.

### Advertised Letters.

Following letters remain un-called for in the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, and if not called for will be sent to the Dead Letter office Jan. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Burk, John  
Blankenship, Bery  
Blaty, Alvin  
Gallagher, Miss Victory  
Guitar, D C  
Miller, Miss Mahaley  
Mordock, Miss Ethel  
Memorta, M W  
McClure, Mr.  
McClure, W N  
McLendon, Mrs. Thankful  
Pearce, F S  
Pitts & Son, H B  
Scully, M  
Shelton, J O  
Yates, W S  
Westernhoover, W W  
Woods, Mrs Cora

### Hop Jointists in Hook.

The proprietors of the only remaining hop ale joint were arrested and jailed at Abilene Monday, charged with selling intoxicating liquors and also violation of the law licensing pool halls. Several charges were entered against them, and being unable to make bonds they were remanded to jail. This closes the only hop joint in the town. To a majority of our citizens the news comes in the nature of a rare Christmas present. Let's "jollificate."

The wreck of a freight train near Terrell delayed the Tuesday morning's passenger thirteen hours.

Go to G. M. Sharp's for your bran, oats and wheat chops.

G. M. Sharp will have 3 cars of corn for Christmas. Call and leave orders.



**J. HILL,  
BARBER.**

Agent, Model Steam Laundry of Abilene.

**S. T. EASON, THE BARBER.**  
NORTH FRONT STREET.

A genteel shaving parlor for genteel people.

**J. M. PATE, BARBER.**  
NORTH FRONT STREET.

First class work and prompt and polite attention to all.

**DR. F. N. BROWN,  
DENTIST.**

Nitrous Oxide Gas Administered. Office, Pine St. Abilene.

**J. J. MILLER,  
Justice Peace and Notary Public**

Also fire insurance agent. Will write deeds, take acknowledgements, pay taxes on land, furnish abstracts of title and transact all other business entrusted to him.

**I. O. O. F. LODGE**

No. 355 meets every Friday night. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend.

S. H. Basham, N.G.  
T. F. Compton, Sec.

**DR. T. S. HOLLIS,  
THE DENTIST—**

Office over Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

**H. C. WILLIAMS,  
Real Estate and Insurance Agent**

Notary Public  
Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc.  
OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

**I. N. TAYLOR,  
Attorney-at-law & Notary Public.**

Office in the Bank building.

**J. A. LEEMAN  
Physician and Surgeon.**

Office, King's Drug Store.

**G. H. RICHARDSON  
Physician and Surgeon.**

Residence, West Merkel.

**BEST  
PASSENGER SERVICE  
IN TEXAS.**

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

*He streaks,  
the best line  
from  
Dallas*

**P. TURNER,  
GEN'L PASS'R AND TICKET AGENT,  
DALLAS, TEXAS.**

You cannot afford to trifle with a cough. It may result in some serious if not fatal malady. Take time by the forelock and use Simmon's Cough Syrup. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50

For family use in numberless ways Ballard's Snow Liniment is a useful and valuable remedy. Price, 25 and 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

**An Explosion,**

On last Saturday morning the gasoline engine, which is used to run The Mail's big presses, froze up and busted, entailing a pretty severe loss. Particular attention had been given to the engine on the evening before, all the water having been drained out of both engine and tank, but there was an accumulation of rust, etc., in the cylinder head which retained the water that froze and tore its way out. Upon examination the break was found to be an old one, and as the engine was rebuilt the rebuilders will probably make the loss good. The loss was discovered at 8 o'clock Saturday morning and by 4 o'clock that evening a new engine had been received and installed and was pulling the presses right along.

The old engine was a good riddance. It had never given satisfaction, but was always out of gear. A puff, a sizz and a great amount of pounding was the best it could do at any time.

**Caesar Conquered Britain.**

Malaria was conquered by Simmon's Liver Purifier (tin box.) Protected from moisture, dust and insects. Clears the complexion, cures constipation, aids and corrects action of the liver.

**Taylor Wins Out.**

The Dallas News is holding a novel contest over the sweet potato record in this State and so far perhaps a hundred mastodon potatoes have been brought to light, ranging in size from 5 to 38 pounds each. Many fake reports are being sent in by witty correspondents, but notwithstanding the contest is an interesting one and is assuming gigantic proportions. Taylor county wins, according to the following communication from George P. Phillips of Dallas:

"Talking of sweet potatoes calls to my mind an exhibit Taylor County displayed at the Texas State Fair several years since, which secured the cash prize of \$500 offered by the association to the county making the best display of grain, cotton, fruit, melons, vegetables, etc., raised on a farm or garden in that county. Among the articles displayed was a sweet potato raised on the farm of Judge Daniel B. Corley in Buffalo Gap, near Abilene, which, to the best of my recollection, weighed thirty-eight pounds. My understanding at the time was that the committee selected to gather the exhibit had several potatoes of similar size in the patch to select from, but took the one I mention because of its smooth surface and general good proportion. No doubt many visitors at the Fair that year will remember that exhibit."

Safe, swift and sure is the proper description of Cheatham's Laxative Tablets. Cure colds in a day. Can be carried in vest pocket. Easy to take. Guaranteed. Price 25 cents.

East Texas Ribbon Cane. Barrels, 5 gal. kegs and 1 gal. cans.

**J. T. Warren.**

Some parties have borrowed tools from my shop which I am badly in need of and would be glad if they would return them at once. A hint to the wise ought to be sufficient. W. J. O'Zee.

My friend, are you suffering from any painful and annoying skin disease, such as ringworm, tetter eczema or anything similar. If so, just try one box of Hunt's Cure. It never fails. Guaranteed. Price 50 cents.

It will pay you to see J. T. Warren if you want a Cape or Jacket.

**One Man's Way.**

What has been done once can be done again, is an old but true saying. This is applicable to agricultural pursuits as well as to the many other avocations of life.

We have in mind one man who arrived in Merkel about six years ago with four or five ponies, a wagon and \$150 in money. But he brought along a full supply of pluck and energy and went to work. The two first years after his arrival here he was a renter, but during the third year he invested his small surplus in land, and kept adding to it until he now owns 700 or 800 acres, 30 head of jersey cows, several good horses, a full supply of farming tools, outhouses and a comfortable home well furnished, besides money in the bank. Last year his cotton crop alone brought him in \$4,300, while this year he gathered 73 500-pound bales from 200 acres of cotton, valued at \$3,000, and besides this he has several acres in wheat and rye for winter pasturage, not to mention the forage and other feed crops already housed.

This man is T. J. Parton, who lives four miles southwest of town. Mr. Parton will cultivate 275 acres next year, 250 of which he will plant in cotton, and with his small grain crops as "go-betweens" he hopes to make 1902 a record breaker. He is a scientific farmer who uses both brain and brawn to make the earth yield his desires. How well he has succeeded and how much of prosperity he has enjoyed may be summed up in these few words: In the face of a drouthy year he has made his land yield \$15 per acre, three times its original cost.

What Mr. Parton has done others can do. It's all in the way you go after it. This is the greatest country on the face of the globe in which to make a living, but it takes work, and lots of it.

**THE HOME AND HAPPINESS.**

The diffusion of happiness is one of the great primal laws of possessing happiness ourselves. The home is rounded on this idea, and if it is not recognized the home is not an ideal one. The unity of the home depends upon the unselfishness of every member, and the acceptance of the idea that each will try to make the others happy. In so doing we promote the happiness of ourselves through the indirect method which is today accepted as the moral law of human love and sympathy. In the broader sense this altruism should prevail in society and public life, but it must first be cultivated in the home. Unless it finds nourishment and encouragement there it can never permeate the great mass of humanity around.—New York Weekly.

The Mail will be issued Tuesday of next week in order that the force may observe part of the week as a holiday. Those desiring to extend greetings to their patrons or who have something to say about their business should send or bring them in no later than Monday evening.

**AN EYE OPENER....**

The Chattanooga Hancock Disc Plow....

**PROVEN BY ACTUAL TEST  
AT A TRIAL IN ABILENE TO  
RUN LIGHTER THAN A 10-  
INCH WALKING PLOW. DO  
NOT BUY TILL YOU SEE IT.**

Yours truly,

**ED S. HUGHES & CO.**  
Abilene, Texas

**S. W. SHEPPARD**

Groceries  
Vegetables  
Fruits  
Country  
Produce  
and Fresh  
Meats, etc.

We sell almost everything afforded by the market, and sell at reasonable prices. Come to us for your groceries....

**Bargains..**

ARE AWAITING YOU IN THE

**Furniture Line**

We have a fine line of Rockers, Fancy Tables, Folding Beds, Side Boards, Iron Beds, Springs, Bed-Room Suits, Window Shades, Rugs, etc.

These goods are going to be sold if low prices are any inducement.

**W. P. Browning & Co.**

**Christmas Presents....**

You can not do better in New York or any other place buying Christmas presents than you can in our store. We have bought the samples which the Northern houses had in Dallas for the Southwest, at a price which gives us the advantage over Wannamaker or Sugel Cooper. We have the best stock in the State, either wholesale or retail. Don't come to Abilene without seeing it. It's worth it.

**Bass Bros. Drug Co.**

**Liver Wrong—All Wrong.**

It is impossible to have good health with a bad liver. It is nearly as impossible to have bad health with a good liver. It may be, as you think, that the stomach, the bowels, the kidneys or the blood causes your bad health, but the liver is back of every one of them, and in nine cases out of ten, if you correct the liver you correct...

**Herbinae**

is as sure to correct the liver as it is sure you have or'er it cures Ind'ria and the  
Through tion, Constipation, ment which arise from and assimilation of food. At drug