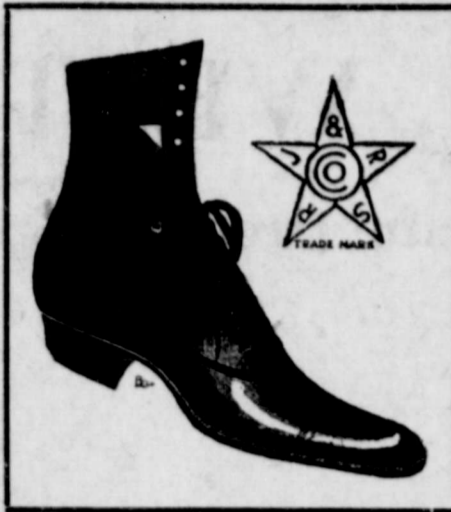


# THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, JANUARY 22, 1903.

NO. 48.



## THE STAR STORE.



### Star Brand Shoes are Better...

We have just received a large shipment of this well known brand of shoes. If you want Shoes that fit well, look well and wear well try a pair of the Star Brand and you will wear no other. "Our Family Line" for men, women and children are the best value money can buy.

We are still making very low prices on all lines of winter goods. We will appreciate a call when in need of ANYTHING IN OUR LINE.

Yours truly,

# THE STAR STORE.

MERKEL MERCANTILE CO., Props.,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

#### A Sermonette.

A little sermonette, appearing in a recent issue of the White Wright Sun, though it had special reference to Christmas time, is applicable to all times. It is an apt and well said sermon: "However prosperous a man may be, it is well for him to remember that the earth was not created solely for the use and benefit of those who by fortunate circumstances and profitable investments have obtained a great share of the world's goods, and any man, however sordid he may be, is made better for having been brought face to face with the privation and suffering with those who are but poorly provided for. In some cases the one who was looked to for sustenance has been called way. In other cases the head of the house may be prevented by ill health from providing for those dependent upon him, but whatever the cause his children should not be allowed to miss the joy that would come to their hearts through the receipt of the little presents that make glad the Christmas mornings of childhood. Every child in the world could be happy next Thursday morning and the world would not miss the money that it would cost, on the contrary, the world would be better for it. Think what a world of happiness could be purchased for a little money! It would girdle the globe and fill the earth."

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.

#### Boll Weevil Talk.

To the Cotton Growers of Texas: Dallas, Texas, January 9.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the boll weevil convention held in Dallas, January 7, the claims of a large number of inventors of machines and poisons for killing the weevil were presented to this committee. The statements of others who have offensive mixtures designed to drive the weevils from the cotton, together with letters from parties describing other plans designed to trap or destroy the weevils were also heard and discussed at length. A number of these devices were most ingenious and the executive committee appointed a subcommittee to make practical field trials and to test the actual work of the machines and the effect of the poison and other methods under field conditions.

This committee consist of the chairman of the executive committee, Geo. N. Aldridge of Dallas, and W. D. Hunter of Victoria, Texas, the expert in charge of boll weevil investigation carried on by the National government of Texas. These field trials will be undertaken at the earliest possible day.

#### WHAT TO DO NOW

The executive committee has given the most careful consideration to many remedies that have been proposed and present the following statement, believing it to be entirely reliable, because based upon the experience of the most successful cotton farmers in the boll weevil district.

1. Clean off all fields thoroughly by burning trash and stalks at once; plow the cotton and corn land deep as soon as possible

during the winter.

2. Plant only early varieties of cotton. Buy sound cotton seed grown as far north as seed can be found.

3. Plant cotton during very early spring and at no other time.

4. Use wide rows in planting cotton. We recommend rows about five feet wide for bottom lands and four feet wide for uplands. Thin cotton to about these feet apart in row in bottoms and about two feet apart for uplands.

5. Run the rows as nearly east and west as the land will allow.

The executive committee will meet every two weeks and will give out in future statements all the reliable information that it can secure. The committee is locating early maturing varieties of cotton seed and urging upon congress that other investigations be made of the weevil to secure

quick relief for the cotton growers. We recommend that the farmers in the boll weevil district organize at once to fight the pest uniformly and successfully. As soon as the farmers have organized, they should notify the secretary of this committee. Respectfully submitted, George N. Aldridge, Chairman. J. H. Connell, Secretary.

#### A Queer Trade.

One of the queerest trades chronicled in a long time is reported by two of the police officers, Messrs. Worth Sewell and Bob Hollowell of Waco. On North Second street there lives an old negro woman, Aunt Sophia Beltram, who has been in Waco since that place was a mere village, and who is known to all the old-timers there. A short time ago some one gave her a white baby, knowing her kindness of

heart and fondness for the whites. Aunt Sophia gave the child good attention and was quite fond of it, but the other day some white person saw the child and wanted it. They began negotiations and finally offered four hogs for the child. Then the acquisitive propensities of Aunt Sophia came uppermost and she traded. The child was sold, the consideration being four sleek pigs. "I needed de pigs woser dan I did de baby," explained Aunt Sophia, "an, I knew dem folks would take good keer of it."

Off 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.

The Mail gives all the news.

## 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 \$1.90 to \$2.40 dz | 18 lb best granulated sugar for.....\$1.00 |
| Eggs.....16c dz                               | 19 lb No. 2 granulated sugar for..... 1.00 |
| Corn chops, per 100 lbs.....\$1.35            | 20 lb Y C sugar for..... 1.00              |

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.

## The Prodigal's Return.

BY R. C. PITZER.

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

One hot August afternoon a tramp walked listlessly down a dusty Iowa lane. There was nothing about his clothes nor general demeanor to distinguish him from other tramps, yet his face seemed prepossessing, and his forehead was intellectual. Finally he came within sight of a group of trees, whose green freshness spoke eloquently of rest. He increased his pace and was soon seated on a shaded bank. Behind him was a picket fence, and farther back was a substantial farmhouse, half hidden by its grove of trees. After lighting his black pipe, the tramp clasped his hands behind his head and gazed reflectively into the green leaves above him.

"You'd better not let father catch you there or—"

He had straightened up in surprise. Before him stood a self-confident young woman, with features very like his own. A look of wonder came into her eyes when she saw his face, and she hesitated and stopped confusedly. "You are Mary, are you not?" he asked, his voice trembling with repressed feeling.

"Yes, and you are—you are—"

"Will, come home again."

"Oh, Will! Will! You've come back to us again! You don't know how we've missed you, Will!" Heedless of the dirt, she threw her arms about his neck and kissed him.

"I'd hesitated, Mary. I didn't know whether they'd want me now or not."

"Indeed, Will, it's you—"

"In fact," he interrupted, "I wasn't sure that I was coming at any time. I got as far as Glenwood, and then I had to walk over here and see if the old place looked the same. But I wasn't going to stop unless—"

"Unless you were welcome," she finished. "You are, Will. We need you here. Father is growing old, and mother wants her son. And—and Florence—she's still Floren— dear."

He kissed her. "An' they won't mind my clothes?"

"Why, of course not, you foolish boy. Come along, quick! We must go and see them."

Mary caught his hand and half dragged him to the gate and down the lane.

"Oh, how you've changed," she chattered. "I didn't know you at first. I took pity on you because father and Towz hate tramps so. Wasn't that fun?"

"I'm glad that they won't eat this tramp, anyhow. But you've changed, too, Mary. Why, I've always thought of you in braids."

She tossed her head. "I took those up the year you went away. You've been gone four years, bad boy."

"Don't talk about that, Mary, for I want to forget it if I can. You had better go in and tell mother."

Mary ran into the house, and in an instant a white-haired old lady came to be caught up in her son's arms. The prodigal's home-coming was all that the brightest optimist could have wished. Will was home, and after the first transports were over, the quiet of absolute content settled down on the farmhouse. Then he went to



"You Are Mary, Are You Not?" He Asked, His Voice Trembling.

his old room, untouched for four years, and shaved and dressed himself. When he came down stairs again his father, still in his field overalls,

## Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

A noted scientist said that the "proper study of mankind is man." Nowhere could this study be made more successfully than in these Mexican streets. We pass men with blonde hair and fair complexion speaking languages of Northern Europe, Indians from Michoacan, men and women laden with all kinds of produce, a group of Spanish bull fighters with their peculiar costumes, Italians, Poles, Slavs,—nation in Europe and America is represented here. The sidewalks are narrow, like in all Mexican cities, and the people jostle each other as they pass. Right in the thickest part of the crowd two big Mexicans meet, recognize each other as old acquaintances and clasped in each other's arms they pat each other on the back for several minutes, while they pour out congratulations. Their big hats help to obstruct the sidewalk, so the crowd is forced to wait or take out on the street. No one gets angry, for this is the custom of the country. To meet and pass an acquaintance with a nod and "howdy," like we do in the north, would be counted the grossest ill manners. Mendicants sit along the sidewalks and in whining tones ask alms for the love of Jesus, Joseph, or Mary. At the doors and gateways of the most palatial residences they sit unmolested, the owner dropping a centava in their outstretched hands as he passes in and out. This is a survival of the east; for did not Lazarus lie at the rich man's door?

Standing on the corner where two car lines cross, in the short space of an hour we saw four funeral cars pass. The coffins on each were small and the mourners in the cars following were of the poor class. Judging from this, the mortality among children must be great. The city is none of the healthiest at any time, but during the dry season typhoid and dysentery are prevalent. Situated in a valley surrounded by high mountains the question of drainage has been a difficult one to solve. The "Nochistongo" canal was tried and failed after millions of money and thousands of lives had been lost. The latest canal with tunnels has hopes of better success when completed. When heavy rains come and flush the sewers the health of the city improves. Drinking water is bro't from springs in the mountains, but is becoming insufficient for the city in its rapid growth, so other sources are being looked for. Other water comes from the lakes in the valley. With ordinary precaution I do not see

why the city should not be healthy, but I do not think it a good place for persons of weak constitutions and especially if they have lung trouble. One thing is the altitude and another is the dampness from the lakes, especially in the rainy season, when pneumonia is quite frequent. The city is certainly a very pleasant place to live in, as the English speaking society is rapidly increasing. The Y. M. C. A. has a fine hall which is well attended by the American young men who are employed in the different departments of railway service. The Episcopal church has a fine building on 4th Providence street. The Methodist Episcopal church is on Gants No. 5. The Presbyterians also have a good society, and there is a church where all take turns in helping. Several fine theaters, clubs and lyceums furnish amusement every night in the week. With the different places of interest in and around the city, and with excursions running to different parts of the country every week, there is no reason why one could not enjoy life in the capital—if he has a paying job or a good bank account.

The population of the city of Mexico is 400,000. The average monthly temperature (Fahrenheit) is:

January 53.8 degrees, February 56.7, March 60.4, April 64.0, May 64.6, June 63.7, July 62.4, August 61.9, September 62.1, October 58.5, November 55.6, December 53.4.

One institution I wish to mention before we leave and that is the "Thieves Market," just across the street from the National Palace. Here is all manner of plunder gathered or stolen from every quarter of the city. If you lose anything from your house in a few days you may find it exposed in the "thieves market." You can buy it back, but you can't prove that the seller stole it, so you can do nothing with him. The law is, you can not prove a man guilty unless you saw him steal, and if the accuser fails to prove he is liable to get in jail for accusing falsely. But you should see this "thieves market." Of all the outlandish, mixed-up things, foreign and domestic, this "beats the band." A boy offered me a stone image of some Aztec deity, probably old "Huitzilopochtli" himself, for a dollar, but I couldn't pack him around with us and didn't buy, even if the seller DID say he was "muy barrato" (very cheap). I expect it had been stolen from some garden or park.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

was pacing up and down the room. The old gentleman's face lighted up with pleasure when he caught sight of his son.

"Will," he said, "we'll forget the past. I was hasty, my son, and you took after your father, I suppose." A smile flickered about the corners of his mouth for an instant. "Your mother and I got to know Florence better afterward. She's not like the old man. I always disliked Barnes—quarrelsome fellow—licked me when a boy—don't forget such things. But there, it's all right. You're all dressed up. H-m! Hope you're not thinking of going over there to-night?"

"Why, I—I'd like to, father, if—"

"Well, I don't know. You'd better stay at home to-night. Barnes'll be gone to-morrow. Don't like him, but I reckon we'll have to patch it up sometime."

came in. "You dear boy," she said, "now you look like my brother Will. You're thinking of Florence, I know. Perhaps—" with a sly glance at her father, "perhaps he'll let you go over after awhile."

"Father doesn't want me to go."

Mary looked at the old gentleman, who winked portentously. A ripple of amusement ran over her face.

"Hello," called Will, "here's a buggy. They might let us have our first meal alone, anyhow. Who's coming?"

Mary and her father glanced at each other. "Oh," said the former, "that's—that's a new friend whom we expect to dinner. You'll like her, Will. She's as pretty—"

Will left the window, and the old gentleman entered into a statement regarding the stock, talking in an unnecessarily loud tone, Will thought. But after all, he paid little attention to that. He caught a glimpse of a face in the buggy. Could it be true? But no, his imagination had been at fault, of course. Yet, that face— "Somebody's in the parlor," Mary announced, "and would like to see Will."

Her brother took a step forward



Shook His Fist Across the Fence at Him.

and turned white to the lips. "Not," he said, "not—"

"Go and see," she answered, and then, pitying his forlorn look, added: "It's all right, dear; don't be afraid."

Will went forward with a beating heart. The hall seemed of interminable length, and when he reached the parlor he was trembling violently. A woman stood by the window.

"Florence!" he cried.

"Oh, Will!"

"Look here, you rascalion," it was the farmer's voice, "get off that or I'll let Towz loose on you."

rusequy. "Get out of that! I won't have tramps around my house!" The farmer shook his fist across the fence at him.

"Why—why, father!" gasped Will.

"I—"

"Get out, or I'll let Towz loose."

"Wow-wow-wow," Towz chimed in.

"Gosh," the tramp muttered, "guess I must 'a' gone to sleep. All right, mister, I'll git; only, hold on to the dog!"

"JOE" CANNON'S GOOD HEALTH.

Friends Declare the Illinois Statesman Grows Younger.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon, the next speaker of the house of representatives, has reversed the natural order of things and is growing young instead of old. Five years ago he was posting himself on the best beds for invalids because he was convinced that the multiplicity of ailments from which he suffered would soon drive him between the blankets. He says that among other things he had rheumatism and dyspepsia "until he was as irritable and fidgety as an old woman." Now "Uncle Joe" is the healthiest man in the house. He can eat apple pie and cheese at midnight and go home and sleep like a log. The change came when he adopted one of those physical culture and hygiene systems which are so generally advertised in the magazines. He has carefully observed the diet end of the system and carried out the exercises. As a result he says he is "feeling so kittenish" that people are talking about him. The other day while making a speech those who sat near him observed that he was doing many queer things with his arms while he was talking. After he had finished he was asked about his unusual movements. "Well," he observed, "my system says to take ten minutes of movement No. 5 every third day, and bless my soul if I could find time to do it except when I was on the floor speaking."

Who will be next at Ustick's for wedding rings? Going like hot cakes.

# 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.

## The Prodigal's Return.

BY R. C. PITZER.

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

One hot August afternoon a tramp walked listlessly down a dusty Iowa lane. There was nothing about his clothes nor general demeanor to distinguish him from other tramps, yet his face seemed prepossessing, and his forehead was intellectual. Finally he came within sight of a group of trees, whose green freshness spoke eloquently of rest. He increased his pace and was soon seated on a shaded bank. Behind him was a picket fence, and farther back was a substantial farmhouse, half hidden by its grove of trees. After lighting his black pipe, the tramp clasped his hands behind his head and gazed reflectively into the green leaves above him.

"You'd better not let father catch you there or—"

He had straightened up in surprise. Before him stood a self-confident young woman, with features very like his own. A look of wonder came into her eyes when she saw his face, and she hesitated and stopped confusedly. "You are Mary, are you not?" he asked, his voice trembling with repressed feeling.

"Yes, and you are—you are—"

"Will, come home again."

"Oh, Will! Will! You've come back to us again! You don't know how we've missed you, Will!" Heedless of the dirt, she threw her arms about his neck and kissed him.

"I'd hesitated, Mary. I didn't know whether they'd want me now or not."

"Indeed, Will, it's you—"

"In fact," he interrupted, "I wasn't sure that I was coming at any time. I got as far as Glenwood, and then I had to walk over here and see if the old place looked the same. But I wasn't going to stop unless—"

"Unless you were welcome," she finished. "You are, Will. We need you here. Father is growing old, and mother wants her son. And—Florence—she's still Florence—dear."

He kissed her. "An they won't mind my clothes?"

"Why, of course not, you foolish boy. Come along, quick! We must go and see them."

Mary caught his hand and half dragged him to the gate and down the lane.

"Oh, how you've changed," she chattered. "I didn't know you at first. I took pity on you because father and Towz hate tramps so. Wasn't that fun?"

"I'm glad that they won't eat this tramp, anyhow. But you've changed, too, Mary. Why, I've always thought of you in braids."

She tossed her head. "I took those up the year you went away. You've been gone four years, bad boy."

"Don't talk about that, Mary, for I want to forget it if I can. You had better go in and tell mother."

Mary ran into the house, and in an instant a white-haired old lady came to be caught up in her son's arms. The prodigal's home-coming was all that the brightest optimist could have wished. Will was home, and after the first transports were over, the quiet of absolute content settled down on the farmhouse. Then he went to



"You Are Mary, Are You Not?" He Asked. His Voice Trembling.

his old room, untouched for four years, and shaved and dressed himself. When he came down stairs again his father, still in his field overalls,

## Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

A noted scientist said that the "proper study of mankind is man." Nowhere could this study be made more successfully than in these Mexican streets. We pass men with blonde hair and fair complexion speaking languages of Northern Europe, Indians from Michoacan, men and women laden with all kinds of produce, a group of Spanish bull fighters with their peculiar costumes, Italians, Poles, Slavs,—nation in Europe and America is represented here. The sidewalks are narrow, like in all Mexican cities, and the people jostle each other as they pass. Right in the thickest part of the crowd two big Mexicans meet, recognize each other as old acquaintances and clasped in each other's arms they pat each other on the back for several minutes, while they pour out congratulations. Their big hats help to obstruct the sidewalk, so the crowd is forced to wait or take out on the street. No one gets angry, for this is the custom of the country. To meet and pass an acquaintance with a nod and "howdy," like we do in the north, would be counted the grossest ill manners. Mendicants sit along the sidewalks and in whining tones ask alms for the love of Jesus, Joseph, or Mary. At the doors and gateways of the most palatial residences they sit unmolested, the owner dropping a centava in their outstretched hands as he passes in and out. This is a survival of the east; for did not Lazarus lie at the rich man's door?

Standing on the corner where two car lines cross, in the short space of an hour we saw four funeral cars pass. The coffins on each were small and the mourners in the cars following were of the poor class. Judging from this, the mortality among children must be great. The city is none of the healthiest at any time, but during the dry season typhoid and dysentery are prevalent. Situated in a valley surrounded by high mountains the question of drainage has been a difficult one to solve. The "Nochistongo" canal was tried and failed after millions of money and thousands of lives had been lost. The latest canal with tunnels has hopes of better success when completed. When heavy rains come and flush the sewers the health of the city improves. Drinking water is bro't from springs in the mountains, but is becoming insufficient for the city in its rapid growth, so other sources are being looked for. Other water comes from the lakes in the valley. With ordinary precaution I do not see

why the city should not be healthy, but I do not think it a good place for persons of weak constitutions and especially if they have lung trouble. One thing is the altitude and another is the dampness from the lakes, especially in the rainy season, when pneumonia is quite frequent. The city is certainly a very pleasant place to live in, as the English speaking society is rapidly increasing. The Y. M. C. A. has a fine hall which is well attended by the American young men who are employed in the different departments of railway service. The Episcopal church has a fine building on 4th Providence street. The Methodist Episcopal church is on Gants No. 5. The Presbyterians also have a good society, and there is a church where all take turns in helping. Several fine theaters, clubs and lyceums furnish amusement every night in the week. With the different places of interest in and around the city, and with excursions running to different parts of the country every week, there is no reason why one could not enjoy life in the capital—if he has a paying job or a good bank account.

The population of the city of Mexico is 400,000. The average monthly temperature (Fahrenheit) is:

January 53.8 degrees, February 56.7, March 60.4, April 64.0, May 64.6, June 63.7, July 62.4, August 61.9, September 62.1, October 58.5, November 55.6, December 53.4.

One institution I wish to mention before we leave and that is the "Thieves Market," just across the street from the National Palace. Here is all manner of plunder gathered or stolen from every quarter of the city. If you lose anything from your house in a few days you may find it exposed in the "thieves market." You can buy it back, but you can't prove that the seller stole it, so you can do nothing with him. The law is, you can not prove a man guilty unless you saw him steal, and if the accuser fails to prove he is liable to get in jail for accusing falsely. But you should see this "thieves market." Of all the outlandish, mixed-up things, foreign and domestic, this "beats the band." A boy offered me a stone image of some Aztec deity, probably old "Huitzilopocatl" himself, for a dollar, but I couldn't pack him around with us and didn't buy, even if the seller did say he was "muy barato" (very cheap). I expect it had been stolen from some garden or park.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

was pacing up and down the room. The old gentleman's face lighted up with pleasure when he caught sight of his son.

"Will," he said, "we'll forget the past. I was hasty, my son, and you took after your father, I suppose." A smile flickered about the corners of his mouth for an instant. "Your mother and I got to know Florence better afterward. She's not like the old man. I always disliked Barnes—quarrelsome fellow—licked me when a boy—don't forget such things. But there, it's all right. You're all dressed up. Hope you're not thinking of going over there to-night?"

"Why, I—I'd like to, father, if—"

"Well, I don't know. You'd better stay at home to-night. Barnes'll be gone to-morrow. Don't like him, but I reckon we'll have to patch it up sometime."

came in.

"You dear boy," she said, "now you look like my brother Will. You're thinking of Florence, I know. Perhaps—" with a sly glance at her father, "perhaps he'll let you go over after awhile."

"Father doesn't want me to go."

Mary looked at the old gentleman, who winked portentously. A ripple of amusement ran over her face.

"Hello," called Will, "here's a buggy. They might let us have our first meal alone, anyhow. Who's coming?"

Mary and her father glanced at each other. "Oh," said the former, "that's—that's a new friend whom we expect to dinner. You'll like her, Will. She's as pretty—"

"Mary!" thundered the farmer, Mary laughed and ran from the room.

"Come here, Will," his father continued. "You'll have to learn about the farm, and I reckon that now's as good a time as any to begin in."

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.

Will left the window, and the old gentleman entered into a statement regarding the stock, talking in an unnecessarily loud tone, Will thought. But after all, he paid little attention to that. He caught a glimpse of a face in the buggy. Could it be true? But no, his imagination had been at fault, of course. Yet, that face—"Somebody's in the parlor," Mary announced, "and would like to see Will."

Her brother took a step forward



Shook His Fist Across the Fence at Him.

and turned white to the lips. "Not," he said, "not—"

"Go and see," she answered, and then, pitying his forlorn look, added: "It's all right, dear; don't be afraid."

Will went forward with a beating heart. The hall seemed of interminable length, and when he reached the parlor he was trembling violently. A woman stood by the window.

"Florence!" he cried.

"Oh, Will!"

"Look here, you rascalion," it was the farmer's voice, "get off that or I'll let Towz loose on you."

"Eh?" he cried, starting up con-

rusedly. "Get out of that! I won't have tramps around my house!" The farmer shook his fist across the fence at him.

"Why—why, father!" gasped Will.

"I—"

"Get out, or I'll let Towz loose."

"Wow-wow-wow," Towz chimed in.

"Gosh," the tramp muttered,

"guess I must 'a' gone to sleep. All right, mister, I'll git; only, hold on to the dog!"

#### "JOE" CANNON'S GOOD HEALTH.

##### Friends Declare the Illinois Statesman Grows Younger.

"Uncle Joe" Cannon, the next speaker of the house of representatives, has reversed the natural order of things and is growing young instead of old. Five years ago he was posting himself on the best beds for invalids because he was convinced that the multiplicity of ailments from which he suffered would soon drive him between the blankets. He says that among other things he had rheumatism and dyspepsia "until he was as irritable and fidgety as an old woman." Now "Uncle Joe" is the healthiest man in the house. He can eat apple pie and cheese at midnight and go home and sleep like a log. The change came when he adopted one of those physical culture and hygiene systems which are so generally advertised in the magazines. He has carefully observed the diet end of the system and carried out the exercises. As a result he says he is "feeling so kittenish" that people are talking about him. The other day while making a speech those who sat near him observed that he was doing many queer things with his arms while he was talking. After he had finished he was asked about his unusual movements. "Well," he observed, "my system says to take ten minutes of movement No. 5 every third day, and bless my soul if I could find time to do it except when I was on the floor speaking."

Who will be next at Ustick's for wedding rings? Going like hot cakes.

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.

## THE J. I. CASE

Do you know that there are over  
**TRIUMPH SULKY .... 100,000**  
**PLOW .....** "TRIUMPH" Sulky  
Plows in actual and satisfactory operation today?

Do you know that it is the lightest draft plow on the market today?

Do you know that the "TRIUMPH" is the plow that "Revolutionized riding plow construction?"

Do you know that it has many features not found on other plows?

All these are facts. You should examine the "TRIUMPH" before you buy.

IT'S THE LATEST;  
IT'S THE GREATEST.

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

which can never be divided; they are born and flourish, or sicken and die, together. They are offsprings of good sense and innocence, and while they continue under the guidance of such parents, they are invulnerable to injury and incapable of decay.

### For Sale

Special bargain, three resident lots, nicely located, with three room house, good well of water, etc.

W. W. Wheeler.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

### Cottonseed 300 Years Old.

Sam Butman took in the El Paso carnival and while gone made a run into Old Mexico.

He met some Americans who had recently delved into old cliff dwellings and uncovered the mummified remains of a woman and child, the latter having in its hands a ball of cotton thread, and with the bodies was found a pile of cotton seed.

Mr. Butman saw the cotton, which has small seed and short lint.

The explorers told him that it is known that at least 300 years have passed since the cliff dwellings have been occupied and that the cotton thread machines, of whatever character had long since returned to dust.

When the butcher Cortez landed in Central America he found the aboriginals clothed in cotton cloth and in many respects lived as civilized people, and it is nothing strange if the cliff dwelling was inhabited by the same class of people in that age.

Mr. Butman has a few of the seed which he will plant in the hope that they may grow and show what manner of cotton was grown by the first inhabitants of America.

The rooms in the cliff dwellings were perfectly dry and it is possible that like the wheat taken from the ruins of Pompeii, they will germinate.—Daily Reporter.

### Savagery in Morocco.

Morocco is not yet completely civilized, in spite of the fact that the sultan has an automobile and plays a good game of billiards. During the who had been grossly ill-treated sent recent disturbances some villagers a deputation to the bashaw at Tangier, who promptly imprisoned them and set out with his aide-de-camp and eighty men to punish the malcontents. But the villagers were desperate and defended themselves, captured the bashaw and rolled him in the mud, while the wretched aide-de-camp had his eyes burned out with his own spurs and was left naked on the ground in the rain the whole night. The sor of the bashaw was permitted to take him to Tangier next day, on condition that the deputation should be released from prison. No further trouble ensued.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

## CURIOUS MARRIAGE JINGLES.

A Collection That Will Interest Engaged Girls.

### 1.—DAYS.

Married on Sunday, or Easter Day,  
You'll never lack gold to pay your way,  
Married on Monday, day of the moon,  
Love will be fickle, so reads the rune.  
Married on Tuesday, day of the Mars,  
Strife and contention, predict the stars.  
Married on Wednesday, Wodin's Day,  
Joys as many as flowers in May.  
Married on Thursday, day of Thor,  
Fame and fortune for you in store.  
Married on Friday, Frega's day,  
Love the star that lights your way.  
Married on Saturday, bride beware!  
Dole and disaster will be your share.

### 11—MONTHS

Married in January's hoar and rime,  
Widowed you'll be before your prime.  
Married in February's sleety weather,  
Life you'll tread in tune together.  
Married when March winds shrill and roar,  
Your home will lie on a foreign shore.  
Married 'neath April's changeful skies,  
A chequered path before you lies.  
Married when bees o'er May blooms flit,  
Stangers around your board will sit.  
Married in month of roses—June,  
Life will be one long honeymoon.  
Married in July with flowers ablaze,  
Bitter-sweet memories in after days.  
Married in August's heat and drowse,  
Lover and friend in your chosen spouse.  
Married in golden September's glow,  
Smooth and serene your life will flow.  
Married when leaves in October thin,  
Toil and hardship for you begin.  
Married in veils of November mist,  
Dame fortune your wedding ring hath kissed.  
Married in days of December's cheer,  
Love's star burns brighter from year to year.

### 111—WEATHER.

Married in rain, you'll be a bride again.  
Married in shower, love for your dower.  
Married in snow, wed to your woe.  
Married in frost, you've staked all and lost.  
Married in sun, happiness won.  
Married in shade you had best stayed a maid.  
Married in sleet, the world at your feet.  
Married in fog, life cat and dog.  
Married in hail, across seas to sail.  
Married in thunder, hearts drift asunder.

The following are a few other superstitions.  
Married in June, in garments of blue,  
Life will be filled with all sunshine for you.  
But marry in May, in garments

## Winter is Robbed

Of its terror and made comfortable when you know the full value of "Prescription 3363"—25c, and "Bass White Pine and Tar"—25c

Prescription 3363 is a most wonderful medicine. It relieves pain of any kind, cures colds, La Grippe, headache, neuralgia and Fever. White Pine and Tar is the perfect family cough remedy. Harmless and efficient, and can be given without danger to baby or invalid. Most cough syrups are dangerous in large doses.

There is hardly a day in winter when these two preparations are not needed in almost every family. Your money back if you want it. For sale by Burroughs & Mann and Rust & Pittard, of Merkel.

**BASS BRO.'S DRUG CO.,**  
Abilene, Texas.

## 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.

of pink,  
Your sorrow will grow, your happiness sink.  
Marry in July, in robes soft and white,  
Then peace will be yours and life smooth and bright.

Change the name and not the letter,  
Change for the worse and not the better.

Now's the time to advertise.

## ADDING NEW ACCOUNTS

WE ARE constantly adding new accounts, and our business is increasing at a very satisfactory rate. Possibly you also might be glad to join us.

**Warnick's Bank,**  
Merkel, Texas.

### Selections from Field's Scrap Book.

I believe that if Christianity should be compelled to flee from the mansions of the great, the academies of the philosophers, the halls of legislators, or the throng of busy men, we should find her last and purest retreat with woman at the fireside; her last altar would be the female heart; her last audience would be the children gathered around the knees of the mother; her last sacrifice, the secret prayer, escaping in silence from her lips, and heard, perhaps, only at the throne of God.

Woman's charms are certainly many and powerful. Their expanding rose just bursting into beauty, has an irresistible bewitchingness; the blooming bride, led triumphantly to the hymeneal altar, awakens admiration and interest, and the blush of her cheek fills with delight. But the charm of maternity is more sublime than all these. Heaven has imprinted in the mother's face something beyond this world, something which claims kindred with the skies—the angelic smile, the tender look, the waking,

watchful eye, which keeps its fond vigil over the slumbering babe.

In youth, we seem to be climbing a hill on whose top eternal sunshine appears to rest. How eagerly we pant to attain its summit! But when we have gained it, how different is the prospect on the other side! We sigh as we contemplate the dreary waste before us; and look back with a wistful eye upon the flowery path we passed, but may never more retrace. Life is like a portentous cloud, fraught with thunder, storm and rain; but religion, like those streaming rays of sunshine, will clothe it with light as with a garment, and fringe its shadowy skirts with gold.

There is no virtue that adds so noble a charm to the finest traits of beauty as that which exerts itself in watching over the tranquility of an aged parent. There are no tears that can give so noble a lustre to the cheek of innocence as the tears of filial sorrow.

Happiness and virtue are twins,

# 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 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.

Plant trees.

Work the streets.

Talk up water works.

Organize a fire company.

Keep the improvements going.

In the meantime prepare to sow oats and plant hogs.

The good roads movement is gaining ground every day. Let it sweep the state.

You cannot vote at any election during the year 1903 unless your state and county poll tax is paid before February 1st.

The Colorado Spokesman says, "Plucky little Merkel is talking electric lights." Not only talking, but actually doing, please.

The coal famine of this year is not likely to be repeated soon, if placing anthracite coal on the free list will have anything to do with it. When the people rise up and demand legislation it is always forthcoming.

The year 1902 witnessed many changes in Merkel. Our progress and advancement along all lines was very gratifying and should be a source of pride to every citizen. The new year has started off well, and by little effort we can make it a record breaker.

The record of Congress made in one day last week, in passing 174 private pension bills in just 39 minutes, has not been greeted with an avalanche of congratulatory telegrams. It is not a record to be proud of. At this rate almost five pension bills a minute were passed, or one every twelve seconds. When, oh, when will these pension steals cease?

This is the season for tree planting. Hundreds have already been put out, but there is room for hundreds more, and we hope it will become violently epidemic. Trees not only and to

the beauty and value of your home, but also improve the appearance of the town. Plant trees.

Those who have tried the experiment say that burning cotton stalks and other refuse on the farm will do as much good as any other plan in destroying the boll weevil, and the fact that it is inexpensive should appeal to every farmer. Try the plan and give the results of your experiments.

The poll tax amendment is now in full force and effect. A poll tax receipt will hereafter have to be produced at every election before you exercise the right of suffrage, and the poll tax must be paid prior to February 1st., of each year or the right of suffrage for that year is lost. It is not known that any election will be held in this county this year, but it is well to be on the safe side. Pay your poll tax.

The grand jury of Mitchell county last week turned in 34 indictments, 32 of which were for violations of the local option law. A vicious blind tiger has been prowling the town for some time and the people, without regard as to how they stand on the prohibition question, went after the "critter" with prod poles, with the result that he was given a warm reception. The people of Colorado are right. However widely they may have differed on this great moral question, it is right that the law should be upheld and enforced.

During the present quarter 6,250 pensions will be paid the old Confederate veterans, by the State of Texas, which is 120 less than the number paid the previous quarter. Can it be possible that these old soldiers are passing so quickly? At this rate there will not be enough left at the end of the decade to answer to roll call. But they will live to the end of time in the hearts and affections of the people and their bequests to posterity will bear fruit for generations to come. Those who wore the gray—God bless them!

The appointment by Governor Lanham of Colonel Chenoweth, editor of the Bonham Favorite, as superintendent of the Confederate home, was eminently wise and proper. Colonel Chenoweth was a dashing soldier and won the insignia of colonel for bravery on the battlefields. His is a brilliant mind, filled with lofty thoughts and high ideals, and the love that he bears for those who wore the gray foretells the tender care and watchfulness which will characterize the discharge of the duties imposed upon him. His appointment is generally satisfactory.

The shooting of a South Carolina editor by the lieutenant governor of that state points a moral, which is that public officials are not open to criticisms from the press. Their official acts, whether right or wrong, though the people ought to know them, must needs be kept a secret. The acts of a servant of the people should be public property and are open to criticism. Things are coming to a pretty pass when a man is murdered in cold blood for criticizing the illegal acts of a public official. South Carolina editors should move to Texas, where there is a law to prevent criticisms of such conduct under penalty of both fine and imprisonment, which is better than having one's head blown off.

# Groceries

We are putting in a Grocery Department and will be ready to SERVE YOU by the 26 of THIS MONTH.

We will make some RED HOT PRICES if you will give us a chance.

Watson & Bacon,  
The Spot Cash Merchants.

### THE LOCAL OPTION LAW.

How It Is Enforced in Smith and Ellis Counties and Plans of Enforcement.

Austin, Tex., Jan. 10.—Sheriff J. J. Robinson, of Smith county, is here. He stated that local option was being strictly observed in his county and he was seeing to it that the law was being observed, not only in Tyler, but other parts of Smith county. He declared that when the county first went dry an attempt was made to ship "packages" of liquor by express from other states into Smith county under the guise that it was interstate commerce and the local authorities could do nothing to stop it. This flourished for a brief period, but it was soon discovered that a provision of the law provided that the selling of liquor came under the jurisdiction of local authorities and the interstate commerce law did not apply. He soon notified those engaging in this business that while the express company would probably pay their fines, etc., but that would not keep them out of jail. This had the desired effect and soon this traffic, with two exceptions, ceased. Two of those who thought they could go on with the business continued, with the result that they were arrested

and their cases will come up during next week.

Ellis county officers, too, are doing their duty, and local option is being enforced with a vengeance. At Italy every time a blind tiger wags his tail he is jerked up and his tail twisted until he yells "calf rope." As soon as the law went into effect in that county officers waited on all druggists and gave them to understand that the sale of all bitters must cease. And now nothing of that kind can be purchased and even tincture of ginger can be bought only in half ounce vials and one to a customer. Prohibition evidently prohibits in these two counties. It can be made to prohibit in any county if the officers do their plain duty.

What has been done in Smith and Ellis counties can be done in this or any other county in the State. Hardly a day passes but whiskey is shipped into Merkel, and much of it is done so in violation of the C. O. D. law passed by the Twenty-Seventh Legislature. A correct interpretation of this law by the officers would result in lessening the evil if not in doing away with it entirely. When these violations are winked at by the officers it encourages further transgressions and shoel is to pay. Let the people de-

### 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.

mand a rigid enforcement of the law and it will be forthcoming. We have been dilly-dallying long enough.

There is nothing too good for Merkel, and the town should achieve great things during 1903. With this end in view let's pull together and have the cleanest, the prettiest, the best graded, lighted and watered little city in Texas. These things are essential to the town's growth and progress, and we must have them. Will you do your part?

### 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.

Just received shipment of Cox & Gordon lard and hams.

The Star Store.

An effort is being made to organize a K. of P. lodge at this place. It takes 20 charter members to complete the organization, and more than half this number have signified their willingness to enter the order. Permission to organize the lodge will be asked at an early date.

A report reaches us that Will Eason, in hauling a well drill towards the Double Mountain country had his four-horse team to get cranky in crossing a bridge, he walking by the horses; the tower came down and squeezed him between it and the railing of the bridge, breaking several ribs. We hope the mishap is not as serious as the report would indicate.—Roby Banner.

Geo. S. Berry visited Abilene Sunday.

A young man by the name of Moore, a plasterer from Dallas, while plastering the school building last week dumped a trowel of lime in his eye, from which he has suffered excruciating pain. The line has eaten into and blistered the eye in a frightful manner, and it is feared the sight will be ruined.

Elder Pike of the Christian church will preach at the Presbyterian church Sunday, morning and evening.

A slow rain began falling last Thursday and continued for 36 hours, which puts the best season in the ground we have had for years. If an early season foretells a good crop, this will be the banner crop year in the history of the country.

Samuel Butman took in the El Paso carnival last week, returning home Saturday. During the time he also made a run into Old Mexico and viewed the country in many places, which he classes as great and the coming country of the world. The mountains are rich in minerals, he says, and the valleys very productive, while the country is coated with a luxuriant grass that makes it an ideal stock country. However, social features and school facilities are lacking, which makes it an inferior country for home makers. Mr. Butman is interested in some mines near Chihuahua which he visited. He contemplates an extended visit to that region in the near future and may make extensive investments in mineral lands.

Mrs. Wimberly, who lived northeast of town, died Saturday night after a lingering illness of several months duration. She was buried at Merkel cemetery Sunday evening.

One good way to put the business streets in a passable condition would be to levy a tax against each firm sufficient to grade the street in front of their place of business. Several have agreed to this plan. What do you think about it?

Sam Eason has sold his barber shop to his partner and will move to Big Springs. The two shops have been consolidated.

### 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.

It is reported that G. F. West will do away with his plank warehouses and add a second story and elevator to his main building. Besides adding to the appearance of his corner, this plan would lessen the danger from fire and lower insurance rates considerably. The Mail hopes there is foundation for the report and that the change will be made as contemplated.

Dr. Walter Browning came in Sunday from the Territory to visit his brother, Herbert, who has been seriously ill since his return from California. The Mail hopes for Herbert's immediate recovery.

If you give us your laundry we guarantee first class work and prompt delivery. 'Phone 25.

E. Maxwell.

### Real Estate Transfers.

W. M. Clark to T. J. Walker. lot in Nubia for \$10.

E. D. Coats to D. D. Coats, 12 lots in South Merkel for \$490.

L. A. Matthews to S. A. Coats, 203 acres adjoining town on the east, consideration \$2,040.15.

G. M. Lowe to H. Hand, 80 acres on Salt Branch for \$400.

We are agents for the Acme Steam Laundry, Ft. Worth.

Will call and deliver your laundry. Best work guaranteed. 'Phone 25.

E. Maxwell.

Albert Booth left Saturday night for his home at El Paso, Ark., after a pleasant visit to his sister, Mrs. J. T. Warren, at this place.

Emzy Burroughs, who spent last week with relatives here, left Saturday night for his home at Italy.

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.

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

Jack Bishop of Ola was in town today with a part of a cotton stalk, in the pith of which was a number of young boll weevils. The eggs were deposited just under the bark, and he put the twig near the fire and hatched them out. All corn and cotton stalks and weeds will be burned this year on the Bishop farm.—Kaufman Sun.

Some parents of Merkel are aiding and abetting the tramp nuisance. By allowing their boys to loaf around town and furnishing them free grub they are raising them up to become tramps. And while this is going on the poor old mother is at home carrying in wood and water and doing other work that should be done by these trifling boys. Perhaps this drudgery is fast carrying her to an early grave; but what matters that to the boy? He cares nothing for her or he would be more thoughtful of her comfort. Parents, wake up and stop the downward course of your boy by a wholesome application of "hickory tea."

Dirt was broken Monday for the Hutcheson building, the contract having been awarded to R. A. Miller, and the foundation work is now under headway. This makes a solid block of brick buildings with the exception of a 25 foot strip next to Warren's store.

Spring fights have opened up rather early this year, but if they foretell early spring and fair weather The Mail can only say "sick 'em!"

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.

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 on 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

# RUTS

The walking sick, what a crowd of them there are: Persons who are thin and weak but not sick enough to go to bed.

"Chronic cases" that's what the doctors call them, which in common English means—long sickness.

To stop the continued loss of flesh they need Scott's Emulsion. For the feeling of weakness they need Scott's Emulsion.

It makes new flesh and gives new life to the weak system.

Scott's Emulsion gets thin and weak persons out of the rut. It makes new, rich blood, strengthens the nerves and gives appetite for ordinary food.

Scott's Emulsion can be taken as long as sickness lasts and do good all the time.

There's new strength and flesh in every dose.



We will be glad to send you a few doses free.

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

SCOTT & BOWNE,  
Chemists,  
409 Pearl St., N. Y.  
50c. and \$1; all druggists.

## The Golden Minstrel.

Capt. J. E. Taylor, wife and party will be in this city Monday night, Jan. 26, 1902.

They will give a musical entertainment and lecture on the Salvation Army Work throughout the world.

This will be an enjoyable occasion, so don't fail to come. At C. P. church.

Admission free.

The Washington Post contends that the square man means the same each way and hasn't any cracked or cheap lumber about him. He is free from knots and sap and wont warp. He is clear stuff it makes no difference what you work him up into he won't shrink. He is among what good kiln dried boards are among carpenters, won't season and crack. It makes no difference which side of him you come up to he is the same bigness each way, and the only way to get at him is to face him. He knows he is square and he never spends any time in trying to prove it. This square man is one of the best shaped men the world has ever produced. He is one of those kind that you can't alter to fit the spot but must alter the spot to fit him.

We have added three new faces of type to our job department which will enable us to turn out up-to-date work. Hand in your orders.

The first real blizzard of the winter swooped down on us Tuesday evening, but did not tarry long. The only evidence of its displeasure the following morning was a thin coat of snow on the frozen ground. Perhaps the fall amounted to fully two inches, but it melted almost as it fell, and most of it went to further moisten the ground, which is now well seasoned.

## 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

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.

## 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:

R. A. Martin, Merkel, \$2.00  
J. H. Counts, " 1.00

If my friends have alabaster boxes full of perfumes of sympathy and affection which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary days and open them that I may be refreshed and cheered by them while I need them. I would rather have a bare coffin without a flower and a funeral without a eulogy than life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friend before hand for burial. Postmortem kindnesses do not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance over the weary days of our lives.—Rams Horn.

The Mail tenders its thanks to the Masonic fraternity for the many recent orders for job work given it.—The Woodmen, too, have been generous in this respect. Now let all of the lodges buy cuts for use in the directory which we are arranging to carry in the future, and they will not only confer a favor, but will, at the same time, help to put the town's resources before the public.

## Quarantine Bill.

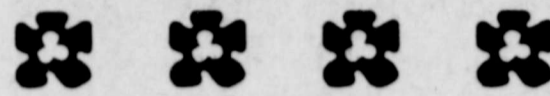
Representative Bryan of this district has introduced a bill amending the quarantine law which, in effect, makes an open season from Nov. 15 to Jan. 15 each year, without inspection and providing for crossing the cattle quarantine line at any time of the year upon inspection and approval.

It also provides for the fine and imprisonment of "any person who shall unlawfully and knowingly stop and detain live stock that have crossed any quarantine line \* \* \* after said stock have been inspected by an officer duly authorized to make such inspection and found not to have ticks in number sufficient to communicate disease, or after being sprayed as provided in article 5043n, etc., or during the time between Nov. 15 and Jan. 15, etc. The sum of \$20,000 is appropriated to carry out the provision of the bill.

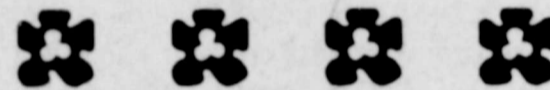
This will bring up the question at once and it will soon be seen where the legislature stands—if its members know where they stand on this question.—Abilene Reported.

Otho Williams and C. W. Harris went to Abilene today.

# 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.

## Things Worth Knowing.

A man should weigh 26 pounds for every foot of height.

In mining accidents one death in four is caused by afterdamp.

One-third of the people who go mad recover their senses.

The hair of the head grows faster in summer than in winter.

Oxen and sheep fatten better in company than when left alone.

Forty-eight kind of house flies have been classed by naturalists.

The most valuable by-product produced on the farm is the skim milk.

The eight muscles of the human jaw extend a force of about 500 pounds.

Whitewash made of quicklime and ashes will destroy moss on tiles.

The various countries of the world use 3,400 different kinds of postage stamps.

The eel has two separate hearts. One beats 60, the other 160 times a minute.

Some of the insurance companies of Paris refuse to insure people who dye their hair.

## Notice to Tax Payers.

A penalty of 10 per cent is added by law to all taxes not paid on or before Jan. 31. Besides, those failing to pay their poll taxes as above will not be allowed to vote in any election held this year, nor will they be eligible to jury service.

Baylor Crawford,  
Tax Collector, Taylor County.

## Dress Making.

Mrs. Mays will do dress making at her residence, just west of Jim Dennis' home, and would appreciate the patronage of the ladies of Merkel. Satisfaction guaranteed.

## 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.

If the State Liquor Dealers Association cannot get up a better thing to make prohibition in Colorado disreputable than to send such a tribe as the one that has recently been operating in our city, why prohibition is a screaming success and is on us till Gabriel blows his horn. When the people out here said they

wanted the sale of liquor stopped they meant it. Now, see if they didn't.—Colorado Spokesman.

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.

**Calendars for 1904.**

Business men who use calendars as one means of advertising (and a good one it is, too) should hold their orders until our line is in. The Mail makes a specialty of calendar work and is prepared to save you money on them in either large or small quantities.

Don't send away for anything you may need in this line. **tf**

A carload of corn and seed oats, clear of rust, to arrive soon at Chenault & Hand's. See them for prices.

**A Yearly Supply Of Babies.**

It will probably startle a good many persons to find, says a medical publication, on the authority of a well known statistician that, could the infants of a year be ranged in a line of cradles would extend round the globe.

The same writer looks at matter in a more picturesque light. He imagines the babies being carried past a given point in their mother's arms, one by one, and the procession being kept up night and day until the last hour in the twelve months had passed by. A sufficiently liberal rate is allowed, but even in the going past at the rate of twenty a minute, 1,200 an hour, during the entire year, the reviewer at his post would have seen only the sixth part of the infantile host. In other words, the babe that had to be carried when the tramp began would be able to walk when but a mere fraction of its comrades had reached the reviewer's post; and when the years supply of babies was drawing to a close there would be a rear guard, not of infants, but of romping six-year-old boys and girls.—Nor-West Farmer.

The real meaning of a successful man, is a man who has made the most of himself in the best sense—physically, mentally and spiritually, who has done the most he could day by day to brighten, cheer and better other lives as he went along, who has controlled his selfish impulses, and left the people he has associated with a little happier and better for knowing him. Such a man, if he is a billionaire or a homeless wanderer like Christ—is a success.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.



**MRS. L. S. ADAMS.**  
Of Galveston, Texas.

"Wine of Cardui is indeed a blessing to tired women. Having suffered for seven years with weakness and bearing-down pains, and having tried several doctors and different remedies with no success, your Wine of Cardui was the only thing which helped me, and eventually cured me. It seemed to build up the weak parts, strengthen the system and correct irregularities."

By "tired women" Mrs. Adams means nervous women who have disordered menses, falling of the womb, ovarian troubles or any of these ailments that women have. You can cure yourself at home with this great women's remedy, Wine of Cardui. Wine of Cardui has cured thousands of cases which doctors have failed to benefit. Why not begin to get well today? All druggists have .100 bottles. For any stomach, liver or bowel disorder Theford's Black-Drageat should be used.

For advice and literature, address, giving symptoms, The Ladies' Advisory Department, The Chastanooga Medicine Co., Chastanooga, Tenn.

**WINE OF CARDUI**

**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.....         | 48 |
| 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, Alsobrook.....        | 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.....           | 72 |
| "    "    hardware-grocery.. | 10 |
| 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.

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

**Old Cowboys.**

At an age when men in other vocations are at their best, the cowboy's usefulness in the saddle is over. Exposure, poor food, vicious bronchos and unremitting toil generally stiffen their limbs by the time they are 30 or 40 and compel them to settle down to less active lives. When this period comes, fortunate are the few who have married wealthy stockmen's daughters, or by thrift have laid up enough to buy ranches of their own and hire others to rope their cattle and break their bronchos. Of those who must still labor with their hands, some devote themselves to farming, others become stage drivers, and many go the settlements where in divers humble pursuits they earn a livelihood. Like old soldiers, their past experience has well nigh unfitted them for new conditions, but the disabled sons of the plains have no pensions to provide for them in their last days.—Ledger Monthly.

**The Mission of Pain.**

"I always know that one has suffered when I get the impression of kindness and sympathy from him. Petty cares and troubles often embitter one,

**BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.**

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*No Stratek  
I learned  
to run from  
Dinner Point*

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

but great suffering and pain develop the feeling of human brotherhood. I doubt very much whether one has ever progressed except through pain. In the voices of the great souls of all ages may be heard a suggestion of the minor note. Those who have suffered—who have felt the deadly grip upon the heart—understand their fellow-men and women, and find it easy to speak the kindly word, send the loving glance, give the warm hand-clasp. Their blood is warm and their hearts beat strong—they understand without being told. Much of the best of life has come to us through sorrow—when we understand this we know many things.—New Thought.

Try reading The Mail.



# 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, OUTFITS, 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 ...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.

**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.

**THE FARMERS' DEPARTMENT** 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. 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

#### The Two Widows at Coberg.

The whirligig of time sometimes moves over a small cycle in its quick rotation of events. Who would have prophesied forty years ago that the widow of Ulysses Grant and the widow of Jefferson Davis would be intimate friends in the year 1902?

The impression and somewhat pathetic intimacy of these two notable women was brought about by propinquity.

During the past summer Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Davis have stayed in the little Canadian village at Coberg. Without knowing it they selected adjoining cottages and thus came to see each other every day.

It is not known who made the first advances toward acquaintance, but the two women were seen sitting side by side every day for weeks. They held themselves aloof from the other cottagers and seemed absorbed in each other's company.

What a theme for an American artist!

It should be painted and hung as a companion piece to Appomattox when Grant said to the beleaguered and worn remnant of the ragged Confederacy: "Keep your horses, you will need them to plow your fields."

Ulysses Grant sleeps beneath the tomb of a conqueror and the soil of Virginia wraps the clay of Jefferson Davis. The path of glory and defeat leads but to the grave, where bitterness and hate are at an end. Along with these two great leaders lie the host who died:

"Under the sod and the dew,  
Waiting the judgement day;  
Under the laurel the blue,  
Under the willow the gray."

—Fannin County Favorite.

#### The Battle of Fredericksburg.

In the flight of time and in this era of peace and prosperity, when the war cloud no longer hovers threatening o're the land, when the earth no longer resounds with the tread of martial host, men and women are apt to forget that things were once different—apt to forget that this fair Southland, which we love with that devotion peculiar to the descendants of the cavalier was once the scene of carnage and strife; apt to forget that our own city of Fredericksburg was offered as a sacrifice to the South's glorious cause, and yet forty years ago she braved a danger so terrible as to cause even the most courageous hearts within her confines

### 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

to shrink with terror from the results. Wrapped as she was in the fearful embrace of Federal shell and canister, she bore it silently, uncomplainingly, because the South demanded the sacrifice. She saw her people driven from their homes, their property destroyed, their lives in many cases sacrificed, and yet the glory of her fate more than repaid the loss. Fredericksburg stands today a monument of Southern patriotism. On the border of the Northern country she encountered such evils during the years of the Civil War as would have dwarfed the sacrifices made by the Russian towns when the Emperor Napoleon with his legions undertook to conquer that country. She bore the brunt of the battle shock, but she has survived and today her people with one accord are resolved that she shall become as grand in peace as she was brave in war; that the recollection of that struggle and of the courage of her people then shall be to her people now an incentive to place her at the front of the industrial army of this century. A remnant of the men who placed the South's fame on an immortal tablet of glory live yet to tell of the part Fredericksburg played in the great war of the States, but succeeding roll call on this anniversary will find the list of absent ones increased. Death is mowing them down, but time, at whose behest men are forgotten, can not efface the memory nor mar the grandeur of the men who battled at Fredericksburg. The glory of their deeds will live forever and forever.

"One hundred dollar fine and sixty days in jail," was the sentence pronounced against Blind Tiger Morgan Wednesday afternoon. A most righteous verdict. In every one of the other thirty-two cases against him and the other two of his gang the same sentence by all means should be declared. No men that ever violated law, more fully deserve the extremest penalty that can be inflicted.—Colorado Spokesman.

Here is to your good health, gentlemen of the Legislature. May wisdom and justice abide with you to the end that much needed legislation may be enacted.

## 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 Marlaria. Vigorous health and strength always follow their use. Only 50, guaranteed by Rust & Pittard druggist.

### Heads Shoud 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 Bilioussness. 25c at Rust & Pittard drug store.

### 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.