

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, DECEMBER 18, 1902.

NO. 44.

AT COST!

Until January 1st

We offer our entire stock of Men's and Boys' Clothing, Ladies' Jackets, Capes and Skirt at ACTUAL COST.

10 to 20 per cent Reduction on all Woolen Dress Goods.

Best Calicos at Only 4 cents per yard.

Best Table Oilcloth Only 15 cents per yard.

Extra Quality Mens' Fleece Underwear 50 cents each.

We Guarantee our Prices to be as Low as the Lowest.

The Star Store.

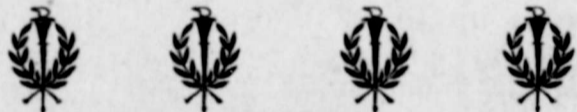
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.
T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

Agreeable Business Relations may be Permanently Sustained only by the exercise of a spirit of Mutual Consideration, Fairness and Courtesy. We try to give our friends "value received" for the business done with us. At the same time we want them to know that we appreciate their patronage, as well as the active interest they have shown in our general welfare.

CAPITAL, \$30,000
SURPLUS, \$ 9,000



The Higher Life

Obedience.

Rev. Breed, Episcopal.

Consider what the word obedience means: Yielding your will to another, even God; He speaks, and you obey, intelligently and without question or excuse. Compare that with what you actually do. God is watching you. He knows day by day, how you try to obey Him. He knows who controls your will. When you think of God and His remembrance of you it will be strange if you do not love Him a little.

Habit and Happiness.

Rev. Hillis, Cengregationalist.

Every man should remember that his life will be the happier for making habits to be his allies, smoothing his pathway, instead of enemies that heap up barriers in the way. Whatever we do regularly, we soon do easily and at least pleasurably. The full joy of one's work never comes until the working becomes habitual, until the action is automatic, and almost unconscious. When work has reached the stage when, by long practice, it is habitual and automatic, the hours of work become the hours of one's greatest happiness.

Fidelity to God.

Rev. Monk, Methodist.

Our fidelity to God consists in our obedience to His will on earth as it is in heaven. Only one thing is necessary—is this God's will? If it will, we must faithfully observe it. Our holy

religion is expressed in one little word, i. e., obey. When this is done, all things else will come right. Our obligation to God is seen in His supply of our necessity. In order to live we must breathe—inhalation and exhalation. None but God can supply our wants.

Threefold Necessity.

Rev. Freeman, Baptist.

The threefold necessity to a successful Christian was a high ideal, the exercise of a strenuous endeavor, and the experience of a divine fellowship. Idealizing was the salt of progress and kindled in us the appreciation of perfection. All men were what ideals made them.

Doll Given Away.

Every 25c purchase of anything in our store entitles you to a chance at a large doll, which is on display in our show window. It is a handsome present for some little girl. Ask for tickets.

Burroughs & Mann.

An exchange has discovered that the moon gets full, but she goes on shining; the rain drops, but it gets up again; the stars shoot, but do not kill; the willows weep, but shed not a tear; night falls but doesn't break; day breaks but doesn't fall; the fly swallows and the swallows fly; the bees buzz and so does the girls.

We have presents for father, mother, sister, brother, sweetheart or friend. You can't find a more up-to-date stock anywhere.

Burroughs & Mann

Try reading The Mail.

Farm and Ranch Sayings.

Hogs should never be fed exclusively on corn, or any other grain, but should have some green stuff or succulent roots or melons or pumpkins to break the monotony of a single article of food. It will help the appetite, promote digestion and consequently health.

A shortage of hogs is predicted based on the effect of high prices upon the amount of breeding stock and the scarcity of feed last year, and in certain sections this year. This is a plain hint to farmers to secure all the pigs they can, and feed all they have well. There is more clear profit in raising hogs for market than growing any staple crop for sale. Also the best way to market staple crops is to grow such as hogs thrive on, feed these crops to a

good grade of hogs and when they weigh 200 to 300 pounds sell them to the packers. Then you get all your money back and much more than the market prices for your crop.

After the crops are all harvested and stowed is a good time to begin plowing for the spring crops. Many of our best Southern farmers contend that one additional plowing is equal to an average application of manure. This is true because plowing renders available much plant food that otherwise would remain hurtful. When the crops are growing there is need for all the moisture available and by keeping the soil loose and the surface broken practically all the rain that falls enters the soil there to be combined by surface cultivated and used by the

growing crops in time of drouth.

There are a number of English horse buyers in this country now looking for American draft horses for European markets and are paying good prices for anything that suits them. American horse breeders should consider this demand and as every one cannot grow high priced racehorses they can have some good large mares and breed to approved draft stock and make more money with less risk than is possible with any other class of horse stock. This demand bids fair to increase, and all the steam gas and electric motors that man can make will not prevent it.

Dolls, tops, lamps, novelties in celluloid, fine china and glass—everything and anything at Burroughs & Mann's.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office..... 31
Residence..... 37

If you know of any news item, we will consider it a special favor if you will report same to this office, either by person, letter or over the phone to either of the above numbers.

Christmas Tree Exercises.

In the absence of other exercises for Christmas Eve—all the churches refusing to provide such entertainment—the Woodmen took the matter in hand and will arrange a tree at the Presbyterian church. A town must be very small and its people very unappreciative if they can not afford one little tree as a remembrance of the day. It is not to the credit of the churches that they denied the children this best of all holidays.

Every one is invited to take part in the exercises. It is given for the benefit of the general public. Following are the committees appointed:

On decoration and to receive presents—Mesdames Dr. Leeman, A. A. Baker, Jno. Elliott, W. B. Mann, G. E. Comegys, R. A. Rollins, S. T. Eason, C. W. Harris; Messrs. J. H. McDonald, Otho Williams, I. S. Allen, B. A. Bennett.

To take presents off tree—J. H. McDonald, Jim Dennis, B. A. Bennett.

To distribute presents—C. W. Harris, Will Leeman, Otho Williams, H. C. Burroughs, W. B. Mann, A. C. Browning.

On music—Ed J. Leeman, Will Mann, Will Leeman, R. A. Rollins, J. L. Mann, G. E. Comegys. Santa Claus—John Elliott.

All Woodmen requested to meet at the church Tuesday night to arrange tree.

John Phealon is the young man charged with the theft of E. D. Coats' mules. He was apprehended at Avalon and is now in jail at Abilene.

Mrs. U. S. Grant is dead.

E. D. Coats had two mules stolen from a pasture near town last week, which were driven to Abilene and disposed of. A young man who recently lived here was seen with the mules and his sudden disappearance and other facts which have come to light places him in an unenviable position. Officers are on his trail and his whereabouts are said to be known to them. At a convenient season he will no doubt find himself in the clutches of the law, with the pen staring him in the face. Meager details of the affair makes a more intelligent synopsis of the crime impracticable at this time.

Those Who Love Us.

Under this head will be given, each week, a list of subscribers who have paid their subscriptions to The Mail. It will answer as a receipt:

T E McReynolds, Haskell,	\$2.00
C L Brown, Nubia,	1.00
T L Stevens, Trent,	2.00
J H Campbell, Merkel,	1.00
N Harrison,	1.00
Mrs Ella Ford, Navasota.	1.00
by N Harrison	
Mrs Mary Deen, Ala	1.00
by N Harrison	
W C Cozart, Gallon,	1.40
W A Cozart, Merkel,	1.00
J D Cozart, Tenn	1.00
by W A Cozart	
F Gordon, Tenn	1.00
by W A Cozart	

Get your name on this list.

Cotton May Advance!

But we will sell Hardware and Groceries at prices that can not be beaten anywhere.

Our Stock is Complete and Up-to-Date. We handle:

The Best



Flour,
Meat,
Lard,
Sugar,
Coffee,
Dried Fruits,
Candies,
Nuts,
Delicacies,
of Everything in
Groceries.

The Best



Stoves,
Wagons,
Buggies,
Plows,
Sulkys,
Disc Plows,
Harrows,
Planters,
Cultivators,
of Everything in
Hardware

The Best Hames, the best Traces, the best Collars, the best Pads, the best Backbands, the best Lines—in fact the best of everything in Hardware, Groceries, Queesware, Feed, Etc., at BEST PRICES.

GEO. F. WEST.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

At the Zocolo we take the mule cars marked Ixtapalapa and were soon on the banks of the La Viga canal. This canal connects the city with Lakes Chalco, Xochimilco and Texcoco. Traffic is carried on by means of flat boats, some of them being 75 feet long, and they are used for transporting wood, stone, sand and other heavy freight. Sometimes several are strung together. The method of propelling is by long poles. Going down stream is easy work, but the current is swift and coming up with a load is a case of "pulling hard against the stream"—men on shore with ropes pulling, while others on the boat use the poles. There are many smaller boats, some with seats and covered with awnings; these are for passengers and picnic parties, when the young folks have evening boat rides with music and sometimes dancing.

At Santa Anita we change mules. This is quite a busy Indian town, has some stores and plenty of pulque shops. On holidays the Indians collect here and hold festivals. A pretty bridge crosses the canal here, and another at La Garita. While waiting for the mules to be changed, and the driver to fill up with pulque, I took some pictures of the canal, and was soon surrounded by a crowd of Indians, watching me with curiosity. My curiosity was not less than theirs, for I found that they were using a language different from anything I had ever heard before. It was the Aztec, almost the same as was used before the conquest.

Here we found the celebrated "Floating Gardens." For several miles the tramway runs along the bank with the canal on one side and the "Chinampas" or floating gardens on the other. These gardens look like large town lots 75 or 100 feet broad and about 500 feet long. There is a canal around each garden instead of streets, and little canoes or flat boats are used to take the products out to the large canal, where they are loaded on larger

boats for market. These canals are nearly blocked with a plant called the "water hyacinth," a beautiful floating plant that is found in all these southern streams, and sometimes almost obstructs navigation. Each Chinampa is the property of an Indian family and they live in little huts made of grass or reeds. Some of the gardens are planted with flowers and from here the flower market in the city is supplied, others with vegetables or fruits. On the canal were boats loaded with vegetables of all kinds going to market. Bright red radishes of enormous size corded up like firewood; they looked to be nearly two feet long and very thick. Very large cabbages and other vegetables were piled up in the boats till the gunwales would be only a few inches out of the water. They looked picturesque with the man at the stern poling and the woman sitting in the bow. Such is the fertility of these gardens that a succession of crops is grown all the year, and having plenty of water they never suffer for rain. Although called floating gardens they don't float any more, as the large trees have put their roots down and made them

stationary; but there is no doubt but that at one time they did float, and this was part of a lake. They were first started by putting reeds, cane and other light material together like a raft, then mosses, leaves and finally a covering of soil, until they become small floating islands. In time trees would grow that put down roots to finally anchor them. They are supposed to have first been started by the Chickemecs.

At Ixtacalca the line leaves the canal and we run through villages and fine gardens and orchards. There is a very fine old church here dedicated to San Mattos.

Another run of five miles brings us to Ixtapalapa, the end of the line. This is an Indian village, with streets that seem to run to all points of the compass, several stores and pulque shops near the end of the track, the balance of the town in adobe and reed houses, surrounded by pretty gardens. The population is nearly all Indian and the Aztec is spoken more than the Spanish language. The second class car

that followed us in was crowded with Indians, while our car had only about a half dozen passengers. On the return trip the cars were loaded the same.

The Aztec people when conquered by the Spaniards have been moved to this part of the valley, where they live very little change, except in dress and religion, since the days of Moctezuma. Their language is rather pleasing and not harsh except the frequent sounding C—hard. The Aztec language as spoken at the time of the conquests lacked the sounds indicated by our letters b, d, f, g, r, i, and v; with the exception of a few Spanish idioms that have crept in, there is very little difference between the language of the Chinampas and the language of the moctezumas. The people are heavier, shorter and darker colored than the Zapotecs, Guerrerro or the Toltecs around Zapotlan, and are not so clean.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

Miss Nora Crim is anticipating a pleasant Christmas, her parents being booked to arrive from Alvord tomorrow.

Mrs. Georgia Easterwood will spend the holidays in New Mexico, we learn.

T. J. Dudley came up from Abilene this morning.

Mrs. G. F. West is visiting in Abilene.

John Elliott and family are taking in the Abilene carnival today.

Emzy Burroughs is expected from Italy for a visit Christmas with relatives.

All who are indebted to me will please come forward and make settlement at once. I must have what is due me. This means you and not the other fellow.

E. D. Coats.



Denton College, from which the Merkel Public School building was patterned.

During the Entire Month of December!

WE WILL SELL OUR ENTIRE STOCK REGARDLESS OF COST.

The season has been so backward and we have had so much rain and cotton has not opened, and there has been so many drawbacks one way and another that we find ourselves with twice as many goods as we ought to have this time of year. Now we must sell these goods, however great the sacrifice, and we will during this month sell our entire stock at MANUFACTURER'S COST, and, in many cases, far below what they cost to manufacture. : Remember everything in the house goes in this sale. Nothing will be reserved. : Read the prices and judge for yourself.

Dress Goods	Staple Department	Shoes! Shoes!	Clothing for Men and Boys
This is the department in which we shine, but we have entirely too many this year. So we cut the profit all off, and they go at manufacturers' cost.	30 yards calico for \$1.00 30 yards cotton checks for 1.00 25 yards outing for 1.00 25 yards good brown domestic for 1.00 25 yards bleach domestic for 1.00 20 yards good canto flannel for 1.00 Good wool fill jeans 18c Zephyr ginghams, 12½c grade 7c Jaber Knights cambric, 8½c grade 6c	Our ladies \$3.50 shoe at \$2.85 " 3.00 " at 2.50 " 2.50 " at 2.00 " 2.00 " at 1.40 " 1.75 " at 1.20 " 1.50 " at 1.00 Our misses 1.75 " at 1.35 " 1.50 " at 1.20 " 1.25 " at 1.00 " 1.00 " at 80c Baby shoes 75c, 50c and 35c	they will be sacrificed during this sale. See our prices and compare with others Our \$16.50 men's suits go at \$10.80 Our 15.00 men's suits go at 10.80 Our 13.50 men's suits go at 9.00 Our 12.50 men's suits go at 7.80 Our 10.00 men's suits go at 7.00 Our 9.00 men's suits go at 6.00 Our 7.50 men's suits go at 5.00 Our 6.00 men's suits go at 4.50 Our 5.00 men's suits go at 3.25 Our 8.50 boys' suits go at 6.15 Our 7.50 boys' suits go at 5.40 Our 6.00 boys' suits go at 4.65 Our 5.00 boys' knee suits go at 3.60 Our 4.50 boys' knee suits go at 3.00 Our 2.50 boys' knee suits go at 1.50 Our 1.50 boys' knee suits go at 1.20 Our 1.25 boys' knee suits go at 75c
Half wool worsted worth 10c at 6c Half wool double width worsted, the 20c grade, at 10c Our 25c wool dress goods at 18c " 35c " " at 22c " 50c " " at 33c " 75c " " at 48c " \$1.00 " " at 66c " 1.25 " " at 90c	Linen Department Our \$1.25 table linen at 90c " 1.00 " at 75c " 75c " at 50c " 50c " at 35c " 35c " at 20c Towels, bed spreads and toweling at one-half off.	Clothing for Men and Boys We probably show as large stock of clothing in all the new weaves and colors as any house in Abilene, and	

We cannot begin to give you prices of the entire stock, but if you will come and see us we will convince you that we will do all we say. : : : : :

: Rollins & Young.

Groceries, Furnishings, Notions

WE have moved into the building next door to Warnick's Bank. Our stock embraces Groceries, Furnishing Goods and Notions, and we flatter ourselves that you will not find a better, nicer or neater stock in the town. We are making very low prices, quality of goods considered. A trial order is all we ask and we are sure you will always be our customer.

Remember, our stock is fresh and new; we have no shop-worn stuff to work off.

HILL & MARTIN.

Reduction Sale....

Realizing the necessity of reducing my stock of Millinery goods, I have inaugurated a reduction sale, and for a short time you can buy anything in the stock a discount of 20 per cent Everything new. Come quick. . . .

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

Cheap Watches.

Open face Silverine case, 7 jewel, lever movement only \$4.00
A variety of sizes 0, 6, 12 and 18 gold filled watches from \$8.00 to \$30.

R. B. Ustick.

How to Prevent Croup.

It will be good news to the mothers of small children to learn that croup can be prevented. The first sign of croup is hoarseness.

A day or two before the attack the child becomes hoarse. This is soon followed by a peculiar rough cough. Give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy freely as soon as the child becomes hoarse, or even after the rough cough appears, and it will dispel all symptoms of croup. In this way all danger and anxiety may be avoided. This remedy is used by many thousands of mothers and has never been known to fail. It is in fact the only remedy that can always be depended upon and that is pleasant and safe to take.

For sale by Rust & Pittard.
Ustick has moved his jewelry store into the Thornton old building; call and see him.

If you live in the Merkel School District don't forget to pay your school tax before cost is attached.

John Elliott, Collector.

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.

Holiday Excursions.

The territory to which excursion tickets for the Holidays will be sold has been considerably widened. In addition to the usual sale of tickets to points in the South-Eastern States, the T & P Ry Company will also sell round trip tickets to principal points in Mexico, Colorado, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The rate will be one first class fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip and tickets may be purchased December 13th, 17th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 26th; good to return within Thirty days from date of sale. Further information regarding rates, through service sleepers, free seats in chair cars, etc., may be had from any Railroad Ticket Agent, or through correspondence with H P Hughes, Traveling Passenger Agent Ft. Worth Texas, or E. P. Turner, G. P. & T. A., T. & P. R'y Co., Dallas, Texas.

Parents do not neglect your children's coughs, sore throats, colds, etc., they often lead to fatal results. Try Simmons' Cough Syrup. Pleasant, safe and sure. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50c.

The Woodmen will hold their meetings hereafter in the Odd Fellows Hall.



WHEN YOU WANT

A Wagon that will not "fall down" when you need it the most, get an "OLD RELIABLE MITCHELL." It is the Strongest, Most Durable, Best Finished, Best Proportioned and Lightest Running Wagon on the Market.

ONE QUALITY ONLY—THAT THE BEST.

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.....

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Cox of Abilene will rejoice with them over the birth of a son.

Photo's—All kinds, 1 stamp up to 16x20. Open 1 days and Saturdays.
Barnhill and Wife.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

Entered at 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..... \$.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 name of the place 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.

TO THE MERCHANTS:

The past year has not been over-prosperous, but all of you have enjoyed a reasonable amount of prosperity, and to the people of the Merkel Country you are indebted for this blessing. Next week we will devote a page to Christmas Greetings, and all who want to take advantage of this opportunity to express their thanks to patrons for their trade the past year should hand in whatever they may want inserted not later than Monday morning—Saturday preferred, as the paper will be issued Tuesday. The rate will be 10c per line.

The news feature of the paper will be eliminated next week and the space will be utilized with short stories and selected miscellany. We hope patrons of the paper will not begrudge us this short spell of rest and recreation.

THE BOLL WEEVIL.

The war now on in Texas against the boll weevil is first in importance in the hearts of the people. This blighting pest has made such inroads upon the prosperity of the country this year and its ravages have been so widespread that the people have become alarmed and strenuous efforts are being made to stop the losses occasioned by the ravages, or at least hit upon some plan whereby these losses may be overcome. To this end a boll weevil convention will take place at Dallas this week, at which time the subject will be thoroughly aired and discussed from every standpoint. Business men, farmers, professional men, statesmen, and men of every calling will be there, and much good ought to come of it. It is a question that should interest everyone, for it directly concerns the entire State.

Hon. John T. Tucker will represent this immediate section at the convention, having been appointed by Mayor Roberts of Abilene. The Mail hopes he will attend, and its columns are open to anything he may have to say upon his return. Boll worms, companions of the weevils, reduced the prosperity of this section fully fifty per cent this year. If the evil can be remedied the people want to know it, and they are willing to work in harmony for the subjugation of the pestiferous insects which have wrought such sad havoc with the money crop of the country.

Impeachment proceedings a-

gainst Mayor Riggins of Waco have been revived, and it looks now as if the anti prohibition champion will be unseated. He ought to be, for a man in the public employ should give his time and attention to the affairs of his constituency instead of trying to foist something on the people which they don't want. Shooting two guns at the same time does not add to the efficiency of one's aim. The same may be said of holding offices of public trust.

Boll weevils and worms destroyed the bulk of the cotton crop in Texas this year. Add to this disaster the failure or refusal of the farmers generally to plant small grain crops to help tide over the dull season next year, and you are confronted with a hard proposition. Prosperity will never be permanent until farmers get into the habit of planting everything that can be grown on the farm.

Just now England and Germany are making hostile demonstrations against little Venezuela in an effort to collect a few small debts. If the demands upon the republic come in the neighborhood of those made upon China, Venezuela will have to make a quit claim deed to all her possessions to satisfy the debt.

The anti-trust amendment and the senatorial election amendment receive less and deserve more at the hands of Congress than nine-tenths of the propositions up for consideration.

Don't become discouraged if pushed to the wall by your enemies. The wall will afford a mighty good brace when you get ready to push back.

Law That Reforms Drunkards.

The recent law enacted by the Iowa legislature by which power habitual drunkards may be arrested and committed to the insane asylum for two years, and be placed in the inebriate ward therein, has worked wonders among the old toppers and drunkards here and in this country, and will do more good toward solving the drink habit than any previous law upon the statute books. A number from the county have already been taken to Mount Pleasant asylum, and their confinement at that place has so alarmed and scared their fellow-topers that a scarcity of arrests for intoxication is already noticeable and more pledges have been made than ever before.—Topeka Capital.

Does It Prohibit?

The great battle cry of the antis during prohibition campaigns is: It Don't Prohibit. "Mr. W.S. Fry, city marshal of Denton, will probably agree with us that it does prohibit." At a meeting of the city council recently he presented the following for their consideration:

To the Mayor and City Council Gentlemen:—Since prohibition has gone into effect the fees of my office amount to nothing, and I request you to make such provision relative to my salary as you think just and fair.

Truly yours,

W. S. Fry, City Marshal.

"Since prohibition went into effect the fees of my office amount to nothing," which means nobody is getting drunk, shootink up the town and raising hell generally. Does prohibition really prohibit? Well I guess yes. Can a duck swim?—Sanger Courier.

New Goods For Christmas

We have just replenished our stock all through with New Goods. Our wholesale house wanted to clean up before taking stock Jan. 1st, and we bought some good things at Slaughter Prices; and we want to turn them to you QUICK at prices that knocks competition.

OUR SPECIAL 25 PER CENT DISCOUNT SALE

on Clothing will last a few more days. We can save you enough on a suit to pay interest on the investment for two years.

Remember Christmas Eve at 3 o'clock is the day we give away the Fine Bed. Every \$1 purchase until then gives you one chance. Bring tickets to our store Dec. 24, at 3 o'clock.

WATSON & BACON,

The Spot Cash Merchants,
Merkel, Texas.

A Confession.

He kissed her on the balcony—
It was a dreadful sin;
The roses tried their shame to
hide,
Folding their blushes in.

He kissed her on the balcony—
The very moonbeams quivered;
While Mars turned red, Orio fled,
And Venus fairly shivered.

He kissed her on the balcony—
I thought to see her faint,
This modest maid with look so
staid,
That I had dreamed a saint!

He kissed her on the balcony—
Ah, can I tell—alack!
The direful truth of woman's
ruth—
I-saw-her-kiss-him-back!
—Atlanta Journal.

Here's to the kicker, the faint hearted kicker, the kicker so helpless and blue, who is always crying and never trying some good for his town to do. No use to correct him nor need we to expect him to get to the front like a man, for while others rustle he'll sit down and hustle objection to raise to each plan."

The ladies are delighted with our selection of Christmas goods. Make your wife happy by buying from us.

Burroughs & Mann.

The Mail gives all the news.

Oldest Postmaster Is Dead.

he oldest postmaster in the United States in continuous service, Roswell Beardsley, of North Lansing, near Ithaca, N. Y., died on Friday at the age of 93 years. He had been postmaster at North Lansing since he was 19 years of age, a period of seventy-four years. His appointment was made in 1828, and he must, therefore, have been originally an appointee of John Quincy Adams, the predecessor of Andrew Jackson. How he happened to hold on through Jackson's administration is a question, as that resolute president was an avowed and determined advocate of the doctrine that to the victor belongs the spoils."

An Old Fountain.

A fountain of the sixteenth century which formerly stood in princely grounds on the shores of Lake Como, has been bought by William Rockefeller as a gift to the New York city zoological park in the Bronx, and it will probably be set up there before Christmas. It is of granite, the basin twenty-five feet in diameter, with excellent sculptures of mermaids and little tritons on seahorses, and for the center fragnos on a rough rock base support an urn in which rests a column surmounted by a swan. This will have cost Mr. Rockefeller \$25,000 when it shall be put in place.

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 first-class newspaper. It print 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 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.

Queer Firm Names.

William T. Gilmer, the inventor of bread-making machinery, has found some queer firm names in London, among them being "Pearce & Plenty, restauranters, suggesting peace and plenty; Allday & Onions; Cole & Wood; Savory & Moore, perfumers; Slippery Slippem, surgeon. "Imagine a man going through life with such a name," he writes the New York Press, "and suppose his knife should slip!"

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 25c.

See Warren for brown sugar at 20 lbs. for \$1.00.

There is a great deal of cotton yet in the fields and it will be impossible for the farmers to gather it, even with favorable weather, before the new year. This has been a bad year all the way round. First, the dry weather made a late planting necessary; then the boll worms played havoc with it, and finally the rainy weather during the fall prevented its opening, so that Jack Frost hit some telling licks. Now what little has opened is still in the fields, which must of necessity remain there until weather conditions change for the better. All of this is discouraging, but it should induce the farmers to plant winter wheat and oats in the meantime.

Otis Clay, while chopping wood Saturday, let the ax glance and strike his foot, almost severing the great toe. He will be laid up for several days, but we hope the wound is not serious.

The Mail is in receipt of a letter from M. Slattery of Glenco, O. T., formerly a resident of this place, in which he expresses a desire to sell lot No. 7 in block No. 3. If you want it call at this office for further information.

Mrs. T. E. McReynolds of Haskell is visiting her brothers, Terrell and Joe Winters, northwest of town.

Dr. Leeman returned Monday morning from Houston, where he was in attendance upon the Grand Lodge. He reports a pleasant and profitable time. The grand lodge headquarters were again destroyed upon and moved to Waco, 2,000 being appropriated for erection of the temple.

N. Taylor was up from Abilene Saturday.

Jim Swan, the Jones county ranchman, has purchased town property and will, we learn, move ere in the near future.

The "Wise Member" held the boards at the Opera House Saturday night and played to a large and appreciative audience. The attraction is one of the best in the road, having played in all the principal cities, and their appearance here was more of an accident than a regular engagement. The management is very grateful for the generous patronage accorded the troupe and assures them that only first-class companies will be booked in the future. All who attended his performance speak of it in terms of praise. Mr. Marvin, manager, complimented the troupe highly by giving expression to the feeling that he had never played in a town of Merkel's size that can compare with it, either in the size or intelligence of the audience.

Pictures, albums, medallions, bibles, hand-painted china and a thousand and one suitable presents for Christmas can be found at Burroughs & Mann's.

Select your Xmas goods today before the stock is picked over. Burroughs & Mann.

Merkel Merchants offer to the trading public, the best trading place in all this country. They have long since established their ability to handle trade satisfactorily.

A Million Voices

Could hardly express the thanks of Homer Hall, of West Point, La. Listen why: A severe cold had settled on his lungs, causing a most obstinate cough. Several physicians said that 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 lbs." It's positively guaranteed for coughs, colds and lung troubles. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's.

Wear McDohalds' overalls, work shirts and jumpers and get the worth of your money.

J. T. Warren.

Dirt was broken for the Browning building Tuesday. R. A. Miller, who has the distinction of having built eleven rock buildings in Merkel during the past four years, is the contractor.

Dr. Snith, Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Specialist of Weatherford, will be in Merkel Dec 24th.

We have greatly increased our stock of groceries. You will find something to eat at J. T. Warren's

A blue norther swooped down on us Saturday, and considerable rain and sleet fell during the following two days.

Prof. Merrick began his duties as teacher of the Salt Branch school Monday, with a small attendance. His family is occupying the Dennis residence in North Merkel.

Dry packed kraut—the kind that don't spoil—in 5 gal. kegs at Warren's.

J. T. Warren says if he can get a good renter he will fill up the gap between his store and the Browning building, which is now under contract. This is a very desirable location and we hope some one will call Mr. Warren's hand.

Pickles, Catsup, hot stuff and etc., at Warren's.

Russell-Compton.

At the residence of the bride's parents Sunday evening, Rev. A. A. Baker officiating, Selma G. Russell and Miss Mary Lizzie Compton were married. Only a few relatives of the contracting parties witnessed the ceremony.

They are two of our most popular young people, both having been practically reared here. The Mail joins their many friends in sincere congratulations and wishes for them a full measure of happiness and prosperity.

You will find California dried and canned fruits at

J. T. Warren.

New Brick Houses.

D. C. Hutcheson has purchased the lot just south of the Telford building, consideration \$700. It is learned that he is contemplating the erection of a brick business, house work to commence soon.

Another deal of great importance to the town was that in which J. T. Warren transferred to W. P. Browning a 50 foot front off the north end of his business block. The lot is 50x65 feet and the price paid was \$1,000. The deed calls for the erection of a rock or brick business house, work to commence at once.

These two buildings will greatly strengthen the town. Let the good work go on.

OVERSTOCKED

Below we name a few items on which we are overstocked, for 'tis getting late in the season. This means money to you if you need anything on the list:

MEN'S SUITS,
MEN'S EXTRA PANTS,
MEN'S OVERALLS,
BOYS' SUITS,
BOYS' KNEE PANTS,
LADIES' JACKETS.

J. T. WARREN.

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 50c.

We have a fine green Pea Berry coffee at 7 1/2 lbs. to \$1.
J. T. Warren.

Best assortment of gloves we have ever shown, lined and unlined.
J. T. Warren.

For nice, fresh groceries cheap see
Chenault & Hand,

Liquid Veneer, makes old things new. Best thing for Furniture, Pianos, Bicycles, Carriages, fine woodwork, etc., at Browning's.

If you like a good cup of coffee try one of our buckets for \$1.00.
J. T. Warren.

For Sale—160 acre farm, 125 acres in cultivation, good house and water. Also 2 acres of land in Merkel with 7-room house and other improvements. See 2t
N. Harrison, Agent.

An Assignment.

The Globe closed its doors, both here and at Abilene, last week and made an assignment for the benefit of creditors. The liabilities are placed at \$14,791 and the assets at \$16,488. The collapse was a surprise, as it was generally thought the firm was pretty stiff.

J. J. Russell sold his interest in the livery stable to J. A. Woodard and purchased a farm on Noodle, to which he moved his family Monday.

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 Simmons' Cough Syrup. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50c.

Nice line of jewelry at Burroughs & Mann's going cheap.

To The Public.

Those who have second-hand goods for sale take them to J. C. Watkins.

For a limited time we offer 5 sacks of Peace-Maker Flour for \$5 or 10 sacks for \$10. Spot cash.
J. T. Warren.

Anything in the drug or druggist sundry line at Burroughs & Mann's.

See our line of dress shirts We carry McDonalds.
J. T. Warren.

Burroughs & Mann have the nicest, best selected and cheapest stock of Christ goods ever brought to the town.

Caesar Conquered Britain.

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

In our stock of Christmas goods you will find prices which will enable every one to play Santa Clause.

Burroughs & Mann.

Pictures, size 16x20, with 4 inch frames, only \$1.25 at Browning's.

Lots of new goods to show you. If you want Watches, Rings, Charms, all kinds of Buttons, Silverware, etc., see Ustick.

For Sale—Good rag carpet and second hand go-cart. Apply to
W. P. Thurmond.

Snowdrift—the best lard compound made can be found only at Chenault & Hand's. Try a pail.

FOUND!

A PLACE FOR OUR
NEW GOODS

We are putting in a complete stock of Groceries at the Warren old stand. We are making close prices. All our Groceries are high grade, one price to all, spot cash. Get our Prices. Phone 25.

MAXWELL & SONS

MERKEL, TEXAS.



Miss Ida M. Snyder.
Treasurer of the
Brooklyn East End Art Club.

"If women would pay more attention to their health we would have more happy wives, mothers and daughters, and if they would observe results they would find that the doctors' prescriptions do not perform the many cures they are given credit for."

"In consulting with my druggist he advised McElree's Wine of Cardui and Theford's Black-Draught, and so I took it and have every reason to thank him for a new life opened up to me with restored health, and it only took three months to cure me."

Wine of Cardui is a regulator of the menstrual functions and is a most astonishing tonic for women. It cures scanty, suppressed, too frequent, irregular and painful menstruation, falling of the womb, whites and flooding. It is helpful when approaching womanhood, during pregnancy, after childbirth and in change of life. It frequently brings a dear baby to homes that have been barren for years. All druggists have \$1.00 bottles of Wine of Cardui.

WINE OF CARDUI

Saved at Grave's Brink.

"I know I would have long ago 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 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.

PROFIT

The matter of feed is of tremendous importance to the farmer. Wrong feeding is loss. Right feeding is profit.

The up-to-date farmer knows what to feed his cows to get the most milk, his pigs to get the most pork, his hens to get the most eggs. Science.

But how about the children? Are they fed according to science, a bone food if bones are soft and undeveloped, a flesh and muscle food if they are thin and weak and a blood food if there is anemia?

Scott's Emulsion is a mixed food; the Cod Liver Oil in it makes flesh, blood and muscle, the Lime and Soda make bone and brain. It is the standard scientific food for delicate children.



Send for free sample.

Be sure that this picture in the form of a label is on the wrapper of every bottle of Emulsion you buy.

Scott & Bowne
CHEMISTS,
409 Pearl St., N. Y.
50c. and \$1. all druggists.

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 at Rust & Pittard's.

You can pay \$5.00 for a Hat and be no better satisfied than with a HAWES for \$3.00. 4t

J. T. MOUNT,
Abilene, Texas.

Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Cordill, W T
Gardener, John
McDaniels, Will
Murphy, M A
Moore, J T
Rodrigz, Benito
Shields, J L
Thurman, M H

He Found a Cure.

R. H. Foster, 318 S. 2d Street Salt Lake City, writes: "I have been bothered with dyspepsia or indigestion for 21 years have tried many doctors with relief, but I have found a cure in Herbine. I recommend it to all my friends who are afflicted that way, and it is curing them too. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

Dr. Leeman has received a diploma from the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas which entitles him to teach Masonry for the period of one year. He was examined while at Houston recently, and passed easily.

No equal on earth has Hunt's Lightning Oil for rheumatism and neuralgia, as well as sprains, cuts, burns, bruises, and insect bites and stings. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

An exchange expresses our sentiments in the following: It is quite surprising to an editor sometimes to have a patron come into the office and give an item of news, and apologize as though his visit might be considered an intrusion. Nobody is more welcome than the man who furnishes an item to make our columns more newsy and interesting as a benefactor. We hope that none of our readers will feel the least hesitancy in visiting the office, disappearing before us on the streets with the request to publish such an item. The more interest we can cause you to have in the paper the more your visits will be welcomed.

The Kansas City Star narrates that a good looking, well to do Springfield bachelor who was being teased by the young women of a club for not marrying, offered to make the girl whom the club should elect his wife just to show them that he was not averse to matrimony. Each girl went to a corner and wrote her choice on a piece of a paper, disguising her handwriting. There were nine members of the club, and the result showed one vote for each. The young man is still a bachelor, but the club is broken up and its members are all mad at each other.

We have the largest and best selected stock of ledgers, journals, cash books, gum stub files, etc.. in the city. Right prices. Rust & Pittard.

..ALWAYS BUY THE BEST..

THE BEST GOES FARTHEREST

And when combined with Low Prices you have a combination that will win out.

In making our selections for this season we were careful in getting dependable goods only. It is best to buy the best, worthy goods at worthy prices. Two things that have made this store the most popular in this country: First, all that is latest, all that is good you find here. Second, our prices are absolutely the most reasonable. ∴ Come to us and let us verify these statements to your own satisfaction. We can do it easily.

Our Goods Are Right! Our Prices Are Right!

Handsome Premiums Free.

We have filled a pint jar with beans and the first person guessing the number of beans the jar contains will get the premium, a ladies' watch, 25 year case, 15 jewel Waltham movement. Every purchase amounting to \$1 entitles you to a guess. In addition to this, with every 25c purchase of Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, etc., we give a coupon which is redeemable in Holiday Queensware. Look at them.

Yours for Fall Trade,

J. P. Sharp & Co.

Coughing Spell Caused Death.

"Harry Duckwell, aged 25 years, choked to death early yesterday morning at his home, in the presence of his wife and child. He contracted a slight cold a few days ago and paid but little attention to it. Yesterday morning he was seized with a fit of coughing which continued for some time. His wife sent for a physician but before he could arrive, another coughing spell came on and Duckwell died from suffocation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Dec. 1, 1901." Ballard's Horehound Syrup would have saved him. 25, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

A bran new Davis sewing machine worth \$65 for sale for \$35 cash or good note. Time to suit purchaser. Call at this office.

Plenty of bran and corn chops at J. P. Sharp & Co.'s.

Mary's Pretty Calf.

San Saba Star.
Mary had a little lamb; that time has passed away. No lamb could follow up the gait that Mary goes today. For now she rides on air-shod wheel in skirts too short by half; no lamkin shares her airy flight, but you can see her calf. But who is there can complain, or cry in woe, "Alas!" So long as Mary's calf's all right, the lamb can go to grass. So all the men delight to gaze, their joy is not a sham; for while the critter's out, they have no use for lamb.

Miss Lucy Leeman arrived from Polytechnic College, Fort Worth, this morning, to spend the holidays.

Ballard's Horehound Syrup

Immediately relieves hoarse, croupy cough, oppressed, rattling, rasping and difficult breathing. Henry C. Stearns, druggist, Shullsburg, Wis., writes, May 20, 1901: "I have been selling Ballard's Horehound Syrup for two years, and have never had a preparation that has given better satisfaction. I notice that when I sell a bottle, they come back for more. I can honestly recommend it. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

Holiday Goods.

Don't buy holiday goods until you have examined our stock. It is the largest and best we have ever carried.

Rust & Pittard.

Herbert Browning came in from California a week ago and has been quite sick since his return, part of the time quite seriously. The Mail hopes for his speedy recovery.

The Board of Trustees, Merkel Tabernacle, in session this Wednesday the 27, appointed Judge J. J. Miller to collect the delinquent subscription, also to solicit donations, as the lumber account is not all paid, but must be paid by Jan. 1st.

All people interested in this work kindly hand in their amount to Bro. Miller.

G. F. West,
J. T. Warren,
J. H. Warnick, } Com.

The Pettis murder trial is set for Friday.

The case of R. E. Tracy vs. T. & P. R'y was continued.

J. T. Warren bought 15 bales of cotton from J. M. Tipton today at 8:10. How is this for high?

Fullup Fillips.

From the Post.
No man can long stay ar a woman; women are so expe at "making-up."

Absent treatment is the treat ment the bald headed man take to bring back his absent hair.

Wearing out the seat of one trousers looking for work ma save soul leather, but the wife the man who does it will continue to be compelled to take in washing.

Some things come to him wh wait; but most things wait fo him who comes.

The woman who at the alt promised to "love, honor ar obey" you, is doubtless all right on the first two propositions; but either she or you have renigge on the last one.

The college boy is always writing and asking his father to check him in his wild extrav gance. But, but not check.

Don't tell a young lady tha she is a perfect picture. No girl likes to be considered a work o art.

Every woman likes a newspa per puff, but the newspaper puff isn't in it with the powder puff

The reason the sight of a gar ter makes a man rubber is per haps because it is elastic.

The man who said kissing was dangerous was probably caught at it by his wife.

Dr. Walter Browning came in from the Territory Monday to be with Herbert, who has been seriously ill. He is improving, we are glad to learn.

Mrs. Hoople and Mrs. Coggin will visit their respective parents in the Territory next week.

Brutality of Badger Fights.

Austin Statesman.
The Statesman is going to fight the badger fight in the next legislature. It is a species of brutal sport that should no longer be permitted. Texas, however, should not carry the entire blame, as it is well known that the man who usually acts as referee and entices the poor beast from the cage is from some other state, nearly always a New Yorker. But, since the ministry has taken a hand in the matter, it is more than likely that this brutal business will soon be abolished. The sport is calculated to not only engender a spirit of brutality in those taking part, but it seldom fails to incur a heavy expense on the man who pulls off the fight.

Frank Palmer Murdered.

Thursday morning at an early hour, supposed to have been between 3 and 4 o'clock, Frank Palmer was murdered while asleep in his room. Some one who slipped into the room and holding a 32-caliber revolver against his head near the left temple, fired the fatal shot, the ball passing entirely through the head came out of the right temple. No one claims to have heard the report of the revolver. Mrs. Palmer, who was in an adjoining room, claims to have not been disturbed. His remains were carried to Albany this morning for burial, by a brother of that place.

Later: We learn that after the coroner's inquest today, that Mrs. Palmer was arrested and carried to Anson.—Stamford Courier.

Glory Of Motherhood

Somebody asked Napoleon the greatest need of France.
Mothers, he replied.

He might have applied his answer to the world for humanity recognizes in motherhood the spring of existence, the acme of life, the one thing that controls all things and finds a responsive chord in every heart.

Doesn't it?

The other day a very handsome woman boarded a crowded street car. There were men sitting.

A good many men have reached the conclusion that sex should not cut a great figure on a street car, and that a woman, young and strong is entitled to about what a man gets—a seat, if there is one vacant; a strap if not in use. And then the car stopped and a woman entered carrying a baby. It was her baby. There was pride in her eyes—the pride of motherhood.

Did she have to stand?

Not one minute. A dozen men were on their feet. A banker said, "Take this seat, madam."

A laboring man mutely pointed to the place he had vacated. And a man smiled benignly at the mother and child and gracefully waved them to his seat. A woman and baby could have had the car for the asking.

That is something greater than courtesy—deeper and finer.

It is an acknowledgment. The world takes off its hat to the woman who has born a child, and says, "Madam you are as holy as a human being can be; as nearly divine as the work of God can be made. You are fulfilling your mission on earth. Every woman is your sister and every man is your brother. You can never be without friends and protectors. How can we serve you?"

And on the train one passenger gives baby his watch to play with another closes the window and a third offers his new

...THE BEST DRAWING CARD...

The Best Goods at the Lowest Prices.

Implements
Wagons
Buggies
Barbed Wire
Nails, Stoves
Tools

Etc. Etc.

We claim that we handle the best line of Hardware Implements, etc., on the market. We have handled 'em long enough to know this. They are the cheapest because they last the longest. Come and take a look at our mammoth stock.

Hardware
Queensware
Glassware
Tinware
Graniteware
Crockeryware
Etc. Etc.

MERKEL,
TEXAS.

W. H. DICKSON.

magazine to the mother while the porter brings a glass of water and asks if she wouldn't care for a pillow.

After a while baby takes a nap and there is a hush in the car while even the brakeman whispers the names of the stations, for everybody wants baby to have a good sleep. It is the triumph of motherhood, the appealing force of creation and it is good that humanity does recognize it and pay proper tribute—Exchange.

We make a specialty of handling only the best groceries, fresh from the markets, and they are not old or musty when you get them. Give us a trial.
Chenault & Hand.

Better Than a Plaster.

A piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Pain Balm and bound on the affected parts, is better than a plaster for a lame back and for pains in the side or chest. Pain Balm has no superior as a liniment for the relief of deep seated, muscular and rheumatic pains. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

We are prepared to fill your entire fall bill of groceries and provisions, and at prices excelled by no one.
Chenault & Hand.

A. C. Bennett has sold his interests here and shipped his saddlery goods to Duncan, I. T., where the families of himself and boys will move next week. We regret to lose them, but extend best wishes for their success.

Some of the boys have organized a band, having ordered five instruments. They will give a concert in the near future to keep the band going. Watch for announcements.

Passing of the Lightning Rod.

The day of the lightning rod is passing. The government's latest census returns show that Franklin's invention for protecting the house is used today. No electrical manufacturing establishment reports it among the products, and so far as the census expert has been able to learn only one American electrical engineering firm makes a business of setting up the rods or designing them. So far as large cities are concerned disastrous lightning strokes are reported to be more rare, and the decrease is accounted for by the network of electrically charged wires and other apparatus with which the city is now interwoven and surrounded.

A Timely Suggestion,

This is the season of the year when the prudent and careful housewife replenishes her supply of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is certain to be needed before the winter is over, and results are much more prompt and satisfactory when it is kept at hand and given as soon as the cold is contracted and before it has become settled in the system. In almost every instance a severe cold may be warded off by taking this remedy freely as soon as the first indication of the cold appears. There is no danger in giving it to children for it contains no harmful substance. It is pleasant to take—both adults and children like it. Buy it and you will get the best. It always cures. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Church Presidents.

Theodore Roosevelt is the second President of the United States who has belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church, Martin Van Buren having been likewise a member of that communion. There have been eight Episcopal Presidents, six Presbyterian and three—Grant Hays and McKinley—Methodist.

The two Adams were Unitarians and so likewise was Millard Fillmore. Zachary Taylor was not a communicant of any church, and his belief on religious subjects seem to have been somewhat dubious, while Thomas Jefferson was undoubtedly a free thinker.

But our Presidents generally have been religious men, and some of them decidedly pious.

The piety of the martyred McKinley was of a very earnest description and while he was in the White House he worshiped regularly at the old Foundry Church, where he had attended when he was in Congress.

Mr. Cleveland is a Presbyterian and used to attend the Fourth and-a-Half Street Church, occupying a pew in which Andrew Jackson had sat. Benjamin Harrison, who was of like faith, walked every Sunday from the White House to the Church of the Covenant.

Chester A. Auther was an attendant at St. Johns, the ultra-fashionable Episcopal Church on H street, directly opposite the present residence of Secretary Hay. Andrew Jackson likewise went to St. Johns, but Abraham Lincoln, who was nominally a Presbyterian though not a communicant in any church, was ac-

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
SPECIALY EDITED...
If you'll read The News awhile you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not hap-hazard go into The News' make-up.
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. Subscribe now.

customed to attend the New York Avenue Church, while James Buchanan occupied a pew at St. John's.

Franklin Pierce was a Congregationalist, but went to a Presbyterian Church on F street where James K. Polk previously had sought refuge on the sabbath from the cares of the chief magistracy. William Henry Harrison attended the same church, but his immediate successor John Tyler, had a pew at St. John's. John Quincy was one of the founders of the Old Unitarian Church.

James Monroe and James Madison went to St. John's though the former attended later at Christ Church in East Washington.

Thomas Jefferson does not seem to have been a regular attendant at Sunday worship anywhere. As for George Washington in his day the capitol was located at where he attended various Episcopal churches with and under the eye of his good wife.

The young people were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Coggins at their home north of town, Tuesday evening.

The special venire of 150 men for the Pettis murder trial have been dismissed, the case having been transferred to Eastland for trial. All witnesses are expected to be there Friday.

W.P. Thurmond suffered a light stroke of paralysis at the store Tuesday evening and had to be carried home, but soon revived. He is reported considerably improved at this time.

Some of our young folks passed the time quietly away at a singing at J. V. Barnes Monday night, given in honor of C. P. Stevens who leaves Friday for Merkel, his future home.—Rising Star X-Ray.

Geo S. Berry made a business trip to Sweetwater Tuesday.

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.
4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*No Streetcar
to our Post Office
Six o'clock*

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

THEIR BANK...

The relations existing between this bank and its customers are close and cordial. We esteem it a compliment to have people lay claim to the institution as being their bank. Is it also yours?

Warnick's Bank, Merkel, Texas.

Claud Bigham came in yesterday from Louisiana to spend the holidays.

The Abilene cannon ball passed through yesterday, returning this morning. The special service runs to Big Springs, and was put on for the benefit of the Abilene carnival which opens today.

The infant child of Re Mrs. Young has been se ill, but is improving.

Your Winter Bills...

TIME TO LOOSEN PURSE STRINGS

and get ready for fall buying. It is our ambition to serve the people well and satisfy them in every way.

We are not selling out at cost, but are here to stay and will meet any and all prices made; so when you get ready to make your fall bills come in and see us, for we are making greatly reduced prices on everything in Dry Goods Clothing, Shoes, etc.

J. O. HAMILTON

EASON & ROLLINS, BARBERS

Bath room in connection.
Your patronage solicited.

J. M. PATE, BARBER.

NORTH FRONT STREET.

First class work and prompt and polite attention to all.

I. O. O. F. LODGE

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

N. HARRISON, N. G.
CHAS. CRAVEN, Sec.

H. C. WILLIAMS,

Real Estate and Insurance Agent
Notary Public

Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, etc.
OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

G. H. RICHARDSON

Physician and Surgeon.

Residence, West Merkel.

DR. J. W. LITTLE, Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN
FERRIER BUILDING.

LEEMAN & KING,

Physicians & Surgeons

Diseases of Women and Children a Specialty.
Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store.

MORE LIVES ARE SAVED

...BY USING...

Dr. King's New Discovery

...FOR...

Consumption, Coughs and Colds

Than by All Other Throat and Lung Remedies Combined.

This wonderful medicine positively cures Consumption, Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma, Pneumonia, Hay Fever, Pleurisy, LaGrippe, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Croup and Whooping Cough. **NO CURE, NO PAY.**

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Books are as necessary to a farmer as to a lawyer, or a physician, or teacher. A farmer can plow and plant and gather in the harvest without the aid of books or papers or he may be unable to read, and yet he can turn up the soil and do a number of things that farmers do. So can a man hang about a court house and hear the lawyers expound the law until they think they know some law, too. An ignorant quack can concoct a mixture with a high sounding name and nauseating taste and may administer some of it to a victim without fatal result.

A man may set himself up as a teacher of that about which he knows nothing at all, and he may have pupils. But neither farmers lawyers, physician nor teachers are worthy of the name they bear unless they not only have, but use books containing the wisdom of their crafts.—Home and Farm

The editor sat in his easy chair lighting his pipe on his auburn hair. A halo shown over his face so fair, but his knees were out and his feet were bare. And he sang a song both sad and sweet while the flies died all around his feet, for he had no grub in the shop to eat, and the ground was covered with sleet. Now what in the world was the cuss to do? He had eaten the paste and swallowed the glue; he hadn't a drink he hadn't a chew, and while he stired his whiskers grew. And the band played on.—Selected

A Good Pledge.

I will speak no unkind or harsh word of any one.

I will repeat no unkind remarks I hear of any one, and discourage others as much as possible from saying unkind things.

I will judge my neighbors leniently remembering that my own faults are probably far greater.

I will never say one thing to others and yet think quite differently; this is hypocrisy.

I will make no injurious remarks on the failings of others remembering these words: Consider thyself lest thou also be tempted

I will put the best construction on the motives and action of all my neighbors.

I will act unselfishly peaceably and forgivingly, obeying my Master's command," "Love one another."— Ex.

When it comes to quality and price we will put our stock of Christmas goods against that of any concern in this country. A visit to our store will convince you of its up-to-dateness.

Burroughs & Mann.

GOT EVEN WITH THE AUDIENCE.

Anecdote Told of Rough and Ready Kentucky Lawmaker.

"Dock" Brown, of Morganfield, a member of the Kentucky legislature, is a character, a jewel in the rough, and many anecdotes are told of him. On one occasion, in Morganfield, the Hon. "Dock" found some opposition in having himself named as the proper person to introduce a speaker at some kind of a public meeting they were going to hold at the court house, but he managed to get the place. At that time he had not had much experience on the rostrum, and he was pretty awkward. The court house was filled with an audience composed entirely of men. The Hon. "Dock" pulled himself together and began, "Ladies and gentlemen." The house caught right on and gave "Dock" the "ha! ha!" in great shape for his mistake. He wasn't pleased and glared at his tormentors until they became quiet. Then he started in again. "I apologize for my mistake," he said. "There are no ladies in the house"—he paused and surveyed the audience earnestly for a moment and added, "and a few gentlemen."

Merely a Pardonable Error.

The stories told in "the profession" of Mr. Brookfield's scathing repartee are endless, says a London exchange. On one occasion a young actor who had lately made a bit of a hit in a small part was regaling a few friends at great length upon the "splendid notices" he had received and the various merits of his performance. At last Brookfield quietly remarked: "But, my dear sir, you are not really at all good in the part. I have never seen you do anything well, but in this part you are simply naughty."

"Indeed!" said the young man, bridling up. "I suppose so distinguished a critic as yourself would deny my being an actor at all!"

"I certainly should," said Mr. Brookfield.

"Then what would you call me?" asked the young man, a little recklessly.

"Well," said Brookfield, with a sweet smile, "I think I should describe you as a pardonable error."

Shah to Play Billiards.

Two billiard tables and all the fittings for the games of pool, pyramids and snooker pool were purchased by the Shah when he was in London.

To Prevent Seasickness.

Dr. Heinz, professor of therapeutics of the University of Erlangen, advises long, deep quick breathing for curing seasickness.

The Wealth of Chicago.

Chicago is getting to be a very rich city, says a Chicago man. Before the end of this decade it will be one of the richest cities in the world. We borrowed \$100,000,000 to set up again in business after the big fire, but have paid it all off and have made many times as much more within the last fifteen years. There are fifty men in Chicago worth more than \$5,000,000 each. It takes \$5,000,000 to get into the inner circle. Men with \$1,000,000 don't count any more. Marshall Field is the richest man in Chicago. He is one of the richest men in the world, and only John D. Rockefeller and Carnegie in the United States are richer than he. The McCormick estate represents \$40,000,000, or more and the Armour estate \$50,000,000, but you never can tell what a man is worth until he is cut up.

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