

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, DECEMBER 25, 1902.

NO. 45.

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



Prospice.
ar death?—to feel the frog in my throat,
he mist in my face,
en the snows begin, and the blasts denote
am nearing the place.
e power of the night, the press of the storm,
he post of the foe;
ere he stands, the Arch Fear, in a visible form,
et the strong man must go;
r the journey is done and the summit attained,
and the barriers fall.
ough a battle's to fight ere the guerdon is gained,
he reward of it all,
as ever a fighter, so—one fight more,
he best and the last!
ould hate that death bandaged my eyes, and forebore,
And bade me creep past.
No! let me taste the whole of it, fare like my peers,
The heroes of old.
Bear the brunt, in a minute pay glad life's arrears
Of pain, darkness and cold.
For sudden the worst turns the best to the brave,
The black minute's at end,
And the elements' rage, the fiend voices that rave,
Shall dwindle, shall blend,
All change, shall become first a peace
out of pain.
Then a light, then thy breast,
Thou soul of my soul! I shall clasp thee again.

AND WITH GOD BE THE REST:
—Robert Browning.

One Woman's Way.

BY SARA BEAUMONT KENNEDY.

(Copyright, 1902, by Daily Story Pub. Co.)

Leonora Colton watched her two visitors down the hotel corridor, then turned back to her room, smiling. They had, of course, meant the warnings, covered by their jocular allusions, as a kindness; but she could trust her husband. He had never been very demonstrative, it was probably not his nature; but he must love her. Alice Vance was very beautiful, and was absolutely dependent upon some male creature for the dozen and one things that which less exacting and less popular women do for themselves. There were not many single men at the seaside, and Charlie Colton had somehow drifted into the habit of "looking after her." At first it seemed a very harmless gallantry; but Mrs. Grundy puts on her glasses interrogatively when a married man leaves his wife to amuse herself while he dances all the waltzes of an evening with a young and beautiful girl; and when he takes that same girl out on

the moonlit bay and stays two hours, the old dame begins to talk, and when she starts that she never knows when to leave off. But to it all Mrs. Colton was seemingly as a deaf adder that stoppeth her ears. Once or twice, when Charlie had dutifully asked her to dance, she replied, in a voice audible to the whole of Mrs. Grundy's set:

"Go and find Alice, she dances so much better than I do."

Nobody should think that she was jealous or distrustful of her husband. But as the days went by she began to grow restless. In the quiet of her room little things came back to her—glances between Alice and Charlie, and sundry whisperings and head-shakings among Mrs. Grundy's coterie. Then finally she spoke to her husband:

"Of course, dear, I don't mind, for I know you are only enjoying her intellectually; but other people may not see things with my eyes."

"Why, Leonora, this is the most ridiculous nonsense I ever heard," he replied irritably. "It's nothing but idle gossip on the part of these long-tongued women—confound them! It is none of their business if I find Alice

vance good company; and I mean to do as I please—since you understand and don't mind."

It was not the answer she had expected. She had looked for him to take her in his arms and laugh at the idea of any one being more attractive than she; but she only sighed as he lit his cigar and left the room.

The next week there, having been more head-shaking than usual—and

prayed vehemently that she might not be called upon to keep it.

For a week longer she saw his infatuation grow until she knew that her influence and wishes were as nothing weighed in the scale with Alice Vance's. Still she made no public sign; even when people were pitying her for a duped fool she held her peace. A "scene" was the last thing she wished or intended.

One evening the hotel guests were assembled in the parlor; some one was singing at the piano; Charlie sat on a divan with Alice Vance. He held an envelop on which he now and then wrote some words and with pretended carelessness dropped it on Alice's lap. Presently, with equal carelessness, she returned it. The by-play was not lost on Mrs. Colton, for she crossed the room and took the vacant chair beside her husband, whereupon he turned the envelop over and began drawing a dog's head with elaborate touches. When the music was done there was a general move to the piazza. Mrs. Colton, bringing up the rear of the company, saw something



"This is the most ridiculous nonsense I ever heard!" he replied, irritably, cause for more—she again broached the subject reluctantly, but tactfully; "You make the girl so conspicuous."

"Oh, hang it! can't you stop nagging a fellow?" he said sharply. "Of all the faults a woman can have jealousy is the worst."

Jealousy! She flashed round upon him with a reply so tart that for a minute he was silenced, then grew peevish himself. They had a bad half hour together, after which she began to see things through Mrs. Grundy's glasses. Only one other warning did she give him; but a fierce pain was biting at her heart every hour, though she gave no outward sign of it. True as steel herself, she would accept nothing but absolute truth from her husband; without this there could be no confidence, no love, and a wedded life without love was a thing out of her reckoning. In the quiet of her room she went over all the evidence that had been thrust upon her, and made her resolution firmly and carefully; then fell on her knees and



Pointed pitilessly to the door. on the floor. It was the envelop Charlie had dropped, there was the dog's head to identify it. Lingering a moment under the hall light, Leonora read:

"I wish that infernal music would quit."

(Continued on last page.)

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.

A Curious Australian Law.

There is a curious law that is strictly enforced in Sydney and Melbourne. It is an enactment prohibiting the driver of any vehicle from passing any church of any denomination at a faster pace than a walk during the recognized hours for Sunday morning and evening service. The devotions of worshippers are thus undisturbed by needless noise and clatter. At one time Monday morning charges of failure to remember this law were not uncommon and the prescribed fines were imposed, but during recent years cases of this kind have been exceptional and practically confined to uninformed strangers. Local drivers seldom or never offend; and, in fact, the horses, by some mysterious instinct, seem to know when it is church time and "slow down" of their own accord.

Automobile as a Climber.

A rather curious performance has just been made with an automobile at Copenhagen, according to the Pilgrim. The town possesses a circular tower 100 feet in height, which was formerly used for astronomical purposes. Its top is only reached by ascending a spiral passage twelve feet broad, which winds between the outer walls of the tower and an inner circular wall. An automobile of five horse power, weighing 200 pounds, and carrying three persons, ascended the tower recently by this passage, taking one minute to do the journey, and afterward making the much more dangerous descent with equal success. It is of interest to recall that the Czar Peter the Great, on visiting Copenhagen in 1716, made the same ascent and descent in a carriage drawn by four horses.

An American who has been traveling in Japan says the Japanese have a word of salutation which sounds like Ohio. When he was in Yokohama a fellow countryman was seeing the sights from a rickshaw. The Japanese are very polite, and when even the American met them they gave him the usual word of greeting. At first he wasn't quite certain, but as party after party bowed profoundly and said "Ohio," he became convinced that they were uttering the name of his own state, and he was a badly puzzled Occidental. Finally, on passing a group of a dozen or more, who were more than usually courteous and who vociferated the word of welcome, he couldn't repress his astonishment any further. "Yes," he said, "I am from Ohio, and from Jefferson county; but how did you fellows get on to the fact?"

A good instance of Kitchener's laconic style of speech was that made to his officer who after struggling vainly to get an artillery train through roads that were almost rivers of mud, came to Kitchener.

"It's no use, general," he said, "we are so deep in mud that we can not move our heavy guns another mile, and the Boers will get them for certain."

Kitchener looked at this worn-out and discouraged officer for a moment, then quietly said: "Go with your work, but don't forget that the mud is not only clogging our wheels, it is clogging the

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, Queensware, Feed, Etc., at BEST PRICES.

GEO. F. WEST.

To Rival St. Peter's.

If the plans of the Catholic clergy of New York find fruition the city will some day see the most magnificent cathedral in the world, not even excepting St. Peter's at Rome. The proposed cost of the cathedral is \$25,000,000. The plan, which is still nebulous, not having secured the approval of the archbishop, has enlisted the support of the most conservative priests in the city. The style of architecture is to be modern Roman, with all the substantial effect possible, but in the rise of the dome the light and airy appearance of Byzantine style is secured. In shape the plans provide for a cruciform structure 550 feet long and 450 feet across the transepts. The height is 450 feet from the pavement to the tip of the cross surmounting the ball on the dome. The ball is large enough to contain thirty persons. The dome itself is more than 200 feet in diameter, supported by four massive columns 300 feet in height.

Roosevelt's Unique Stick.

President Roosevelt has received from the Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Haggerty, of St. Louis, a walkingstick made of wood from a tree on the battleground of Wilson Creek, a tree on the Lookout Mountain field, trees at Gettysburg, the frame of the Liberty bell, Grant's log cabin, Sherman's house, the house in which Lee surrendered, the Springfield home of Lincoln, the Moro castle at Havana and the cruiser Christina Regina, sunk in Manila bay. The ferrule was made of the iron of cars dumped into a creek by General Marmaduke. The Rev. Dr. Haggerty was a chaplain in Sherman's army.

A Picturesque French Visitor.

Comte Robert de Montesquieu, the French poet, who is the literary idol of Paris, will come to this country at midwinter for twenty conferences or talks, to be given before the ultra-fashionable and literary set. The count will be attended by a suite and will bring a Danish dog which will wear a collar of ivory and white leather mounted with large turquoises. In appearance he resembles the pictures of Dumas' D'Artagnan and, altogether, he will make a picturesque lecturer.

Men Who Do and Men Who Don't.

Men, after all, are, and always will be, of two kinds—the men who accomplish and the men who don't. The other day there was an important conference at the office of one of the biggest men in American finance. It began early in the morning, and at noon it was not concluded. Promptly at 12:30 the clerks went out to lunch. The financier apologized to one of his stenographers for keeping him ten minutes after the regular hour—indeed, if it had occurred often the stenographer would have indignantly sought another position. He did not, however, apologize to the other seven or eight millionaires who sat about his desk until well after 7 o'clock with no thought of luncheon or dinner. These men are willing to make the sacrifice which success demands.

There is no dearth of openings for the man who will fit himself to accomplish. The fact is that the development of business has been more rapid than the development of men, and today there is a greater need of men of the right sort than ever, and every great business is looking for them.

The Last of the Whigs.

Emercon Ethridge, who died at Dresden, Tenn., was one of the last, if not the last, of the whigs who sat in congress. He was one of Tennessee's most powerful orators fifty years ago. He fought "Old Hickory" long and well, and stumped the state for Clay in 1844. He fought for General Taylor in 1848 and for General Scott in 1852. He was in the thirty-third congress as a whig leader. When he died he was a republican.

Singular Classmates.

In this land of innovation the sight of a father and son earnestly seeking an education at the same institution of learning can hardly be regarded as unusual. The University of Pennsylvania has on its rolls two such students. Bernet Medoff, the father, is 44 years of age, and Joseph Medoff, the son, is 25. Both will be graduated in the same year. The father is taking a three-year course in architecture, and the son is taking the arts and sciences course.

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.

Stories of Justice Gray.

The respect of the late Justice Gray of the United States supreme court for the ancient dignity of the court was great, and in small things as in large he sought with strict purpose to maintain it. When chief justice of Massachusetts, all through the county seats of the state he sought to continue what he called "the old regime," the solemn state of court. Now and then he encountered members of the bar able to turn the tables on him, but not often. Henry W. Payne was one and Sydney Bartlett, both leaders at the Suffolk bar. "Mr. Bartlett," said Chief Justice Gray, leaning back in his chair, "that is not law and it never was law." To this the lawyer promptly and pleadingly replied: "It was law, your honor, until your honor just spoke." "If your honor please," said Payne one day, beginning a motion. "Sit down, sir; don't you see I am talking with another justice," thundered the then chief justice. Mr. Payne took his hat and walked out of the court room. A half hour afterward a messenger reached his office with a note saying that Justice Gray was willing to hear him. "I am not willing to be heard," answered the old lawyer, "until Judge Gray apologizes." The apology followed.

An American Art Colony.

It is announced that William H. Day, of New York city, will attempt to organize at Glen Erie, a village on the Hudson river, an art producing community similar in character to that founded in England under the auspices of William Morris. Mr. Day is an architect and painter, who in his youth studied under F. E. Church and Thomas Cole. His purpose is to establish studios and factories to be rented at nominal cost to artists and artistic workers.

The Mail gives all the news.

How to Get Rich in Kansas.

A Kansas paper is conducting a symposium on the question of how one may get rich in Kansas with the least exertion. None of the writers has hit the royal road to fortune. The way to get rich in Kansas is to buy land during periods of depression and sell it during periods of inflation. Temperamentally, Kansas is highly impressionable and sensitive. Her people get it into their heads that things are going to the dogs and they become profoundly melancholy. In these periods some new fanaticism in finance or economics is born. They account for the rise of Populism, and for the octopus and drag campaigns which are so familiar. And when the depressed periods are on, the Kansas man will sell his land for less than it is worth. All the really rich men of the state have come rich by shrewdly taking advantage of this characteristic. Stewart Wellington millionaire, made every dollar of his fortune by buying land in one Kansas mood and selling it in another.

A fine specimen of the bull to be credited to Sir Thomas Myles, an eminent Irish surgeon and an ex-president of the college of surgeons in Ireland. He made it in the course of a speech delivered at the meeting of the Solicitors' Apprentices' Debating Society in Dublin. The subject of the address was "Cecil Rhodes. Sir Thomas paid a high tribute to the force of character, the spirit of personal independence, and the indomitable courage of Englishmen. He pictured the British empire as having been in danger at the time of the late war, and asked with emphasis, "Was England to stand with her arms folded and her hands in her pockets?" When he realized from the attitude of his audience what he had done he observed that his only apology was that he was an Irishman.

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!	they will be sacrificed during this sale. See our prices and compare with others
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	Our ladies \$3.50 shoe at \$2.85	Our \$16.50 men's suits go at \$10.80
Half wool worsted worth 10c at 6c	30 yards cotton checks for 1.00	" 3.00 " at 2.50	Our 15.00 men's suits go at 10.80
Half wool double width worsted, the 20c grade, at 10c	25 yards outing for 1.00	" 2.50 " at 2.00	Our 13.50 men's suits go at 9.00
Our 25c wool dress goods at 18c	25 yards good brown domestic for 1.00	" 2.00 " at 1.40	Our 12.50 men's suits go at 7.80
" 35c " " at 22c	25 yards bleach domestic for 1.00	" 1.75 " at 1.20	Our 10.00 men's suits go at 7.00
" 50c " " at 33c	20 yards good canto flannel for 1.00	" 1.50 " at 1.00	Our 9.00 men's suits go at 6.00
" 75c " " at 48c	Good wool fill jeans 18c	Our misses 1.75 " at 1.35	Our 7.50 men's suits go at 5.00
" \$1.00 " " at 66c	Zephyr ginghams, 12 1/2c grade 7c	" 1.50 " at 1.20	Our 6.00 men's suits go at 4.50
" 1.25 " " at 90c	Jaber Knights cambric, 8 1/2c grade 6c	" 1.25 " at 1.00	Our 5.00 men's suits go at 3.25
We still have a nice line of Tailor made suits for ladies. We will almost give them away.		" 1.00 " at 80c	Our 8.50 boys' suits go at 6.15
Our \$13.50 tailor made suits at \$8.40		Baby shoes 75c, 50c and 35c	Our 7.50 boys' suits go at 5.40
" 10.00 " " at 6.00			Our 6.00 boys' suits go at 4.65
" 7.50 " " at 4.25			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

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.

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



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.....

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

Photo's—All kinds, from stamps up to 16x20. Open days and Saturdays. Barnhill and Win

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.

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK.

The Mail has never adhered to the "time honored custom" of missing an issue during Christmas, but this year will be an exception to the rule. We have some pressing debts to obliterate, and next week will be given over to an endeavor to collect what is due us in order to meet the payments as they come due. Therefore if you are due anything, either on subscription or advertising, an early settlement will be appreciated. This is our first and only request. We MUST have what is due us.

There will be five issues next month, hence advertisers will get four issues, which constitutes a month. Our subscribers, we hope, will grant us this week of rest and recreation.

Copy for new advertisements, or changes for those now running should be handed in next week. Remember this, please.

Next issue will appear Jan. 8.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To the many friends who have been loyal to their home paper and given it their unqualified support and endorsement during the past year, we are more than grateful, and take this means to tender them our heartiest thanks. The Mail numbers among its friends some of the best people in the world. We would indeed be ungrateful were we to let this opportunity slip without expressing our deepest and most lasting gratitude.

Wishing each and every reader a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year, with many returns of the day, we are

Gratefully yours,
The Publisher.

Friends and Patrons.

At this, the close of another calendar year, we feel to thank our friends for their very liberal patronage and for their encouragement and expressions of good will.

Two years ago the Bank of Merkel, a private institution of limited means, was merged into the First National Bank. In making the change we felt that we owed it to our friends and to the town to provide them with a bank which they could point to with pride and support with the knowledge that they were absolutely secure in all their dealings with it. We promised them an institution second to none in all this country. How well we have succeeded and how rapid has been our growth and prosperity is a matter of public comment. We are proud of our growth, of our expansion, and of our large number of friends; we are proud of the record we have made and of the influence we wield in the

affairs of Merkel and the Merkel Country. The establishment of the bank here marked a new era in the history of the town, and it has been said that the history of the bank has been the history of Merkel.

On January 1st the First National Bank will start off with a capital and surplus of \$80,000, and above all a list of friends and patrons which any bank may well feel proud. During the year 1903, as in the past, our best endeavors will be used to advance the interests of our friends and the public generally, and we will be in better shape, with our increased capital, to meet the demands of the town and surrounding country.

To the hundreds of patrons who have made it possible for the bank to accomplish so much in the past, and to the new patrons are tendered our warmest thanks and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. Their continued favors are solicited, with the promise that every effort will be made to keep the bank in the front ranks with the leading banks of West Texas.

Thanking you, one and all, for your kind patronage, and wishing you a very happy and prosperous New Year, we are

Your friends,
First National Bank.
Geo. S. Berry, Cashier.

It is with pleasure that we thank our customers and friends for the patronage extended us during 1902, and trust that by close attention to business and the merits of merchandise and prices to secure for 1903 the same consideration shown us in the past.

Yours very truly,
The Star Store.

Our trade during 1902 far exceeded our expectations, and to our friends and customers who have stood by us we are indebted for the happy result. We hope to merit your continued favors. Wishing all many glad returns of the day, with much prosperity for the future, we are

Your friends,
Burroughs & Mann.

Although we were at a disadvantage this year, yet we still have reasons to be thankful to our patrons for their liberal patronage and confidence.

We are back at our old stand and better prepared to serve you during 1903 with first class dry goods and groceries.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, we remain

Yours truly,
J. T. Warren.

Since we commenced two years ago we have realized an increase of business beyond our most extreme hopes, and now we wish to thank the people of Merkel for their substantial support in the past and solicit a continuance of the same. We hope to make the service as near satisfactory as possible. Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a New Year full of prosperity and happiness we are,

Yours,
Merkel Telephone Exchange

Henry Drummond says: "The infallible receipt for happiness is to do good." Just at this season of merry making we should remember that to do good to others will make that happiness supreme. Experience has taught us that at no time do we enjoy a happier moment than when contributing to

the pleasures of others. Look around us where we may and there will always be found some one less fortunate than ourselves and in planning for Christmas pleasures include the doing of some kindly act for some one in position to appreciate it. Let it be in a small way and still the happiness will be complete for both the giver and the recipient and both will start into the New Year with lighter hearts and brighter hopes for the future.

An Original Baseballist.

Possibly the oldest living baseball enthusiast in the United States is Noah Brooks, merchant, farmer, editor, correspondent, naval officer of a port, etc., world without end. Everybody knew him from Maine to California. At 72 he is living in the town of his birth Castine, Me., writing as hard as ever. I believe he is doing some magazine work and preparing an important book for the Appletons. The world knew him as "Castine," Washington correspondent of the Sacramento Union. Baseball appealed to him as hay does to a hungry ox. Two of his most entertaining books are "The Fairport Nine" and "Our Baseball Club. He was an expert pitcher, and glorified Cummins when the latter introduced the curved ball. The house he lives in in Castine is called The Ark. Entirely appropriate—Noah's Ark.

A Joke on the Master.

Dr. Jowett, the famous master of Balliol, as a rule was indifferent to masters of theology, but hearing that some Balliol men had been successful in an examination on "Rudiments of Religion," he determined to examine the next batch himself. His first question was: "Mr. Smith, which prophet went up to heaven in a chariot of fire?" "Elijah, sir," was the reply. "I am astonished that a scholar of this college should be so ignorant," said Dr. Jowett. Then he put the same question to several other students, all of whom gave the same answer. A library boy entered the room and Jowett, intending to humiliate the students, put the question to him. "Elijah, sir," was the prompt reply. A pause. "Well, gentlemen, perhaps it was Elijah," said the master. No one ever was able to learn what he thought the answer should have been.

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, restaurateurs, 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!"

The Best is the Cheapest.

Not how cheap, but how good is the question. The Twice-a-Week Republic not as cheap as are some so-called newspapers. But it is as cheap as it is possible to sell 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.

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

Burroughs & Mann.

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.

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.

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.

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

R. H. Collins came in from the Monday, where he had been pose of a car of horses.

The total attendance of pupils at the public school has reached the 250 mark and is still growing. The scholastic enrollment was 231.

It is reported that Will Cox and Miss Dovie Hughse were married Sunday. The Mail joins in congratulation.

Will Dunning has bought the drug business of Dr. Martin at Nubia and placed Merit Browning in charge. We hope for his success.

A lawsuit is reported from Cass county, Texas, wherein a lawyer named Sheetz is defending a man named Pillows who is charged with the theft of a counterpane from a widow named Mattress. Two of the witnesses in the case are named respectively Bolster and Blanket. It is hoped that the judge will permit no "sham" in Mr. Pillow's case.—Thurber Journal.

Dr. Lewis, inspector of Colorado, was here Monday.

Mrs. W. L. Johnson came in from Abilene Monday to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wheeler.

A Unique Philanthropist.

John G. Taylor, a wealthy retired banker of West Chester, Pa., is a philanthropist of an unusual type. He is spending his fortune erecting monuments in the Brandywine cemetery as tributes to the men who have figured prominently in our national history. He has already spent \$100,000 in this work and has just given an order in Italy for a monument to Wells and McComas, who killed General Ross, the leader of the British against Washington in the war of 1812.

Padlocks as a Necklace.

The cheapest and commonest iron padlocks made in South Staffordshire, England, find a market in India and constitute the only door fastenings of the native tribes. A large trade was formerly done in cheap cast padlocks, japanned in bright red or blue colors, which it was commonly said were bought for ornament rather than for use. The dusky beauties of the Dark continent strung them together and wore them in the form of a necklace.

President Loubet a Nimrod.

President Loubet of France, is, like President Roosevelt, an enthusiastic hunter, but he confines himself to small game. Now he is hunting in the famous forests of Rambouillet and Mardy, once the hunting grounds of the French kings. "Papa Emile," as the French president is familiarly called, is described in this manner: "Rifle in hand, pipe in mouth, wearing an old blue velvet coat, with his stout yellow gaiters drawn tight over the solid, square-toed, heavily nailed shoes, a dilapidated, easy fitting soft hat thrown in picturesque disorder on his head, he looks more like a benevolent poacher than a president bound normally by a rigid protocol. When he leaves Paris he slips off his presidency and becomes again the peasant of Montelimar."

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.

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.

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

Burroughs & Mann.

Burnet Jennings left for Herford Texas Friday night last.

S. A. Walden and A. J. Coggins traded places last week.

The Star of Hope says: "What is done can't be undone" a hard boiled egg for instance." On the contrary we have undone many hard boiled eggs almost without an effort. But the foregoing is neither an aphorism nor a truism. A thing must be done before it can be undone.

Miss Annie King came in from Dora for the holidays.

Take the wrinkles out of your face this week and give yourself over to the Christmas festivities.

The Abilene carnival was a failure so far as a crowd was concerned, but the attractions were said to be good.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Burroughs entertained a few friends at dinner Sunday.

Mrs. W. J. Bowie of Abilene visited her sister, Mrs. Berry, here Sunday.

Alonzo Bickley came in from Fort Worth Saturday to visit home folks. He is well satisfied with his progress in the school room. He is studying for the ministry and his friends here will follow his career with much interest. All join in the hope that the goal of his ambition may be reached.

Implements not in use need shelter as much as horses or cows or people. The ancient custom of putting the wagon under a tree prevails on some farms today. Also the ancient custom of leaving the plows against the field fence and storing the cultivator on the north side of the barn or stable, is still practiced to some extent. Is it any wonder that such careless wastefulness entails comparative poverty and superlative dissatisfaction with the things of the world, political social and economical. Remember that in consequence of these practices you have to buy twice as many implements in a given time as would be necessary if they were properly cared for and besides, the work with these would be better and more easily done.—Farm & Ranch.

VERSTOCKED

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 7½ 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.

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

You will find California dried and canned fruits at J. T. Warren.

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.

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

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 & SON

MERKEL, TEXAS.



Mrs. Fred Unrath,
President Country Club, Benton
Harbor, Mich.

"After my first baby was born I did not seem to regain my strength although the doctor gave me a tonic which he considered very superior, but instead of getting better I grew weaker every day. My husband insisted that I take Wine of Cardui for a week and see what it would do for me. I did take the medicine and was very grateful to find my strength and health slowly returning. In two weeks I was out of bed and in a month I was able to take up my usual duties. I am very enthusiastic in its praise."

Wine of Cardui reinforces the organs of generation for the ordeal of pregnancy and childbirth. It prevents miscarriage. No woman who takes Wine of Cardui need fear the coming of her child. If Mrs. Unrath had taken Wine of Cardui before her baby came she would not have been weakened as she was. Her rapid recovery should commend this great remedy to every expectant mother. Wine of Cardui regulates the menstrual flow.

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.



Don't forget the old man with the fish on his back.

For nearly thirty years he has been traveling around the world, and is still traveling, bringing health and comfort wherever he goes.

To the consumptive he brings the strength and flesh he so much needs.

To all weak and sickly children he gives rich and strengthening food.

To thin and pale persons he gives new firm flesh and red blood.

Children who first saw the man with the fish are now grown up and have children of their own.

It stands for Scott's Emulsion of pure cod liver oil—a natural food and a natural strengthener for children, for old folks and for all who need flesh and

SCOTT'S Emulsion,
109 Broadway, New York.
50c per bottle; 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.

We have the largest and best selected stock of ledgers, journals, cash books, gum stub files, etc., in the city. Right prices. 2t Rust & Pittard.

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."

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.

Mountains Are Moving.

"The mountains are constantly moving," was the remark of a Denver & Rio Grande road recently, in speaking of the great landslides in the canyon above Glenwood Springs, Col. "We find from actual experience in maintaining tunnels, bridges and tracks in the mountains that the mountains are moving. It costs a railway passing through the mountains a great deal of money in the course of ten years to keep the track in line, and maintenance of tunnels is even more expensive. Drive a stake on the side of a mountain, take a location with the greatest care, and return after a few months. The stake is not in the same location. The whole side of the mountain has moved. This experiment has often been tried, and in all cases the result proves that the mountains are moving. The mountains are gradually seeking the level of the sea."

Is Jewish Exclusiveness Passing?

"Is Jewish exclusiveness becoming a legend rather than a reality?" asks the London Chronicle in connection with the following data from Australia which would seem to suggest an affirmative answer. In New South Wales, according to the recently published matrimonial statistics, during the last year no less than sixty-seven Jewish selected husbands from the Church of England, while 17 mated with Catholics and 11 found their affinities in the Presbyterian fold. One hundred and fifty-one Jews were united to Anglican wives, 62 to Catholics, 13 to Presbyterians, 12 to Methodists, 4 to non-denominationalists and 2 to Congregationalists, while a solitary son of Israel is reported to have wed a Baptist. Altogether out of 781 Jewish marriages, 341 were more or less "mixed."

..ALWAYS BUY THE BEST..

THE BEST GOES FARTHEREST

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

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 brand 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.

"Whipdog Day."

St. Luke's was formerly known as whipdog day, especially in York, England, from a custom that school-boys had of whipping all dogs seen in the streets on that day. Whence the persecution took its rise is uncertain, but its origin is usually traced in the following vague tradition: A priest celebrated mass at the festival of St. Luke, unfortunately dropped the host after consecration, and it was snatched up and swallowed by a dog that was lying hid under the table. The profanation occasioned the death of the dog, and a persecution was begun which was continued on the anniversary for several centuries.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

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.

The Oldest Newsboy.

A familiar figure seen around the Chicago and Alton depot at Joliet, Ill., is the oldest newsboy in the United States. Orsamus Page has been selling newspapers since the world's fair in 1893, never missing a single day, or failing to meet the early trains. Page was born in 1809, being 93 years of age, and retains his vigor to such an extent that he is able to rise every morning at 4 o'clock and deliver thirty or forty papers before the early train arrives. Mr. Page comes from long lived stock, his father dying at 89, his mother at 98, while his grandfather lived to be 102 and his grandmother 105.

A Rare "Delicacy."

A monster rattlesnake fried, boiled and stewed was the principal delicacy at a banquet given by Captain Dabney, of Hot Springs, Ark. It was fattened on rabbits, chickens and larks. The guests pronounced it delicious.

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, } Com.
J. H. Warnick.

Pedagogue Got His Revenge.

Time brings its revenges. Professor Georfie Howell, who has been elected to congress from the Tenth district of Pennsylvania, has been connected with the public schools of Scranton as teacher and superintendent for a number of years. Last May friends of Republican Congressman William Connell, in the city council, defeated him for re-election as city superintendent of schools. The democrats took him up as the most available man for congress, and he has ousted Congressman Connell, who was a candidate for re-election to the house.

A Historic Sword.

On exhibition in Columbia, S. C., is a revolutionary sword with an interesting history. It originally belonged to the British officer, Colonel Tarleton, and was captured by Wade Hampton, ancestor of the late General Wade Hampton. The sword has been handed down as a relic in the family, and was used by General Hampton in the civil war.

Poor Consolation for Tom.

Anyhow, the Hon. Tom Johnson is entitled to the credit of having personally conducted his own defeat.

Your Winter

As..

TIME TO LOOSEN F

and get ready for fall buying. It is people well and satisfy them in every

We are not selling out at cost, but meet any and all prices made; so when your fall bills come in and see us, for reduced prices on everything in Dry Goods

STRINGS

to serve th

to stay and will be ready to make anything greatly reduced, Hats, 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

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.**

Price 50c & \$1. Trial Bottles Free.

W. W. WHEELER,

Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tornado Insurance Agent,
Notary Public.

Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, etc.
Office in First National Bank.

Merkel Camp No. 719, W.O.W. —meets every second and fourth Saturday night in each month at the I. O. O. F. Hall.

G. E. Comegys, C. C.
John Elliott, Clerk.

Favorite Family Remedy.

Frequently accidents occur in the household, which cause burns cut, sprains, and bruises; for use in these cases Ballard Snow Liniment is for many years been the constant favorite family remedy. 25c, 50c, & \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard.

Now's the time to advertise.

"Why?" in a feminine hand. "Because I wish to take you to the pavilion and tell you again that I love you—love you better—"

Here the sentence broke off, but Leonora stood gazing long enough to have read whole pages. A fire was in her brain, but a curious numbness in her limbs. At last she thrust the paper under her belt and went onto the piazza. Her husband and Alice were not in the group assembled there. She stood a moment looking out over the rippled silver of the bay, the blood at her temples beating like a trip-hammer. Then realizing that she was being watched, she sank into a chair and asked lazily who could recite the passage from Shakespeare beginning "On such a night." Some one began the lines, and she, hardly realizing what she did, supplied the missing words.

"She is the blindest fool or the most trusting wife I ever saw," whispered Mrs. Grundy behind her back, yet not so loud but that she heard.

Blind! trusting! the words ate like an acid into her consciousness. Presently some one suggested a promenade on the wharf, and she rose with the others, glad of anything, that meant action. She laughed when the others laughed, but knew not at what, she was so busy planning, for this night was the crisis of her life. The pavilion, lit by a single electric bulb, was at the end of the wharf. As they approached the company fell suddenly silent, so that a low voice from within could be distinctly heard:

"You are the most beautiful and wonderful woman I ever saw."

At the door the group paused, held by the words and the sight of Alice and Charlie on a bench. He held one of her hands, and his other arm was stretched along the back of the bench at her shoulders. While one might flicker an eye-lash perhaps, Mrs. Colton hesitated, then with a light laugh stepped over the threshold and sank down on a vacant seat.

"So Charlie has gotten ahead of me and is telling you the conclusion we reached after discussing you last night? Those were my words. And no wonder he told you, for in this subdued light you are lovely."

Alice, who had instantly withdrawn her hand, laughed hysterically, and Charlie, whose arm was now dangling over the back of the bench, drew a deep breath. The group at the door looked on amazed as she turned to them and continued:

"Does not that blue gown make her look ethereal, like some picture? I'm sure I should kiss her if I were a man."

Then everybody laughed and came in and sat down, and the talk grew general.

An hour later Charlie Colton entered his wife's room slowly and shamefacedly.

"Leonora, I—I don't know what to say; but you are superb—you saved us from—from—'pon my word, I don't know how to thank you."

She turned slowly from the window before which she was standing, and the outraged womanhood within her flashed in the scorn of lips and eyes. He cowered under her glare.

"You thank me!—And do you think for a moment I did it for you or for her? Do you think I cared a rap whether you were saved or whether her reputation suffered? No; I had not the slightest concern for either of you. It was of myself that I thought, for myself only, that I cared. I did not intend that those other women should witness my humiliation, float over the hysteria of a wronged wife. I am not so beautiful as Alice Vance, but I have more pride in my womanhood, for I would sacrifice no part of it, even if I had to lie to defend it. I was protecting myself again at the infamy you, the man I married, put upon me."

"For God's sake, Leonora, don't be so hard; it was all a jest; the girl is nothing to me. I never said a serious word to her—"

"Never told her that you loved her?"

"N-no."

With a gesture of withering contempt she held out the envelope he had dropped. His face grew ashen as he saw it.

"You have condescended to pick my pocket," he said, forgetting himself in his anger.

"The only condescension of which I am guilty is in offering you any reply to that speech. You dropped the letter on the floor. No, you cannot have it; I shall need it as evidence."

"Evidence!—In heaven's name, Leonora, you do not mean to—"

"If I had had an affair like this with some other man, if you had found me in his arms, heard my love words to him, seen the infatuation in my face, what would you do?"

"But, Leonora—"

"You would spit upon me before the world; turn me out and shut your door in my face."

He stretched out his shaking hands entreatingly: "But I swear—"

"Your time for swearing is past. I have wanted to believe in you, but the evidence of my own ears and eyes must be accepted."

"You are going to leave me?"

"As you would do to me, I am going to do to you, for I recognize only one standard for men and women to live by. I could never believe in you again, so it remains only for us to say farewell."

He took a step toward her: "My God, Leonora, you cannot mean it!—I never even read of a woman so hard as this."

"Yes, in story books you would throw the blame on the other woman, and I would believe and forgive you; but this is not a story book, it is hard, unvarnished life, and I know that you are even guiltier than the girl who has taken you from me, but who lost the best of her womanhood to do so."

"But if I promise—" he began, but her glance silenced him. Then he took another tack and began to plead: "Other women have forgiven things like this, and—"

"And lived in miserable suspicion of self-degradation ever after. I know their course, and that the world pities and praises them as martyrs. This is another woman's way."

And her finger pointed pitilessly to the door.

When is a Frog a Frog.

The question convulsing France just now is, When is a frog a frog? It arose thus: One day last June two Frenchmen were caught red-handed on the national domain in the act of what was supposed to be fishing, and charged accordingly. But when they came before the magistrate they pleaded that they were not guilty, inasmuch as they were frogging, not fishing, and the magistrate discharged them. The case was then brought before a court of appeal, which sustained the ruling of the court below, albeit the local chief of the lake and forest department appeared to support the case and maintained that a frog was to all intents and purposes a fish. Now the court of cassation will probably be asked to adjudicate the case.

A Mint of Money



With good Farm Wagon in the place We realize this, and that's just why we offer you the....

STUBBAKER WAGON . . .

Its built of high material by master workmen...

JOHN DEERE BUGGIES,
HANCOCK DISC PLOWS,
STANDARD DISC PLOWS,
Hardware, Farm Machinery.

If you buy it here, it's RIGHT!

GEO. L. AXTON,
ABILENE, TEXAS.

STRONG TALK..

But the Truth, when we say we've the best stock of Christmas Goods in Tex.

We bought the implements the large northern house had to sell to Texas, Louisiana, India, Terry and New Mexico merchants at the figures as will enable us to sell at New York prices. Nothing like it in Texas. We have the new building across the street full of Christmas Goods, and no two articles of more than one dollar are alike.

ABILENE...

BASS OS. DRUG CO..

Who Printed the First Newspaper

There has been considerable diversity of late years as to which country would be conceded honor of printing the first newspaper. This has been successively put forward for France, Germany, England, Holland, and with some degree of plausibility it appears to recent research that neither of these are entitled to the distinction, and that precedence should be given to Belgium. This has been established by antiquaries that a certain Grammam Verhoop, of Antwerp obtained, in 1477, from the Archduke and Duchess Albert and Isabella the privilege of printing a news sheet. As the first German paper appeared in 1515, at Frankfort the first Dutch paper in 1617, the first English paper the Weekly Gazette, in 1522, the first French paper in 1631, it would seem that Antwerp's claim have some foundation, and that the Belgian civilized world has become one of the most influential factors in modern life and progress. On the strength of this it is proposed to hold a centenary celebration in Antwerp some time during the year 1919.

Message Round the World

When congratulatory messages were exchanged the other day between British officials over the completion of the new British Pacific cable, none seems to have thought of ending a cable message around the world, which was impossible for the first time in the history of mankind. The idea did occur to Charles J. Glidden, of Boston, on November 1; the novelty struck his fancy. So he wrote a message, "I found the world," directed to himself in Boston and ordered it sent by way of Vancouver and Australia. Not being a "rush" message, no haste was made anywhere when it reached him in eight hours and twenty minutes elapsed. Anyone who would do the something, is willing to spend about \$12 to pay the cable and telegraphic tolls. The message did not turn up in Boston by the way, with entire accuracy. It came in somewhat weather-beaten, as it were, reading "Glidden" instead of Glidden, and with "Arund" transformed to "Armund." The two words, "the world," went through safe and sound.

The Champion Liar Turns Up

Such a long time has elapsed since anything has been heard from Joe Mulhatten, the world's champion liar, that he is generally supposed to have been dead for years. Therefore when he suddenly turned up in New Orleans a few days ago his friends greeted him as one returned from the dead. He has been missing in Arizona for eight years, and all that time has been practically lost to the world. "A number of new liars have appeared during his absence," says Joe, "but they had better look to their laurels, and not get tired of mining, and will now be to lying again."

King Who Dresses Himself

For all he is a royal ruler King Christian of Denmark is exceedingly democratic in manner and habit. This octogenarian begins his work regularly at 8 o'clock, having already breakfasted on coffee and roll. Never by any change does he allow a valet to help him dress. Not long ago he said to his body servant: "When I have an old you may help me, but thank heaven, I can dress myself. On horseback his majesty mounts a fine, soldierly appearance."

BEST DRAWING CARD...

Goods at the Lowest Prices.

Implement
Wagons
Buggies
Barbed V
Nails, St
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.

Ve 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.

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 are not the other fellow.
E. D. Coats.

Morgan's Athletic Partner.

Robert Bacon was as conspicuous at Harvard a little more than twenty years ago as he is now as the partner of J. Pierpont Morgan. "Handsome Bob Bacon," they called him at Cambridge. He was Harvard's football captain in 77 and there never was a finer physical specimen on Harvard's eleven. More than six feet tall, broad shouldered and powerful, he was the idol of the students as a football player in those days.

Edward's Historic Cane.

The cane King Edward used during his recent illness is more than 200 years old, and was originally cut from the Boscobel oak into which Charles II climbed to escape Cromwell's men after the battle of Worcester.

Elephant as a Plow Horse.

The use of a sledge hammer to drive a track would appear scarcely more ingenious than the occasional practice of the Hindu husbandman of having an elephant draw his plow. Employment of this powerful and sagacious animal in important work where heavy lifting is required does not seem to detract from his dignity, but plowing appears a petty task for so noble a beast. That he does his duty, here as elsewhere, when well trained, need not be asserted. Neither stump nor stone in the way of the plowshare could stop him, though the implement itself might go away. The latter, as it is in India, is a peculiar device, with a single handle and a very long beam. The farmers of the United States would utterly scorn it. The area which can be plowed up in a day with an elephant as a "plow horse" is large, and he is remarkably handy in one respect. At the close of the day's labor he picks up the plow and carries it home to his pen.

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.

Duke Michael Breaks a Record.

The Grand Duke Michael Nicolaievich, grand uncle to the present czar, lately celebrated his 70th birthday. The event was a most notable one in this imperial house, for he is the first male member of it in the annals of the Romanoffs to reach the biblical limit of age. Indeed, no Romanoff reached the age of 60 until Czar Alexander II, who was 62 when he was murdered. His brother Constantine died at the age of 54. There have been three or four princesses who have lived to see the age of 70, and the average age of the males is now increasing, as the three princes just named were all sons of Nicholas I. The next generation, now varying in age from 33 to 55, has had few losses and shows every prospect of long life.

Royalty and Sturgeons.

A magnificent sturgeon weighing 470 pounds was on view recently in London. In earlier days such an exhibition would probably have led to the confiscation of the fish by the king's officers, for the sturgeon is a "royal" fish, and was made by an act of Edward II, a perquisite of the sovereign along with wrecks and whales. The lord mayor of London has the right to all sturgeons caught in the Thames above London bridge, and it would be interesting to know when the right was last exercised. The largest sturgeon fisheries are in the Volga and Caspian sea and in the Great Lakes of America, and in these places the manufacture of caviare is conducted on a large scale, which shows that the taste for that dainty is more widespread than it was in Shakespeare's day.

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 awhile you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not hap-hazzard go into The News' make-up.
TWO PAPERS YOU NEED ...
You need THE MERKEL MAIL, because its 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.

Clerical Anti-Celibacy Movement.
A clerical anti-celibacy movement is developing in Italy, especially in the southern provinces, and attracts the attention of the Vatican. Energetical papal measures are imminent to crush the movement. Such a movement is not new to the church. It exists more or less latently in all South America, and several countries in Europe, especially Hungary. An ex-nuncio says the Vatican is obliged to take no notice of the irregular conduct of the Hungarian clergy to avoid a possible schism, and several eminent Catholics are now convinced that the marriage of priests is preferable to the present state of things. It is not likely, however, that the Vatican will at present give way, although the church recognizes of priests among the 6,000,000 Catholics of Oriental rites.

At the Ostrich Farm.
At the ostrich farm at Coronado it takes a bale of alfalfa hay cut up and a sack of barley to feed 53 birds. The chicks are as inquisitive as a monkey, and will snap a button off your coat if an opportunity offers. The old males are fighters and can split fence boards with a kick; but when they get real mad they lie down and twist their necks and flap their wings like a skirt dancer. Young chicks a few weeks old are worth in the market \$25 each.

A Good Investment.
William F. Howe, the noted criminal lawyer of New York city, who died a few weeks ago, was addicted to loud clothes, huge diamonds, and watch chains so heavy that they tore his pockets. Once, when defending a client, he tearfully protested that he was "too poor a man to take the case" unless he believed the accused to be innocent. The judge, looking him over, observed quietly: "Well, Mr. Howe, I would be willing to give a few dollars for you just as you stand."

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*No Strangers
Clearer
to our front
Six a month*

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.

Spain, Land of Hunchbacks.
Spain has the most hunchbacks of any country. In one small village at the foot of the Sierra Morena there is one in every thirteen inhabitants. France, in the neighborhood of the Loire, has a great many people suffering from deformed shoulders. It has been reckoned that there are a million hunchbacks in the world at present.
Try reading The Mail.