

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, JANUARY 29, 1903.

NO. 49.



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.

An Entertaining Evening.

There is usually a period in every young man's life when his idea of having a good time means being away from home. He forgets what the father of the young man in this story from the New York Times took effective means to make his son remember. The young man had to work till six o'clock, and had got into the habit of staying down town to dinner and spending his evenings at the theater or in calling on friends. One afternoon his father came to him and asked him if he had any engagements for evening. The young man had not.

"Well, I'd like to have you go somewhere with me."

The young man himself tells what happened:

"All right, I said. 'Where shall I meet you?'"

He suggested the Columbia Hotel at half past seven; and I was there, prepared for the theater and a quiet lecture on late hours. He had combined the two on several previous occasions.

But when he appeared he said he wanted me to call with him on a lady. 'One I knew quite well when I was a young man,' he explained.

"We went out and started straight for home."

"She is staying at our house he said."

"I thought it strange that he should have made the appointment for the Columbia under those circumstances, but I said nothing."

"Well, we went in, and I was introduced with all due formality to my mother and my sister."

"The situation struck me as

funny, and I started to laugh, but the laugh died away. None of the three even smiled. My mother and my sister shook hands with me, and my mother said she remembered me as a boy but hadn't seen much of me lately. Then she invited me to be seated.

"It wasn't a bit funny then, although I can laugh over it now. I sat down, and she told me one or two anecdotes of my boyhood, at which we all laughed a little. Then we four played whist for a while. When I finally retired I was invited to call again. I went up stairs feeling pretty small and doing a good deal of thinking."

"And then? asked his companion."

"Then I made up my mind that my mother was an entertaining woman and my sister a bright girl."

"I'm going to cultivate their acquaintance."

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.

Synopsis of Gov. Lauham's Message

Indorsing the recommendation made by Gov. Sayers, Gov. Lanham recommends that it is the part of wisdom to appropriate sufficient money for the proper conduct of the various State departments and institutions.

All platform demands, so far as the constitution will permit, should be enacted into laws.

Legitimate capital should be encouraged, but a new and strong

anti-trust law, to take the place of those of 1889, 1895 and 1899, held by many to be unconstitutional, should be enacted.

Laws should be passed to protect primary elections from fraud.

All taxation should be equal, and no property should escape its share of burden. Rich counties should not be permitted to scale down their assessable values.

Short term convicts should be worked on public highways and long term men within the walls.

Regarding the Rusk iron foundry, the Governor recommends that it be not abandoned until it has been ascertained why it has not been a paying venture. Its operation would furnish work for long term convicts who must be kept at work even at a financial loss. Besides, if the furnace can be successfully operated it would be a magnificent advertisement of Texas mineral resources.

School laws should be revised and made uniform and educational institutions and public schools be properly provided for.

A thorough system of accurately keeping public accounts is needed.

Legislators are urged to avoid absenteeism and be diligent and punctual.

Marriage and Divorce.

American Medicine.

Statistics of marriage and divorce, according to Federation, suggest some interesting comparisons. The divorces in Cook County, Illinois, in 1901 was nearly 11 per cent of the recorded marriages of the same period, and in San Francisco were 23 per cent, while in New York they were but 2.4 per cent. Marital relationships in the Eastern States and cities are bad enough, but it appears that the

laws of New York State do not lend themselves so readily to the dissolution of marriage contracts as do those of some other communities. Such facts support the contention of those who are urging the enactment of national laws concerning marriage and divorce, or, if this is unconstitutional, of some kind of uniformity of all the State laws as shall do away with the present scandalous license and injustice. The foundation of civilized society is the family and stable marriage relations. In a multitude of ways such stability touches medicine and none is more concerned in the results than the physician.

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.

Produce

Eggs
Chickens
Butter, Etc.

Frying size chickens from \$1.90 to \$2.40 dz
Eggs.....15c dz
Corn chops, per 100 lbs.....\$1.35

Groceries

Flour
Meat
Lard, Etc.

18 lb best granulated sugar for.....\$1.00
19 lb No. 2 granulated sugar for..... 1.00
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.

FARM AND RANCH.

Selected.

It would be far better for the country and better for the farms, and much better for the farmers if two-thirds of every farm of 80 acres or more, was devoted to raising feed crops and pasturage, all to be consumed on the farm where grown. To grow stock feed for others to use in making beef, pork, wool or mutton is not the best way to do the thing, for the inevitable tendency to wear out the farm, and make it progressively unprofitable. The tendency of livestock intelligently handled is to enrich the farmer and the farm. When a farmer finds his soil becoming more and more productive, his spirits are revived, and he begins to feel an interest in his work. The Southwest is well adapted to stock farming as is proven by the fact that our most prosperous farmers are our stock farmers. Who will take the hint and act upon it?

† †

Considering the work required to grow it, there is hardly any better feed crop known to the south than sweet potatoes. When grown for stock feed, for cows, horses or hogs, the prolific West India varieties should be planted, because they yield more per acre. The roots are excellent food for all domestic animals, and 250 bushels per acre is not an unusual yield. The vines also make excellent feed, green or dried. One hundred and fifty pounds of sweet potatoes, in feeding value, are worth as much as 100 pounds of corn. Thirteen hundred pounds of potatoes may be grown on an acre of land and 2,800 pounds of corn.

† †

Science is necessary in the practice of medicine, law, theology, civil engineering, surveying, topography, geology, every branch of natural history, mining, mechanical engineering, architecture and building. No one sneers at scientific principles as applied to these callings, but when we mention scientific farming the sneer comes to the surface to pour a little ridicule upon what he calls "book farming." As a matter of fact agriculture in its various branches has to deal with a greater number of distinct sciences than any other calling known.

† †

Instead of hurrying up to get corn planted early so as to beat drought, it is better to wait until the season is warm enough to insure a perfect stand. There is no more unprofitable work on a farm than replanting to correct the error mentioned, for the replant rarely pays for the seed used. Often it would be better to plow the whole thing up and plant anew. Instead of becoming impatient of delay, spend the time getting the soil in good condition, for additional harrowing may increase the yield two to four bushels per acre. A good plan is to spend more labor in

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

Aguascalientes (Hot Water) is the capital of the state of the same name, distant from El Paso 860 miles. Population 31,619, elevation 6,179 feet above sea level. The population of the state is 142,000. The principal shops of the Mexican Central Railway are here, also a fine railroad hospital. There are several woolen mills where beautiful blankets and "zerapes" are made, a large flour mill and a starch mill. One of the largest smelting works in the world is here, where silver ore from the different mines in the Republic are worked; even ore from some mines in the United States is brought here. It is the busiest city we have struck in Mexico. The hotel accommodations are very good and the rates reasonable. In the market near the center of the city we found a wonderful variety and quantity of vegetables; fruits were not so much in evidence, but the vegetables were a sight. The street between the market house and a large church was almost blocked by booths where vegetables were for sale, and large piles of melons of every sort. It was a feast day and the churches were crowded with worshippers, while those who could not get inside formed a line from the door reaching through the yard to the street, all kneeling. The bells kept up a continual clatter. The bells in the Mexican churches are not rung like ours—with a rope—but the large ones are stationary and they are rung by boys or men who grasp a short rope tied to the clapper and swing it to and fro. Further up in the steeple were smaller bells where boys would turn them with their feet and hands till they would whirl around like so many wheels.

Nearly every Mexican town has some special line of industry, with "Aguas" it is drawn work. This beautiful needle work is highly prized in the United States and in Europe. Every train is besieged by men and women selling it. The prices are cheap if you know how to buy, but don't be guilty of paying the first price asked, as that would astonish them and deprive them of much of the pleasure of bantering, for they generally ask about double what they expect to get. It is amusing to watch a buyer and a seller when both are ex-

preparing the land and no less in after cultivation.

Mrs. J. W. Hampton has returned to Abilene.

Mrs. Geo. S. Berry visited in Abilene Tuesday.

We sell the New Royal sewing machine.

W. P. Browning & Co.

Red Box.

We have placed in our window a glass box containing \$20.00

We will give a key to this box free with every \$2.00 cash purchase; 2 keys with \$4.00 cash purchase; 3 keys with \$6.00 cash purchase. Only 3 keys will unlock box. When keys are all out you may try your key.

First key to unlock the box takes \$10.00.

Second key to unlock the box takes \$6.00.

Third key to unlock the box takes \$4.

J. T. Warren.

perts at "barter." "What is the price of this very common piece of work senora?" Oh, my dear friend, this is a fine piece of work. My daughter "Panchita" made it and she is counted the best in the city. I am muy pobre (very poor) and I am compelled to sell; I will take dos pesos (two dollars). Dos pesos, carramba! No, senora, it is not worth una (one)—seis reales (75c) would be enough. Balgame a Dios, senora, no, but you can have it for catorce reales (\$1.75)—and you won't take it for that? Then doce reales (\$1.50). And thus they go till finally they agree on dies reales (\$1.25). The purchaser pays the money and enters the train congratulating herself on her cheap purchase, the product of perhaps three or four days labor.

There are several large stores where needle work is sold. From the amount shown there and on the streets and at the trains a good part of the inhabitants must be engaged in this drawn work industry.

The city takes its name from the hot springs that are about a mile east of the city. A street car line runs to the springs. They seem to all come out of a low hill. The bath houses are very neat and kept in order by a number of attendants, each one provided with a table, chairs, soap and towels. The charge for each bath is 25c. Although all coming from the ground quite close together, they are of different temperatures, ranging from quite cold to very hot. Some have medicinal properties—sulphur in some and magnesia in others, but I do not believe they are equal to the hot springs at Santa Rosalia and several other places in the Republic. There are about forty baths in all. The surplus water runs into a lake about an acre in area. Formerly the water was brought to the city in a large ditch that would be full of the poorer classes all day long, but they now bring it down in pipes, and in the city are free baths.

The climate is very fine. The Presbyterians have a flourishing mission here. A branch road from here goes to Tampico by way of San Luis Potosi, and is said to be one of the most picturesque pieces of railway in North America.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

Elzie Easterwood Freed.

Elzie Easterwood, who was sentenced from this county for participation in the murder of young Baker at this place Dec. 24, 1902, was pardoned by Gov. Sayers just before his retirement from office and is now a free man. He arrived Saturday and was given a cordial reception by his family and former friends. Easterwood was serving a 25 year sentence and his partner in the crime, Sam Hamblin, was sent up for life.

The crime for which Easterwood was convicted was a most deplorable one, but his friends will rejoice that he came under the good graces of the governor, and hope for his future happiness and prosperity.

We will make you some close prices on iron and wood beds.

W. P. Browning & Co.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

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.

Defenders of the Alamo.

The December number of the World's Work contains an entertaining article from the pen of the late Frank Norris, the bright young novelist, on the subject of the American epic and its neglect, in which, after discussing other features, he makes this reference to the cradling of Texas liberty:

"And the Alamo! There is a trumpet call in the word; and only the look of it on the printed page is a flash of fire. But the very histories slight the deed, and to many an American, born under the same flag that the Mexican rifles shot to ribbons on that splendid day, the word is meaningless. Yet Thermopylae was less glorious and in comparison with that siege the investment of Troy was mere wanton riot. At the very least the Texans in that battered adobe church fought for the honor of their flag and the greater glory of their country, not for loot or the possession of the person of an adulteress. Young men are taught to consider the Iliad, with its butcheries and its glorification of inordinate selfishness and vanity, as a classic. Achilles, murderer, egoist, ruffian and liar, is a hero. But the name of Bowie, the name of the man who gave his flag at the Alamo is perpetuated only in the designation of a knife. Crockett is the hero only of a "funny story" about a sagacious coon; while Travis, the boy commander who did what Gordon with an empire back of him failed to do,

is quietly and definitely ignored. He died in defiance of an ideal, an epic hero, a legendary figure, formidable, sad. He died facing down injustice, dishonesty and crime: died 'in his boots;' and the same world that has gloried Achilles and forgotten Travis finds none so poor to do him reverence."

Meanderings.

A city girl writes: "It is a fond dream of mine to become a farmer's wife and meander with him down life's pathway, says an exchange. Ah yes, that is a nice thing, but when your husband meanders off and leaves you without wood, and you have to meander up and down the land pulling splinters off the fence to cook dinner, and when you meander around in the wet grass in search of the cow till your shoes are the color of raw hide and your stockings soaked, and when you meander out across acres of plowed ground to drive the hogs out of the cornfield and tear your dress on a barbed wire fence; when you meander back home and find the billy goat had butted the stuffing out of a child and find the old hen and forty chickens in the parlor, you'll put your hands on your hips and realize that meandering is not what it is cracked up to be.

We now have two first class tubs and hereafter our bath house will not be opened on Sunday. Remember this, please.

Pate & Rollins.

Now's the time to advertise.

If you want a Sulky Plow, don't fail to see the implement that revolutionized riding plow construction

The J. I. Case TRIUMPH

There are over 100,000 J.I. Case "TRIUMPH" Sulky Plows in actual and satisfactory use to-day.

Remember that the TRIUMPH has many excellent points not possessed by other plows; that it is the lightest draft plow on the market.

Yes, 1,000,000 TRIUMPH plows in actual and satisfactory use.

Do you want the best?

The TRIUMPH is best by test.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,
ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

MERKEL.

The town of Merkel is an exceptional town. It has about 1,000 souls and is in the heart of the finest belt of farming lands west of Cisco; and with the excellent service of the T. & P. R., together with the wide awake business men of this place, it has the largest traffic of any town in this section. It is comparatively free from the vice that is to be found in most towns. Really there is but one den of vice to be found here, and we feel assured, by the many expressions of the good people of Merkel, that this place will not be tolerated always. May God speed the day when it shall be no more. There is, also, a healthy prohibition sentiment in the town which was shown by the large majority of pro votes in the last election. Nevertheless we fear that many of the people of Merkel, both old and young are too frequently bowing at the shrine of the gods of this world. Let the watchword of this good people be, "Back to God" And when we all shall have come to bow in submission before the God who made us, we shall experience that joy for which the heart pants; and discover that "ineffable" glory of the Son which he had with the Father before the world was. Let no one lose sight of the fact that God is able to save to the uttermost all who will come unto him; and let our faith in this great truth inspire us to a more noble life of usefulness in the vineyard of our Lord.—Rev. R. B. Young in Christian Advocate.

The editor's little boy is suffering from a severe attack of pneumonia and is very sick, with no symptoms of a change for the better. We hope, however, for his early improvement. There are several cases of this ailment reported in the town, among them being the infant child of Tyra Compton and Hayne Hughes' little daughter. The unsettled and changeable condition of the weather is liable to produce other cases.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

Eddie's New Year's Resolution.

BY KENNETH HARRIS.
(Copyright, 1902, by Daily Story Pub. Co.)

It altogether depended on the point of view whether it could have been called a bad habit, but it has become a habit, and Eddie Baxter was completely its slave. First he dallied with it occasionally. He did not have to acquire the taste; it struck him as rather pleasant from the first, still, if he indulged himself once in two weeks or so it was as much as he particularly cared for. That might have gone on much longer, or at least merged by more imperceptible gradations into the habit if he had not left town for a month.

It is one thing to be near a thing of that sort, where you know that if you are in pressing need of it you can satisfy your yearning at almost any time, and another to be miles away from anything approaching the altogether superior quality of the article you have become accustomed to. Under these circumstances some men will take what they can get and make the best of it, but Eddie was not that kind of a man. What there was in Calamus Center did not appeal to him in the least. He was conscious of a vague feeling of uneasiness and emptiness all the time. He took it for dyspepsia at first and endeavored to overcome it by abstaining from the hot biscuits that they served with every meal and dosing himself with some little white pellets that he procured at a drug store. As these measures failed to afford him relief he set it down to the altitude and returned home a week earlier than he expected.

Almost unconsciously his footsteps strayed to the place where the potion was dispensed and the draught that he took was somewhat deeper than any he had taken before, whereupon, though he did not notice it at the time, the feeling of uneasiness and emptiness left him and he went away experiencing an unwonted exhilaration. He ought to have realized the nearness of the slope of descent—that in fact, he was already upon it, when within three days he returned for more of the elixir; but for some time after that even, he remained unaware that it was not a thing he could, in the customary phrase, "take or let alone." Other people noticed it and began to wag their heads wisely; some ventured to give Eddie a little well meant advice, but he only laughed at these solicitous friends.

Shortly after that he tried it. It had disagreed with him and he decided that he would be better off without it. He was restless and miserable for three days, and the feeling of uneasiness and emptiness returned to him with tenfold force. Then he realized that he had in truth got into the clutches of the habit and held a long session of self-communion. Later he unbosomed himself to a friend of experience and asked for his advice. "My son," said the person of experience, gravely, "I don't see that you have any cause for worry, though these moments of remorse are inevit-

able. If you took a hair off the dog that has bitten you—in fact, several hairs—I think it would do you good. I have known that to answer in several cases that have come under my observation. I can not recommend total abstinence, because I am pretty sure that you would not be equal to it. Do you really want to quit?"

"I'm not dead sure," replied Eddie, frankly.

"Well, if you do, you can easily enough, if you'll only allow yourself time."

"That may be in some cases, but an allowance of eternity wouldn't affect me. I'm sure enough of that. That is, unless there was something else to bring my will power into action. I used to think that I had will power."

"The longer most habits continue the stronger they get," observed the person of experience, "but it's different with this one. To begin with, it is seldom well nourished after it gets well started; it becomes hollow-



Unbosomed Himself to a Friend of Experience.

cheeked and feeble in its movements, and after a little while it dies. You wouldn't think to see it begin its career, robust, bright-eyed and full of energy and vigor, but so it is. Frequently, as I have said, it dies from neglect and starvation, but on the other hand it is easily overfed and coddled to death. It is a question which mode of treatment is the more fatal. Perhaps you had better try the over-feeding. Encourage it; don't be content with giving it its regular allowance, but let it piece between meals as often as it wants to. It will soon sicken."

"I tell you," said Eddie, impatiently, "that you've never known of a case that's like mine. I don't think that you understand at all. The more I see of her the more I think of her, and the last time that I saw her I gathered the impression that she wasn't particularly glad to see me."

"That's only natural."

"That she shouldn't want to see me?"

"That she should allow you to get that impression. However, I've got troubles of my own—real troubles, and I can see that you haven't any idea of taking my advice in the matter, or any opinion of my judgment. All you wanted was to unload yourself, and now that you've done it perhaps you'll oblige me by clearing out of here. If you haven't got anything better to do, you might as well put on a clean collar and go and see her again."

This last piece of advice Eddie took.

It is perhaps hardly necessary to say that the girl was as pretty as a



"Will You Help Me?"

picture; that she had a pair of brown eyes, a head of hair that excited the envy of every other girl in her set; that her complexion was good; her teeth even and white, and her figure lithe and graceful. To say that she expressed nothing. All these things a

girl may have and yet not amount to a row of pins, but if the combination is right and the something that looks out of the bright, brown eyes is the one thing the young man has been wanting, it is easy to understand the facility with which a habit may be formed.

"Cocaine, opium, hemp, hashish, whisky and tobacco—all these are nothing to it," mused the person of experience after Eddie had gone his way, to find out that the coldness of his last reception had been purely imaginary. "Can any of these produce the delirium, the madness, the intoxication, stupefaction, drivelling idiocy, ecstatic delight, gloom and despair that this girl habit does? Eddie's right, too, he'll never get over it. If it isn't this one it will be another, and so the old thing goes. It would be a good time, though, for him to swear off."

The reason that the person of experience said this was that it was New Year's Eve. So obvious was the idea that it occurred to Eddie also, and he turned it over in his mind all the time that he was putting on his clean collar, and he thought of it over and over, and in all its various aspects as he walked to the house, and all the time that her father was talking politics and the war of the rebellion to him he was still thinking what a good time it would be to swear off.

After a little he had an opportunity to talk to the girl himself. If a young man conducts himself in a proper manner, and there is nothing in particular to be urged against him, these opportunities are bound to occur sometime or another. At first they did not talk very much, which was principally because they had so much to say that they didn't like to talk about, but it was not hard to get to New Year's resolutions.

"I don't drink more than a strictly temperate man should," said Eddie, "and I don't smoke to excess. I'm in doubt what to give up. Most people have bad habits or vices, that they may abandon, but I am in a dicken's of a fix, owing to the state of perfection I have arrived at."

"You have my sympathy," said the girl. "It's very sad; haven't you a single redeeming vice?"

"There is one habit I've got that I might give up," continued Eddie, reflectively. "It's got a terrible hold of me, and I'm getting anxious about it, but I've got to have help. Your father suggested that I should taper off some time ago and offered to help me, but you're the only one who can do it."

"Tell me what it is," said the girl.

"Coming around here seven nights in the week to see you," said Eddie, taking her hand.

She tried to withdraw it, and looked at him in some distress.

"Of course, if you don't want to come—" she began.

"No," said Eddie, "I don't want to come—not oftener than I have to. I want to stop at home and see you seven nights in the week—except when we have to go out. Will you help me?"

"Hark! The bells are beginning to ring now. Look at your watch."

"Will you help me?"

"Oh, I don't know, Eddie, I—I guess so."

"Then," said Eddie, raising his hand as the whistles from the factories and the blast of horns added their clamor to the bells, "I swear off right now."

Did you ever see a fat person who was not jolly? Laughter is the best medicine in the world. Laugh whenever you can, and at everything you can. You may laugh at yourself, and with yourself. There is a certain physiological effect of laughing; it starts up the circulation by dilating the arteries, and hastens the blood current always stimulates the mental activity, and thus nourishes the mind. The cells of the body become built up anew by the increase of blood-flow, and the body thus becomes plump. The lungs are exercised by laughter, and their capacity becomes greater to take in more oxygen; oxygen is the food of all the tissues of the body. So, if you wish to improve your general health and become plump, just "laugh and grow fat."—Selected.

A country boy was leaving his home to seek his fortune in the city, and his father, when the time came for saying good-bye, used the opportunity to deliver some good advice: "Beware of gamblers, son," he said; "They'll skin you. Leave cards alone; don't touch 'em. They are worse than the plague. But

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.

if you must play, shuffle and cut, son, shuffle and cut. They'll skin you just the same, son, but it will take them longer."—Ex.

The clothespress is a swell affair for garments nice and neat; the hay press is a good machine and does its work complete: the cider press lovely with its juice so red and sweet, but the printing press controls the world and gets there with both feet.—Exchange.

League Program.

Leader—Miss Clara Brown-ing.

Topic—Decide today.

Scripture lesson—Heb. 3:7-14.

Reference—Ex. 14:13, Ps. 95:

7, Matt. 21:28.

Salvation for all—Miss Edith Freemon.

Opportunity for all—Miss Laura Herring.

Choice is free—Miss Duncan Browning.

The wrath of God.—W. L. Harkrider.

Decide today—Miss Effie Barnes.

Music and prayer as desired by leader.

Feb. 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Comegys entertained the young people in a

pleasing manner Tuesday night.

Subscription Rates:

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

ADVERTISING RATES per month

One inch space	\$.50
Two inch space	1.00
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches)	2.50
Half column (9 inches)	4.00
One column (18 inches)	7.50
Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.	

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

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.

Will wonders never cease? The National Association of Retail Liquor Dealers recently passed this amazing resolution: "Recognizing the weakness of human nature, we are ready to lend our influence to the reform of the drunkard and the curtailment of the evil resulting from excessive indulgence." Strange, isn't it? A few short months ago the president of this organization issued a circular letter in which was embodied the sense that if the liquor business was to be perpetuated new appetites for strong drinks must be created, and recommending treats to the boys as a remedy. This statement had such a salutary effect upon the prohibition movement that an effort to suppress it was made. This last resolution comes in the nature of a peace offering. But prohibition has the start and nothing can check its onward march.

The Mail is a firm believer in the wisdom of Texas laws. We believe that they were passed only after due consideration upon the part of the law makers, and that, therefore, they should be enforced at any cost. And it is the duty of every citizen to see that they are enforced. The officers should be encouraged to enforce them, and if they won't do it, their actions should be roundly condemned. The laws are being transgressed every day and in many instances these open violations are winked at by the officers. If the laws can not be enforced by all means scratch them from the statute books. It is a poor justice when one man is convicted and another, who is guilty of the same offense, is turned loose.

The two blind tigers at Colorado went up against the real thing. Their reception was cordial indeed. And the result? Look at this: Morgan, six convictions, total fine of \$250 and 170 days in jail; Faucett, three convictions, total fine of \$150 and

100 days in jail. This tells the story. Evidently they are paying dearly for their law breaking, and the good people of Colorado are entitled to great praise for their efforts in ridding the town of these varments. The papers, too, deserve much credit. The breweries and liquor dealers will readily meet the fines, but there can be no substitute for the imprisonment part of the program.

There is one thing The Star would like to see, that is a joint resolution amending the constitution extending the term of all state and county officers to four years. There is no earthly reason why we should have a state election every two years. Let's change the constitution and do it now.—Baird Star.

This kind of an argument is very unbecoming to a newspaper man. By acclaiming for a four year term the Star is virtually asking to be deprived of one of its most fruitful sources of revenue—announcements. It is certainly amazing that the Star can favor a measure which saps at the prosperity of the newspapers, and tends to cut down the daily rations of the poorly paid editors. "Go away back and sit down."

The retirement of the venerable John H. Reagan from the Texas Railroad Commission marks the passing from public life of one of the world's greatest men—greatest, because there has never been the least taint of scandal or irregularity attached to his career. Few men in the public service can boast of such a record, and few men retire from public life with greater love and respect than is felt for Judge John H. Reagan. Judge Reagan will devote his time to the preparation of memorials embracing sixty years of public service.

Representative Bryan and others have introduced a bill in the House entitled, an act to abolish the absolute lease line and provide for sale and lease of public free school and asylum lands of the State. This bill and the one relating to the quarantine line are of general importance to the people of West Texas, and it is safe to say that a battle royal will ensue when they are brought up for debate.

Governor Sayers, as a last official act before retiring from office, issued pardons for seventy-two convicts, nineteen of whom were life term men. This indiscriminate use of the pardoning power will not add to the luster of the retiring governor's record. The peace and dignity of the State demands the rigid enforcement and execution of the law.

The coal tariff has been removed for one year, but that is the limit. Hence the coal trust is still "it."

Have you purchased your voting privilege yet? If not, you'd better do so at once, for it will be too late after this week.

Everything betokens prosperity all along the line.

Have you got your voting privilege on straight?

Don't let up on the waterworks question.

How about incorporating the town? Put on your thinkodak.

Keep up the work of improving the streets.

Stockmen are smiling in anticipation of an early rise in the price of cattle.

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
					\$61,500

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

The Merkel Mail takes exceptions to the Review's statement, made in a previous issue, that our new school building will be the nicest and best one between Ft. Worth and El Paso. Editor Leeman says Merkel's new building, which is now receiving the finishing touches, will compare favorably with any similar building in the west. Be this as it may, although we are not from Missouri, he'll have to show us.—Sweetwater Review.

The Review needn't get it into his head that we are going to pack the building up there for him to look at, for we are not. Besides, Sweetwater has a knack of holding on to every good thing that comes her way, and if she should find an enterprise of the value of the Merkel school building floating around, it would be "strayed" forthwith and immediately. If the Review has to be shown, let it gaze on the following picture and weep:



Merkel Public School Building

There are many ways in which incorporation would help the town and that, too, without increasing our taxes. Put on your thinkodak.

The Texas Legislature has started off at a brisk gait, and many wholesome views on pending legislation have been expressed by members of both houses. All of which goes to show that the Twenty-Eighth Legislature is composed of some good material.

The acreage in oats promises to be large this year. It will show a healthy increase over last year. This is as it should be. Let our farmers plant everything that can be grown on the farm, or, to be brief, let them practice diversification.

The bill introduced in the House, which provides that nine jurors may bring in a verdict in civil cases, is a good one. Recent trials in this county have demonstrated the need of such a law. As the law now stands, one stubborn juror has the power to defeat the ends of justice, as well as entail a heavy cost to the county. Let the law be passed by all means.

Crop prospects are looming up, and this promises to be the most prosperous year in the history of the country.

The humane societies are after congress with a sharp stick. Through the instrumentality of the railroads a bill is pending which extends the time in which cattle can be kept in cars without stopping for feed and water. The limit is now thirty-six hours, and the bill seeks to extend the time twelve hours longer.

Hogs are worth almost their weight in—bacon. This would be a mighty good year to "plant hogs."

A Chapter on Boll Worms.

The general discussion of the boll weevil question has put the farmers to thinking, and many of them have started in to investigate on their own hook. If no other good is accomplished this alone will pay those who have been first and foremost in the work of education.

Thursday J. R. Pee, who lives three miles west of town, brought a cotton stalk to this office which, to those who saw it, was a source of much curiosity. Imbedded in the stalk was a score or more of small worms. Some of them were just hatching out, others were just able to wiggle, while still others were eating their way out. Many deposits of eggs could be seen. No one could analyze his wormship, but it was generally agreed that the egg deposits were made by boll worms. The stalk showed where they had bored in and it is evident that the litter was hibernating and preparing to come forth later on as a fully matured insect of the boll worm species.

Mr. Pee examined many stalks and found nearly all of them affected in pretty much the same manner. He agreed with The Mail that something must be done to destroy this pest, and will try deep plowing, turning the stalks under to a considerable depth, as a remedy.

The Mail hopes this information will open the eyes of others and cause them to make further investigations along this line. The prosperity of the country was decreased fully one-half by the ravages of the boll worms last year. If there is any remedy the people want to know it. Report the results of your investigations to The Mail that others may get the benefit of them.

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS.

If we aspire to walk in the power of the new life, we must cast away all hindrances; and it must cost something we really value.—Charles G. Gordon.

Look not mournfully to the past; it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present; it is

Reduction Sale....

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a courageous heart.—

Those who love God are encompassed with gladness on every hand, because in every passing moment they see and feel a Father's love; and nothing of this world can take it away or lessen it.—H. L. Sidney Lear.

"As a man thinks, so is he," and it is also true "your thoughts are the invisible influence which gives complexion to your life, even as the insect is colored by the leaf on which it feeds."

It is a great deal easier to do that which God gives us to do, no matter how hard it is, than to face the responsibility for not doing it. We have abundant assurance that we shall receive all the strength we need to perform any duty God allots to us.—J. R. Miller.

It is true that love can not be forced, that it can not be made to order, that we can not love because we ought, or even because we want. But we can bring ourselves into the presence of the lovable. We can enter into Friendship through the door of Decipleship. We can learn to love through service.—Hugh Black.

We should draw our life's inspiration, not from memory, not from the past, but from hope; not from what is gone, but which is yet to come. Forgetting the things which are behind, we should reach forward to those things which are before.

Society may wear a new face; customs may vary; rules and standards, like human opinions, may change. But the soul and its life, man's religious aspirations and his religious activities—these abide.—Spaulding.

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.

I. S. Allen has purchased the J. L. Reed residence in South Merkel and will take possession right away.

A Money Maker.

A good brood sow is the best money maker on the farm.

In this connection W. C. Calvert tells a hog story that furnishes interesting reading, and the beauty of it is, it's true. Six months ago he bought a sow which cost him a little over \$6. To date her increase has netted him \$25 profit on the investment, and he has left two shoats which will dress between 300 and 400 pounds. At the end of another six months he hopes to increase the profits to \$40 or \$50.

What per cent did he realize on the investment? Figure it up yourself, and while you are figuring just see how much could be realized in clear profit on ten sows. It is a story with a moral and the moral is, "plant hogs."

Herbert Browning Dead.

The announcement of the death of Herbert Browning, which occurred at the family home Friday night at 11 o'clock, cast a veil of sadness over the entire town.

Last summer Herbert, who had just previously returned from a service of 22 months with the American army in the Philippines, came home broken down in health and but a mere shadow of his former self. A stay of a few weeks here gave him a new lease on life and he returned to San Francisco, Cal., to resume his studies in the veterinary department of a college there. But the long service in the Philippines, together with the exposure to all kinds of weather, brought on that dread disease, consumption. He fought valiantly against it, but early in December gave up all hopes and returned home, as he said, to die. The end came all too soon. It is sad indeed that so promising a career was nipped in the bud.

It has been the privilege of the writer to know Herbert intimately for ten years and during all that time no word of reproach has been uttered against him. He was a model young man. No more enduring monument could be erected to his memory. He gave his life to his country and died with the knowledge that he had done his duty in every sense of the word.

Herbert was 29 years old, and, for fourteen or fifteen years had resided here. He was loved and esteemed by all who knew him. The interment took place at the Merkel cemetery Saturday evening at 3:30 o'clock, but at the request of the family, the deceased having often expressed such a desire, the services were short and simple, consisting of a song, a prayer, and the reading of a favorite passage of scripture, after which the body was lowered to the grave. Among the pall bearers were several former associates of the deceased, which made the scene all the more affecting.

The Mail tenders its deepest sympathy to the sorrowing relatives. May God comfort them in this hour of affliction.

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.

N. J. Rawlins was down from Fisher county Tuesday and remembered The Mail. Mr. Rawlins says farm work is moving along nicely in his neighborhood.

It Pays to Advertise.

Editor Mail:—Permit me to say that no local ad in The Mail of last week, describing a house and three lots as a special bargain, found a buyer before the paper got cold. I might add that it certainly pays to advertise.

W. W. Wheeler.

We have a complete line of horse jewelry.

J. T. Warren.

County Surveyor W. A. Riney and Miss Norma Harkrider were married at Abilene last Thursday night. Mr. Riney is a promising young man, while the bride, who is a sister of Miss Opal Harkrider, one of our efficient teachers, is a rare prize. The Mail tenders its very best wishes.

A company capitalized at \$5,000 has been organized at Merkel to put in an electric light plant. Work is to commence on the plant at once.—Sweetwater Review.

Buy your collars, hames, traces of Warren.

Just received shipment of Cox & Gordon lard and hams.

The Star Store.

G. R. Pettis has been taken to Eastland and placed in jail to await his trial in the spring.

Mrs. T. A. Johnson is visiting in Eastland county, having accompanied her sister home last week.

W. P. Browning and family request The Mail to extend their sincere thanks to the kind friends who were so helpful in their ministrations to the son and brother in his fatal illness, and also for the kindness shown the family in their sore bereavement.

Rev. Hairfield was a pleasant caller Tuesday and ordered the address of his paper changed from Abilene to Merkel. He seems well pleased with his environments here.

We have the best horse collars to be had for the money.

J. T. Warren.

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.

W. W. Cypert arrived with his family from Hico Monday. Mrs. Cypert expressed herself as delighted with the country and we feel sure that among our people she will meet with a hearty welcome. Mr. Cypert purchased a farm near town during a former visit here.

A rumor is out in town that Maxwell & Sons had just received 450 lbs. candy embracing 50 varieties. Upon investigation the rumor was found to be true. Call and see for yourself.

A case against Mrs. J. N. Harris, of the Hylton community was tried in county court Thursday evening. The defendant was adjudged insane, and will be conveyed to the asylum as soon as arrangements can be made for her admittance.—Sweetwater Reporter.

Mrs. S. J. Wallace of Cisco is visiting her mother, Mrs. F. E. Allyn.

Should Be Fixed.

There are two or three bridges on the Merkel and Abilene road that need attention. They should be repaired or replaced with new ones before some serious accident occurs. The attention of commissions of the two precincts embraced in the territory traversed by the road is called to these deficiencies.

Get a key to the red box at Warren's.

The Salvation Army.

Capt. Taylor, his wife and little daughter, Edna, and Comrade Erwin of the Salvation Army corps, spent from Saturday until Tuesday in Merkel. Services were held at the Methodist church Saturday night and Sunday evening and at the Presbyterian church Monday night. Capt. Taylor is a fine singer and plays both the cornet and guitar. His wife is a forcible and earnest speaker. These people do a great deal of good in the world. They were en route to Dallas to meet Gen. Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army.

Comrade Erwin lived here a few months ago, since which time he has joined the army. He is a brother-in-law of L. A. Freemon.

To The Public.

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

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

The FACTS

In the Case are These

I am again after your trade! As most everyone knows, I sold my business last October and remained with the new firm until January 1. Now I have connected my time and interests with J. T. Warren, who has moved into his new building, which gives ample room for an immense stock of Dry Goods and Groceries.

I will say that the prices on this immense stock are in conformity with the times and quality of goods. We have the Largest stock of Dry Goods, the Best Shoes to be had (they are the celebrated Hamilton-Brown make, largest shoe house in the world), everything in the Grocery line, all the dainties, fancy goods and Staple Goods in any quantity desired. It is your business we want and at this store your \$\$ will buy 100c worth, and we give you the best goods and the best treatment.

So in conclusion we invite you to come and see us; we want you to see our goods and our way of doing business, and see if you don't like it. We do business for the money that's in it and will do all we promise. And we will meet you half way on every deal. Call on us when in town.

Thanking you for past favors, I am yours truly,

AUSTIN FITTS,

With J. T. Warren, Merkel.

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.

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.

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

E. Maxwell.

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.

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

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

E. Maxwell.

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.

Miss Grace Reddell of Abilene visited in Merkel Sunday.

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 Sep. 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.

WEEDS

Consumption is a human weed flourishing best in weak lungs. Like other weeds it's easily destroyed while young; when old, sometimes impossible.

Strengthen the lungs as you would weak land and the weeds will disappear.

The best lung fertilizer is Scott's Emulsion. Salt pork is good too, but it is very hard to digest.

The time to treat consumption is when you begin trying to hide it from yourself. Others see it, you won't.

Don't wait until you can't deceive yourself any longer. Begin with the first thought to take Scott's Emulsion. If it isn't really consumption so much the better; you will soon forget it and be better for the treatment. If it is consumption you can't expect to be cured at once, but if you will begin in time and will be rigidly regular in your treatment you will win.

Scott's Emulsion, fresh air, rest all you can, eat all you can, that's the treatment and that's the best treatment.



We will send you a little of the Emulsion free.

Be sure that this picture is 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

Justice Court.

Justice Court, Judge Wheeler, presiding, was in session Saturday, and the following cases were disposed of:

Rollins & Young vs. B. B. Clark et al—judgement for plaintiffs.

Hyman Pickle Co. vs. S. W. Sheppard—judgement for plaintiffs.

T. J. Toombs vs. G. T. Martin—dismissed by agreement at plaintiff's cost.

Thurmond & Comegys vs. B. F. Thomas—passed pending settlement.

W. P. Thurmond vs. G. F. Godfrey—passed pending settlement.

W. P. Thurmond vs. E. F. Ferrell—judgement by default.

J. W. Daniel vs. Vol Martin—writ of sequestration, continued to next term.

J. H. Warnick vs Zade Polk—judgement for plaintiff.

H. O. Wooten vs. M. A. and Nid Matthews—two cases, continued for want of service.

Sam Butman vs. J. P. Perkins—forcible entry and detainer, set for Jan. 31.

A. H. Baker and Miss Ola Armstrong were married at Elmdale yesterday afternoon, Rev. Lee of the Abilene C. P. church officiating. This marriage was a great surprise to the friends of the contracting parties. Hugh Baker is a model young man and has resided here since early manhood, enjoying the confidence and good will of all. The bride is a young lady of many charms. She taught two terms in the music department of the public school here, and by her ladylike demeanor and kind and gentle ways won her way into all hearts. The Mail joins in congratulations and good wishes.

Try reading The Mail.

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.

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. 2t

The town was loaded with gamblers Saturday and Sunday nights, Abilene furnishing a number of these light-fingered gents. It is a deplorable state of affairs when a town must put up with such as this. Is there no remedy?

Words of Appreciation.

The Mail is grateful for the following letter:

Snyder, Tex., Jan. 20—Dear Ed: Don't you stop that paper. If you do, you must come up and fight my "row." I hand you \$2.00, one for H. C. Hayter, the other for myself. Glad your paper is bright. Your people do not appreciate all you do for the town. May your shadow never grow less.

Yours,

B. W. Hudgins.

The Mail's Friends.

W. W. Johnson of Trent renews for The Mail and Dallas News. Mr. Johnson has finished gathering his 1902 cotton and will rush work for spring planting. He does not depend altogether on cotton, but diversifies.

J. W. Campbell was around settling up with the printer Saturday. He has moved from Trent to his farm, west of town.

D. D. Coats has moved to town and by paying cash for his home paper shows that he has the proper requisites of a good citizen.

J. C. Tucker, who is one of the best men in the county, and has long been a valued reader of The Mail, has placed the force under renewed obligations to him.

J. R. Pee is another one of our good friends who remembered us last week in a substantial manner. Mr. Pee is an up-to-date farmer and raises almost everything at home. This idea is growing in favor with the farmers, and when it takes deep root the prosperity of the country will be on a firm basis.

Few And Far Between

A young woman of marriageable age on being asked what kind of a young man she liked best: "I love a young man who loves his mother so fondly that for her sake he is chivalrous to all women. I love a young man who will step out of his way to avoid crushing a worm, and will not deem it beneath his dignity to succor a stray kitten. I love a man who believes there is a nobler life than being a good dancer or a successful society man. I love a man who is not

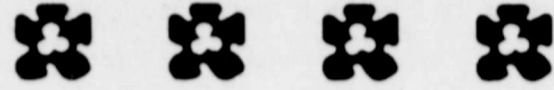
ashamed of tears for others' sorrow, for a tender song, for a beautiful thought. I love a man who hates whiskey as the angels hate Satan and think too much of his brain to make smoked meat of it. I despise a goody goody young man but love a gaad one. I would not like to be third cousin to a dude but I love a young man who is a hale fellow-well-met with nice girls and scorns not the company of a sister."

A Lesson In A Flower

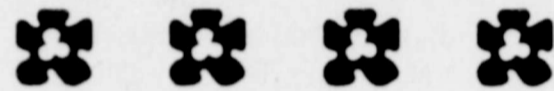
In a sick-room there was a little rosebush in a pot in a window. There was only one rose on the bush, and its face was turned full toward the lighth. This fact was noticed and spoken of, when one said that the rose would look no other way but toward the light. Experiments had been made with it; it had been turned away from the window, its face toward the shadow of the interior, but in a little time it would resume its old position. With wonderful persistence, it refused to face the darkness, and insisted on ever looking toward the light.

The flower has its lesson for us. We should never allow ourselves to face toward life's glooms; we should never sit down in the shadows of any sorrow and let the night darken over us into the gloom of despair; we should turn our face away toward the light and quicken every energy for braver duty and truer, holier service. Grief should always make us better and give us new skill and power; make our hearts softer, our spirits kindlier, our touch more gentle; it should teach us its holy lessons, and we should learn them, and then go on, with sorrow's sacred ordination upon

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.

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.

us, to new love and better service.

Mrs. John Best died at the family home two miles east of town Sunday, after a short illness. She was a good woman, a loving wife and a kind and affectionate mother, and her death has occasioned keenest sorrow in the home. The Mail tenders to

the bereaved ones its deepest sympathy.

(This notice should have appeared last week, but was in some way overlooked in the rush of making up the forms. The Mail for this error begs the kind indulgence of the family.)

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

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. if

Christmas in a Floating Church.

On the North Sea thousands of fishing vessels are occupied all the year round following the schools of fish that are always moving from one place to another. Among this great fleet the vessels of the Deep Sea Mission are always to be found. They each contain a large cabin, in which services are held, the congregation being drawn from the crews of the fishing vessels.

On Christmas Day special services are held in these floating churches, just as they would be on shore. The men who attend the services probably have to row two or three miles on a rough sea in the biting cold of a December morning; but in the floating church they find warmth and comfort.

After the service a well served Christmas dinner is given, at which the customary pudding, with the regulation sprig of holly, appears. Then all the old Christmas ballads are sung by the blue-jerseyed fishermen, to the accompaniment of a small harmonium and the sound of the winds and waves.

At the great codfisheries on the Banks of Newfoundland the floating churches are on an even larger scale. In some cases they are steam vessels, that remain at sea for six or even twelve months at a time, following the fleet of fishing vessels.—Dallas News.

Ticket No. 103 gets the clock at Burroughs & Mann's. Who has it?

After you read all the news, just glance at our ad.

Ed S. Hughes & Co.

Mrs. Nettie Mayfield of Memphis is due here this week to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Wiman, and other relatives.

The Mail gives all the news.

**THEDFORD'S
BLACK-DRAUGHT
THE GREAT
FAMILY MEDICINE**

Thedford's Black-Draught has saved doctors' bills for more than sixty years. For the common family ailments, such as constipation, indigestion, hard colds, bowel complaints, chills and fever, biliousness, headaches and other like complaints no other medicine is necessary. It invigorates and regulates the liver, assists digestion, stimulates action of the kidneys, purifies the blood, and purges the bowels of foul accumulations. It cures liver complaint, indigestion, sour stomach, dizziness, chills, rheumatic pains, sideache, backache, kidney troubles, constipation, diarrhoea, biliousness, piles, hard colds and headache. Every druggist has Thedford's Black-Draught in 25 cent packages and in mammoth size for \$1.00. Never accept a substitute. Insist on having the original made by the Chattanooga Medicine Company.

I believe Thedford's Black-Draught is the best medicine on earth. It is good for any and everything. I have a family of twelve children, and for four years I have kept them on foot and healthy with no doctor but Black-Draught. A. J. GREEN, Illwaco, La.

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.....	64
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.....	57
Eason, Sam res.....	36
Elliott, John res.....	28
Elliott & Miller shop.....	11
Eastup, A.....	20
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
Rollins, R A res.....	63
Rust, Dr E M res.....	30
" " office.....	62
Rust & Pittard drugs.....	62
Star Store.....	69
Sheppard, S W grocery-mark	74
Sharp & Co store.....	44
Thurmond, W P res.....	45
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	78

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.

Best Passenger Service

TEXAS



"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS

FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS

E. P. TURNER, GEN. PASS. AGT. DALLAS, TEXAS.

Conservative Methods.

The directors of this bank are firm believers in the policy of conservatism. They are always willing that the bank should forego a possible profit, rather than accept business involving undue risks.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.

Dr. Leeman was called to Trent Monday to see Miss Boone, who had suffered a dislocation and fracture of the right shoulder. It is supposed that she was hurt by a fall from the gallery of her home during a spell of dizziness, with which she is sometimes affected.

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

Pull down your neighbor and you will pull down yourself. Pull a wire across the path of progress and you will break your own back. Jump the rich man and you will be poor indeed. Oppress the poor and you will suffer poverty. Be helpful, big hearted and broad gauged. There is nothing that hurts business so quickly as the prominent presence in the world of a tight faced, claw-fisted, hawk-billed, cat-footed, hog-hearted, penny-squeezing, man-hating cross between a glue pot and a vinegar jug who never spends a dollar until he sees a dollar and ninety-eight cents in sight.—Meridian Tribune.

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

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 ...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. 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. 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

Those Foreign Muskets.

The United States government imported some foreign arms during the first years of the war speaking of some of which a certain officer reported: "In platoon firing with the Belgian muskets I can always tell how many pieces have been fired by counting the men on the ground. It's a case of fire and fall back flat. One of these Belgian muskets will kick like a mule and burst with the greatest facility. Several soldiers in our Illinois regiments have been killed in this way. The bayonet, too, is a novelty—a soft iron affair apparently designed to coil round the enemy, thus taking him prisoner.

Irishmen In Blue And Gray

Honors were pretty nearly even the first time that Irishmen in blue met their fellow countrymen in gray in the fight at Perryville in October, 1862. Those who wore the gray constituted the Fifth Tennessee, while those who carried the Union banner were in Lytle's Tenth Ohio. The Tennesseans charged valorously across an open field upon the Ohioans, who were entrenched behind a stone wall. The latter sent a volley which decimated cruelly the ranks of the former; but, nothing daunted, the Tennesseans leaped the breast-works and there ensued a "perfectly lovely shindy" which ended disastrously for the Ohioans, who were compelled to retreat, after leaving many men of their regiment on the field.

Outwitted His Captors.

One of the distinguished captures of Gilmore, the rough rider of Early's raiding column in his famous dash, was Major General W. B. Franklin. Placed in a carriage, he was sent across the Maryland line into Virginia under escort of a strong mounted guard. His captor was kept very busy scouting and raiding, and one night was away from his command for several hours. Returning at dawn next morning he was disgusted to find the guard and all the prisoners except General Franklin sleeping soundly in fence corners and various places. But the general he could not find at all. It seems that the distinguished captive had an ample supply of liquor in his valise, which he was allowed to retain, and, being of a generous disposition, had treated his guards to

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

all they wanted—and much more than was good for them—with the results that freedom dawned upon him about the time that the fact of his escape dawned upon Gilmore.

This Happened At Shiloh.

During the battle of Shiloh an officer hurriedly rode up to an aid and inquired for Grant. "That's the man, with the field-glass," said the aid.

Wheeling his horse about, the stranger rode furiously at the general and, touching his cap, addressed him thus:

"Sheneral, I wants to make one report: Schwartz's pattery is took." "Ah!" said the general. "How was that?" "Vell you see sheneral, der shecessionists flanked us, und der shecessionists came in der rear of us, und den Schwartz's pattery vas took."

"Well, sir, you of course spiked the guns." "Vot," exclaimed the Dutchman in astonishment. "Schpik dem guns! Schpik dem pran new guns! V'y, it would spoil dem!"

"Well," said the general sharply, "what did you do?" "Do? Py tam ve took dem pack again!"

Debt.

Young people ought to be taught to keep out of debt. Not told to keep out—taught to keep out, told again and again until it is impressed on them. Because if they are bent that way they'll grow that way, according to an old and true adage.

Any sound business man will tell you that debt will rob you of self respect and your independence and your self confidence. Debt has blighted many a bright young fellow's career, wrecked many a home and filled many a cell.

Somehow when a fellow gets in debt or borrows money to go on he forgets that the money he has is not really his—that a day of reckoning is coming. Young man, young woman, pay as you go or don't go. It may bring a loss of temporary pleasure, but the denial will pay you a thousand fold.—Selected.

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.

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 Biliousness. 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.