

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, JANUARY 15, 1903.

NO. 47.

Cost Sale Continued!

A FEW PRICES

We have a few Ladies' Jackets and Capes that we are offering, to close out, at less than cost.

20 per cent reduction on Bed Blankets and Comforts.

Good Duck Coat only 75c.

Extra heavy Reversible Duck and Jeans Coat regular \$2.25 value, to close at \$1.50.

Best line of 50c Underwear in the town.

We will continue our **COST SALE** on **MEN'S, BOY'S and CHILDREN'S CLOTHING** until January 20th. Don't miss this opportunity to buy Clothing at

MANUFACTURERS' COST

Very truly yours,

BEST WISHES

We thank our customers and friends for the liberal patronage extended us the past year, and most respectfully solicit your trade during 1903. We will earnestly strive to merit your valued favors, and tender our best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.
THE STAR STORE.

THE STAR STORE.

If We Only Understood.

Watchword.

It was on a Pennsylvania sleeping car coming east. All of the passengers had retired except one man, who, holding a crying baby in his arms, moved wearily up and down the car, kissing the downy head of the child, and speaking softly and gently to the troubled little soul, as he sought in vain to quiet it. A man is good for many things and sometimes good for nothing, but when it comes to tranquillizing an irritable infant, he realizes how largely his usefulness is impaired, and his pride is humbled unto dust.

A woman with a falsetto voice who had just awakened out of slumber, put her head out of a berth and yelled, in a tone of the deepest indignation: "Take that child out of the car!" And as if this was the signal for concerted action on the part of the passenger who had formed a combination of three different keys, and for one hour and fifteen minutes had been making the night hideous with his snoring, he suddenly roused up and snarled out, "Why don't you carry that child to its mother?" And then a chorus of emphatic protest echoed along the car: "This is a gross imposition; where is the conductor?"

The man with the child halted for a moment, his mouth quivered a sob choked his throat. He drew the frail body down close against his breast, and kissed with infinite tenderness the tear filled eyes, and then said, while the volley of protest was hushed a moment, "I would take the baby to its mother—God knows how I would like to—the little one has been crying for her ever since we

left her; but I can not take it to its mother, for she is in the baggage car in her coffin, and we are taking her back to her old home where she may sleep until Jesus comes, under the blue sky where she played as a child. The baby misses the touch of her hands and her mouth, and oh, we miss her so much!" Then the sounds of a strong man's sobs unrepressed filled the car.

In five minutes twelve women were in the aisle of the car, headed by the fat man in undress uniform, each woman with a wealth of tenderness in her face and the fat man sobbing as if he had lost his best friend. "Forgive us; we didn't know. Poor little darling. You lie down and sleep; we will take care of the baby."

The tired child laid its head down on a motherly woman's breast and was soothed to slumber by a lullaby.

How often, in the way of life, our largest pitp would be folded all about the broken hearts if we could only understand and thus the weary way be sweetened to the sons of men by pouring in the balm of God!

Seek, then, to understand,
Be slow to smite or to chide,
In patience God has given grace,
So let that grace abide.

The Sweetest Songs.

The following beautiful gem we find in an exchange without marks to identify its authorship: "The sweetest songs remain unsung, the sublimest notes of music reverberate among the corridors of the heart and then die unuttered; the loftiest type of eloquence is that which was never spoken; the deepest tragedy never finds its way to the stage.

It has been my misfortune not to have heard nor seen the greatest actors of the world—they died before my day—but I do not believe that the mightiest genius that ever walked the boards could portray a passion in all its essential elements. There must always be the feelings that it is all taking place under reflected light; and that the greatest flights still come disagreeably short of the genuine and the life like. Human is full of tragedier that are never told save in subdued whispers about the fireside, but that touch the studied pose and polished manner of the buskin. These spell the secret and sacred grief that never goes beyond the precinct of home. The owner carries the crushed spirit, the broken heart, with him to the eternal silence of the tomb. Display these for public delection! Twere an impossibility and a hollow

mockery so far as possible. As well try to portray the workings of a mind diseased. How can I probe its secrets unless my own reasons has been unbalanced and then, how can I present them in sane mood? The highest, the deepest, the broadest thing of earth, the heart hides with its own narrow compass."—Exchange.

Mortgages.

The eleventh census reveals some facts interesting not only to the economist and sociologist, but to the business man.

In classifying the causes for which mortgages have been made it is shown that 95 per cent of them indicated prosperity rather adversity.

That is to say, 95 per cent of the mortgages were made in order to raise money for the purchase of additional holdings, for larger business operations, etc.

Only 5 per cent were given because of adversity—failure in business operations. The political pessimist has pointed to mortgages until they are synonymous in the public mind with "hard times." It is difficult to regard them as indices of prosperity,

And it must be said that upon the sequel depends the decision as to whether the increased mortgages—placed with whatever motive—shall be considered exponents of good fortune or misfortune.

Some day these mortgages must be paid.

Over-speculation has its legitimate pains and penalties—K. C. World.

Mrs. Jack Anderson of Abilene is here this week visiting her daughter, Mrs. Berry, who has been quite sick. She is improving, we are glad to learn.

Wanted, 1,500 Doz. Eggs

We are in the market for all your country produce and can use it in any quantity. We give you the following prices in trade:

Frying size chickens from \$2.00 to \$2.40 per dozen
Hens from 2.25 to 2.75 per dozen
Eggs 15c per dozen

When you want groceries we should like to figure with you. Our stock is complete. One price to all, spot cash.

MAXWELL & SONS.

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.

Two in a Boat.

BY LILLIAN NICHOLSON.
(Copyright, 1902, by Dally Story Pub. Co.)
Gladys tossed back her ringlets.

"Thank you," said Phillip.
"For what?" asked Gladys.
"I can see your eyes better now," said Phillip.

"You mean you don't like to look at my hair," pouted Gladys, as a curl blew across her cheek in a most distracting manner.

"I do like to look at your hair," said Phillip, resting on the oars. "It's the prettiest hair in the world—when it does not hide your eyes."

"Silly boy," she murmured.

"Summer resort talk, you know," he said, lightly. Phillip usually supplemented his compliments.

"Well, you meant it just the same," she replied, looking at him in merry defiance.

"Yes—I did," he answered, so earnestly and with such a look that she flushed and turned her head as if seeking something on the water.

The morning had not been an entire success, in spite of the fact that the time and the weather and the scenery around Lake Delevan were ideal for a row.

Phillip Minton and Gladys Howell had been companions for a month, almost to the extent of ignoring everyone else at the hotel. Mrs. Delmar was the true American type of chaperone; she amused herself in her own way, and let Gladys do the same. And when Gladys found Phillip Minton's society the most congenial of all the guests, Mrs. Delmar craftily refrained from commenting.

Phillip and Gladys had not dropped into the usual sentimental summer flirtation; he said pretty things lightly, and she received them with a merry laugh in which he invariably joined. There was no apparent reason for a feeling of restraint between them as the boat sped across the clear water, but each felt that a nameless something deeper lay beyond their gay remarks.

Phillip watched Gladys intently as she gazed out upon the water, her two little hands shading the loveliest of eyes. The silence had become oppressive.

"Do you see Travers' boat anywhere?" she asked in desperation.

"No, and neither do you," answered Phillip, mercifully, a ring of triumph in his voice. She was beginning to understand without being told. "Travers left this morning—told us good-bye last night, don't you remember?"

"Oh, yes, of course," she exclaimed, vexed at herself. "Well," she continued, "you can tell me good-bye tonight, for I go home in the morning."

There! It was told at last, and she felt herself mistress of the situation.

"What?" ejaculated Phillip, in dismay, starting violently.

"Be careful," she said calmly, "you will overturn the boat, and I don't want to be drowned; one looks so horrid with weeds in one's hair, and—"

"I thought you were to remain all summer," said Phillip, abruptly, his face a little pale in the bright morning sun.

"So did I," she answered, sighing, "until yesterday. I did not intend to tell you until this evening, but—somehow I couldn't keep it." There was the faint suggestion of a tremor in her voice which did not escape her companion, but she continued bravely. "You have been very nice to me, and I want to thank you, and tell you how much your congenial companionship has added to my pleasure."

"If you will permit a trite expression," he said, a little stiffly, "allow me to say the pleasure has been mine." But he melted instantly. "Oh, hang the luck!" he exclaimed, "why must you go?"

"Because I can't very well afford to lose my position," she answered bluntly. Phillip's handsome face expressed astonishment.

"My substitute is ill," she explained, "she was to take my place for the summer, but I must go back. I am a stenographer, you know."

"No, I wasn't aware of it," he answered in his straightforward way. "I understood—"

"That I was Miss Gladys Howell of Kentucky," she answered, with just a touch of scorn in her voice. "I am Miss Howell, and I am from Kentucky, but only distantly related to the wealthy Mr. Howell, whose daughter you thought I was."

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

Perhaps no city on the continent has a greater variety of people, tribes and tongues than this. We station ourselves at a street corner to watch the crowd go by. Several automobiles are winding their way among the vehicles of all sorts and sizes; there seems to be many automobiles in this city, as we see them frequently. Here is a splendid turnout; the driver and footman are in gorgeous livery, with plumes in their hats, and the occupant of the carriage is some foreign minister, probably British, as the colors would indicate. Others follow, for it is time for the evening drive and this is one of the fashionable streets. It seems as if all the foreign legations are out for an airing. On some of the carriages the drivers and footmen are in "charro" costume, with gold and silver buttons and braid and large Mexican hats. These are wealthy Mexicans out for a dine with their friends, the young ladies reclining upon the cushions, their dark hair and eyes and olive cheeks showing their Spanish descent, while others show a slight mixture with the race of Moctezumas, but each has a grace and beauty peculiar to these southern climes. I never saw finer horses than is in this procession; how they enjoyed the drive; how proudly they would prance, for they seemed to enjoy the musical sound of their feet on this beautiful pavement. No lover of horse flesh could look on this scene unmoved. Right in the midst of this display of wealth and beauty an Indian with his burro laden with grass so that the little animal's ears and feet were only visible, slowly plodded along, unconscious of all else except that he was going somewhere and didn't care when he got there; he had the right of way and automobiles and carriages had to sidetrack. A "Cargadore" comes up the street with a load of empty dry goods boxes and there must be seven or eight of them, one on top of the other till the top one was on a level with the second story windows. Across his forehead he has a broad band that goes back around the load, so he carries most of the load with his head. But, my! what a load, and we wonder how he ever got it up, and how he will ever get it down. But here is something that beats

them all: Coming up the crowded street is a drove of turkeys. An Indian has a string on an old goblin and with a long switch he guides his flock as unconcerned as if he was on the broad highway many miles from the busy city. Sometimes he is hid from view by the motley crowd, then again he shows up, still patiently guiding his flock. We can but admire his patience and skill and wish him success with his "Christmas birds." A Cargadore passes with a coffin on his head going to some house of mourning. A little further down the street we meet an Indian with a load of parrots. They were all young, some scarcely feathered out. They were hanging all over him and in a basket were some very young ones; there must have been twenty-five in all. We stop him and buy one, but before we could bargain for another a policeman marches him off. We couldn't tell what was the matter—hadn't paid his taxes, we suppose. Four Cargadores come along carrying a piano. They have broad straps under the piano and over their shoulders, and they walk right along. These fellows will tackle almost anything and it is surprising what immense loads they will carry. The Cargadore is a Mexican institution. They are all licensed and each carries a metal plate numbered, so when you want a trunk taken from the depot to a hotel or a package taken to some part of the city, you hire a Cargadore, but be sure you note down his number, for then if your package goes astray a complaint at the police department will call the Cargadore to account for it. A funny thing happened here today. Two Cargadores were carrying a large Saratogo trunk swung on a pole, and as they went to cross the trolley track a car was approaching. Cargadore No. 1 got across the track all right, but No. 2 was afraid to make the crossing; so one pulled one way and the other pulled his way, while the trunk hung between. The consequence was the car struck the trunk and for a short time the air was full of ribbons, laces, women's hose and other articles usually found in a lady's trunk, while the frightened Cargadores took to their heels in opposite directions. I wonder how they fixed it up at the police office with the fair owner?

"You are exactly like her picture," said Phillip. "I knew James Howell at college, and I've seen a picture of his sister a number of times in his room. Naturally I thought you were she."

It was her turn to look surprised.



"All the Howells resemble," she said, "but my connection to the family to which you refer was not close enough for them to notice me after the death of my father. He had lost everything in an unfortunate investment, and I have been self-supporting ever since. There was an awkward pause. The boat drifted lazily, and the man paid little attention to the oars—he was lost in deep thought.

"I grow so tired of my life at times," she continued, "the weary routine of the office day after day, and the short vacations at summer resorts near home, where I was snubbed and patronized alternately because I earn my living—Mrs. Delmar was a schoolmate of mamma's—it has been a pleasant change to be received as I have been here, simply because I am with her. I did not intend to deceive you, but when you took it for granted that I was the wealthy Miss Howell I let you think so, because I wanted a taste of the life I so much desire. I thought I could return to work and have always a pleasant recollection—I liked you, and—"

Her voice died away in confused murmurs, but she had at least prevented him from saying things he would afterwards regret, and make her despise

him because he did regret them. But she reckoned without her host. "I am sorry you had such a small opinion of me," he said, gently. "I assure you it would have made no difference with me had I known—not in the way you think, anyhow." "I did not have a small opinion of you," she said, spiritedly. "We have to accept social conditions as they exist. Had it been known here that I am a stenographer, the Sunday papers would have devoted half a page to your picture and mine, with the startling announcement that 'Phillip Minton, son of the millionaire, John Minton, is paying marked attention to a pretty typewriter at Lake Delavan. Society breathlessly awaits the result.' Phillip Minton threw back his head and laughed a hearty boyish laugh. "Well, if this isn't a joke," he exclaimed. "Possibly your words would have proven true but for the fact that Phillip Minton, son of the millionaire, John Minton, is at present taking a cruise in his yacht. I am only a third cousin, and the old man's confidential clerk. To think that you took me for his son—that chappie! Why anybody

Reserved for
GEO. F. WEST,
Hardware and Groceries.

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.

Burton-Lingo Co.,

Lumber Dealers,

Merkel, Texas.



Phillip.

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at the hotel could have told you who I am."

"I did not mention your name to anybody, of course."

"Of course?"

"Yes," she said, faintly.

"Gladys," he said, mischievously, bending toward her, "you said awhile ago that you like me."

"I did not," she cried, her cheeks aflame.

"Pardon me, but you did," he insisted, with a ring of happiness in his voice, "and since you are not the unapproachable Miss Howell of Kentucky, I feel free to tell you how very much I like you."

"Indeed?"

"If you only knew how I have worried trying to keep up our delightful friendship and to refrain from telling you that I love you."

"Oh!"

"Once I thought I would throw myself on your mercy and ask you to wait until I could give you a home such as you would have to leave. Gladys, I am not a rich man yet, but I can make you happy—will you let me try?"

"If I say no?"

"I'll overturn the boat and we will drown together."

"I believe I have already told you that I shouldn't like to drown," she answered.

The new steel rails being laid by the T. & P. weigh 80 pounds to the yard. On the right-of-way between this place and Sweetwater 25 or 30 tents are to be seen which are occupied by the men who are laying the rails, and the work is going on with a rush.

"A drawing card" is a good thing, but Burroughs & Mann's jewelry drawing is Money to You. Ask about it.

The new advertisements form the most interesting part of the paper this week. Read them carefully.

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.

G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

MERKEL, TEXAS.

CAPITAL,	:	:	:	:	\$50,000
SURPLUS,	:	:	:	:	\$10,000
PROFITS,	:	:	:	:	\$1,500
					<hr/>
					\$61,500

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

ASK FOR

J. I. Case Implements

The J. I. Case TRIUMPH sulky Plow is a winner, because it has many new and excellent features, which are possessed by no other plows. Do you know that there are over 100,000 TRIUMPH plows in use, and that every one sold has given perfect satisfaction and sold another? It is the latest scientific achievement in implements.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,
ABILENE, TEXAS
Distributors for WEST 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.....

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.

We are told that they are operating a new scheme up in Knox county to save all their late cotton. They pick the cracked and unopened bolls and run them through a threshing machine which knocks them to pieces and the mass is then run through a gin. The process makes a trashy, low grade of cotton, but it is better than not to get it at all.—Haskell Free Press.

Now's the time to advertise.

The Ball at Big Springs.

BY JAMES GARDNER SLATER.
(Copyright, 1902, by Daily Story Pub. Co.)

The boys from the X Y ranch had been busy for the falls' "round-up" at Abilene for months. They were now about ready to depart for their winter home. The cattle had been about herded in one bunch and were prepared for the long drive southward, where the grass was green the year round, and the winds not too severe to bring them discomfort. The yearlings, heifers and steers were corralled two miles away from the little town. At night, unless a storm seemed imminent, half of the crew would go into the railroad station and report themselves by shooting out lights, riding horses into bar-rooms and the like. All of them ate at the Archer restaurant, not because the food was any better or cheaper than served by the Palace, but because Estelle McIntosh, a clear-eyed, straight-limbed girl of some twenty summers, slung the hash and shot the beans at her sun-tanned customers.

She was of beautiful mold; her breast moved back and forth like the undulating waves of the sea; her arms were round at the shoulders and tapered down as gracefully as a sculptor's model. Her eyes were blue, she was wide-hipped, with a complexion like that of the underdown of a Georgia peach. She could play the guitar, do fancy work, and get along fairly well with the third reader. She could call cows and ride any broncho that ever pawed the earth.

All the boys were in love with her. If she had any preference that could be perceived, it was for Calico Jake, whose tall figure was known to nearly every head of cattle between the Colorado and the Neuces. He could chew tobacco like a Cuban negro, cut the pigeon-wing, ride anything from a horned toad to a giraffe, and he had no more compunction when it became necessary, to kill a man than a mustang would have for kicking at the man who had hit him with a quirt. But Estelle, "Stell," as the boys called her, made no signs that she would be glad to jump over the broomstick with him.

Two weeks before the contemplated departure of the X Y outfit, nearly all the boys were in Archer's. The "Doc" was there also. He wore a staked and ridged shirt, tan shoes and toted a walking stick. He had but recently graduated from the medical school at El Paso, and settling at Abilene, where the men wore overalls and the women quite content with calicoes, he imagined himself about \$430 ahead of a National Bank. "Stell" had not liked him from the first, and she did not attempt to conceal her feelings. As the "Doc" started to go, he naively asked:

"S'pose you are going to be the queen of the ball up to Big Springs, next week?"

"I don't know ef that's any of your business," she replied, somewhat warmly. "Course you'll be there as king of the doodlebugs?" at which the cowboys ha, ha, haed until the "Doc" was out of hearing.

That night, while the stars looked down upon the boys who were now again in camp, Calico said to Buckeye: "Say, Buck, it'll be a long time afore we get to a ball where they'll have one of these here base villians or wiolins, or whatever you call 'em. S'pose we run up to Big Springs and shake our feet when the shindig comes off?"

Buckeye readily consented. Then the other boys were awakened and told of the scheme. Lots were to be drawn as to who should remain in camp while the others were away. That was satisfactory and the idea a good one. "But," spoke up Red Parker, "whar the damnation is the money comin' from?"

That put the others to thinking. The next morning five cowboys

were seen riding swiftly toward Abilene. Calico went into the Archer



Calico Jake.

hotel and restaurant alone. After a few moments' conversation with "Stell," the boys galloped over the hill. An hour's ride took them to Pantana, a village composed of five saloons, a general merchandise establishment, a livery stable, fifty-five souls and 18,312 prairie dogs.

They stopped at the first place they reached, which was known as the "Last Chance saloon. Finest of Wines and Liquors." The boys alighted and went inside.

"Line up fellers and select your pardners. What'll it be?" said Jake, as he laid a five-dollar bill on the counter.

"Hornets' juice, hornets' juice!" they yelled out in unison, "and be damned quick about it." As the barkeeper, a recent importation from Chicago, having never seen men so loaded down with six-shooters, his hands trembled when he sat the bottle down. When the glasses had been filled and emptied, Calico suddenly looked out of the door, saw a prairie dog and blazed away at it so quickly that the barkeeper jumped three feet from the floor. The others rushed to the door only to see the dog writhing in the dust of the public road. Men came rushing from other establishments, at the sound of the shots, but seeing that there was nothing doing in the way of a man fight, returned to the doors. Meantime the barkeeper had counted out the proper change for Calico—\$4.40.

"Come or runnin', boys, and look at this!" as he pointed to the silver in front of him. "I do reckon I wonder whar in thunder he thinks I come from. How much was it I give him, 'Red'?"

"Twenty? No. I didn't have nothing smaller'n a fifty an' that's what I handed him, wasn't it, Buck?" "Why, sure it was," said Buck. "Well, the skunk! Shall we kill him here or drag him over to Lick Skillet and let the dogs eat him up?"

The barkeeper hastily went to his drawer. "Really," said he, "you didn't—"

"What's that! Didn't hey? Well,



"You Cash in Fer Me When You Git to Marlin. Something is to Happen in About a Week."

we'll just show you a trick that you never heard of afore," and with that he proceeded to draw his gun.

In an instant the barkeeper's hands were above his head. He begged forgiveness. If he had made a mistake, he certainly would rectify it then and there.

"Well, shell her out; shell her 'out!' they all demanded at once. And \$49.40 were laid upon the wooden bar.

Then the boys went down the little street, relating their experience to all the other saloonkeepers, who agreed with them that the Chicago-yankee was a crook. After having spent about the amount they straddled their ponies and were soon in Abilene again. "Stell" set out pies and coffee, and her patrons ate ravenously. When they had finished, Call-

ico took the waitress to one side and handed her a roll of bills. "Now then," said he, "we'll go to Big Springs or bust up the X Y outfit."

The evening of the ball rolled around. The train which left Abilene at 7 o'clock would put them there in ample time. At five Calico began dressing. His boots had been shined, his hair sprinkled copiously with Florida water, his mustache greased and his chin shaved. His hat was cocked to one side and a cigar tilted upwards when he called on "Stell." She surveyed him critically. "Pears to me," she said, "you'd look stylisher if you'd take that air red handkerchief from your neck," and off came the red bandana.

"Stell" was in a hurry. She had not begun to dress, and here it was close to 6 o'clock. Once upstairs she began squeezing herself into a corset two sizes too small for her. But she got it fastened. She frizzed her hair, powdered her face, put on a velvet colored dress, tied a blue belt around her waist and then she was ready.

The ball was a great social success. To her surprise the first man to approach her when she arrived was the Doc. But she turned him away. There were six members of the X Y ranch that attended and after "Stell" had danced with each one for a set, she gave her time wholly to Calico. There were few fights, and the barrels of whisky lasted until daybreak, at which time the Abilene contingent took the train for home.

"Calico" and "Stell" slept in the same seat during the ride, indifferent to the eyes that were turned upon them. As they were descending from the train platform at Abilene, "Calico" turned to "Buckeye" and said: "You cash in for me when you git to Marlin. I'm gwinter stay here. Something is to happen in about a week."

WE FEEL SURE

Of our ability to handle your banking business to your satisfaction. We shall be glad of an opportunity to talk with you.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.



I have had occasion to use your Black-Draught Stock and Poultry Medicine and am pleased to say that I never used anything for stock that gave half as good satisfaction. I heartily recommend it to all owners of stock.
J. B. BELSHER, St. Louis, Mo.

Sick stock or poultry should not eat cheap stock food any more than sick persons should expect to be cared by food. When your stock and poultry are sick give them medicine. Don't stuff them with worthless stock foods. Unload the bowels and stir up the torpid liver and the animal will be cured, if it be possible to cure it. Black-Draught Stock and Poultry Medicine unloads the bowels and stirs up the torpid liver. It cures every malady of stock if taken in time. Secure a 25-cent can of Black-Draught Stock and Poultry Medicine and it will pay for itself ten times over. Horses work better. Cows give more milk. Hogs gain flesh. And hens lay more eggs. It solves the problem of making as much blood, flesh and energy as possible out of the smallest amount of food consumed. Buy a can from your dealer.

There is a time for all things. The time to take Simmons' Cough Syrup is when afflicted with Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Coughs or Colds. It is guaranteed to cure you. Price 25 and 50 cents.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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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 nom de plume under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

Beginning with this issue subscriptions to all papers sent out of the county must be paid for in advance and will be promptly stopped at expiration of time paid for. Those sent in the county or this trade territory will be continued as heretofore. Remember this, please, and if you are in arrears send in the amount due at once, and if you want the paper continued renew your subscription promptly.

Postage is heavy on papers sent out of the county, hence the adoption of the cash basis.

ED J. LEEMAN, Pub.

CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

The condition of the country at this time is such as will warrant a strict confidence in it. There is a reasonable amount of prosperity, notwithstanding two short crops in succession, while the people, as a rule, are contented and hopeful for the future. The recuperative powers of the people and the country are remarkable, and one year of good crops is all that is needed to put us on a firm footing.

The past year was not all that could be desired, however, crops in some respects were immense, especially feed crops, which is no small item. Fruits and vegetables were also plentiful, and much of the money that has heretofore gone out of the country for these items was this year kept at home. One man living near town sold over \$300 worth of peaches, orchard delivery.

All of these things add to the prosperity of a country, and this branch of agriculture should receive greater attention at the hands of the people.

Thousands of dollars went out of the country for stock feed last year; if there is a single farmer who hasn't enough feed to run him this year we haven't run across him. Many of them have feed for sale.

Grass is fine and cattle have gone through the winter so far with ease. There is ample feed stuff to insure their safe entry into spring in good shape. There have been comparatively no losses so far.

Altogether the country is in fairly good condition, and we enter the new year with bright prospects. The future holds much in store for the people of the Merkel Country. Let economy be the watchword this year. Retrench along all lines.

WACO'S MAYORALTY CONTEST

Mayor Riggins of Waco, who was impeached and removed from office by the seven members

of the city council, and who has sought redress from almost every court in the State, is now up against a harder proposition than any he has heretofore encountered. The Democrats of the city ordered a primary for the purpose of nominating a candidate, and Mr. Riggins promptly entered the race, subject to the action of the primary. The friends of Allen D. Sanford, who is city attorney and was a prime mover in the impeachment proceedings against Mr. Riggins, induced him to run, thereby drawing the race down to two, so that it could be determined whether the people of Waco upheld Mr. Riggins or Mr. Sanford, on whose advice the city council acted. Then followed the hottest campaign ever witnessed in Waco. Friends on both sides pulled off their coats and entered the arena, and notwithstanding the fact that the saloon element was with Riggins to a man and that whiskey flowed freely and thousands of dollars went into the slush fund, when the ballots were counted it was found that Sanford's majority exceeded the total vote cast for Riggins. The vote stood: Sanford, 1938; Riggins, 855. And thus Mr. Riggins and his anti-prohibition proclivities was repudiated. Rah, for Waco!

The charges preferred against Mr. Riggins by the council were: Malfeasance, corruption, failure to carry out the instructions of the council, neglect of duties to accept work as manager of the state campaign of the liquor dealers' association, and several minor charges. Some of these charges were proven to the satisfaction of the people of Waco, hence the result of the election.

COTTON CROP REPORT.

On January 5th the census bureau gave out the following report in regard to the cotton crop of 1902, which is based on statements from ginners:

The report shows that up to December 13th the total amount of cotton ginned by the 30,194 gins was 9,311,835 bales. Of this 4,542 Texas gins ginned 2,167,472 bales. It is estimated that 91.7 per cent of the crop in the State has been ginned and that the amount yet to be ginned is 188,968 bales, or a total for the State of 2,356,440 bales. It is explained that the word bales in the report means bales as pressed at the gins, irrespective of shape, size or weight. The report further states that the gins reporting to it estimates that the amount already ginned in the whole cotton belt represents 90.2 per cent of the total amount to be ginned, leaving only 1,005,771 bales yet to be ginned. This would make a total crop of 10,369,606 bales.

Not a business failure or even the sign of one in our town for the past twelve months. Oh, Sweetwater is all right.—Sweetwater Review.

Merkel has not had a business failure during the past twenty-four months. However, a branch house of an Abilene concern closed up doors in sympathy with the assignment of the parent house, although the patronage given the firm here was sufficient to justify a continuance of the business. Merkel is "sum punkins," herself.

Comptroller Love has ruled that a man can pay his poll tax and leave delinquent taxes on real and personal property. This gives every man a chance to

Would You Trade?

50c for \$1.00?

We think you would. Well this is about the proposition we are offering, some clean, first class Dry Goods, Clothing, and Shoes. Just a few people get these special good things, because they can see a Real Bargain when shown it. Sometimes it is hard to tell a bargain, but in case any child can see that we are offering good goods for less than they are worth.

Our January Clearing Sale is now on and these Special Bargains are up-to-date. Read these prices and come at once and supply your wants:

One lot of 25 men's suits, all new goods, principally one suit of a kind, sizes 35 to 42—nothing in the lot worth less than 8.50, 10.00, 12.50, 13.50 and 14.00—your choice of the lot for only

\$6.95.

All boys' two piece knee pant suits worth 2.50, now only

\$1.65.

12 ladies' black cloth fur trimmed capes, worth 1.00 and 1.25, your choice only

50 cents.

Ladies' and misses' 2.50 jackets at only

\$1.70.

All boys' knee pant suits worth 1.50 and 1.75 now only

\$1.20.

Misses 1.00 jackets at only

75 cents.

All knee pant suits worth 1.00 now only

75 cents.

All knee pant suits worth 75c now only

50 cents.

Your choice of our 3.50 boots for only

\$2.65.

Your choice of our 3.00 boots for only

\$2.25.

Your choice of our 1.25 men's shirts only

\$1.00.

All of our 10c percales at only

7 1/4 cents.

WE SAVE YOU MONEY.

Watson & Bacon,

The Spot Cash Merchants.

pay their poll tax and secure the right to vote.

Wires are being strung and posts set for electric lights.—Sweetwater Review.

A company capitalized at \$5,000 was organized here last week for the purpose of putting in an electric light plant. Work is to commence on the plant right away.

The post office muddle at Indianola, Miss., has shown very clearly that Southern people have not yet reached the point where they will bow the knee to a coon, even at the instigation of our strenuous President. When the colored female was appointed as post master a murmur of disapproval went up, but no indignities were offered the incumbent, and finally, when the people demanded the removal of the coon, the strenuousness of the President bobbed up, and the office was discontinued for a time. The resignation of the "yaller gal" brought relief, and the appointment of a white postmaster will surely follow. Southern people will not submit to dictation, even from the President.

Diversificationists are often quoted as saying that it takes thirteen months out of every year to make and gather a cotton crop, and they don't miss it far,

either. Farmers began preparing their land for cotton early in January last year. Of course the bulk of the crop has been gathered, but February will find some of it in the fields. Is not this not thirteen months? And, too, there was not a month in the thirteen which did not witness some work done on the crop. It takes ceaseless work the year round to make and gather a cotton crop. Let farmers keep this in view and plant everything that can be grown on the farm this year.

Our new school building will soon be completed. It will be the nicest and best one between Fort Worth and El Paso.—Sweetwater Review.

Merkel has a new public school building which is just now receiving the finishing touches. It will compare favorably with any similar building in the west. So there!

The old year just passed has been a record-breaker in the matter of crime. Considering the enormity of the crimes committed in 1902 and the increase in this respect which is shown over previous years and one is hard to convince that the world is growing better. It is a sure indication, to say the least, of the stringency of the times.

The postoffice at Fort Griffin,

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.

Shackelford county, has been discontinued. Twenty-five or thirty years ago, in the palmy days, Fort Griffin was the largest and liveliest town in this part of the state. As an army post and rendezvous for both soldiers and civilians in case of an attack by the Indians which infested the country, some startling scenes were enacted there. But with the Indians and the buffalo it has passed away.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

New Century Comfort.

Millions are daily finding a world of comfort in Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It kills pain from Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Bruises; conquers Ulcers, and Fever Sores cures Eruptions, Salt Rheum, Boils and Felons; removes Corns and Warts. Best Pile cure on earth. Only 25c, at Rust & Pittard drug store.

Given Away Free!

An 8-day calendar clock at Burrougos & Mann's drug store. Every 25c purchase entitles you to a ticket and a chance at the clock. Ask for tickets.

Just received shipment of Cox & Gordon lard and hams.
The Star Store.

The Prohibition Case.

The Mail was in error, last week in stating that nothing had been done in regard to the prohibition contest. The fact of the matter is that Judge Lindsey has sustained every contention made by the pros, though this fact is not generally known. There is left to the opposition an appeal to the higher courts, and they having failed to comply with the provisions of the law in some respects, the case will, as in the lower court, have to be tried on its merits.

A hearing will probably be given the case early in February, but when it will finally be decided is merely a matter of conjecture. It is in the courts and there it will remain for some time.

County Treasurer Thornton and family visited friends here Saturday.

Hugh Askins, one of our old time friends of Taylor county, made us a pleasant call Monday and had us to send the paper to his father at Tye, Texas. Mr. Askins came out with H. Wilson and family last week and will probably make this his home.—Snyder Coming West.

The Federal building at Abilene has been completed on the outside, with the exception of a few finishing touches, but it will take some time yet to complete the interior work. There are larger government buildings in this State, but few of them surpass the Abilene building in architectural beauty.

Miss Carrie Woodard returned to her home at Roscoe Saturday.

Electric Lights Assured.

At a meeting of citizens last Thursday evening, after The Mail went to press, the necessary capital was subscribed for the erection of an electric light plant. The company will be incorporated with a \$5,000 capital and is composed of Geo. S. Berry and other prominent business men of the town.

It is understood that work will commence on the plant at once.

This move means much for the town and will result in great good. It will encourage others to come here and invest their capital in enterprises, and it will give renewed vigor to those already here and impress them with the absolute safety with which capital can be invested here. Merkel is nothing if not up-to-date in everything.

The next thing to be considered is a system of water works and other provisions made for the protection of the town against fire. This is of vastly more importance than an electric light plant. Let our citizens get together on this proposition. We must have it.

The Mail gives all the news.

If Unwell.

Try a 50c bottle of Herbine, notice the improvement speedily effected in your Appetite, Energy, Strength and Vigor. Watch how it brightens the spirits, gives freedom from Indigestion and Debility!

Isaac Story, Ava, Mo., writes Sept. 10th, 1900. "I was in bad health, I had stomach trouble for 12 months, also dumb chills. Dr. J. W. Mory prescribed Herbine, it cured me in two weeks. I cannot recommend it too highly it will do all you claim for it." Sold by Rust & Pittard Druggist.

Warren has about 200 pairs of Boys' Knee Pants. This is the place to buy school pants for your boys.

A Good Indication.

There are many things which impresses one with the feeling that this is to be the banner crop year in the history of the country. The fall was unusually wet and a good season is in the brood. More freezes and heavier frosts have visited us than for years past, and there could be no better indication of a good crop year.

Altogether prospects are very flattering at this time. We have no room for grumbling, but let us all work to make this the best year, both morally and financially, of our lives.

Emzy Burroughs came in from Italy Sunday morning and is spending the week here with his mother and brother. He is the same hale fellow well met, and his friends will be glad to learn that he is prospering.

F. E. Allyn was down from Eskota Saturday.

The Mail neglected, last week, to report the marriage of E. R. Watkins and Miss Rhoda Leslie, which took place Christmas. They are two of the Canyon's most popular young people, and we hope it is not too late to extend congratulations.

R. H. Byers has sold his farm of 160 acres near Trent to a new comer, Mr. Thixton, for a consideration of \$1,600. Mr. Byers will leave with his family next week for Tennessee, their future home.

Claud Bigham left Sunday night for Fort Worth, where he will engage in the market and restaurant business.

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

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.

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

Simple Colds.

Cease to be simple, if at all prolonged. The safest way is to put them aside at the very beginning. Ballard's Horehound Syrup stops a cold and removes the cause of colds. 25c. 50c and \$1.00 bottle at Rust & Pittard Druggists.

Arthur Thornton left Monday night for his home at Duke, O. T., after a pleasant visit here.

W. W. Wheeler has recently written to Supt. J. W. Ward of the T. & P. relative to the opening up of a crossing near the section house for the accommodation of the school children in that end of town. In reply Mr. Ward stated that the company contemplated many changes here in the near future, and asks the people to bear with him until they can find time in which to do this work. The switch will be extended, he says, and a side track built on the north side, which will prevent the blockading of the main crossing. It is hoped that the removal of the stock pens is also contemplated.

Misses Della and Effie Bell, two popular young ladies of Sulphur Springs, are the guests of their cousin, Mrs. W. B. Mann.

A Small Blaze.

The Methodist church building caught fire from a defective flue Sunday morning during services, but was discovered before the fire had gained much headway and was soon extinguished.

The members of that church want a new building the worst, sort and they need it, too, but missed a mighty good opportunity of disposing of the present old shack.

A. Eastup has bought the A. J. Coggin residence in North Merkel.

5 sacks Peace-Maker flour for \$5. Buy a supply now. Others are taking advantage of this, why not you? We sold a straight car in two weeks.

J. T. Warren.

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

Chenault & Hand.

To The Public.

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

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

For nice, fresh groceries cheap see

Chenault & Hand,

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

Over \$90,000 Loaned on Land Last Year!

We did that last year in this territory and we expect to put out \$150,000 this year, so don't sacrifice your land by selling in order to meet what you owe on it, for we can take up and extend the time of your payments, thereby relieving you of any payment at all until next fall, and likely until next fall year (1904) if you prefer, or make you a straight loan if your land is not a homestead and your security and title is satisfactory to us. We can give you from a five to a ten year equal annual installment loan, or straight five or ten year loan with 8 per cent interest payable annually. No loan for less than \$500. Anyone wanting a loan between now and March 1 will have to see us and make application between now and Feb. 1. Do you want any of the \$150,000 we have to put out this year? If so, the sooner you take it up with us the better. It will not cost anything to see or write us regarding the matter. No red tape or foolishness about it, we mean just what we say.

COMPERE BROTHERS,

Land Dealers and Money Lenders, Abilene, Texas.

UNLOADING

WINTER STOCK.

We will begin today to unload winter stock.

The first department to receive our attention will be Clothing. This is a nice bright new stock, but we are simply overstocked and name the following prices to move same:

\$15.00 Suits now at.....\$11.95
13.00 Suits now at..... 9.95
A big line of \$12.50 Suits at even money.... 10.00
10.00 Suits now at..... 7.95
8.50 Suits now at..... 6.50

We have a few Overcoat left to go at greatly reduced prices.

Blankets Next.

We are offering these in the reach of everyone. You can figure the saving for yourself:

60c 10-4 Cotton Blanket at.....50c
75c 10-4 Cotton Blanket at.....60c
\$1.00 11-4 Cotton Blanket at.....80c
1.50 extra heavy 11-4 Blanket at.....\$1.10
1.50 Sheeps gray mixed Blanket at.....1.10
2.50 Wool blue mized Blanket at.....2.00
3.50 10-4 Wool Blanket at.....2.75
4.00 11-4 Wool Blanket at.....3.00

These goods will not be booked to anybody at these prices. Spot Cash figures.

J. T. Warren.

Rev. Carlisle P. Martin, L. L. D.

Waverly, Texas, writes: "Of a morning, when first rising, I often find a troublesome collection of phlegm, which produces a cough, and is very hard to dislodge; but a small quantity of Ballard's Horehound Syrup will at once dislodge it, and the trouble is over. I know of no medicine that is equal to it, and it is so pleasant to take. I can most cordially recommend it to all persons, needing a medicine for throat or lung troubles." Price 25c, 50c, \$1.00 bottle at Rusk & Pittard Druggists.

If you like good coffee try one of our Forbbs Buckets. The price is \$1.00.

J. T. Warren.

Two horses for sale. One-half cash, balance fall time.
The Star Store.

Oft in the stilly night a racking cough doth rob us of that sweet sleep which nature seeks to give. Simmons' Cough Syrup is an infallible cure; untroubled sleep and pleasant dreams it doth assure. Guaranteed. Price 25c and 50 cents.

Best Liniment on Earth.

Henry D. Baldwin, Supt. City Water Works, Shullsburg, Wis., writes: "I have tried many kinds of liniment, but have never received much benefit until I used Ballard's Snow Liniment for rheumatism and pains. I think it the best liniment on earth." 25c, 50c, and \$1.00 bottle at Rust & Pittard Druggists.

Buy pure spices. We have Forbbs—Sage, red and black pepper, cinnamon, allspice, ginger, cloves, mustard, mace, etc.
J. T. Warren.

Buy Hamilton-Brown Shoes from Warren and get the worth of your money.

Hunt's Cure is not a misnomer. It does cure Itch, Ringworm, Eczema, Tetter, and all similar skin diseases. A wonderful remedy. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

Mrs. J. W. Hampton of Abilene is visiting the family of brother, Geo. S. Berry.

Miss Addie Haley of Sipe Springs is visiting her sister, Mrs. T. A. Johnson.

Loss of Flesh

When you can't eat breakfast, take Scott's Emulsion. When you can't eat bread and butter, take Scott's Emulsion. When you have been living on a milk diet and want something a little more nourishing, take Scott's Emulsion.

To get fat you must eat fat. Scott's Emulsion is a great fattener, a great strength giver.

Those who have lost flesh want to increase all body tissues, not only fat. Scott's Emulsion increases them all, bone, flesh, blood and nerve.

For invalids, for convalescents, for consumptives, for weak children, for all who need flesh, Scott's Emulsion is a rich and comfortable food, and a natural tonic.

Scott's Emulsion for bone, flesh, blood and nerve.



We will send you a 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.

An Awful Spectacle.

El Paso, Tex., Jan. 11.—A thrilling encounter took place in the Juarez bull ring this afternoon between Francisco Matillero, the celebrated Spanish banderillo, whose name is celebrated on two continents, and a ferocious Samalayuca bull.

Matillero came out second best in the encounter. He was pinned by the horns of the bull to the parapet and was carried out in a dying condition. The bones of both legs were broken near the hips and his flesh was horribly torn.

Five thousand spectators, four-fifths of whom were Americans, witnessed the sickening Sunday afternoon spectacle, and many women were so overcome by the sight that they fainted. The Mexicans cheered wildly.—Dallas News.

Echo of the Bear Hunt.

Said the owl to the bear, away down in Yazoo, "Someone's coming there. Who's who? Who's who?"

Said the bear to the owl, with accent unsteady, and with tremulous growl, "Why, bless me, that's Teddy!"

Said the owl to the bear, away down in Yazoo, "I have nothing to fear, for he's hunting for you."

Said the bear to the owl, glancing o'er the lagoons, with a still gruffer growl, "He'd better hunt coons."

—Nashville Banner.

A scientist says that "if the earth was flattened the sea would be two miles deep all over the world." After due meditation a Kansas editor gives out the following: "If any man is caught flattening out the earth shoot him on the spot and don't be too durned particular what spot. There is a whole lot of us in Kansas that can't swim." Ex.

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 Feb. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Bailey, J L
Burk, Jno
Daniel, Mrs A T
Griger, Mrs L T M
Hand, B F
Heald, I C
McFadden, L A
Stewart, Miss Vera
Verner, Fred

You've got the real thing when you get Hunt's Lighting Oil for Burns, Bruises, Cuts and Sprains. The most penetrating and healing liniment known. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

The Perfecting of Character.

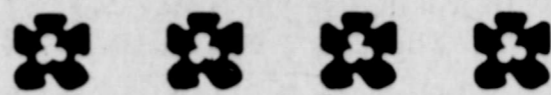
When a painter has almost completed a picture he takes his finest brush and gives it those almost infinitesimal touches that idealize it and make it perfect. So with life. We put in our foreground, and background and middleground, with a free hand and a strong, and perhaps careless touch; but as we grow older, and life gathers meaning and character, the details become more and more important—the little experiences, the slight shades of feeling, the spiritual moods, the deeds we used to slight for reckoning. Unless all these conform to the character we have been trying to establish God can not be satisfied with the result.

God looks for that final perfection whose every detail, even the slightest, is in perfect harmony with the spirit of the whole. Only thus does character become perfect and finished and beautiful. As we grow older we ought to be able to add the same delicate, idealizing touches to life that the artist adds to his picture in order to make it perfect. That is what the disciples of earth are teaching us to do, and what we may do with ease and sureness, if we are obedient to his training.—Ex.

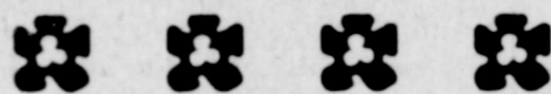
An Economical Machine.

The human body is the most economical machine in the world. It takes in about 8½ pounds of food in a day in the shape of water, oxygen and solids. This food gives man his power of doing work. It gives the strength for bodily, muscular and mental work, says the New York World. The heart does 120 foot tons of work in 24 hours. If the full work of the heart for that period could be gathered into one big lift it would raise 120 tons weight one foot high. The muscles of breathing do 51 foot tons work per day. The work of the whole body in its actions for 24 hours amounts to about 3,400 foot tons. This enormous working power is developed from food in 24 hours. Over 3,000 foot tons go to produce heat, which is a mode of motion and is necessary for every vital process. The remainder represents a man's actual muscular and mental work. It must be remembered that 2,000 foot tons about represents the force that would raise a man of average weight eight and one miles high. Man has never succeeded in making any engine that could compare with the engineer's own body in developing a relatively large amount of energy on a very small consumption of fuel or food.

Inventory Sale



We are now invoicing preparatory to winding up our year's business, and EVERYTHING in our store is being sold at GREATLY REDUCED PRICES. Now is the time to get Good Goods Cheap. Come to us for Dry Goods and Groceries, and get your money's worth.



Yours for a Prosperous Year,

J. P. Sharp & Co.

The Midwinter Carnival opens at El Paso January 12 and closes January 16, 1903. This is the third successive Carnival in the Southwest and promises to eclipse any previous effort. \$2,000 have been appropriated for the World's Championship Miners, Rock Drilling Contest. \$2,000 have been given to the Roping and Tying Tournament if which \$1,000 will be given as the first prize and \$500 as the second, etc. A \$1,000 Gun Shoot, a big civic, military and fraternal parade, the Gaskell-Munday Carnival Company with 30 combines shows, five bands of music, 25 pieces each—consolidated, fifteen free attractions daily, Bull Fights on Mexican soil, etc. are some of the features affording six days of sport, pastime, revelry and fun.

Thousands of incandescent lights and six-mile search lights will be used for illumination, \$5,000 having been appropriated to the decoration committee for this purpose.

\$20,000 will be expended for the entertainment of visitors.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company will make rate of one fare for the round trip not to exceed \$15 from any point west of Terrell or Sherman; tickets on sale January 10, 11, 12 and 13, good for return leading El Paso as late as January 19, 1903.

For further information see any ticket agent or write E. P. Turner, General Passenger & Ticket Agent, T. & P. Ry Co., Dallas, Texas.

For Sale—Two young mules, cash or fall time, or will trade for good paper.

J. H. Warnick.

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:

J. L. Harris,	Merkel,	\$1.00
J. H. Stringer,	"	1.00
Mrs. G. R. Pettis,	"	1.50
J. H. Hughes,	"	1.00
E. D. Sherman,	"	1.00
R. H. Byers,	Trent,	1.95

At a meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank, held at its office Tuesday, January 13, the following directors were reelected: J. T. Warren, G. F. West, J. O. Hamilton, C. M. Largent, Geo. S. Berry.

J. T. Warren was elected President, G. F. West Vice President, Geo. S. Berry Cashier, and T. A. Johnson Asst. Cashier. Mr Berry was highly congratulated on the way in which the bank had progressed and the condition in which it was kept.

For Sale—A good work team; will sell on fall time.

J. H. Warnick.

Couldn't Ship the "Subject."

In the great variety of human experiences that of Charles Emerson, of Lowell, is a novelty. He consented to be hypnotized for exhibition purposes in a Boston museum. He was boxed and turned over to an express company for shipment. As the rules of the express company do not allow for the transportation of persons in a hypnotic state, the agent at Lowell refused to ship Mr. Emerson. The hypnotist's friends then started for Boston in a wagon with Mr. Emerson, who "came to" en route, thus spoiling the scheme.

Paine's Celery Compound

Permanently Cures Sick and Nervous Headaches that Make Life Miserable.

Sick and nervous headaches are amongst the worst ills of life. The man or woman who is subject to headache at irregular intervals, goes through life bearing a load of misery and wretchedness that is terrible to think of.

Headaches as a rule, result from a disordered condition of the nervous system. Mental excitement, loss of sleep, bodily fatigue, and disordered digestion are exciting causes. When the brain becomes tired and debilitated, the whole nervous system is weakened, and headaches result. If the liver is sluggish, the kidneys inactive, and digestion deranged, headaches invariably follow. To cure and prevent headache, the nervous system must be strengthened and vitalized. The most persistent cases of headache, nervous feebleness, and sleeplessness, are permanently cured by Paine's Celery Compound; it is the great reconstructant of the nervous system. Mrs. Henry Westrick, St. Clair, Mich., tells of her release from suffering as follows:—

"I have been troubled with dyspepsia and sick headache for a number of years. About every week I would have a bad spell of sick headache, but since I began using Paine's Celery Compound, my dyspepsia is gone, and I do not have any more headaches. I feel better than I have for years."

No Need Soiling the Hands with DIAMOND DYES

Diamond Dyes are easy and cleanly to use. Made for home economy; never disappoint. Direction book and 45 dyed samples free. DIAMOND DYES, Burlington, Vt.

They never did fail; they never will fail. What? Cheatham's Laxative Tablets—to cure a cold at once. Carry them in your vest pocket. Always ready. Guaranteed. Price 25 cents.

Our gins will run only on Fridays and Saturdays hereafter. Merkel Gin Co.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

Senator Foraker has introduced a bill in Congress appropriating \$100,000 to mark with marble slabs the graves of Confederate soldiers, who died in Northern prisons during the Civil War.

Rev. R. T. Hanks has favorably considered a call from the Baptist church of Sweetwater and will move there from Caldwell in the near future.

Sweetwater physicians reported four cases of scarlet fever last week, but no danger from a spread of the disease is apprehended. It soon runs out in this climate.

Next Thing on Program.

Merkel is to have an electric light plant. That town is located in one of the richest belts in West Texas and is making rapid strides, having recently built a splendid school house and a number of brick and stone store buildings. The town needs and, no doubt will soon install a system of waterworks.—Abilene Reporter.

What is The Good Of Education?

The ignorant man who has succeeded through natural force and lucky opportunity is fond of asking these questions:

What is the good of an education? Of what practical use is scientific training?

These men are admirably answered by Herbert Spencer, to whose work they are referred.

A collection of Englishmen ruined themselves in the sinking of mines in search of coal. They might have saved their money had they known that a certain fossil which they dug up in abundance belongs to a geological stratum below which no coal is found. They went on digging cheerfully and wasting their money. An acquaintance with that fossil and its meaning would have saved their cash.

The study of biology is essential in the successful fattening of cattle. An entozoon seems to the practical man a foolish imaginary creature. But millions of sheep have been saved by the discovery that one of these fancy scientific entozoa pressing on the brain caused the sheeps' death.

When you know the entozoon you can dig him out and save the sheeps life. My son's going to be an artist says one proud father. He does not need to study a lot of scientific rubbish.

This parent does not know that the difference between a good and a bad sculpture or ignorance of anatomy and mechanical principles.

Education is important to the individual because it means the development of the brain, development of capacity for education and increased chances of success. Education is important to the state, because it means not only competent citizens, but moral citizens. The animal in us yields to the influence of education.

Kindness and brutality are enemies. They do not dwell together. The most important institutions in the country are the public schools, the gymnasiums of human brains. The most important citizens of the nation are the teachers. The greatest criminals are the employers of child labor, because they deny education, cut down in childhood the citizen's chance of progress and success. Work and vote for more and better public schools.

The editorial page and some other matter escaped the proof reader, this week and for the many mistakes therein we beg the indulgence of our readers.

List of Subscribers of Merkel Telephone Exchange.

Adkisson, Dr J A res.....	24
" " office.....	62
Allen, I S res.....	48
Bank, First National.....	33
Bank, Warnick's.....	18
Berry, Geo S res.....	84
Browning, W P res.....	16
" & Co furniture.....	68
Burroughs & Mann drugs.....	53
Burton-Lingo Co lumber.....	81
Beavers, V V.....	19
Clay, W L res.....	35
Coats, E D res.....	6
Counts, J H res.....	94
Chenault & Hand grocers.....	67
Compton, Will res.....	22
Coggin, T J res.....	54
Comegys, G E.....	77
Davis, C E res.....	89
Dickson, W H hardware.....	51
" " residence.....	49
Dennis Bros grocery.....	66
Davis & Cox pool hall.....	32
Depot, T & P.....	
Eason, Sam res.....	36
Elliott, John res.....	28
Elliott & Miller shop.....	11
Eastup, A.....	20
Freemon, S A res.....	19
Freemon & Hughes livery.....	4
Grimmett, W N M res.....	50
Hamm, J C res.....	23
" " lumber.....	40
" Frank res.....	17
Hoople, Frank res.....	49
Hamilton, J O store.....	59
Hughes, J H res.....	14
Hunt, Sam res.....	42
Hotel, Alsbrook.....	1
" South Side.....	55
Harris, Alex res.....	21
Johnson, T A res.....	8
" Dr J H C res.....	41
" Dr J H C office.....	53
Largent, C M ranch.....	58
Leeman, Dr J A res.....	70
" " office.....	53
" Ed J res.....	37
Little, Dr J W res.....	13
" " office.....	76
Merkel Mail, office.....	31
McGuffin, F P res.....	52
Martin & Hill store.....	46
Miller, R A res.....	47
Mann, J L res.....	5
McCord, W H res.....	27
Martin, L E res.....	9
MERKEL MAIL.....	31
Maxwell & Son store.....	25
Maxwell, F H res.....	79
Norris, J M res.....	38
O'Zee, W J res.....	26
Pittard, J K res.....	7
Rust, Dr E M res.....	30
" " office.....	62
Rust & Pittard drugs.....	62
Sheppard, S W grocery-mark.....	74
Sharp & Co store.....	44
Warnick, Dr J H res.....	15
" " office.....	18
Warren, J T res.....	29
" " store.....	65
" C P ranch.....	56
West, C F res.....	10
" " hardware-grocery.....	72
Williamson's restaurant.....	39
Williams, H C res.....	12
Watkins & Son market.....	75
Watkins, J C sec-hand store.....	93

Cut this out and hang it up for use. Call by number.

Every Bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy Warranted.

We guarantee every bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and will refund the money to anyone who is not satisfied after using two-thirds of the contents. This is the best remedy in the world for lagrippe, coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough and is pleasant and safe to take. It prevents any tendency of a cold to result in pneumonia. Rust & Pittard.

A "Bare" Hunt

Hunting for better prices or better treatment than you will get at Dickson's Hardware Store is certain to turn out a "bare" hunt. Take a friendly suggestion and visit our store.

we handle a superior line of Stoves and Wagons. And we are making close prices.

Nothing is too good for our customers, therefore we handle the best of everything.

We extend you a special invitation to visit our store and inspect our line of Hardware, Implements, Wagons, Buggies, Plows, Stoves, etc.

W. H. DICKSON.

Croup.

The peculiar cough which indicates croup, is usually well known to the mothers of croupy children. No time should be lost in the treatment of it, and for this purpose no medicine has received more universal approval than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Do not waste valuable time in experimenting with untried remedies, no matter how highly they may be recommended, but give this medicine as directed and all symptoms of croup will quickly disappear. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Dislocated Her Shoulder.

Mrs Johanna Soderholm, of Fergus Falls, Minn., fell and dislocated her shoulder. She had a surgeon get it back in place as soon as possible, but it was quite sore and pained her very much. Her son mentioned that he had seen Chamberlain's Pain Balm advertised for sprains and soreness, and she asked him to buy her a bottle of it, which he did. It quickly relieved her and enabled her to sleep which she had not done for several days. The son was so much pleased with the relief it gave his mother that he has since recommended it to many others. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

What is Your Plan For Victory.

Young man,
What is your plan
Of progress? Are you
Going to pull through?
Or will you lie down in the road
And let your load
Sink out of sight
In the mud?
Have you white
Blood,
And pale,
That curdles at the word "Fail"
And dares not face
The chances of the race?
Or, have you red, clear red,
The good strong color
All the great have shed
In deed or thought,
For every triumph wrought
Out of what seemed full
Of the impossible?
Have you the nerve
To serve
Until you can be master? To
Wait and work outside the gate
Until you win
The strength to open and enter
In?
Have you the heart to meet
Defeat
Day after day,
And yet hold to the way
That upward leads,
And must needs
Be hard and rough
To make men tough
Of sinew and of soul,
Before he sees the goal;—
So, when it is attained,

We Have
SOLD OUT!
Our stock of holiday goods, but we have yet a full line of Pure, Fresh Drugs; also a complete line of Druggists' Sundries, Paints, Oils, Window Glass, etc.
Burroughs & Mann

Editorial Investigations:

The editor has been making investigations along the cotton worm line. Last week we examined several fields of cotton stalks, and without exception found them infested with worms and bugs of many kinds. This disproves the assertion that the great rainfall has washed away the worm and bugs, and that we may hope to be free from the pest next year. We picked up several squares from the ground, pulled several bolls and stalks and placed them under a microscope and found all the varieties of the bug family that Noah carried in the ark. This, to our mind, makes it imperative that the farmer burn all trash and cotton stalks on his premises, if he hopes to raise cotton next year.—Sulphur Springs Gazette.

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*The Stakest
I learned
to run from
Texas and
Pittard*

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

He shall have strength to hold
What he has gained,
And use it so
That it to greater good shall
Grow?
Young man,
Think on these things,
What each one brings
As you choose it;
You may take
The stake,
Or you may lose it.
Start in
To win
And keep straight in the way
Unflaging to the end;
Whatever it may be
Is victory.—Wm. J. Lampton
Mrs. Bennett, aunt of Mrs.
D. E. Compton of this place, died
at Abilene Tuesday and the
remains were shipped to Lamar
county, the old home, for inter-
ment. The Mail joins in expres-
sions of sympathy.

A Great Clearance Sale.

OUR JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE begins today.

Realizing the fact that there are not many more weeks in which to sell winter goods, we have cut the prices so deep that cost has been lost sight of. Most everything is cut to half price. It will be twelve months before you will find such an opportunity again. Better take advantage of these offerings now. This is no fake, for we always live up to our advertisements.

CLOTHING, LADIES' SKIRTS, CAPES, OUTINGS, FLANNELS, etc., will go at Wholesale Cost.

Everything in Dry Goods, Shoes, Hats, etc., will go at greatly reduced prices.

A large and well selected stock of Groceries, also, on which we can save you money.

This sale will last until Feb. 1, only, at which time we expect to take stock.

Yours for Bargains,

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

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

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.

HELPFUL READING Some newspapers print matter to fill up space. Much of this is harmful reading. It is the aim of the SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS to give helpful reading. Thousands will testify to its helpfulness to them. Ask your neighbor.

has helped many. It is not the theory of farming written by college professors and others up North on conditions that don't fit Texas. It is the actual experience of farmers here at home who have turned over the soil.

If you are not taking THE SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL you should be OFFER. It is helpful to the best interests of your town and county. For \$1.75, cash in advance, we will mail you The Merkel Mail and the Galveston or the Dallas Semi-Weekly News for 12 months. The News stops when your time is out.

Old Soldiers' Column

Ross' Brigade and Scott Fields.

I will now attempt to give you some of the stirring events of Gen. Ross' scouts during the summer of 1864 in North Georgia campaign, between Dalton and Atlanta. No historian will ever recount the many acts of individual heroism performed in the wild mountain passes of North Georgia by the Texas scouts; no record will ever be kept for admiring posterity—of the midnight attacks and repulses. The future will not know the general legend that Ross and his braves were tried and true to every trust. During the Georgia campaign Ross scouts were kept most of the time in the rear of Sherman's army, tearing up the railroad and cutting telegraph lines, and capturing and burning trains loaded with supplies for Sherman's army. From Dalton down to Atlanta sometime in July 1864, while we were raiding in the rear of Sherman's lines below Dalton we tore up the railroad in a long, deep cut, and took a stand for the south bound freight train, which was due in a few minutes.

But no train came; the enemy had heard of us and sent a detachment of infantry down the railroad and another squad down the dirt road. When the Yankees got near us we fired a volley into their ranks and ten or twelve of them fell to the ground, killed and wounded. We were then ordered back to our horses. By the time we got to our horses the Yankees that came down the dirt road commenced firing on us.

We all mounted our horses except Scoot Fields, who was then but a mere boy. The Yanks killed his horse, and he would have been captured if our comrade Jeff Gee of the Third Tex., hadn't taken him up behind him on his horse with bullets flying all around them. We all got away safe; but one man. We went back in the mountains and rested the balance of the day. When night came we started out again across the mountain. The Federals were hunting for us and scouring the country close for the raiders, as they called us. Two or three days afterwards we struck the railroad again just about dark and tore up the track and cut the telegraph line. Soon a freight train came lumbering down the road, loaded with supplies which we were very much in need of.

The train jumped the track, and the guard ran off and left us to help ourselves. We loaded our

J. J. MILLER,

Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public,
Land and Collecting Agent.

Will practice in all the courts of Texas. All business entrusted to my care will receive prompt attention. Will pay taxes for non-residents, also pay interest on lands for all who may trust their business with me; will make proof of final settlement on homestead and school land property. I solicit your patronage. 6-1pd

haversacks with hard tacks, bacon, sugar and coffee. We then burned the train and left the railroad and traveled all night.

The next morning as we were going through a gap in the mountain we met a detachment of Federal cavalry which fired on us killing one of our horses. We then turned back to the mountains but they made no attempt to follow us. We always considered ourselves safe when we could get into the mountains as the Yanks would not follow us any further.—R. G. Childress.

Heads Should Never Ache.

Never endure this trouble. Use at once the remedy that stopped it for Mrs. N. A. Webster, of Winnie, Va., she writes "Dr. King's New Life Pills wholly cured me of sick headaches I had suffered from for two years." Cure Headache, Constipation, Biliousness. 25c at Rust & Pittard drug store.

Now is the Time

To pay what you owe us. We need the money badly and must insist upon a prompt response to this request. Don't put it off.

W. P. Browning & Co.

A 1 milk cow for sale. See R. A. Martin.

Rock is on the ground for the foundation of the Hutcheson building, work on which will begin right away. It will be 25x90 feet and probably two stories high. Work on the Bowning building is progressing nicely.

Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, of Weatherford will be in Merkel Jan. 23.

Strayed, from my premises, two small pigs, one black, the other spotted; any one knowing the whereabouts of same will please let me know as early as possible and oblige,
Joe L. Harris.

Mrs. G. R. Pettis has moved to town to take advantage of the public school.

How to Succeed in Business.

Keep your liver in good condition by using Simmons' Liver Purifier (tin box.) It corrects constipation, cures Indigestion, Biliousness, stops Headache, gets your heart in the right place so you can smile at your neighbor.

A Mint of Money



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

STUDEBAKER WAGON . . .

It's 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. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.

The Secret Of Long Life.

Consists in keepin all the main organs of the body in healthy, regular action, and in quickly destroying deadly disease germs. Electric Bitters regulate Stomach Liver and Kidneys, purify the blood, and give a splendid appetite. They work wonders in curing Kidney Troubles, Female Complaints, Nervous Diseases, Constipation, Dyspepsia, and Malaria. Vigorous health and strength always follow their use. Only 50, guaranteed by Rust & Pittard druggist.

Pay Up.

Your account is past due. We need the money to meet current expenses and ask that you come to our relief, so pay up. This means you and not the other fellow.

Compton & Son.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

R. B. USTICK

DEALER IN

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Etc.

Repairing a Specialty.

Finds Way To Live Long.

The startling announcement of a Discovery that will surely lengthen life is made by editor O. H. Downey, of Churukusco, Ind., "I wish to state," he writes "that Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption is the most infallible remedy that I have ever known for Coughs, Colds and Grip. It's invaluable to people with weak lungs. Having this wonderful medicine no one need dread Pneumonia or Consumption. Its relief is instant and cure certain." Rust & Pittard guarantee every 50c, and \$1.00 bottle, and give trial bottles free.

Try reading The Mail.