

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 5, 1903.

NO. 50.

The Star Store

MERKEL,
TEXAS.

Dry Goods,
Notions,
Clothing,
Shoes
and Hats.

P. S. We have just received a shipment of New Spring Gingham. Call and see them LEADERS OF LOW PRICES!

Burned to Death.

The two small children of Mrs. Joe Gilmores, living near Pyron, were burned to death, together with the house and its contents last Tuesday evening.

We have been unable to get full particulars so far, but, as near as we can learn, Mrs. Gilmore had left the little ones—one and three years old—alone in the house while she went to a neighbors some three hundreds yards away, to do her washing.

The house was falling in before anyone noticed it and at that time there was no chance to save the little ones. A part of the burned bodies and some bones of the children were taken from the ashes yesterday.—Snyder Light.

Evidence of an Awful Crime.

Last Sunday while some children were playing in the Carter pasture about one mile south of town they found the dead body of a baby girl lying under a bunch of small mesquite trees, wrapped up in an old skirt. The body was very badly decomposed, which is evident it had been there several days, and shows to have had very little attention at birth. The finding of the body has caused some excitement and considerable comment. At the corners inquest no definite decision was reached as to who the guilty parties are, very little evidence was produced. The body is unknown. Sheriff Swan and Esquire Gentry made an investigation of the place where the body was found and brought it to town and hadit prepared for burial.—Anson Western-News.

The scratch of a pin may cause the loss of a limb, or even death, when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Now's the time to advertise.

The Five Franc Piece.

BY JAMES S. EVANS.

(Copyright, 1902, by Daily Story Pub. Co.) In the "cub" days of the newspaper reporter Troupe McIntosh saw little in life that had more than ordinary interest for him. He got few assignments, and these were chiefly obituary notices, church bazaars and small fires. The city editor did not have confidence in him. He had displayed little of the instincts that are essential to reporters who make names and are permitted to sign stories. But McIntosh knew the stuff was in him and that some time or other, he would show it.

One afternoon the city editor walked hurriedly from his room to the local room. In his hand was a piece of yellow paper and he was excited. "Where is Davis? Where is Horn? Where is Allen?" he shouted at McIntosh.

"I think they have gone," said the "cub" meekly.

"You think they have? You don't see them do you? And they don't usually leave with you a memoranda of their doings, hey?"

The "cub" attempted to say something, but before he could proceed the city editor said: "Here, go to Butler on the 3 o'clock train. I do not like to trust so important an assignment to such an ordinary blockhead, but you are the only one in sight. Get some expense money down stairs and hurry. You've barely time to catch the train. Take this telegram. It will explain why you are sent. Get your facts and write all you can get on the story. By the time you arrive there, I have made arrangements with the telegraph company to handle your matter as fast as you can write it. Get along now, and do your best."

The cub fairly flew to the depot. Out of breath almost, he found a seat in the car and for the first time looked at the telegram. It was merely a bulletin from the Butler correspondent and read:

John Billings, cashier Second National bank, found his wife in arms of William Champeois this afternoon. Billings killed Champeois, then his wife and then himself. Society is greatly startled. Both the wealthiest and most influential in town. How much?

Well, here was a story for the cub after all. Butler was forty miles distant, and the train would make it in less than an hour. As the cars sped along the cub's mind was framing sentences. He paced nervously up and down the aisleway, occasionally throwing back the lapel of his coat, showing his reporter's star. Regaining his seat, he would take out a pad of paper from his pocket and scribble. The opening sentence of his story could not be framed exactly right to suit him. He wanted something that would catch and gladden the city editor's eye at first

glance. Finally he wrote something, looked at it a long while, smiled and put the paper in his pocket. At Butler there was little difficulty in obtaining the facts. The coroner's jury was in session when he alighted from the train. He heard the testimony of the servants in the Billings' home, who saw the shooting. They also testified that Champeois had been a frequent visitor at the Billings home, both while Mr. Billings was at home and occasionally when the husband was absent. Their testimony was somewhat sensational and disclosed a phase of Mrs. Billings' life that was not in keeping with her reputation in the community. Champeois left a widow; Billings had no children.

The cub secured photographs which he mailed on the 8 o'clock train. By 10 o'clock he was in possession of all the information necessary for a long story. He began to write. At first he was nervous and uncertain of himself, but after he had written two or three hundred words, the rest became easy to handle. He wrote rapidly, and by midnight he had three columns of matter in the newspaper



"I Think They Have Gone," Said the "Cub," Meekly.

At 1 o'clock the fast train for New Orleans was due and the cub boarded it. He attempted to write on the cars, but he found that difficult; gave that up and tried to talk to the conductor, but the conductor was busy. In a double seat just in front sat a man calmly smoking a cigar while looking out at the flashing shadows the train was making in the darkness. Hat boxes and valises were piled up around him. The cub sat down by the stranger, uninvited. He had to talk to some one; he must find some ear to listen to the horrible tale that would appear in the Morning Herald; his story—the most awful tragedy he had ever read about, much less assigned to write its history.

The stranger listened without displaying any excitement or curiosity. He was a Frenchman and a traveler, so he informed the cub. After the cub had told the story in all its ghastly details, the Frenchman looked intently out of the window for some minutes before making any sort of comment. Finally, he turned his head and remarked that it was "too bad, too bad."

"I remember a story of a wife's insincerity," he went on after a bit. "A young Frenchman married the most beautiful woman in Paris. He

was immensely rich; so was she. They had been sweethearts for years and when they were married it was the most fashionable ceremony that had taken place in Paris for a decade. In the suburbs of that city, he built the most expensive home that architects could suggest; filled it with the costliest of paintings and surrounded it with every luxury. Apparently the woman loved him and worshiped him with unmeasured devotion. He was always devising little trips, making her presents, doing things he thought



He was a Frenchman and a traveler, would please and delight her. Occasionally he would take a hand satchel and drive to the station, saying that he would be gone for the day, only to return within an hour or so, his sudden reappearance being for the purpose of surprising her, the surprise being one filled with joy. And so they lived for a year with no serpent in that beautiful paradise of theirs to strike at them with its fangs and annoy them with its hissing.

"But one day the husband returned home to find his wife in the embrace of one of his supposed friends. Both were wild with fear when they were discovered. But the husband spoke calmly, almost kindly. They need not fear. He would not harm either. He even assisted the false friend in putting on his overcoat, and as the man started to the door, invited him to call again. As he reached the steps the husband called him back. 'The kisses? The pleasure of those beautiful lips—ah, should you not leave the madame some memento of your sweet experience—a five franc piece, say? Yes, that would be the thing.' So the man, now weeping because of his shame, went to the hysterical woman and placed the coin in her lap.

"The husband ate his dinner alone. In the morning he asked the maid to say to his wife that he should be pleased to have her breakfast with him, and the woman went to the dining-room, her eyes red and swollen from long hours of crying. He even kissed her as she entered, and during the meal made no reference to what had happened the day before. But when she went to pick up a napkin, or to uncover a dish there would appear before her a five franc piece. In the morning she would find a gold coin in her stockings; if she went to pick up a rose, there would fall from its petals a five franc piece—always. Wherever she would turn would be the cruel reminder of her unfaithful-

ness. And so, this went on from week to week, and from month to month, until finally, ah, that grand, beautiful, royal, clear-eyed woman—she go mad."

The cub was roundly congratulated when he returned to the office. In the early hours of morning, after the papers had gone to press, he recited the story of the traveler. "And do you know, boys, I believe that fellow who told me the story is the same man that tortured that woman and drove her to an asylum. Doggone if I don't!"

"Why, sure thing," replied the city editor. "And, say, cub, I think there is the making of a reporter in you, after all. Your assignment to-day will be to find the Frenchman and make him confess."

Money for Missions.

The American board of foreign missions has made public its ninety-second annual report. It shows that the receipts from leading states have been as follows: Maine, \$17,573.19; Vermont, \$14,724.95; Massachusetts, \$228,131.64; Rhode Island, \$29,209.30; Connecticut, \$167,553.96; New York, \$75,479.63; New Jersey, \$10,925.48; Pennsylvania, \$5,198.55; Maryland, \$5,329.05; Indiana, \$1,767.64; Missouri, \$6,071.07; Ohio, \$18,330.14; Illinois, \$106,444.36; Michigan, \$16,242.44; Wisconsin, \$12,193.34; Iowa, \$17,927.12; Minnesota, \$11,011.78; Kansas, \$3,687.84; Nebraska, \$3,498.03. Canada gave \$6,527.85, Hawaiian Islands, \$2,022.45; foreign lands and missionary stations, \$1,372.90. The total receipts during the year have been \$845,105.

JONES COUNTY INDIGNANT.

Don't Want to Occupy Second Place to Taylor County.

Anson, Jan. 28.—A copy of a bill which has been introduced in the Legislature to reorganize the Forty-Second Judicial District was received here today, and is creating considerable interest among the attorneys and people generally. A meeting of the bar will be had tomorrow for the purpose of taking some action toward presenting to the Legislature what is thought to be the rights of Jones county in the matter.

The bill gives Jones county only three weeks to the term of court, while it gives Taylor county six weeks to the term, when, it is claimed, there is more business pending in the court in Jones county than there is in Taylor, and that the population of Jones county is now equal to, or greater than that of Taylor, and is increasing very rapidly. It is the universal opinion here that, with the present condition of the court business and the prospects of the future, it would be an injustice to only give Jones county three weeks to the term of court.

We sell the New Royal sewing machine.

W. P. Browning & Co.

MAXWELL & SONS.

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

18 lb best granulated sugar for.....\$1.00	Frying size chickens from \$1.90 to \$2.40 dz
19 lb No. 2 granulated sugar for.....1.00	Eggs.....16¢ dz
20 lb Y C sugar for.....1.00	Butter, per pound.....1.00

Groceries
Flour
Meat
Lard, Etc.

Produce
Eggs
Chickens
Butter, Etc.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office..... 37
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.

Cure For Blind Stagers.

H. C. Alder of Terrell, Tex., gives out the following concerning blind stagers in horses and a cure that he says never fails, which will be of interest to farmers and stock men generally:

I see in the papers that a number of farmers have lost good horses and mules from this disease. The cause of the disease is produced by impure food, which deranges the stomach and causes a rush of blood to the head, producing blind stagers. To relieve quickly bleed the animal in the neck until the color of the blood changes to a light-red or the animal becomes relieved, then stop. Then pull the animal's tongue out to one side a little and push 2 1-2 ounces of cape aloes in a ball down its throat so that it will be swallowed after the tongue is released. The aloes is a purgative—cleanses the stomach and the animal gets well. I have seen at least 100 horses cured by this remedy and have never known it to fail. I obtained the recipe a veterinary surgeon who treated all his cases of blind stagers in that way. I know that it is a sure cure for that disease, and I trust the press throughout the state will give it as wide publicity as possible.

If a man can feed and fatten stock for market and make the operation profitable, why cannot farmers grow the feed and market the stock and make it more profitable? True, there are some farmers who cannot do this simply because they don't know how. But is there any good reason why they should not learn how?—Farm and Ranch.

Things that should not be are numerous. A physician with an invalid family; a lawyer going to jail for contempt; a shoemaker's wife going barefooted; a tailor wearing patched trousers and a farmer going to town to buy bacon and canned goods for Christmas times. In these cases the physician was a quack, the lawyer an ignoramus, the tailor a goose, the shoemaker a worthless cobbler, and the farmer worst of them. Any farm that fails to supply itself with plenty of substantial food for man and beast, and some to spare, lacks a competent farmer to manage it.

A farmer of Kaufman county took a cotton stalk to Kaufman and put it near a fire where eggs of the boll weevils were hatched and the bugs crawled out. The eggs were deposited just under the bark and were ready to be hatched out when the sun grows hot. This demonstrates the necessity of burning every species of trash before hot weather comes if we are to get rid of the cotton pest.

"Does farming pay?" is not the question. As well ask if

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

SANTA ROSALIA.

The town of Santa Rosalia is at the junction of the rivers Concho and Florida, 325 miles from El Paso. It is the county seat for the district of Camargo, State of Chihuahua. The population is about 2,500, has a fine old church and a beautiful plaza and the town is one of the prettiest in the state. They have a fine free school. It was our good fortune to be at one of their celebrations on the 16th of September (which is the Mexican Fourth of July), and we never saw a better arranged program or better performers than the boys and girls from this school. After a few speeches by some of the leading men of the town and some songs and music by the local band, the principal of the school came forward and introduced his students who entertained us with patriotic songs, speeches and essays. Their praise of their heroes who had fought, bled and died to give them their national liberty and their reference to their flag of red, white and green brought out the applause of the large audience. The names of Hidalgo, "Father of his Country," of Jimenez, Juarez, and many others prominent in Mexican history, and, lastly, but not least, of Diaz, the strong, wise ruler who has made permanent the freedom and liberty the others hoped and fought for—the mention of these names caused the greatest enthusiasm.

HOT SPRINGS

About five miles from the town and on the north bank of the Concho river are the Hot Springs noted for medicinal properties and said to equal the Hot Springs of Arkansas. The springs are six in number and are along the base of a high mountain. Nos. 1 and 2 are not very hot and have little sulphur in them, but have other medicinal virtues; these are patronized mostly by ladies and children or very feeble persons. Nos. 3 and 4 are some warmer, but No. 5 is very hot, and has an immense quantity of sulphur—so much that it collects in chunks and can be scooped up from the water by the hand. This is also the strongest stream and enough water comes out of the hill to fill a four inch pipe. This spring is recommended as the best for rheumatism or other blood diseases. It is so hot that to plunge into it suddenly would feel like getting scalded, so the bather has to go into it by degrees. The bath should not exceed ten or fifteen minutes. The attendant dries you off and you are laid on a bench made of rough boards and covered with a sheet, when you sweat and sweat,

merchandising, the practice of law, theology, or other callings pays. Farming pays more than any other business known. It loads the trains and the ships, and pays the freight; it fills the warehouse, and pays the commissions; it pays most of the taxes, and more interest than anything. Of course farming pays. Where it is intelligently followed it always pays the farmer. It ought to pay the farmer better than it does, and it will as soon as farmers find out why it does not.—Farm and Ranch.

It is a matter of vital importance to farmers just now that

till you are so weak you can hardly stand. This will take all the impurities and much of the meanness out of a man, for he feels so good he will feel at peace with the world. But it won't do to stay in too long. One morning I found the bath house occupied. The attendant said the man in there had been in twenty minutes and would soon vacate. Ten minutes more and still he stayed; the attendant shook the door and called, Are you dead? "No," he answered; "I want to get the full worth of my cuatro reales (50 cents)." After he had been in nearly an hour to get the full worth of his money he came out so weak he could hardly walk and looking like a boiled lobster.

No. 6 is the hottest of them all, but has less sulphur in it than the others. The water, as it comes out of the mountain, runs into large basins cut out of the rock, and each bathing place is covered by an adobe house. After leaving the baths the water runs into a large "acequia" about a half mile below, and in the evening this canal will be full of the lower class Mexicans, all sorts and sizes, taking a free bath.

The hotel accommodations are first class and rates reasonable. A large hotel with forty rooms is run on the American plan and during the spring, summer and fall the table is supplied with the finest fruits from the gardens that surround the town. The prices run from \$2 to \$4 per day, Mexican money. There are several boarding houses where cheaper board can be had, but the cooking will be Mexican—good to those accustomed to it, but the northern visitors prefer the hotel. A very nice and cheap way is to camp, as the climate is fine. Several parties going together can have a nice time.

For rheumatism I do not think these springs can be excelled on the continent. This I say from my own experience and from what others say. We meet people here from many of the western states and from as far north as Wisconsin and Minnesota—all seeking for health. Some have to be carried on stretchers, others have crutches—all kinds of poor afflicted humanity.

About ten miles east of Santa Rosalia and five miles from the station of Bustamante is the "Javalin spring." It has no bath house, but the water runs into a large pool. It is said to be excellent for blood and skin diseases. Some day this will be improved and another health resort built.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

(continued next week.)

they cut, pile and burn the stalks and the trash on their farm lands before plowing. Experiments have proven that this is the best way to destroy insects, and every farmer in Van Zandt county owes it to himself to profit by the experience of others when it has been proven. Just how soon the army of crop-destroying boll weevil will make its appearance here no one knows, but that they are surely and certainly coming this way no man who has kept posted will deny. Since this is a fact, it is the duty of all to do what they can to kill out the advance guard.—Wills Point Chronicle.

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.

Millinery & Dress Making.

I am now running a dress making department in connection with my millinery, having employed an experienced dress maker. Satisfaction guaranteed.

I will leave for St. Louis Feb. 12 and will be gone a month selecting a stock and studying the latest styles and designs in millinery. Wait for my stock before buying.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

clear off the entire debt. It seems that some are stimulated and helped by debt. Others are pressed down by it and ruined. It is an individual matter. It should be remembered that as a rule it is very difficult to farm successfully in these days without capital. It is almost always better to have the small farm well titled than the big one which land has to lie idle.—Home and Farm.

Repent of Your Sins

And use Hunt's Lightning Oil for all pains, Catarrh, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Cuts, Burns, Colic, and Diarrhoea. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. 25 and 50c.

Warren will sell you Hamilton-Brown shoes and give you a key to the red box with every \$2.00 pair.

The people of this country must be fed and well fed. As a matter of fact the American people are the best fed people in the world, and as a result of good feeding they are the best people in the world. With all their faults we have more good men, good women and good children than any other nation, and at the next census we will have several millions more of the same sort. To a large extent men are made of the food they eat. It is the same with animals as men. Good feeding makes good cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and fowls. Good feeding cannot be pursued for many generations without improving the blood. Hence the importance of growing an abundance of forage crops. Without forage but little stock can be kept and that little will be poorly fed. Without live stock profitably fed the people will not prosper, and cannot feed themselves properly, and will cease to improve and ultimately deteriorate. Forage is food for live stock; live stock is food for man. Hence indirectly but truly, forage and feed crops are beef, milk, pork, mutton, fowls and eggs—the foods of man, and in the case of horses these feeds become power with which to make more feed. Don't neglect the feed crops.—Ex.

We have known men to buy large farms and go in debt for a part of them. We have known this and have known some, but not many, to pull through and

GREETING to the SUNNY SOUTH

From MONTGOMERY WARD & CO., Chicago,
whose representative recently enjoyed Southern hospitality as a member of the Merchants', Manufacturers' and Bankers' Delegation of Chicago.



A member of our firm, having accompanied the Merchants', Manufacturers' and Bankers' Delegation of Chicago, on its recent tour through Southern States, returns deeply impressed with the wonderful activity, enterprise and prosperity of the people of this resourceful section of the country. He was especially pleased by the evidence of frugality and shrewdness displayed by the people in seeking the cheapest markets for the purchase of their household, farming and personal necessities, and at once decided to bring to your attention the unrivaled facilities of Montgomery Ward & Co., for supplying your needs with the best goods at lowest prices.

Nearly 31 years ago we began selling goods direct to the user, saving our customers the profits of the jobber, agent and dealer. Now we have more than 2,000,000 pleased and satisfied customers. Think of it! 67 out of every 100 orders we receive are shipped the same day received, and 97 out of every 100 within three days. We head the list of quick shippers, our facilities for quick handling of orders being unequalled.

Our Catalogue No. 71 has 1,100 pages and contains descriptions, pictures and wholesale prices direct to you on everything you eat, wear or use. You should have it. It will save you at least 20 cents on every dollar you are now spending. Write us for it. We send it free and only ask you to send 15 cents to pay part of the postage.

HERE ARE A FEW SPECIMENS OF OUR PRICES:

MEN'S SUITS, made-to-order, all wool materials; guaranteed quality, workmanship and fit, latest styles.....\$11.00
KITCHEN TABLE, hard-wood, two drawers and two bins holding 50 lbs. flour or sugar each, top 26x46 inches \$2.95
BUGGY HARNESS, the best cheap harness on the market.....\$4.25
SEWING MACHINE, latest drop-head style, strongly made, well finished in solid oak, guaranteed for 5 years, cheapest of equal grade anywhere offered.....\$8.45
GLASSWARE SET, 33 pieces, consisting of one water pitcher, 12 glasses, 1 berry dish, 12 saucers, 1 bread plate, 1 sugar bowl, 1 butter dish, 1 cream pitcher, 1 spoon holder, 2 salt shakers, made of finely finished, pure crystal glassware, attractive pattern, good quality.....\$1.33
DINNER SET, one hundred pieces, made of American semi-porcelain, pure ivory white, decorated with forget-me-not and fine fern design in myrtle green, greatest bargain ever offered.....\$5.65
MORRIS CHAIR, made of golden oak or in mahogany finish, large, massive, heavy frame, carved and well finished, reversible cushions, covered with imported, figured velour plush, adjustable back, most comfortable and desirable reading chair on the market, usually sold by dealers at \$8.00 to \$10.00.....\$4.50
ORGAN, 5-octave, 10-stop, oak case, excellent tone, equal to \$50.00 organs sold by dealers, guaranteed for 5 years \$26.75

COUCH, extra large and well made, containing best springs, upholstered with fancy velours and corduroy, trimmed with good grade of fringe.....\$5.50
SHOT GUN, the New American side snap, pistol grip, plain blued barrels, nickel-plated mounting, rubber butt plate, using brass or paper shells.....\$4.35 (We also carry shot guns in all prices, up to \$250.00.)
REVOLVER, Young American double action, full nickel-plated, rubber handle, 32 caliber.....\$1.50 (Also on up to \$15.40.)
SMYRNA RUG, unshredded, 2 1/2 x 5 ft., looks as well and wears as long as the regular Smyrna Rug.....\$1.25
LAP ROBE, gray fur goat skin, 48x68 in., fancy plaid blanket lining of good weight, usually sold at \$8 to \$10.....\$4.10
LACE CURTAINS, choice, elegant design, 48 1/2 inches wide, 4 yards long, good wearing qualities.....\$1.34
READING LAMP, brass bowl and stand, 1 1/2 inch wick, 10 inch plain white dome shade, never sold for less than \$1.50 to \$3.00.....\$0.95
COFFEE RIO, good value, roasted, per lb.....\$0.12
FARM WAGON, 2 horse, full size double bed, thoroughly good in every way, complete.....\$39.50
FLOW, Texas black land, steel beam, excellent quality, general purpose plow.....\$8.70

HARROW, made of heavy wood frames, 48 1/2 inch, dagger point teeth, complete with draw-bar.....\$3.80
CORN SHELLER, "Original Dandy", adjustable to large or small ears of corn, durable and satisfactory.....0.70
CORN SHELLER, our famous "Victor", furnished with table and fan, large, heavy balance wheel, capacity 10 bushels per hour, big bargain.....\$4.35
"DAISY" FEED MILL, for grinding ear corn or shelled grain, capacity 8 to 10 bushels per hour, good mill that will do its work well.....\$13.98
AXE, double bit, good quality, 4 to 5 lbs. each, (without handles).....\$0.75
REFRIGERATORS, made of ash, with quarter-sawed oak panels, zinc lined, 28x17 inches, height 48 inches, holds 50 lbs. of ice.....\$9.10
GASOLINE STOVE, 2-burner, lay-down tank, the finest of this class in the market.....\$2.95
SHIRTS, men's extra quality, cotton work shirts, good, heavy weight, double back and double front, double stitched, flat felled seam, all colors, the kind usually sold at 75 cents and upwards.....\$0.50
CHURN, 5-gallon barrel churn, made of the best materials, strong, convenient fastenings, recommended as the best churn of its kind manufactured.....\$2.45

Send at once for our 1,100 page Catalogue, which contains full descriptions of all of the above articles as well as 70,000 others. We suit all tastes and purses with goods of all grades, from the cheapest that's good to the best that's made, at four-fifths to one-half what dealers charge.

Lay this paper down right now and write for our Catalogue before you forget. Watch for our advertisements in this paper.

Montgomery Ward & Co., Michigan Ave., Madison and Washington Sts., **Chicago.**
The House that Tells the Truth.

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.

When you have laundry and want it fixed up right send it to Weatherford. Phone 31.
Will Leeman

A Bundle Party.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Christian church will give a "Bundle Party" at the residence of W. P. Thurmond, Valentine night, Feb. 14. There will be refreshments and entertainment, the proceeds from the sale of "bundles" to go to the church. Everybody invited. 2t

Geo. S. Berry has disposed of his interest in the First National Bank of Sweetwater and invested in additional bank stock at Merkel. This centers Mr. Berry's entire interests in Merkel and he is to be congratulated upon his enterprise and faith in future of the town.

A bevy of our bright and intelligent young ladies are arranging to give a musical concert in the near future. There is some rare musical talent in Merkel and the entertainment will be looked forward to with pleasure.

Tyra Compton's little boy is now out of danger and rapidly recovering.

See The Mail for all kinds of job work at living prices.

Paine's Celery Compound

Cures

DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION, AND STOMACH TROUBLES.

The tortures and evils of dyspepsia and indigestion are experienced by thousands at this time. The dyspeptic's train of evils may be enumerated as follows: feelings of dizziness, languor, nervousness, sleeplessness, headache, distention of the stomach, loss of flesh, difficult breathing, and the action of the heart is seriously affected.

All forms of dyspepsia are quickly banished by the use of Paine's Celery Compound. The use of this marvelous medicine allays the inflammation of the nerves centered about the stomach; it opens up the sewers of the body and removes all waste matter; it cleanses the blood; it makes new nerve fibre; it restores digestive power, and promotes bodily strength and activity. Mr. Fred. Ross, Clarendon, Iowa, briefly writes about his happy experience with Paine's Celery Compound as follows:—

"It gives me great pleasure to testify to the merits of Paine's Celery Compound. I can candidly and honestly say it is the best medicine in the world. Two years ago I was suffering from indigestion and nervousness, and was so run down that I could hardly walk without help. I used two bottles of Paine's Celery Compound and got better almost from the first dose, and have had no use for medicine since. I was completely cured."

When a hat, a good dress, or other garment is a little faded and old in fashion it need not be thrown away. Color it with **DIAMOND DYES.**

We have a special department of advice, and will answer free any questions about dyeing. Send sample of goods when possible.
Direction book and 45 dyed samples free.
DIAMOND DYES, Burlington, Vt.

Gems Of Thought.

I have seen all classes and condition of men from the lowest to the loftiest and the longer I live the more I am convinced that happiness is in the individual and not in the accidents. Many things seem alluring that, attained, have no charms, and many lives appear humble and obscure that are the vestibule of paradise. And, after all, whether well or ill, the longest life is but brief pulsation like the momentary flash of a fire-fly in a garden after night and whether its transitory torch is to be extinguished forever or to be delighted and burn eternally, we hope and dream.

§ § §

Let us take time for the evening prayer. Our sleep will be more restful if we have claimed the guardianship of God.

Let us take time to speak sweet, loving words to those we love. By and by, when they can no longer hear us, our sympathy will seem more wise than our best wisdom.

Let us take time to read our Bible. Its treasures will last when he shall have ceased to care for the war of political parties, the rise and fall of stocks, or the petty happenings of the end.

Let us take time to be pleasant. The small courtesies which we often omit because they are small will some day look larger to us than the wealth which we have coveted, or the fame for which

we have struggled.

Let us take time to get acquainted with our families. The wealth you are accumulating, burdened father, may be a doubtful blessing to the son who is a stranger to you. Your beautifully kept house, busy mother, can never be a home to your daughter whom you have no time to caress.

Let us take time to get acquainted with Christ. The hour is coming swiftly for us all when one touch of his hand in the darkness will mean more than all that is written in the day-book and ledger, or in the record of our little social world.

Since we must all take time to die, why should we not take time to live, to live in the large sense of a life begun here for eternity?—Word and Works.

League Program.

Leader—Miss Allie Jennings.
Subject—Deliverance through faith.

Lesson—Jud. 7:3-14
References—Acts 5:19-20, 12:7, II Tim. 4:17, Dan. 3:17, John 11:27.

Daniel's deliverance—Dan. 6:18-23—Miss Edith Freemon.
Deliverance of Apostles—Acts 16:19-26—J. S. French.

Peter's Deliverance—Matt. 14:28-31—Ed Maxwell.
Songs and prayer as desired by leader.

Be sure to bring your bibles.
Feb. 8th.

Miss Virgie Beavers left this week for St. Louis, where she will purchase a line of millinery goods.

You Should Buy a

TRIUMPH SULKY PLOW

Because it is the implement that revolutionized riding plow construction; because

It has points of merit which are not found on other plows; because

It is the lightest draft plow on the market; because

There are over 100,000 Triumph sulky plows in actual and satisfactory use today. Yes, 100,000 in actual use.

You will make no mistake when you buy a TRIUMPH.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,
ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

A Perilous Leap

From Pike's Peak, 14,134 feet, will not cure softening of the brain, but a 25c box of Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets will cure chills. No cure—no pay.

County Tax Collector Baylor Crawford had issued 1,727 poll tax receipts up to 6 p. m. Saturday. This is about three-fourths of the total voting population of the county.

Grocery Store On Fire!

Not with real Fire and Brimstone, but with RED HOT PRICES! Why have we sold so many Groceries since we put in this line, only one week ago? We can show you why in five minutes with Cold BLOODED FACTS if you will come to our store.

We can sell goods CHEAP because we sell for CASH, and ask you for your trade on this reasonable basis. Liberal Treatment, the Best Quality of Goods,

Remember that the grocery business will not detract one thing from our dry goods; but in order to have a first class dry goods store consistent with the progress of Merkel, we are going to put in an up-to-date MILLINERY DEPARTMENT.

We have gotten in some new Gingham, Oxfords, Mercerized

Here are are a few prices-- just a sample of what we are doing all through the store:

Louisiana Ribbon Cane Syrup, 5 gal lots 45c gal
The best Michigan Sorghum, 5 gal. lots, 35c gal
Bewly's Anchor High Patent Flour, every sack guaranteed, per sack \$1.00
Standard Granulated Sugar 18 lbs for 1.00
The best YC Sugar 20 lbs for 1.00
Good Brown Sugar 22 lbs for 1.00

We haven't space for more prices.

Damasks, etc., from 10 to 50c per yard. These are the newest goods for early spring waists.

Remember we have retained the better half of the Fitts business, namely, Mrs. Fitts, who will be glad to treat all of her customers in the same liberal way that she has always done.

Come in and look around.

It MIGHT be MONEY TO YOU to come in and see what we are doing.

WATSON   **BACON.**
MERKEL,   **TEXAS**

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.

TO SUBSCRIBERS:

We have had two successive bad crop years and some of our subscribers have not been able to pay up. We want to assure these that they are welcome to read the paper and pay for it when they are able. The only request we have to make is that if you DO NOT WANT the paper say so now, pay up your arrears, and let us stop it. We are perfectly willing to send the paper on time, provided it is wanted, but we do not want to send it, either for the cash or on time, if it is not wanted.

A COMMERCIAL CLUB.

It is to the interest of Merkel and Merkel people to organize a commercial club. Nearly every town in this section is so provided, and if Merkel is to keep in the procession and stay with the

band wagon it will be necessary for our people to bestir themselves.

There are many ways in which an organization of this kind can be of inestimable worth to the town, but perhaps the most good to be derived therefrom is in the advancement of the town's interest in the matter of promoting trade. If there is no one to take the lead in matters of this kind the interests of the town must suffer in comparison. Other towns have made provisions of this kind; why not Merkel?

The Mail hopes the business men and property owners of the town will consider the advisability of organizing a commercial club in Merkel. We need it and must have it, and when it is considered that there is comparatively no cost attached to such an organization, the wisdom of such a course is apparent. What say you? Who will take the lead in this move?

A BID FOR TRADE.

The business men of Merkel have announced to the trade contiguous to the town that they are better prepared this year than ever before to successfully handle the trade of this vast territory. The interests of customers of the town will be carefully looked after and protected. Special inducements will be held out for both cash and credit trade, and every effort will be put forth to meet the requirements of the people.

The town was at a disadvantage last year in extending credit, because of the fact that it had not fully recovered from the effects of the disastrous fire of October 15, 1901, in which many of the leading merchants were

heavy losers, which partially paralyzed trade. But this hindrance has been removed, and the trade enjoyed by the merchants, which shows a healthy increase, has acted as an incentive to greater efforts in promoting and bringing trade to the town. Two short crops in succession has forced many good men to ask for accommodations even this early in the year, and our wide awake merchants are not refusing them the aid asked for.

The two banks, as heretofore, are perfectly willing and able to extend accommodations and have a ample capital to meet the demands of the surrounding country. They have not shut down on their customers and refused to make loans. Therefore, considering the reputation the town has established as a trade center, and the further fact that goods can be bought cheaper here than at most towns in this country, it is to the interest of every farmer to make investigations along this line to their own satisfaction. There are no grafters in Merkel, but you are extended a cordial invitation to do your business here this year.

The Merkel Mail presents us with a picture of their new school building. It is a splendid looking structure, and a credit even to wide awake Merkel.—Sweetwater Review.

Thanks, awfully. And now that the Review has made the amende honorable, it is but right that The Mail should do the same. Sweetwater has the best building of the two so far as cost of construction counts. It is a larger building than ours, but in arrangement and adaptability to school work it is doubtful if there is a similar building of the

size in the State that surpasses the Merkel building. Merkel has a \$10,000 school building which was erected at a cost of only \$8,000.

Senator Sebastian of this district has introduced a bill which seeks to prohibit the marriage of divorced persons within twelve months after the decree of divorce. It is a good one and should become a law, for it would have a salutary effect on the divorce evil. One-half of those who seek divorces are actuated solely by selfish motives, and one-half of this number have another "string to their bow" when they make application for a divorce. This is one of the greatest evils that confronts the American people today, and it may be said that hasty marriages are largely responsible for the evil.

A local option election will be held in Dallas county February 17th. This fight was started over the protest of the leading advocates of prohibition in the county, but was precipitated by a few hot heads who, as Sam Jones says, have more goodness than wisdom. No organization has been perfected, and considering the short time in which to make the fight, the prohibitionists will ignore the election, and friends of the measure are urged to stay away from the polls. It is stated that at the proper time a fight will be made along this line, but that the present is unpromising.

Another quarantine bill has bobbed up in the Legislature, with Senator Sebastian as its author. It provides that cattle may cross the quarantine line any time of the year, if not

affected, and further providing an open season of not less than thirty nor more than sixty days. The situation is already complicated, and from the drastic measures which are coming to the surface in the Legislature it is reasonable to suppose that it will not improve for the better.

If you are a step father and want to marry your step daughter, or vice versa, then it will pay you to go down to Austin and help railroad through the Legislature the bill which seeks to legalize this kind of marriage. It is claimed that existing statutes declare it to be legal for a step father to marry his step daughter, but they also declare it to be illegal for a step daughter to marry her step father. The aim of the bill is to harmonize the statutes in this respect.

It is "all off" with the man who failed to pay his poll tax. The law as interpreted curtails, to a certain extent, the privileges of a citizen in that he is not only denied the right of suffrage, but can neither sit as a jurymen nor sign a legal petition. Consequently, there are a great many unqualified voters in Taylor county this year. It is estimated that fully one-half the voters of the State have been disfranchised because of their failure to pay this tax.

A bill has been introduced in the House which prohibits book making and pool selling. Evidently the solons have absorbed some of the religious enthusiasm which was so apparent among all classes during the past year. Let them keep up the lick, for the State should discourage rather than encourage all forms of vice.

A Mother's Recommendation.

I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for a number of years and have no hesitancy in saying that it is the best remedy for coughs, colds and croup I have ever used in my family. I have not words to express my confidence in this remedy.—Mrs. J. A. Moore, North Star, Mich. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

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

As to Foreign Advertising.

The Mail is carrying three times as much foreign advertising this year as it has ever before carried. Heretofore we have made it a policy to limit advertising of this kind, but circumstances alter cases and to keep the shop going we are compelled to accept all legitimate advertising that comes our way.

This week we start off with a large advertisement for Montgomery Ward & Co., who have contracted for a 16 inch space for a term of 52 weeks and pay 6¼ cent per inch each insertion. The matter is all electrotyped, hence does not have to be set. Our price is 10 cents per inch for set matter, if you want to contract for space. The Mail can not advise its readers to patronize this firm in preference to local dealers, but if they must send out of town for goods of any description we would suggest that they look over the firm's advertisements before buying.

Better Ginning Facilities.

Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed by both farmers and business men on the streets at the action of the gin men in refusing to run both gins in handling the cotton that was brought here to be ginned. Some of the farmers brought cotton to the gin Friday and had to stay over night and it was late Saturday night before they got their cotton ginned. As a result of this jam several drove to Abilene Saturday morning with their cotton, which was of course both ginned and sold there. Naturally this hurt the town.

Several business men were heard to remark that they would take a hand in providing better ginning facilities for the town this year, and it is intimated that a stock company will be formed among business men and farmers for this purpose. The Mail asserts that the ginning facilities could be improved, but who is to blame we are not prepared to say. Certain it is that a change will be made.

W. L. Johnson moved his family up from Abilene Saturday and has taken charge of the section here, having been promoted to that position. J. W. McCraw, the old foreman, has, we learn, been promoted to assistant road master of this division and is now with the steel gang.

Dr. J. H. Florence of Dallas, who formerly resided here, has been appointed quarantine officer by Gov. Lannam and was assigned to Aransas Pass.

The handsome residence of J. T. Anderson of Abilene was destroyed by fire Friday night. The house was erected at a cost of \$10,000, while both house and furniture were insured for only \$5,000. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of Mrs. Geo. S. Berry of this place.

Mrs. T. A. Johnson returned Sunday from a visit to relatives at Eastland.

Nearly Forfeits His Life.

A runaway almost ending fatally, started a horrible ulcer on the leg of J. B. Orner, Franklin Grove, Ill. For four years it defied all doctors and all remedies. But Bucklen's Arnica salve had no trouble to cure him. Equally good for Burns, Bruises, Skin Eruptions and Piles. 25c at Rust & Pittard.

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

Get your Triumph seed potatoes at Sharps.

The 12th annual reunion of U. C. V.'s will be held in New Orleans, May 19, 20, 21 and 22, '03.

Considerable sickness is reported in and around the town, but fortunately none of it is of a serious nature.

Don't try to keep house another week without Peace-Maker flour. Try it.

J. T. Warren.

Justice Court.

Justice Wheeler's court was in session Saturday and disposed of the case wherein Samuel Butman is plaintiff and J. P. Perkins defendant. Judgement for plaintiff was rendered and an appeal taken to the county court which will be heard at the April term.

Visiting attorneys, J. M. Wagstaff and E. N. Kirby of Abilene.

E. N. Kirby, the prominent Abilene attorney, was in Merkel Saturday in attendance upon justice court. Mr. Kirby is attorney for the pros in the local option case which is now pending in the courts, and informed a Mail reporter that the appeal taken by the antis has been filed in the Court of Appeals at Fort Worth, he having filed a motion to advance the hearing and set it for Feb. 7. The case will probably be heard Saturday. It can but result favorably to the cause, but just what the opposition will do in the premises is not yet known.

Your Dirty Clothes!

The Weatherford Laundry makes them new. All work guaranteed; prices right. Will take up and deliver. 'Phone 31.

Basket leaves Tuesday.

Will Leeman, Agt.

From the Philippines.

The Mail is in receipt of a letter from James Q. Thornton which is dated at Manila, P. I., Dec. 25, 1902, and streets off with the two words, "Christmas gift." Jim had just returned from a three months furlough to China and Japan which he seemed to enjoy immensely. His many friends here will be glad to learn that he is enjoying good health and a reasonable amount of prosperity. His address is Manila, P. I., Co. L 2nd Infantry.

The red box at Warren's contains \$20.00 cash. You get a key with every \$2.00 cash purchase.

J. L. Reed moved his family to the country Monday and will try farming this year. He is located south of Trent, near the Hogue ranch.

The Weatherford Laundry guarantees all work. Give it a trial. 'Phone 31.

Will Leeman.

A fine girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tom King of Abilene, at Anson, last week. Mrs. King is a sister of Mrs. J. K. Pittard of this place.

Better Than Gold.

"I was troubled for several years with chronic indigestion and nervous debility," writes F. J. Green, of Lancaster, N. H. "No remedy helped me until I began using Electric Bitters, which did me more good than all the medicines I ever used. They have also kept my wife in excellent health for years. She says Electric Bitters are just splendid for female troubles; that they are a grand tonic and invigorator for weak and run down women. No other medicine can take its place in our family." Try them. Only 50c. Satisfaction guaranteed by Rust & Pittard.

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

J. T. Warren.

Mrs. W. A. Cozart, accompanied by her father, W. O. Barger, of Muskogee, I. T., was a pleasant caller on The Mail Friday. Mr. Barger read the paper for many years while a resident of Tennessee. He is favorably impressed with the country, but says he would not give his present location for any he has yet come across, although we tried very hard to make him believe that this is the best country in the world. Crops around Muskogee last year, he says, were good, and prospects are good for a large crop this year. Mr. Barger is an interesting talker and a close observer, especially as regards farms and farm work. We hope his visit here will be a most pleasant one and that he will form a better impression of the country.

To The Public.

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

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

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

E. Maxwell.

Triumph seed potatoes at Sharps.

The Mail's Friends.

T. P. Gibson favors The Mail with the extension of his own subscription and that of his brother of Dodd City, Texas. He also gives instructions that his paper must not, under any circumstances, be discontinued. We appreciate his kind words.

J. F. Pilkington dropped into our sanctum Friday and stocked up on good reading matter for the year, securing The Mail and Dallas News. Mr. Pilkington has a couple of bales of cotton yet in the fields, but will soon start farm work in earnest.

J. S. Hutson, who has been a regular subscriber since The Mail was launched eleven years ago, favored us with a renewal several days ago, which was overlooked until this time. His subscription is paid to Sept., 1904.

R. E. Counts, H. C. Burroughs and J. K. Pittard have the thanks of The Mail for favors.

Stenography and Typewriting.

I should be glad to open up a night school in short hand and typewriting and will teach both young men and young ladies at very reasonable terms. For further particulars see me at the central office.

Miss Jackson.

When you go to buy \$2.00 worth of anything go to Warren's. You get just as much if not a little more, besides you get a key to the red box.

To Grocery Buyers:

If you are the grocery buyer for your family we want to make it easy for you. We have now not less than 75,000 pounds of good fresh eatables in our grocery room. We buy in car lots, get the benefit of quantity price, and will share it with you. If you are not a customer, try us. We sell a car of flour in about two weeks, and we couldn't do this if we didn't have the right kind of goods and prices. Let us put up your next bill.

J. T. Warren

Cured Consumption.

Mrs. B. W. Evans, Clearwater, Kan., writes: "My husband lay sick for three months; the doctors stated he had quick consumption. We procured a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup and it cured him. That was six years ago, and since then we always kept a bottle in the house. We cannot do without it. For coughs and colds, it has no equal." 25c 50c and \$1.00 bottle at Rust & Pittard's.

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

Pate & Rollins.

W. W. Cypert has rented his farm near Hico and left last week with his family and household effects to go into the land where the "Coyotes cry and the Kerlews fly and the gentle zephyrs go whistling by"—as the "Ranchman Poet," Larry Chittendon, pictures it. Wash expects to locate somewhere near Merkel, Texas.—Hico Review.

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

W. P. Browning & Co.

Mysterious Circumstance.

One was pale and sallow and the other fresh and rosy. Whence the difference? She who is blushing with health uses Dr. King's New Life Pills to maintain it. By gently arousing the lazy organs they compel good digestion and head off constipation. Try them. Only 25c, at Rust & Pittard.

Two horses for sale. One-half cash, balance full time.

The Star Store.

Glad to Get Back.

J. J. Pettus, manager of the Sweetwater Mercantile Co., who returned home last week from a visit to Houston and other densely populated parts of the State, says he was glad to get back and better prepared to appreciate the general condition in Nolan and adjoining counties than ever before. He says that it is hard for one here to realize the true condition of the farmers in the section he has visited. He says there is no comparison to be made in the condition of the farmers here and those in the east.—Sweetwater Reporter.

Sick Blood

Feed pale girls on Scott's Emulsion.

We do not need to give all the reasons why Scott's Emulsion restores the strength and flesh and color of good health to those who suffer from sick blood.

The fact that it is the best preparation of Cod Liver Oil, rich in nutrition, full of healthy stimulation is a suggestion as to why it does what it does.

Scott's Emulsion presents Cod Liver Oil at its best, fullest in strength, least in taste.

Young women in their "teens" are permanently cured of the peculiar disease of the blood which shows itself in paleness, weakness and nervousness, by regular treatment with Scott's Emulsion.

It is a true blood food and is naturally adapted to the cure of the blood sickness from which so many young women suffer.



We will be glad to send a sample to any sufferer.

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., New York.

The Good Old Times.

People who talk of the good old times should read these facts compiled by Popular Mechanics in the good old times: "There was not a public library in the United States. Almost all the furniture was imported from England. An old copper mine in Connecticut was used as a prison. There was only one hat factory, and that made cocked hats. Virginia contained a fifth of the whole population of the country. A man who jeered at the preacher or criticised the sermon was fined. Two stage coaches bore all the travel between New York and Boston. A day laborer considered himself well paid with two shillings a day. The whipping post and pillory were still standing in New York and Boston. Trousers were fastened with pegs or laces. The church collection was taken in a bag at the end of a pole, with a bell attached to arouse the sleepy contributors."

Definition Of A Kiss.

The following unidentified paragraph floating around in the joke columns deserves a different classification. It is no joke:

A kiss is a peculiar proposition. Of no use to one, yet absolute bliss to two. The small boy gets it for nothing, the young man has to steal it, and the old man has to buy it. The baby's right, the lover's privilege, the hypocrite's mask. To a young girl, faith, to a married woman, hope, and to an old maid charity.

Are You Restless At Night.

And harassed by a bad cough? Use Ballard's Horehound Syrup, it will secure you sound sleep and effect a prompt and radical cure. 25c 50c and \$1.00 bottle at Rust & Pittards.

Mrs. Jim Dennis is again confined to her bed, but The Mail hopes she is not seriously ill.

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.

Brown, Dock
Cavender, E L
Case, Mrs. M E
Barber, J N
Daniels, Ellie
Gray, Mrs Blanch
Lane, W A
Martin, W A
McComick, J W
Miller Organ Co.
Moore, A J
Milson, F M
Parden, Osker
Ramsey, Joe (2)
Stubblefield
Threat, Mrs O E

Open Your Mouth

And swallow one. Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets combine all the qualities of the best liquid chill tonics. Dose always ready. Dose always the same. No cure—no pay.

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, but great suffering and pain develop the feeling of brotherhood. I doubt very much whether one has progressed except through pain. In the voices of the great souls of all ages may be heard a suggestion of minor note. Those who have suffered—who have felt the deadly grip upon the heart—understand their fellowmen 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.

How to Succeed in Business.

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

Who wants to rent a good five room house in Merkel—convenient to school, good barn, lots and garden, five acres of land, well and wind mill. For particulars see Basham, Shepherd & Co.

Mrs. Haynes Hughes has been quite sick, but is improving, we are glad to learn.

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.

CHEAP JOHN?

We Deny the Charge, But Cheap Goods is our Motto!

After taking stock we find ourselves "long" on some articles and there are a great many odds and ends. These are goods which you need almost every day in the years. They are mainly winter goods, but can be used any time of year, and hence it is to your interest to investigate our stock. During this month we will save you considerable on the goods you buy, it makes no difference what it is, for if we have it you can rest assured that we have SHAVED THE PROFIT down until it is a mere frazzle.

Come to us for Good Goods and Little Prices.

Yours for a Prosperous Year,

J. P. Sharp & Co.

The Effects of Bad Roads.

One day this week, while driving out to the country for a visit, two ladies drove into a mudhole which proved to be all its name implies, and they were soon in the middle of a bad fix. The horse which they were driving in his struggles to extricate himself from a mud bath, tore loose from the buggy and left the ladies comfortable seated in and in complete possession of the buggy, but fearful that their stay would be prolonged indefinitely. Perhaps Mrs. Thurmond or Mrs. Will Mann might throw further light on the subject and—er—um tell how—well, how escape was effected.

But this is more evidence that the roads leading into Merkel are not just what they should be. The Mail is going to hammer away on this subject until there is at least one good road in the country.

PIGS FOR SALE.

I will be in Merkel February 12th with a car of pigs for sale. They were picked up in a hog country and are well graded. Those wanting pigs for either breeding or fattening purposes should see me on above date. Prices reasonable.

R. H. COLLINS.

L. B. White moved his family over from Sterling City this week and will locate in Merkel. Mr. White lived here several years ago and we are glad to welcome him back.

Mrs. W. J. O'Zee and daughter, Mrs. Daisy Sheppard, left last night for Ft. Worth to join their husbands, where they will make their future home. The best wishes of The Mail goes with them.

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.

WEAK AND LOW SPIRITED,
A Correspondent Thus Describes
His Experience.

"I can strongly recommend Herbine as a medicine of remarkable efficacy for indigestion, loss of appetite, sour taste in the mouth, palpitation, headache, drowsiness after meals with distressing mental depressions and

low spirits. Herbine must be a unique preparation for cases such as mine, for a few doses entirely removed my complaint. I wonder at people going on suffering or spending their money on worthless things, when Herbine is procurable, and so cheap. 50c a bottle at Rust & Pittards.

Try reading The Mail.

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

SCHUBERT SYMPHONY CLUB.

Prospects of Securing it for Merkel in the Near Future.

We have in prospect an engagement of the celebrated Schubert Symphony Club and Lady Quartette Company of Chicago, and it is expected that they will be secured to give one of their delightful entertainments about March 17. This Company gives a program of the greatest variety, consisting of Lady Quartettes, Mandolin and Guitar Club, String, Violin and Vocal Solos, Amusing Reading. In the Schubert's we will get a musical entertainment that is enjoyable from first to last—not a long dull classical affair, but a bright, interesting program of music's choicest gems.

The management of the Opera House will call on you this week for a guarantee of tickets to the performance—tickets 75c. It will be an honor to Merkel to secure this attraction here.

See what Rev. Homer T. Wilson, the eminent divine and noted lecturer of Ft. Worth, says of the Schubert's:

"Their entertainment is first-class—will please, delight and uplift the most fastidious audience. Among their warm friends the Schubert Symphony Club number the leading ministers of the United States, as well as the better element of citizens everywhere. The quality of their entertainment is such that it receives the hearty endorsement and co-operation of people who seldom venture to attend a performance of any kind. A little wholesome amusement occasionally is necessary to the moral, physical and intellectual welfare of any community." A little relaxation, a "forgetting of ourselves" for a time is a cheap tonic and can be had by attend-

ing the Schubert concert here on March 17 if procured.

TO ABOLISH TREASURERS.

Bill May Be Introduced Turning Work Over to the Banks.

Austin, Tex., Jan. 27.—It is probable that a bill will be introduced at this session of the Legislature providing for the abolishment of the offices of City Treasurer and County Treasurer. A bill applying to County Treasurers in this particular was introduced at the last session of the Legislature by Representative Fountain. Dr. Fountain, who is a member of the present Legislature, has made a study of the question, and it is his opinion that by abolishing the office of County Treasurer and placing the duties and work of that position in the hands of banks, the State would derive a direct saving of not less than \$200,000 per annum, exclusive of the vast revenue that would be derived from interests to be paid the several counties on the sinking fund by the banks. Dr. Fountain said that when the measure was under consideration at the last session of the Legislature he wrote to a large number of the leading banks throughout the State and asked them as to their views on the proposed law. The replies which he received showed that the banks would not only be willing to perform the duties of County Treasurer without salary or cost to the State or county, but that they would be glad to pay from 2½ to 3 per cent interest on deposits. It is Dr. Fountain's idea that the Board of County Commissioners should be empowered designate the bank which is to perform the duties of County Treasurer. He says that in most counties and cities the duties of this office are now really performed by the banks, and he sees no reason why the State should be required to pay a large amount of the money for salaries and lose the revenue that would otherwise be derived from interest on the county or city funds on deposit.

What is Man?

Man is a two-legged animal that chews tobacco and walks on the forked end.

Most men were borned. We never heard of but one who wasn't; he was made of mud—just for a sample. Man is found in most parts of the world. He roams at will, feeds in the day time and sleeps at nights—some nights.

He is very tame. You can go up to and put your hands on him anywhere so as you don't put it in his pocketbook; he has under such conditions been known to kick.

Man's life is full of disappointments, peruna and cob pipes.

He goes forth like a lion in the morning and leaves the wood for his wife to chop. In the evening sneaks home with his pants ripped and raises Cain about hard times.

Like an elephant he has a trunk but he don't always take it with him—the elephant does.

Men are like snails in one respect; in nine cases out of ten where either of them are crooked, they have been driven to it by women.

Men are like chickens—they always want to get on the highest roost.

No man will swear before a lady, he always lets her swear first.

Little things sometimes worry

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.

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THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

MERKEL, TEXAS.

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

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

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

a man most—twins, for instance.

Man may enjoy taking his sweetheart upon his knee but after married he doesn't like being "sat upon."

Man flourishes like a sage-weed today and tomorrow the undertaker has him salted away in his ice box.

Now, as to what a man is good for, anthropology is still in the dark. Being strong he is used to drawing pictures, carry news and pull revolvers. Properly trained, man can jump higher than any known animal. He has even been known to jump mountain resort board bills.

Although in many ways man is like other animals, in this respect he differs from all: He lies while standing up.—Ex.

Now's the time to advertise.

Tendency of the Times.
The tendency of medical science is toward preventive measures. The best thought of the world is being given to the subject. It is easier to prevent than to cure. It has been fully demonstrated that pneumonia, one of the most dangerous diseases that medical men have to contend with, can be prevented by the use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Pneumonia always results from a cold or from an attack of influenza (grip) and it has been observed that this remedy counteracts any tendency of these diseases toward pneumonia. This has been fully proven in many thousands of cases in which this remedy has been used during the great prevalence of colds and grip in recent years, and can be relied upon with implicit confidence. Pneumonia often results from a slight cold when no danger is apprehended until it is suddenly discovered that there is fever and difficulty in breathing and pains in the chest, then it is announced that the patient has pneumonia. Be on the safe side and take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as soon as the cold is contracted. It always cures. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

We Tell no Secrets.
It is an open secret that Hunt's Lightning Oil cures everything except broken hearts and softening of the brain. 25 and 50c.

Best Passenger Service

...IN...
TEXAS



"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS

BETWEEN
FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS

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

A Temperance Song
"Sing a song of penitence, a fellow full of rye, four and twenty serpents dancing in his eyes; when his eyes were opened, he shouted for his life; wasn't he a pretty chump to go before his wife? His hat was in the parlor under a chair, his boots were in the hallway, his coat was on the stair, his trousers in the kitchen, his collar on the shelf, but he hadn't any notion where he was himself; when the morn was breaking someone heard him call—his head was on an ice box which was the best of all.—Texas Sun.

THE FORD'S
BLACK-DRAUGHT
FOR
CONSTIPATION

Constipation is nothing more than a clogging of the bowels and nothing less than vital stagnation or death if not relieved. If every constipated sufferer could realize that he is allowing poisonous filth to remain in his system, he would soon get relief. Constipation invites all kind of contagion. Headaches, biliousness, colds and many other ailments disappear when constipated bowels are relieved. Theford's Black-Draught thoroughly cleans out the bowels in an easy and natural manner without the purging of calomel or other violent cathartics.

Be sure that you get the original Theford's Black-Draught, made by The Chattanooga Medicine Co. Sold by all druggists in 25 cent and \$1.00 packages.

Morgan, Ark., May 25, 1901.
I cannot recommend Theford's Black-Draught too highly. I keep it in my house all the time and have used it for the last ten years. I never gave my children any other laxative. I think I could never be able to work without it on account of being troubled with constipation. Your medicine is all that keeps me up.
C. B. McFARLAND.

RESERVED FOR.

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.
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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

...FOR...

Consumption, Coughs and Colds

Than by All Other Throat and Lung Remedies Combined.

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

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.

It has helped many. The **THE FARMERS' DEPARTMENT** is not the theory of 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

A Sharp Saber Fight.

It was not often that the opposing cavalry came into such close quarters that they could use their sabers with effect, but it happened on one notable occasion in east Tennessee 37 years ago. Yes, more than a quarter century has passed since Colonel E. M. McCook, at the head of a cavalry division from Burnside's army met and charged upon two divisions of Longstreet's men under Captains Morgan and Armstrong. While McCook led his division at a galloping charge La Grange, at the head of a demi-brigade, came upon a superior force of Morgan's troopers around a battery, made a dash for them and sabered the gunners as well as their cavalry supporters, taking two cannon and many prisoners.

When the main opposing lines fairly met on open ground, there ensued one of the prettiest hand to hand combats of the war, at the end of which the redoubtable Morgan was routed and his battleflag and escort were captured.

A Youth's Act Of Heroism

The Confederate defenders of Fort Gregg, near the city limit of Petersburg, less than 220 in number, were suddenly assailed by several thousand of the enemy and repulsed five charges in succession before finally overpowered by numbers. When bullets ran short, the riflemen hurled stones and brick over the low parapet upon the heads of the daring assailants and fought the unequal battle out until reduced to less than 30 in number of unwounded men. After these were convinced that all was lost a youth named Atkinson from North Carolina seized the tattered flag he and his comrades had so bravely defended and dashed over the parapet, followed by bullets from perhaps 500 rifles but safely scaping with the trophy of his valor.

Colonel Mosby's Ruse.

Colonel Jack Mosby was not very particular who he picked up on his raids around the country. It is told of him that one night in March, 1863, he and his men were prowling about the Union headquarters at Fairfax Court House, Va., and from a prisoner learned where General Stoughton, commander of the infantry outpost, was sleeping. Taking with him a few trusty men, Mosby stole up

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 the general's house, and as General Stoughton turned to face the intruders he was confronted by a brace of revolvers. "You are my prisoner!" said the guerilla. My name is Mosby — Jack Mosby, at your service. Stuart's cavalry is all around us and Stonewall Jackson's between you and the army."

And Stoughton was so thoroughly deceived that, though having an army of several thousand within call, he allowed the guerillas to carry him off a prisoner.

One of Custer's Performances

It was while Phil Sheridan was fighting Wade Hampton at Treilian Station, Va., that Custer, taking advantage of the enemy's preoccupation, slipped up a by-road directly in Hampton's rear and seized all his spare horses and wagon trains. Just about the time he had got them some cavalry from Fitz Hugh Lee's column galloped up in the rear of Custers, and there he was, caught between two fires. But, although he lost not only his captured wagon trains, but his own as well, and, though another body of the enemy immediately attacked him from another direction, Custer was equal to the desperate situation, somehow extricated his little force intact, straightened out his third line of battle and held on until Merritt's brigade charged through to his relief.

The Mail gives all the news.

No Drunkenness Allowed.

Superintendent Abercrombie has with drawn the certificates from several teachers in the State. The certificates were those issued by the State Board of Examiners. In each case it was done on the charge of immorality. The charges were proven to the satisfaction of the Superintendent. No snap judgement was taken. The teacher in each case was given an opportunity of defending himself. The cause in all the cases was drunkenness. The withdrawal of the certificates is along the line of work of the department to raise the standard of teaching and of teachers in Alabama. No habitual or public drunkard can teach school in the State. — Montgomery (Ala.) Journal.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

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.

Cancer Cured

Mr. W. W. Prickett, Smithfield Ills., writes, Sept., 10th, 1901: "I had been suffering several years with a cancer on my face, which gave me great annoyance and unceasing itching. I was using Ballard's Snow Liniment for a sore leg, and through an accident, I rubbed some of the liniment on the cancer, and as it gave me almost instant relief, I decided to continue to use the liniment on the cancer. In a short time the cancer came out, my face healed up and there is not the slightest scar left. I have implicit faith in the merits of this preparation, and it cannot be too highly recommended." 25, 50c and \$1.00. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Mistakes are Costly.

You can make no mistake by using Hunt's Cure for itch, tetter, ringworm and itching piles. No cure—no pay.

R. B. USTICK

DEALER IN

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Etc.

Repairing a Specialty.

Escaped An Awful Fate.

Mr. H. Haggins of Melbourne, Fla., writes, "My doctor told me I had consumption and nothing could be done for me. I was given up to die. The offer of a free trial bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption were startling. I am now on the road to recovery and owe all to Dr. King's New Discovery. It surely saved my life." This great cure is guaranteed for all throat and lung diseases by Rust & Pittard, Druggist. Price 50c & \$1.00. Trial Bottles free.

Try reading The Mail.