

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MAY 14, 1903.

NO. 12.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

General
Merchandise

If you want to save money,
we are the people to hunt up.
Don't forget this, please.

Gen. Gordon At Stamford.

The following is taken from the Stamford News and is the response by Gen. Gordon to the introduction delivered on the occasion of his lecture at Stamford last week:

Response by Gen. Gordon; (Just as Gen. Gordon arose the gallery of the Inn, on which an immense crowd had gathered, threatened to collapse.) Ladies and gentlemen, do not be alarmed; if you do break through and fall you couldn't hit anything better than Texas soil.

Ladies, Gentlemen and Fellow Comrades: This is a very unexpected demonstration and welcome that you have shown me, and you have touched and stirred the very depths of the fountain of my heart. I am not Texas born, but am of Georgia, and that isn't so very bad. However, I desire to say that when I think of what Texas was in that bloodiest drama ever enacted on the stage of time, and when I see what she is today and what she is going to be in the future, I almost wish that I were a Texan; and when I look at these young girls with their blushing faces and their sparkling eyes, I wish I were a young Texan. (Cheers.) My dear friends, you have a place in my heart, and the proudest honor and glory that could come to me in this life would be to feel that I deserve one fifth of the honor and courtesy that you have shown me by this unexpected demonstration. I want nothing more than to live in your hearts, my fellow countrymen, and above all I want a place in the Southern woman's heart, the truest, the proudest and the best women the world ever saw. (Loud applause.)

I also want to say, my dear countrymen and comrades, that I am not to be here long, but I desire to state that when I am gone that I shall miss you, and when I am no more, when my spirit has taken its flight, as I trust it will

toward a better home than this, I want to be laid at rest with the old boys who stood by me in the long ago, and many of whom have passed over the river to their reward, and I do not desire any higher honors than to be numbered with the confederate dead.

May God bless you, my dear friends, and this great western country of yours, and your magnificent little city, and may his richest blessings come to you, my comrades, to you my dear friends and you, noble young men and women of this great commonwealth.

Swift's Maxims.

G. F. Swift, the millionaire packer of Chicago, who died recently, was regarded as a wise and shrewd man. Here are some of Mr Swift's maxims, by following which any man could make a success:

Don't drink. No man, however rich has enough money to waste in putting on style.

The richer a man gets the more careful he should be to keep his head level.

The man that does not know his business from top clean down to the bottom isn't any one kind of a business man.

Business, religion and pleasure of the right kind should be the only things in life for any man.

A big head and a big bank account were never found together to the credit of any and never will be.

No young man is rich enough to smoke 25-cent cigars.

Every time a man loses his temper he loses several chances.

Next to knowing your own business, it is a mighty good thing to know as much about your neighbor's as possible, especially if he's in the same line.

The man with the biggest title and salary should be the biggest man in the firm.

The best a man ever did should not be his standard for the rest of his life.

Now's the time to advertise.

The Best Place.

A young man who sought a clerkship in one of the departments in Washington, once asked the late Robert G. Ingersoll for his endorsement and this was Ingersoll's reply:

"Young man, I would rather have forty acres of land, with a log cabin on it and the woman I love in the cabin—with a little grassy, winding path leading down to the spring where the water gurgles from the lips of the earth, whistling day and night to the white pebbles a perpetual poem—hollyhocks growing at the corner of the house, and morning glories blooming over the low latched door—with lattice work over the window so that the sunlight would fall checked on the dimpled babe in the cradle, and birds—like songs with wings hovering in the summer air—than to be the clerk of any government on earth."

Made Young Again.

"One of Dr. King's New Life Pills each night for two weeks has put me in my 'teens' again" writes D. H. Turner of Dempseytown, Pa. They're the best in the world for Liver, Stomach and Bowels. Purely vegetable. Never gripe. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

Teach The Child.

"With the fear of whiskey, there should be impressed upon children sympathy and sorrow for the unfortunate drunkard. One of the ablest men, and one of the most earnest men in America, said to his friend recently: 'I never drink as you know, but when I see a man lying drunk in the gutter I know that he has probably made that very day a nobler struggle to control himself than I ever made in my life. He has yielded and fallen at last, but only because all of his strength is insufficient to overcome the disease that possesses him.'

"Teach your children that drunkenness is a disease, as bad as leprosy. Teach them that it can be avoided; that the disease is contracted in youth through carelessness, and that it is spread by those who encourage drinking in others. Tell them that the avoiding of whiskey is not merely a question of morals or obedience to parents, but a question involving mental and physical salvation, success in life, happiness, and the respect of others."—Exchange.

Why I Am Not An Infidel.

"I once met a thoughtful scholar," said Bishop Whipple, "who told me he had read every book he could which assailed the religion of Jesus Christ, and he said he should have become an infidel but for three things: 1. I am a man. I am going somewhere. Tonight I am nearer the grave than I was last night. I have read all such books can tell me. They shed not one solitary ray of hope or light upon the darkness. They shall not take away the guide and leave me stone-blind. 2. I had a mother. I saw her go down into the dark valley where I am going, and she learned on an unseen arm as calmly as a child goes to sleep on it's mother's breast. I knew that it was not a dream. 3. I have



MONEY!

is saved by
**BUYING
THE
BEST**

We sell the Farrand Organs, Mason & Hamlin, and others. Also a fine line of Pianos, nice line of Violins, Guitars, Mandolins; strings of all kinds.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

three motherless daughters. They have no protection but myself. I would rather kill them than leave them in this sinful world if you blot out from it all the teachings of the gospel."

Just Heed It.

Every man who saves money is called mean and stingy by the loafers on the street corners and pointed out with reproach by the men who idle away their time. In order to get ahead a man must spend less than he makes, and above all things, he must work. Don't be ashamed of having any one say that you are close. Attend to your own business, and you are all right. The men who criticise the thrifty really pays them a big compliment. It is the tribute sloth pays industry.—Del Rio News.

Spanish Proverbs.

No season is as brief as a woman's love.

A girl's hair draws more than a ship's cable.

Women and weather are not to be trusted.

Choose neither a wife nor linen by candle light.

A woman may be loyal to love, but never to lovers.

Woman is a curious creature, with long hair and short ideas.

Woman is a guitar, the sweetness of whose tone depends upon the player.

He who has a handsome wife or a castle on the frontier is never without fear.

"Dare to be a David,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose firm,
And dare to make it known."

Quick Arrest.

J. A. Gullidge of Verbena, Ala. was twice in the hospital from a severe case of the piles causing 24 tumors. After doctors and all remedies failed, Bucklen's Arnica Salve quickly arrested further inflammation and cured him. It conquers aches and kills pain. 25c. at Rust & Pittard's, Druggists.

Applicable to Merkel.

Parents, are you keeping your eyes on your children now, while school is not in session? Are you aware of the fact that they can get into mischief right around Ozona as well as any where else? Of course it is vacation and they need rest from their studies and recreations also, but don't have them knocking out window lights, talking-sassy to grown folks and learning ugly conduct that will cling to them all through life. The mothers here are like those everywhere else under the sun, they love their little ones tenderly, and they should strive earnestly to raise them up honest men and lovable women. The mother's influence is to the child what dew is to flowers. All through the world's history it has been the golden thread that gleamed brightest in the fabric of civilization. And there is no reason why a mother of Ozona cannot exercise her influence for the betterment of her child today, just the same as did Ben Hur's mother in Judea 2000 years ago.—Ozona Texan.

The Methodist Meeting.

Considerable interest is being manifested in the Methodist meeting, which began Sunday night, and it is hoped and expected that great good will be accomplished. The pastor is being assisted by Rev. Stathum of Eastland who is an earnest, forcible speaker. Large crowds are in attendance at every service. Two services are held each day—at eleven and at night—and the meeting will probably be carried on through this week, possibly longer if sufficient interest is manifested.

Didn't Like It.

He put his arm around her waist and kissed her, indignantly she strove against his power, and then she said: "I'll scream, you horrid mister, if you don't stop in—well—in half an hour."

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.

"In the Good Old Summer Time."

There is someone who rejoices that the good old summer time is almost here again, even more than does the gay jaybird, the merry meadow lark, or the festive bobolink.

It is Dusty Rhodes, and not only dusty, but his friends—Wandering Willie, Meandering Mike, Peregrinating Pete, and all the rest of the family of the great unwashed, commonly known as tramps.

The winter time is a bitter season to the genus tramp. If he can he goes south, but even down South, away down South, sleeping out in January is no idle dream.

Besides, so many tramps throng southward when the snow commences to fall in the North that the tramp industry in Dixie during the winter time is terribly overdone.

Town Marshals down South are cold and heartless and unfeeling, and Southern town boards make horrible ordinances to the effect that people with no visible means of support shall be put to work in the city brick yard.

So many tramps go South that there are members of the profession working both sides of the streets all the way to New Orleans, and there are not enough cold handouts to go around.

So uninviting has been the Southern field during the last few years that many tramps heroically prefer to remain in the North during the winter and take their chances of freezing to death rather than to suffer lingering starvation and the horrible certainty of working in a brickyard if they stray to the other side of Mason and Dixon's line.

So every winter thousands of tramps remain during the cold season in all the large cities of the North. St. Louis winters thousands of them.

Every freezing night finds tramps besieging the police stations.

In the morning, after sleeping all night on the brick floors, they are turned out in the cold world and must spend the day hanging around some saloon, venturing out now and then to beg money of some kindhearted passer-by.—St Louis Republic.

A small shower fell yesterday, and indications are favorable for rain as we go to press.

Buy a Bank Draft

Never risk your money in the mails. For absolute safety, at trifling cost, buy a draft at this Bank.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas,

Public School Closes.

The exercises of last Thursday and Friday marked the closing of the public school. Thursday evening invitations were sent out to patrons and trustees that they might witness the examinations and preliminary exercises, and quite a number visited the school. Examinations and reviews were held in each room. On the blackboards were examples and sums and suspended from ribbons attached to the walls were drawings, composition work, etc., the products of willing hands and minds. It was a pleasing sight and one calculated to make the average person wish for a repetition of his school days.

The work of the children impressed one with the fact that they have not been idle, but have eagerly grasped every opportunity. Their progress and advancement has been rapid, and they rounded out the term with a fitting tribute to the teachers under whose care they were placed.

This has been one of the very best terms, length considered, in the history of the school. The teachers have been efficient and painstaking, and the advancement of school interests shows that both patrons and scholars are well pleased with their work. There is not a better faculty anywhere in the west.

Closing exercises were held in the auditorium of the public school building Friday night. An immense crowd was in attendance and the "crush" was so great that anything like a fair report of the occasion is impossible. However, we hear only praise from those who were so fortunate as to see and hear the rendition of the interesting program.

The Mail wishes to add its thanks, with those of patrons of the school, to the faculty for the success of the school this year. Wherever they may go or whatever may be their avocations in the future, the best wishes of all our people go with them.

NOTES.

Miss Lillie Julian, who had charge of the music department, will remain with us a month longer, and on the 28th will give an entertainment at the Ferrier Hall, which is looked forward to with great pleasure.

Miss Opal Harkrider returned to her home at Abilene. She has given general satisfaction in her department and no one has a warmer place in the hearts of the children.

Miss Maggie Hatten is one of our own girls, but will spend the vacation at Whitewright. We wish her a pleasant visit for she is one of our best young ladies.

Miss Laura Evans will spend the vacation on a visit to her father in Alabama. Miss Evans is a model young lady, is very popular, and deserves greatest praise for her efficient services.

Miss Vallie Hill is another Merkel girl and will spend her vacation at home. Her work has been very satisfactory and she is a favorite with all.

Prof. Sewell, who has been with us three terms, needs no words of commendation. His work stands out as a monument to his efficiency. He will use his vacation wisely and during the time will erect a substantial residence in North Merkel.

This is Prof. Evans' first term as principal of our school. That the management of the school has been in wise hands is generally conceded, and that he has

If I Should Die To-Night.

ANONYMOUS.

If I should die to-night,
My friends would look upon my quiet face
Before they laid it in its resting place,
And deem that death had left it almost fair;
And, laying snow white flowers against my hair,
Would smooth it down with tearful tenderness,
And fold my hands with lingering caress—
Poor hands, so empty and cold to-night!

If I should die to-night,
My friends would call to mind, with loving thought,
Some kindly deed the icy hands had wrought;
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said;
Errands on which the willing feet had sped;
The memory of my selfishness and pride,
My hasty words, would all be put aside,
And so I should be loved and mourned to-night.

If I should die to-night,
Even hearts estranged would turn once more to me,
Recalling other days remorsefully;
The eyes that chill me with inverted glance
Would look upon me as of yore, perchance,
And soften, in the old familiar way;
For who could war with dumb, unconscious clay!
So I might rest, forgiven of all, to-night.

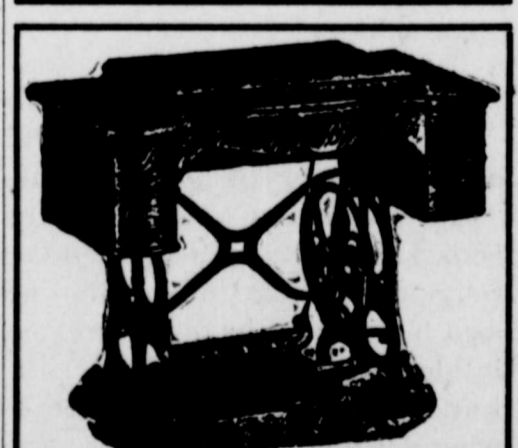
O, friends, I pray to-night,
Keep not your kisses for my dead, cold brow—
The way is lonely, let me feel them now.
Think gently of me; I am travel worn;
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn.
Forgive, O, hearts estranged, forgive, I plead!
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not head
The tenderness for which I long to-night.

no superiors in school work is a fact known to all. The people are, and of right should be proud of his generalship. He is recognized as one of the foremost educators in Northwest Texas. He will assist in conducting the Abilene summer normal.

Three cheers for the Merkel public school and its efficient corps of teachers!

A Soldier-Woman.

Mrs. Ann Downing, who died recently at Portsmouth, N. H., drew a pension as the widow of Sergeant Havilah Downing who served in the Mexican war. Sergeant Downing was a member of company C. Ninth infantry, and was mustered into service in April, 1847. The Portsmouth correspondent for the Chicago Tribune says: "Mrs. Downing was 85 years of age. She always claimed that she was entitled to a pension in her own right as a Mexican war veteran as well as the widow of one. She and her husband both took the same oath and signed the same papers when they enlisted, and her name was borne on the company rolls. She was laundress, seamstress, and nurse for the whole company and indeed for the whole regiment, being the only woman in it. She was well up to the front in every battle in which the regiment was



New Royal Sewing Machine

A fine drop-head machine—fully as good in every respect as those sold by agents for \$50—but our price is only.....\$20
Come and see.

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We also carry a full line of attachments, oil, etc.

engaged, and marched into the City of Mexico with the regiment when General Scott made his triumphal entry. She was mustered out of the service at the same time as her husband, and with precisely the same formalities. Sergeant Downing died thirty years ago.

List of Casualties in Texas.

One daily paper chronicled the following casualties, murders, suicides and accidents from Sunday to Wednesday, inclusive. The list is not complete, but it is enough to give one the horrors:
Boy killed at Garland while playing with a pistol.

Preacher killed near Gainesville by a Mexican desperado who is in turn shot to pieces while resisting arrest.

Man fatally injured by being struck with a pile driver at Hillsboro.

Ball player killed with a bat at Josephine.

Railroad workman killed at Georgetown by falling timbers.

Ernest Sowell of Colorado shot and killed at Alamogordo, N. M. Sunset man killed in a mine in Mexico.

Motorman killed by a streetcar at Fort Worth.

Marlin man commits suicide.

Man dies at Houston from effects of a pistol wound; accident.

Man found murdered in a pasture near Austin.

Citizen of Detroit dies by the suicide route.

Two Mexican engage in a fight at Waring and both are dead.

At Corrigan a negro woman is murdered and her cabin burned over her body.

Train runs into a hand car near Waco and one man is killed.

Young man killed by lightning near San Antonio.

Farmer killed by lightning at Marion.

Aged farmer found dead near Paris with a bullet hole in his head.

Young man found dead in bed at Texarkana.

Explosion of a gasoline lamp at Denton causes death of a business man.

Texas Weights And Measures.

Article 5323. The following shall be the legal number of

20

Per Cent Discount

on all Millinery
from date until

Sept. 1, 1903

Mrs. HOOPLE,

Nothing has ever equalled it.
Nothing can ever surpass it.

Dr. King's New Discovery

For CONSUMPTION
COUGHS and
COLD

Price
5c & \$1.00

A Perfect Cure for All Throat and Lung Troubles.
Money back if it fails. Trial Bottles free.

pounds per bushel: Wheat 56 pounds; corn, shelled 56 pounds; corn in ear, shucked 70 pounds; unshucked, in the ear 72 pounds; oats 32 pounds; barley 48 pounds; rye 56 pounds; buckwheat 42 pounds; white beans 60 pounds; Irish potatoes 60 pounds; sweet potatoes 55 pounds; onions 57 pounds; turnips 55 pounds; dried apples 28 pounds; dried peaches 28 pounds; bran 20 pounds; Hungarian grass seed 48 pounds; hemp seed 44 pounds; flax seed 56 pounds; stone coal 80 pounds; charcoal 22 pounds; salt 50 pounds; clover seed 60 pounds; timothy 45 pounds; cotton seed 32 pounds; millet seed 52 pounds; peaches 50 pounds; tomatoes 55 pounds; apples 45 pounds.

Always The Case.

Lancaster Herald: A town is known by its newspaper and the merchant by his advertisement.

As proof of this fact it is no common thing for a man who wants to know something about a town to step into The News office and inquire for a paper published there, that he may make an estimate of the people. His comments, after he looks over the paper, are always about this way: "It must be a pretty good town if it supports a paper like this," or, "They do not seem to have life enough in them in that town to keep their paper alive."—Dallas News.

Self Explanatory.

Wichita Falls, May 11, 1903.
Ed J. Leeman, Merkel, Texas.

Please take care of my pig.
Geo. S. Berry.

Merkel, Texas, May 12, 1903.
Geo. S. Berry, Sherman, Texas.

Pig died in great agony at 8:30 last night. Funeral Friday.
Ed. J. Leeman.

W. P. Thurmond returned this morning from Lynn County.

Bubbles.

A street coat—mud.
Cold cash in the pocket often warms the heart.

Though he spurns clothes, Cupid sometimes visits a tailor. Even color-blind people recognize the green-eyed monster.

The shoe store is about the only place where some women ever have a man at their feet.

A SPECIAL SHIRT SALE!

Good for 30 days. Regular 65c value in Madras and Percale Shirts, with or without collar, sale price 50c.

Fine line Madras and Percale Shirts, with one pair cuffs, worth \$1, at 75c.

Big line of good quality Percale and Oxford Shirts, cuffs and two collars, sale price 60c.

CLOTHING. Our line of Men's and Boys' Clothing is very complete. Be sure and see them before you buy.

Groceries

We keep the best brands in Staple and Fancy Groceries and would appreciate your trade in this line.

We sell the well known Dr. Price's Baking Powder and Extracts.

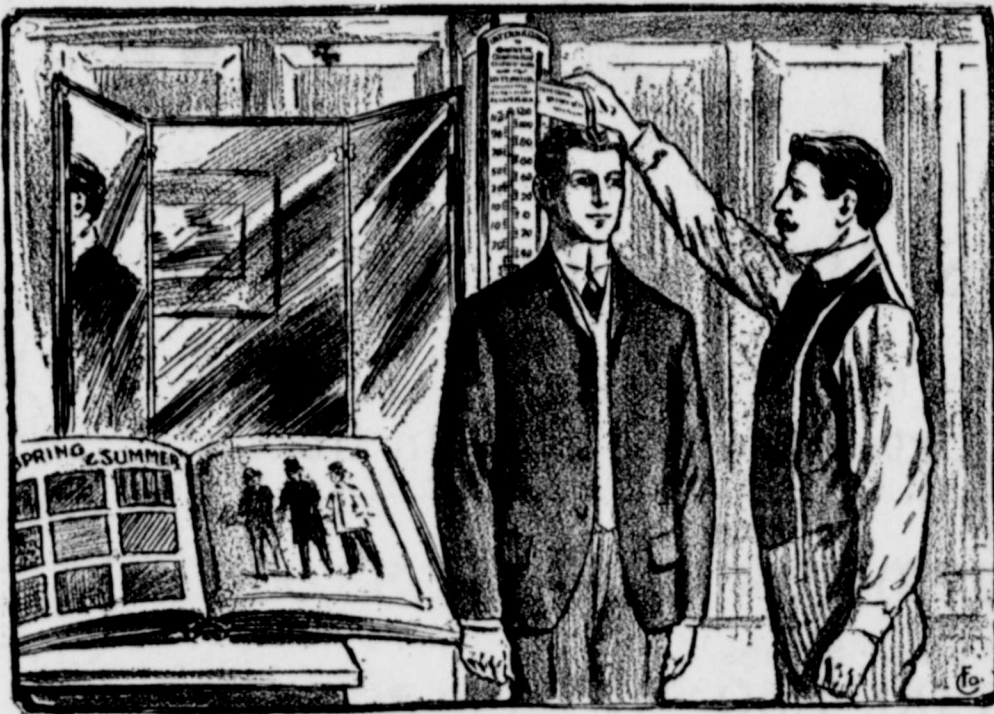
Our brands of flour, Pride of Decatur, Perfection and Globe.

Prompt delivery.

Yours truly,

The Star Store

Merkel Mercantile Co., Props.



HOW TALL ARE YOU?

If you don't know, come in to see us and we'll put you under the

"INTERNATIONAL" HEIGHT MEASURING DEVICE

and tell you to the fraction of an inch.

Incidentally we'll show you the "INTERNATIONAL" line of samples comprising over six hundred of the noblest and newest patterns for Men's wear.

The International Tailoring Co. OF NEW YORK AND CHICAGO

is the largest and most reliable tailoring concern in the world. The clothes made by them fit perfectly and cost little. Let us send in a trial order for you and we know you'll always wear "INTERNATIONAL" garments thereafter.

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Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tor-
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Takes Acknowledgements, Draws up Deeds, etc.
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Tonsorial Artist and
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First class barber work guar-
anteed. Give me a trial.

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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-resi-
dents, also pay interest on lands for all who may
trust their business with me; will make proof
of final settlement on homestead a 1d school land
property. I solicit your patronage. 6-1pd

The Rise of one Man and The Fall of Another.

The daily papers of last Sunday contained biographical sketches of two men which should be read by every boy and young man in the land. The subject of one sketch is A. C. Bird, who twenty-five years ago was a penniless boy, without friends or position. He finally got a place as night watchman and baggage smasher at the railroad depot. Last week Mr. Bird was made traffic manager of the Gould lines of railways, which included some of the greatest systems in the country. This is one of the highest positions within the gift of the kings of the railway world and carries a salary equal to that of the President of the United States.

The subject of the second sketch is H. W. Joiner. Fifteen years ago Mr. Joiner was one of the merchant princes of Memphis, Tenn. He was the proprietor of a prosperous store on Front street and any bank in the city would have cashed a check for \$50,000 endorsed by him. Last Friday Mr. Joiner was arrested in Memphis upon a charge of violating the sanitary laws of the city by eating from a garbage box in the rear of a hotel and filling his pockets with sour, mouldy food the negro cooks had thrown into the box from the kitchen. The papers pictured him as a typical hobo, with disheveled hair, threadbare clothing and a face streaked with the dirt of the street.

Why this great change in the stations of these men? What caused the pendulum to swing so far in the opposite direction from each? Some people may tell you it was luck—good and bad. Don't believe it. Others may say it was the decree of fate. There are no such decrees.

From the sketch of Mr. Bird we learn that he made the best night watchman ever in the company's employ and pretty soon he was given a clerkship. Here he attracted the attention of his

superiors by painstaking work and it was not long until he was made chief clerk. He mastered every detail of the business and climbed the ladder until he now stands upon the topmost rung, nor scorns the low decrees by which he did ascend.

From the sketch of Mr. Joiner we learn that he was reared in the lap of luxury and acquired habits of extravagance which assisted in his downfall. When reverse came instead of redoubling his efforts he attempted to overcome his sorrows with drink. Soon the collapse came, and he was unwilling to go to the foot of the ladder and climb. So he went to the dogs. And the canines have no reason to feel proud of the proselyte.—Honey Grove Signal.

The Supreme Court of the United States, in a case brought by Jackson W. Giles, an Alabama colored man, to establish his right to register and vote under the new constitution of that state, which right, he claimed, had been arbitrarily denied him and others of his race, has decided, five judges concurring, against the petitioner. The ground on which the decision is based is that the court has no power to interfere in political cases of such a nature.

Homestead Law Born in Texas.

It is the boast of the English nation that they gave to mankind Magna Charta and the writ of habeas Corpus. Of the United States that they gave to the world constitutional government. But it was left for Texas to give the family the homestead. Prior to the birth of the Texas Republic there was upon the statute books of no government of the earth a law protecting the family in a home free from forced sale. The Lone Star arose, and while mankind stood in expectancy, to their great joy they discerned, threw its new light a shield, the homestead law, protecting the family. The homestead law is the gift of Texas to civilization. It is

that which differentiated the Texas Republic from all prior governments. Were the nations of the earth abled before the God of mercy, and each called upon to point to a sufficient act to justify their being, there are none who could be filled with such a glow of hope as Texas in presenting the homestead law.—J. S. Daugherty.

Asked and Answered.

In whose honor was Menard county named? In honor of Michael B. Menard, founder of Galveston.

In what way did the barber pole originate? In olden times a white pole with a red stripe around it was a doctor's sign; at that time they would often bleed their patients. After this method was abandoned barbers adopted this sign.

What is the derivation of the word sincerely? It came from the latin Sine(without) Cera (wax) without wax, or in other words your pure honey.

What is the name of the prettiest bird in the world? The bird called the bird of paradise.

What place on earth has neither longitude or latitude? Where the prime meridian crosses the equator.

Why is a carnivorous animal easier killed by strychnine than a herbivorous? On account of the Tanic acid in grass which counteracts poison to a certain extent.

Who was the United States greatest diplomat? Benjamin Franklin.

Suppose a child is born in a foreign country while his father and mother are travelling abroad would the child be eligible under the constitution to become president? Yes he would be eligible in this case to become president if his parents were only temporarily absent from the U.S.

What was the name of first white child born in America. Virginia Dare.—Ex

What Plodders Accomplish.

If we were to examine a list of the men who have left their mark

on the world, we would find that, as a rule, it is not composed of those who were brilliant in youth, or who gave great promise at the outset of their careers, but rather of the plodding young men who if they have not dazzled by their brilliancy, have had the power of a day's work in them, who could stay by a task until it was well done; who have had grit, persistence common sense and honesty.

It is the steady exercise of these ordinary homely virtues, united with average ability, rather than a disceptic display of more showy qualities in youth, that enables a man to achieve greatly and honorably. So if we were to attempt to make a forecast of the successful men of the future, we should not look for them among the ranks of the "smart" boys, those who think they "know it all" and are anxious to win by a short route.—Success.

A very brave indictment has been brought against the cigarette smoking habit by a foreign scientist who recently expressed himself as follows: Watch a cigarette smoker. He first draws in all that he can of the smoke, then in exhaling he forces it through his nose. How much mucous surface is attacked by the smoke? Over one thousand square feet. It first passes the larynx into the bronchiales or small bronchial tubes, then into the air cells—about 725,000,000, of them. All this surface, especially the air cells, absorbs the nicotine from the smoke, and is carried in the blood where it is distributed to the brain and heart. Now, nicotine paralyzes muscular fibre, and the heart is especially affected, because it receives and distributes the blood, in the body.—Health.

A Tennessee paper tells of a man who years ago married a widow with three daughters, and later, and as death and time permitted him, married each of the three daughters in turn. Each of the four marriages resulted in children.

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

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

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

Sheppard & Hoople, BUTCHERS

Everything Nice
and clean; an up-
to-date market. We
would appreciate
your patronage.

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.

The Mail reaches a class of
folks that read advertisements.

Buy the Best Shoes

They Cost Less Than Poor Ones!

No Shoes have all the Essentials---Quality, Style and Comfort---like the Brown line.

Ladies' nice Dress Shoes	1.50, 2.00, 2.50 and \$3.00
Ladies' heavy every-day-wear Shoes	1.00, 1.50, 1.75 and \$2.00
Ladies' Oxford Ties and Sandals	1.00, 1.50, 1.75, 2.00 and \$2.50
Children's Shoes and Slippers from	50c to \$1.50
Men's heavy Work Shoes, congress, lace and button, all sizes,	1.25 and \$1.50
Men's Dress Shoes, Vici and Patent Leather, from	1.50 to \$4.50
Men's Low Cut Shoes	1.25, 1.50, 2.50 and \$3.00

You could not do better than buy your Shoes from us. We guarantee every pair as represented. We can afford to sell for a small profit, because we sell for CASH.

Watson & Bacon.



A WELL DRESSED LADY

knows that the shoe is the literal foundation of proper attire.

Brown's

STAR-FIVE-STAR \$2.50 SHOE

possesses every point of excellence in a shoe — style, fit, comfort and wonderful service-giving qualities.

Made by THE BROWN SHOE CO., St. Louis.

By Every Test



Star-Five-Star

Shoes are Best.

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

ADVERTISING RATES	per month
One inch space	\$ 5.00
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 non 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.

REASON GONE WILD.

A dispatch to the Chicago Tribune from New York, dated May 9, says:

"The Manhattan Liberal Club discussed the negro question last night, and Moncure D. Conway declared that the white people of the world are only a reflex leprosy, and that the normal and only natural color of human beings is brown or black. Conway made it plain that to his mind in the equality of races the blacks have the best of it.

"Other radical statements were made at the meeting, and there was some excitement—Horace C. Stansley, a young man from Alabama—was hissed off the platform because he read the sentiments of Abraham Lincoln on the negro question, expressed in his famous debate with Stephen A. Douglass. To add a further insult Conway got up and denounced Lincoln. Two hundred persons cheered him to the echo, and only one man in the audience made any attempt to refute the

utterance."

Coming in the wake of the news that New York's board of education had discontinued the use of Uncle Tom's Cabin in the public school, this discussion is all the more reprehensible. The disgraceful scene was a cut and dried affair, and was perpetrated for the sole purpose of reviving sectional feeling and strife. It is a deplorable fact that such cattle are allowed to run loose—they are a menace to the morals of the country. Southern people are long suffering in this respect, and they will resent such an insult only when personally implied. They are above petty jealousies and rotten innuendoes.

No prohibition town ever gives its paper a decent support. They are not the class of people who believe in printer's ink. White-wright is a very good example of this truism.—Denison Gazetteer.

This is "important if true," but fortunately it is by no means true. A more palpable error was never printed in a newspaper. Many prohibition towns in Texas are giving their newspapers a better support than those that are "wet." For instance, we suggest McKinney, Farmersville, Greenville, Clarksville, Waxahachie, Italy, Lancaster, Garland, Merkel, Arlington, and so on, "ad libitum." Whisky doesn't make a town, Bro. Murray, nor a newspaper, either.—Garland News.

On this division of the Texas and Pacific we might mention five papers—Abilene Reporter, Abilene News, Merkel Mail, Colorado Clipper and Colorado Spokesman—that are published in prohibition towns. Now compare them with the Baird Star, Sweetwater Reporter, Sweetwater Review, Big Springs Enterprise and Pecos News—five papers that are published in saloon towns. Are they hurt by the comparison?

It is said that only one in five graduates of the Tuskegee Industrial Institute, after graduation, follows the trade learned there. The majority seem to prefer to live off the earnings of the colored washwoman.—Riesel Rustler.

The negro is the only animal that is not improved by education. Even the dusky savage is tamed and benefited by education, and nine out of ten make good and useful citizens. The sensual, bigoted negro is good at only one thing—loafing.

Grover Cleveland emphatically states that at no time since the close of his last administration has he been desirous of carrying the Democratic banner for the fourth time in a Presidential contest. Mr. Bryan also states that Mr. Cleveland does not desire the nomination, but that he is playing a loose game in order that he may have the satisfaction of refusing the nomination should it be tendered him. Ah there!

The Sunday law is being rigidly enforced in most places in Texas, and it is a step in the right direction. In this it is but fair that every citizen should aid in the enforcement of the law. The man who buys a cigar on Sunday is aiding the dealer in violating the law. The spirit has not yet invaded this part of the country, but when it does we should be prepared to heed it to the letter.

A dispatch from New York gives an interview with a Catholic priest in which the startling statement is made that the work of the Confessional revealed the fact that nineteen out of every twenty women who fall can trace their sad condition to the modern dance. The Confessional is a priest who makes it his business

to hear confessions. There is food for thought in this for parents.

Be good at home, better abroad, love your wife and children and serve the Lord.—Italy News-Herald.

Our esteemed contemporary should not expect us to do this at one and the same time. A saint we would be, but give it to us in broken doses.

Officers will enforce the law if aided by the people, and in no other way. It is the plain duty

of every citizen to report infractions of the law. Officers can not be expected to do it all.

Don't allow your boy to idle away his time on the streets. If there is nothing else to do, put him to work on the yard—the weeds need cutting, anyway.

The news that \$2,000,000 was left in the treasury when the Pennsylvania legislature adjourned should be brought to the attention of our law makers.

Pull for the town.

Do you know that RACINE vehicles have given better satisfaction than any line of vehicles ever used in West Texas?

Do you know that they are made and guaranteed by the largest manufacturers of high grade vehicles in the world?

Do you know that "Racine" vehicles are leaders of style?

These are facts, and it will pay you to consider them before buying your vehicles.

"Racine" vehicles are made right, sold right, and run right. Examine them. Write us for 1903 Racine catalog.



ED S. HUGHES & CO.

ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

Spring Ailments.

There is an aching and tired feeling; the liver, bowels and kidneys become sluggish and inactive, the digestion impaired, with a little or no appetite, no ambition for anything, and a feeling that the whole body and mind need toning up. The trouble is, that during winter, there has been an accumulation of waste matter in the system. Herbine will remove it, secure to the secretion a right exit, give strength in place of weakness. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Don't send your orders for calendars out of town, but give them to the Mail. We have the prettiest line ever shown in the town and guarantee the prices to be as low as any foreign concern can possibly make.

Come and see our spring matting.—W. P. Browning and Co.

Hand covering for hot weather. We have silk lace gloves and mitts in all lengths and shades. at Warren's.

Remember that Burroughs & Mann keep a full line of pure drugs, patent medicines, etc. They want your trade.

We handle a full supply of machine needles and attachments, belts, oil cans, etc. Best made.

W. P. Browning & Co.

To The Public.

Use who have second-hand for sale take them to J. C. Perkins.

Figure with Warren on matting for your floors; it don't cost so much.

See Burroughs & Mann for some good water barrels.

W. P. Browning & Co. have the best line of window shades in town. All the new patterns.

Warren sells goods on the permanent business plan. This means you get the worth of your money.

One Mitchell Wagon for sale. Call at this office. 4t

A fine collection of ladies skirts \$1.50 to \$5.00 at Warren's.

Rev. Young is as proud of that new suit as the young hopeful who has stepped out of pinafores is of his first pair of trousers. It is a gift from his flock.

Real Estate Transfers.

E. W. Dennis and wife to J. T. and T. G. Dennis, lot No. 13, in block No. 20, in Merkel. Consideration \$333.

T. G. Dennis to E. W. Dennis, all of lots 3 and 4, block No. 10, in College addition to Merkel, consideration \$500.

B. F. Longacre and wife to T. S. Dennis lots 8, 9 and 10 in block 3, Merkel, consideration \$100.

W. R. Winston, formerly of this place, but more recently of the Plains country, was in Merkel Friday. He was nursing a broken arm, the result of a fall from a horse.

A heavy hail fell at Sweetwater Sunday.

S. D. McWhorter is a new and appreciated subscriber to The Mail.

Oliver Boden hailed a reporter with a silver dollar Saturday. Good boy.

Profs. Evans and Sewell will spend ten days on a tour of recreation, and left Tuesday for the Plains country.

Walter Witt is The Mail's latest "devil." And an apt hand he is, too.

A RICH VARIETY OF

Spring and Summer Dress Goods,

Which are respectfully submitted to the ladies

IN FASHIONABLE FABRICS:

In Trimmings we are showing,
Matched Embroidery,
Applique and Medalion Laces and Embroidery,
Linen Vals and Galloons.

Embroidered Swisses, Clementis Dimity, Marigold Batiste, Raye La France, Laize Renaissance, Raye Luxenil, and Grass Goods.

These selections have been carefully made with a view to the needs of the trade.

T. T. WARREN.

A Startling Test.

To save a life, Dr. T. G. Merritt, of Mo. Mehoopany, Pa., made a startling test resulting in a wonderful cure. He writes, "a patient was attacked with violent hemorrhages, caused by ulceration of the stomach. I had often found Electric Bitters excellent for acute stomach and liver trouble, so I prescribed them. The patient gained from the first, and has not had an attack in 14 months." Electric Bitters are positively guaranteed for Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation and Kidney troubles. Try them. Only 50c at Rust & Pittard.

We want your trade on paints, oils and varnishes. We sell them as low as possible, and give instructions for mixing. Burroughs & Mann.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith of Dallas visited the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Smith, here Saturday. Mrs. Smith remained a few days, but Walter, who is a commercial traveler, left that night for San Angelo.

The west bound passenger, night train, is now due here at 3:13, an hour earlier than formerly.

FOR SALE—A good buggy and harness very cheap. 2t W. L. Harkrider.

J. W. Watson and wife of Troy, Texas, visited the family of C. W. Bacon. Mr. Watson is a member of the firm of Watson & Bacon and is also the owner of the Hutcheson farm west of town.

Misses Lillie Julian and Maggie Hatten visited the former's parents at Caps Saturday, returning via Tebo, where they got caught in the rain, Sunday. But The Mail promised not to tell.

Geo. S. and Mrs. Berry attended the Bankers' convention at Denison and Sherman this week. They will visit other points during their absence.

World Wide Reputation.

White's Cream Vermifuge has achieved a world wide reputation as being the best of all worm destroyers, and for its tonic influence on weak and unthrifty children, as it neutralizes the acidity or sourness of the stomach, improves the digestion, and assimilation of food, strengthens their nervous system and restores them to the health, vigor and elasticity of spirits natural to childhood. 25c at Burroughs & Mann's

If you wish to borrow money on your land call at the First National Bank of Merkel. 4

If you have vendor's lien notes running for a number of years (say from 4 to 7), call at the First National Bank of Merkel. 4

The Snyder Coming West, in its special edition of last week, gives the likeness and biography of Prof. B. W. Hudgins, and pays a deserving tribute to his efficiency in school work. The Mail is glad to note the high esteem in which its friend is held. He deserves the best at the hands of Snyder people.

Miss Della Bell, one of Sweetwater's belles, spent Sunday here with relatives.

Dr. J. H. Warnick left Sunday for Denison and Sherman to attend the Bankers' convention, which convened Tuesday.

W. F. Stanford reports a fine season on his farm, and says corn, milo maize and all forage crops have been greatly benefited. His cotton is in the ground and he fears that a replanting will be necessary, but will wait a few days on it. Cotton that was thinned out by the frost will be replanted. Mr. Stanford has plenty of feed and meat to do him, and is living easy.

F. E. Allyn came down from Eskota Saturday. He has been confined to his bed the greater part of the week, but is not seriously ill.

For Those Who Live on Farms.

Dr. Bergin, Pana, Ills., writes: "I have used Ballard's Snow Liniment; always recommend it to my friends, as I am confident there is no better made. It is a dandy for burns." Those who live on farms are especially liable to many accidental cuts, burns and bruises, which heal rapidly when Ballard's Snow Liniment is applied. It should always be kept in the house for cases of emergency. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Economy is not determined by what you pay for goods, but by what you get for your money. Trade at Warren's.

Judge J. J. Miller is thinking of spending the summer in "Kool Kolorado."

J. C. Hamm left Saturday for Amarillo to look after a branch of the lumber company with which he is connected. His company is rapidly spreading out.

Mrs. Fannie Lawrence of Arlington arrived Friday for a visit with her mother and brother, Mrs. M. A. and H. C. Burroughs.

Miss Mabel George of Eskota is visiting in the city.

Mrs. Vickers and daughter, Miss Genora, of Pecos, are visiting the former's sister, Mrs. J. W. Daniel, and other relatives.

Miss Nannie O'Zee, who has been attending school here since the family moved to Fort Worth, left Monday for that place.

It is reported that Bennett Bros., the saddle men, will soon return to Merkel from the Territory.

Jap Martin is now considered out of danger and is improving rapidly. This will be good news to his many friends.

Mrs. Stathum accompanied her husband here and will visit her sister, Mrs. T. A. Johnson, while the meeting lasts.

Cures When Doctors Fail.

Mrs. Frank Chiasson, Patterson, La., writes June 8th, 1901: "I had malaria fever in very bad form, was under treatment by doctors, but as soon as stopped taking their medicine the fever would return. I used a sample bottle of Herbine, found it helped me. Then bought two bottles which completely cured me. I feel grateful to you for furnishing such a splendid medicine, and can honestly recommend it to those suffering from malaria, as it will surely cure them." Herbine, 50c bottle at Burroughs & Mann's.

Do not sell your land. Values are advancing too rapidly. Make a loan at 8 per cent and hold it. Call at the First National Bank of Merkel. 4

A strong pull—the one that can rip the seams of McDonald overalls at Warren's.

A Glorious Rain.

It has been "threatening rain" for some time, and Saturday the threat was partially made good. In this immediate vicinity the rain of Saturday was small, but north and west of town it was considerable.

Sunday evening the threat was made good in every sense of the word, for the entire Merkel Country was royally soaked. The showers of Saturday opened up the pores of mother earth and put her in a condition to absorb the moisture as it fell, which she did, and the season is now ample for all present needs. Farmers say the ground is in fine condition, and that all crops will grow off nicely. All classes are jubilant over the fine prospects.

It is still the grand, glorious, glittering, glistening, gladsome, goodly Merkel Country. And there is a smile of satisfaction protruding from every countenance. The rains are of incalculable worth to the entire country. Whisper it from the rooftops.

Market Letter.

Kansas City, Mo., May 11, 1903. Special to The Mail:

Quarantine receipts last week were augmented by the appearance of grass cattle in numbers, from Southern Texas. The run amounted to 196 cars, a good increase from previous week. Total cattle receipts at all the markets last week were 80 per cent more than during the same week last year, and in consequence all grades of killing cattle averaged lower. Fair to good steers were 10 to 25 cents lower, and she stuff in some cases more than that. Bulls were scarce, and held up well. The supply of fed steers suddenly dropped off last week, and same were practically steady during the week. To-day's run in quarantine division is limited and some decent fed steers are quoted strong. Some Arkansas steers weighing 977 pounds sold at \$4.35. A few consignments of grass cows sold steady with last week's close. Mr. Griffith, of Floresville, Texas, sold 48 grass cows weighing 754 pounds at \$2.90. Another drove of grass cows brought \$2.85. Bulls bring from \$3.00 to \$3.40. A few veal calves made their appearance last week and brought up to \$5.50.

Jno. M. Hazleton,
Live Stock Correspondent.

Good Old Times a Delusion.

San Antonio Light.

Good old times are a delusion and a snare, and the man who sighs for them has little conception of what they were. Return to them, would you? Then rise on a cold morning and wash at the pump, pull on a pair of rawhide boots that rival a tin can in stiffness, pull on a woolen shirt over your back, and sit down to a bare meal with your three-legged stool dancing around on a split-slab floor, eat corn pone and bacon for a steady diet, and labor fourteen hours out of the twenty-four. Go without a daily paper, a fly screen, mosquito bar, a spring mattress, a kerosene lamp, much less an electric light; gee-haw your oxen to market and sit on the floor of the oxcart as you wend your way to church or a frolic. Parch corn and peas for coffee and steep sassafras for tea and see how you like it.

J. M. Curry came in from Louisiana Tuesday, where he has been the past year.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

BONE FOOD

Soft and crooked bones mean bad feeding. Call the disease rickets if you want to. The growing child must eat the right food for growth. Bones must have bone food, blood must have blood food and so on through the list.

Scott's Emulsion is the right treatment for soft bones in children. Little doses everyday give the stiffness and shape that healthy bones should have.

Bow legs become straighter, loose joints grow stronger and firmness comes to the soft heads.

Wrong food caused the trouble. Right food will cure it.

In thousands of cases Scott's Emulsion has proven to be the right food for soft bones in childhood.

Send for free sample.
SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists,
109-111 Pearl Street, New York.
Sold by all druggists.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Boles, Ollie
Clark, R R
Hoening Bro's
Lay, John
Low, Sam
Porter, A J
Sawyer, Percy
Scott, Mrs A E
Smith, J W
Williams, Mrs Frank
Wallace, S A

Wakeful Children.

For a long time the 2 year child of Mr. P. L. McPherson, 59 N. Tenth St., Harrisburg, Pa., would sleep but two or three hours in the early part of the night, which made it very hard for her parents. Her mother concluded that the child had stomach trouble, and gave her half of one of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, which quieted her stomach and she slept the whole night through. Two boxes of these Tablets have effected a permanent cure and she is now well and strong. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Wrong Foot Out of Bed.

About half the world puts the wrong foot out of bed in the morning. But which is the wrong foot? It is a superstition as old as the hills that if the left foot touches the floor first you will have bad luck that day. Probably multitudes of men avoid this by sleeping on the right side of the bed, so that in rising the right foot naturally comes first in contact with the floor. It is said to be a fact that most people lie on their right sides because of the prevalent notion that the heart has free action.—New York Press.

What's A Crowd, Then?

A flock of girls is called a bevy, a bevy of wolves is called pack, a pack of thieves is called a gang, a gang of angels is called a host, a host of fish is called a shoal, a shoal of cattle is called a herd, a herd of children is called a troop, a troop of part-ridges is called a covey, a covey of beauties is called a galaxy, a galaxy of ruffians is called a horde, a horde of coal is called a heap, a heap of oxen is called a drove, a drove of blackguards is called a mob, a mob of whales is called a school, a school of worshippers is called a congregation, a congregation of engineers is called a corps, a corps of robbers is called a band, a band of locusts is called a swarm, and a swarm of people is called a crowd.—Port Arthur News.

The Knocker.

Along comes a proposition for improvement of the town, up bobs the chronic kicker, for he'd like to knock it down. He'll set his jaw a-wagin', for he can not stand the shock of progress in the village, so he'll knock, knock, knock.

He's so queerly constituted that he dosen't like to see his neighborhood progressing—as it surely ought to be. He hates to see extension of his city, block by block, for his favorite occupation is to knock, knock, knock.

When he meets this proposition he will greet it with a leer; will holler 'bout the taxes—and take another beer. Then his talking apparatus he will wind up like a clock, and set the thing a-

going—hear him knock, knock, knock.

But the people favor progress with a feelin' good and strong; when they meet this proposition they'll push the thing along. So it doesn't hinder progress, nor it doesn't stop the clock, for this industrious kicker to knock—knock, knock.—Biramwood (Wis.) News.

Summertime in Dixie.

Frank L. Stanton, the "sweet singer" of the Atlanta Constitution, expresses his joy at the coming of another summer as follows:

Mawnin' ter de happy days
Des a-singin' 'long de ways—
Know whar joy amazin' stays—
Summertime in Dixie!

Down dar, whar de river run,
En de win' is havin fun,
See me sleepin' in de sun?—
Summertime in Dixie!

Hear de old mule "haw en' gee"
See de white man lash him free;
Ain't no white man working me.
Summertime in Dixie!

Strech out on de ground' so flat,
(Ain't no res' ez sweet ez dat!)
Whar dat watermillion at?—
Summertime in Dixie!

D. G. Ash has sold out lock, stock and barrell, and will leave with his family the latter part of the week for North Carolina, their future home. Ed and Oscar will remain here. Mr. Ash goes back to the old home to care for the feeble father in his declining years. He has made good money here, and The Mail hopes he will be equally as prosperous in the "Tar Heel State."

Dr. W. L. Huckabay has received his appointment as postmaster at Noodle.

Beware! Be Careful!

Of all that God has made and placed upon the earth, the thing to be most shunned and most cordially despised is the gossip, whether male or female, feeds upon human carrion and slander. It is happiest when it has exposed the shame or weakness of a brother, or sister, or friend mortals and revels with delight in the humiliation, poverty, pain, and suffering of some unfortunate member of the human family. To bring about this delight these vultures buzzards do not use facts or realities to set their tongues to wagging. Rumors and hearsay is sufficient and will quite often do to breed infamous and malicious lie. Hints and insinuations are often converted with remarkable facility into open lies that Mr. or Miss or Mrs. So and so did this or that or is guilty of this or that, when there is no sign or shadow of proof in fact or personal reality in it at all, but if it is believed it often leads to the social damnation of numbers of men and women wholly unguilty.—Wichita Herald.

There are more or less mossbacks in every town or city. A mossback is a man who spends his life in a community, enjoys all the blessings attended upon civilized people, never spends a cent for public welfares and looks upon his neighbors as legal game. Such men, if in business, never advertise their goods, and the sight of a tax assessor or collector gives them delirium tremens and St. Vitus dance. Such people never advance the interests of their town, and seldom give it a good word.—Austin Statesman.

Miss Laura Evans left this morning for Alabama. Miss Harkrider went to Abilene.

Mr. B. A. Carter, Moro, Texas, says:

My nephew, A. A. Davis, was bitten on the neck by a centipede. When he reached the house he was deathly sick, and it looked as if he would die at once. We applied BASS' BEST LINIMENT freely, and relief was given quickly. In two hours he was sleeping peacefully. The next morning he was entirely well, with no after effects. We used nothing except Bass' Best Liniment.

Mr. J. D. Elliott, Moro, Texas, says:

I had a fine mule bitten on the nose by a rattlesnake, and mule was cured without any trouble.

We hear the same thing from every section of the country, almost every day. You need not fear snake or insect bites if Bass' Best Liniment is at hand. It has never failed. Price, 50c per bottle. All druggists are authorized to guarantee it.

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.

WORMS! VERMIFUCE!
Most in Quantity. — Best in Quality.
For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies. EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED.
Prepared by **JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.**
SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN,

Merkel, Tex.

\$10,000 TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

St. Louis Republic Offers Fourteen Splendid Rewards to Subscribers.

An interesting announcement appears in that great metropolitan newspaper, The St. Louis Republic, in the form of a profit-sharing offer to any one now a subscriber or willing to become a subscriber of the Republic. A big sum of \$10,000 is to be paid in rewards for good judgement and skill. It is possible to earn all the way from \$10 up to \$5,000.

The Republic's subscribers are invited to estimate upon the number of admissions to the World's Fair grounds upon the occasion of the grand dedicatory ceremonies, April 30, 1903, of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The subscriber whose estimate comes nearest the official record will receive \$5,000; the next one will get \$2,500, and an additional sum of \$2,500 will be divided in rewards ranging from \$1,000 down to \$10 among those whose estimates most nearly approximate the official record of admissions. A payment of \$7.80 will provide for the delivery of the Daily and Sunday Republic for not less than one year, or \$5 will pay for six annual subscriptions to the Twice-a-week Republic, and if the remittance is received on or before 4 p. m. of April 29, 1903, the person sending it can make six estimates. More estimates may be made by extending a subscription beyond a year, or by organizing a club and inducing others to subscribe.

Complete information as to the conditions of this contest, together with blanks will be found in the Daily, Sunday and Twice-a-week editions of The Republic from April 2 until April 29, 1903, or will be mailed to any one upon application. All communications and estimates should be addressed to The Republic Profit-Sharing Bureau, Call Box 201, St. Louis, Mo.

If you have a buggy that needs painting take it to J. C. Watkins. He has a nice room in the rear of his store fitted up for that purpose. He also buys or sells on commission anything you may have to dispose of.

Special Train and Music for the U. C. V.

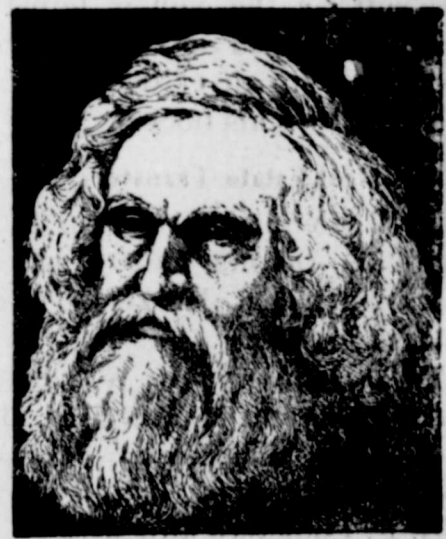
The Texas & Pacific Railway Company will run a special train which will be accompanied by Harris Juvenile Band (2 number) who will furnish en route. This special train leave Fort Worth Sunday, May 17th at 11:15 a. m. and Dallas at 12:30 p. m., arriving at New Orleans next morning for breakfast.

Reduced round trip rates will be in effect to New Orleans. For particulars address any agent or E. P. Turner, general passenger agent, Dallas, H. P. Hughes, traveling passenger agent, Fort Worth.

New Train Service.

SCHEDULE:

Eastbound arrives at 8:25, a. m.
Westbound arrives at 4:55, p. m.
Night train, eastbound, arrives at 12:12 and westbound at 3:13.



Vigorous Old Age

Paine's Celery Compound makes the old feel young, and cures their ills. It has added years of health and enjoyment to many a life. Use this great medicine regularly, and its invigorating powers will fill your declining years with health, strength, and happiness. Read what George F. Morse, 67 years old, writes:—

WELLS & RICHARDSON CO.,
Gentlemen:—Just a word in favor of Paine's Celery Compound, hoping it may catch the eye of some afflicted person, and they may receive the same satisfactory benefit. Some 15 years ago I had a combination of malaria, chills and fever, and grip, which continued for a year or more; meantime I lost in weight about 60 pounds, trying different medicines and doctors with unsatisfactory results. Paine's Celery Compound was recommended, and, after using a little I began to improve, gaining about a pound a week. In a year I had regained 50 pounds of the lost weight and good health, and have been a well man ever since. Yours truly, GEORGE F. MORSE.
LEOMINSTER, MASS., Oct. 27, 1902.

DIAMOND DYES
COLOR ANYTHING ANY COLOR.
Dresses, cloaks, suits, ribbons, coats, feathers, stockings, — everything wearable, Diamond Dyes make to look like new.
Direction book and 45 dyed samples free.
DIAMOND DYES, Burlington, Vt.



Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., meets Saturday night on or before the full moon in each month.

J. A. Leeman, W. M. S. M. Sewell, Sec.

DRY GOODS AT WHOLE-SALE COST. Also a nice lot of spring and summer goods just received which will be sold as cheap as any. Don't fail to see us.

Respectfully,
DENNIS BROS.

An Awful Accident

resulting in death or maiming is of daily occurrence. "The unexpected happens." Prepare for it by getting an Accident Policy. "The jingle of the guinea helps the hurt." It only costs, according to occupation, from \$4.20 to \$20 per 1000 a year, ages 18 to 65. No examination required.

Come in and I will explain in detail all benefits.

Write health insurance also.
2t H. C. Williams.

A Sure Thing.

It is said that there is nothing ure except death and taxes, but hat is not altogether true. Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption is a sure cure for all lung and throat troubles. Thousands can testify to that. Mrs. C. B. VanMetre of Shepherdstown, W. Va., says "I had a severe case of Bronchitis and for a year tried everything I heard of, but got no relief. One bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery then cured me absolutely." It's infallible for Croup, Whooping Cough, Grip. Pneumonia and Consumption. Try it. It's guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, druggists. Trial bottles free. Regular sizes 50c and \$1.00.

Two Extremes.

A rich man sat him down one night to dine;
Rare was his food, superb his priceless wine.

A poor man, hungry, lurked without the gate,
nd craved a crumb from off the rich man's plate.

Yet neither rich nor poor man ate that night—

One had no food, and one no appetite.

—Lippincott's Magazine.

The act creating a department of vital statistics goes into effect July 1.



Mrs. Laura S. Webb,
Vice-President Woman's Democratic Clubs of Northern Ohio.

"I dreaded the change of life which was fast approaching. I noticed Wine of Cardui, and decided to try a bottle. I experienced some relief the first month, so I kept on taking it for three months and now I menstruate with no pain and I shall take it off and on now until I have passed the climax."

Female weakness, disordered menses, falling of the womb and ovarian troubles do not wear off. They follow a woman to the change of life. Do not wait but take Wine of Cardui now and avoid the trouble. Wine of Cardui never fails to benefit a suffering woman of any age. Wine of Cardui relieved Mrs. Webb when she was in danger. When you come to the change of life Mrs. Webb's letter will mean more to you than it does now. But you may now avoid the suffering she endured. Druggists sell \$1 bottles of Wine of Cardui.

WINE OF CARDUI

Notice.

Drs. Leeman & King's office in Burroughs & Mann's drug store. Calls answered day and night, both in town and in the country.

Catarrah made a specialty. Hemorrhoids (piles) cured without the ordinary danger of the knife, no loss of time, no blood.

The ALCOHOL or WHISKEY HABITS, Opium, Morphine, Cocaine, Chloral; in fact, all drug habits cured, and you at your own homes and at your usual vocation. No loss of time; no railroad fare; no hotel expenses.

Call and see us; it will cost you nothing.

We will furnish you a trial treatment absolute free at your request, provided you will promise to follow directions.

Leeman & King.

Too Great a Risk.

In almost every neighborhood someone has died from an attack of colic or cholera morbus, often before medicine could be procured or a physician summoned. A reliable remedy for these diseases should be kept at hand. The risk is too great for anyone to take. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has undoubtedly saved the lives of more people and relieved more pain and suffering than any other medicine in use. It can be depended upon. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Rev. J. W. Lee has resigned the pastorate of the Cumberland Presbyterian church at Abilene.

The Globe store of Abilene has been purchased by T. A. Briggs.

Morgan Weaver, the Abilene merchant, this week closed a deal for the Cook place near Trent, consisting of 1,000 acres in a body. The terms were private. Mr. Weaver will immediately stock the ranch with high grade cattle, and expects to make it a dividend payer.

NOTICE.

I have bought out Stevens Bros. blacksmith shop and secured the services of A. R. Willingham, a first class mechanic, and am now prepared to do all kinds of work in first class style. Give me a trial.

H. M. Rose.

A Good Temperance Lesson.

The strongest temperance argument yet advanced is the announcement from Jersey City and Chicago that the Barkeepers and Saloon Keepers' Total Abstinence Society has been organized in these places. Surely if those who sell liquor are afraid to drink their own "pizen" the customers on the other side of the bar should take a hint. The patient has a right to insist that the doctor shall take his own medicine, and if he refuses is justified in suspecting that there is something wrong. When professional mixers of the brain destroying poison admit that total abstinence is a virtue it should be easier for all others to realize this profound truth. And with what face can these people longer oppose those whose business it is to close all saloons, when by their own actions they admit that they are the embodiment of all evil.

Educate women all you care, give her all the liberty she may desire, afford her all the opportunity she may wish; in the end no greater source of blessing and utility can be found by her than the maintenance of her supreme dignity as queen of the heart and empress of the home.

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

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK,

—OF—
MERKEL, TEXAS

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$65,000
Shareholders Responsibilities over \$1,000,000

We are always in a position to take care of our friends and customers. We want your business and will treat you right and make it to your interest.

GEO. S. BERRY, Cash.

GREATLY ALARMED

By a Persistent Cough, but Permanently Cured by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Mr. H. P. Burbage, a student at law, in Greenville, S. C., had been troubled four or five years with a continuous cough which, he says, "greatly alarmed me, causing me to fear that I was in the first stage of consumption." Mr. Burbage, having seen Chamberlain's Cough Remedy advertised, concluded to try it. Now read what he has to say of it: "I soon felt a remarkable change and after using two bottles of the twenty-five cent size, was permanently cured." Sold by Burroughs & Mann.

Take your hides to J. H. McDonald at the Sheppard & Hoople market.

We seldom in our moments of questioning try to strike a balance between the good and the evil of life. We remember the sorrows; we forget the joys. We blame God when misfortune comes; we forget to praise Him for the days of peace and happiness.

A dog in this town goes to church every Sunday morning and sleeps through the sermon just like the rest of us.

Sometimes when a man gets rich his wife's extravagance runs to health resorts and operations instead of fine clothes.

Why Prohibition Failed in Vermont.

Anti-prohibitionists throughout the country have taken a good deal of more or less cold comfort from the fact that State prohibition has been overthrown in Vermont. The fact is that local option was merely substituted for prohibition, and that too because many of the best people of Vermont thought local option a more effective method of enforcing the law than the one for which it was substituted. In many Vermont cities joint keepers, in lieu of license, were made to pay annual fines, and this method of indirectly licensing the violation of law was so manifestly immoral that it was thought better to provide for licensing the business formally in a few places rather than indirectly. The fact is that as much of the State of Vermont will be "dry" under the new law as the old one, and ultimately the whole State will be a prohibition territory.

Otho Smith was in from the ranch Tuesday and shoved his subscription figures to 1904. He has had three fairly good rains the past week at his place, and says the season is now ample for all needs.

Implements...

FOR THE FARM:

Plows,
Cultivators,
Planters,
Hoes,
Rakes,
Plow Points,
Etc., etc.

FOR THE HOME:

Queensware,
Glassware,
Stoves, Ranges,
Lamps, Cutlery,
Etc., etc.

Nothing but Dependable Goods

W. H. Dickson

A NEW FIRM.

I have bought the saddle and harness business of Z. F. Green and will be found at the same old stand. It is my intention to handle the best goods at the lowest possible prices, and every courtesy will be extended to customers of the old firm, as well as to all new ones who may favor me with their patronage. New goods will be added from time to time and the stock will be kept up to a high standard. When in need of saddles or harness goods see me. Repair work done and satisfaction guaranteed.

Yours for Business,

R. L. HUDSON.

Wholesale Maternity.—The Indian Lancet, Aug. 25, 1902, reports the case of an Italian woman who has in nineteen years of wedlock given birth to sixty-two children. This far outdistances anything on record—in prolific fecundity—that is, in the human species.

It is especially interesting to know that fifty-nine of the children were boys. In nine years there were eleven successions of triplets. Three times four boys

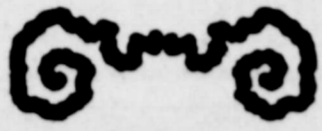
arrived at one birth, and one, five boys and a girl. The other twelve were born singly. The worthy woman now demands a pension of seventy-two pounds of the Italian government—because her health does not permit her to earn her living.

Ustick has just received 72 fine set rings. And those fobs for ladies and gentlemen are the latest things out. See them.

Tell your neighbor about The Mail and ask him to subscribe.

Come and Look.

The loudest voices can be heard at the greatest distance, but it is the soundest argument that creates the BEST IMPRESSION.



We do our talking by our merit. We want you to listen and profit thereby. There's as much in it for you as there is for us. Our audience of customers is growing each day. Come join the ranks. We now have our full spring stock open for your inspection and can say it is the LARGEST and BEST we have ever shown, and it will pay you to take a look through the store.

Anything in DRY GOODS and GROCERIES.

J. O. HAMILTON

The Farmer's Column.

Interesting Items Pertaining to the Farm and Farm Life, From Our Exchanges.

Good farming always pays. Then why not do it that way? Don't know how? This excuse is not good. Learn how.

There is money in poultry if you go about it right, and there are thousands of people on farms and in smaller villages and towns who might earn considerable sums by keeping a few or many hens as surroundings will permit. Many are staying out of a good thing simply because they do not know how easily money can be made at it. There is nothing else in which a man can start with so small an investment.

I have heard some men say that "the best place for that man is on the farm; he is not fit for anything else." That is the statement of a man of ignorance, not of wisdom. It takes the brightest kind of a man to win on the farm. If the highest critics do not believe it, let them try it and see. They will be wiser afterwards than they are now.

Learning to farm is like learning to do anything else—one must have the facilities for learning. The school boy must have his text books, map, globes, blackboards and teachers, otherwise his progress will be slow and his education a serious disappointment. If one undertakes to learn a trade, shoemaking, tailoring, carpentering or blacksmithing, and evolve his technology from his minor consciousness and main strength he will never become eminent or successful in his chosen avocation. He must have competent tutors, appropriate materials and proper tools. If he would be a master in his trade he must be grounded more or less in the scientific principals that underlie his work. If a man assumes that because he was born on the farm, and has long worked upon the soil, just as his father's mules have, that he is fully competent to conduct agricultural operations, and can farm "as well as anybody else," only sad experience will show him his error. Farming really requires more technical learning than any of the callings above mentioned, if there is not a natural science, from geology to astrology that he cannot put to a

profitable use in farming. Botany is the science of plants. Can he know too much about plants? Zoology is the science of animals. Can a man know too much about horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs? Entomology is the science of insects. Is it not a good thing for any farmer that he may be enabled to know the life habits and history of any insect he comes in contact with? Is there any science under the sun that would not make a man a better farmer if he had a working knowledge of it? The farmer, of all men, should be a student as well as a worker.

A Load of Hogs.

Ten years ago a young farmer, thirty-three years of age, living in northwest Iowa, took a load of hogs to town, which he sold for \$94.35. With this money he paid the collector the taxes due on the farm he was trying to own, paid the grocer a long due grocery bill, called at the bank and paid for the extension on half a dozen notes, paid an attorney \$30 on a mower note sent on for collection and went home with \$2.50 in his pocket. That night the grocer paid his clerk and delivery boy; the delivery boy hied himself to the skating rink and the clerk to see his best girl, and together they attended a social ball; the lawyer sent \$27 of the money paid him to the mower company, and with his wife blew in the \$3 at a church social, where they met the bank cashier; the tax collector went home and enjoyed a choice Havana by his own fire-side, while the farmer and his wife spent the evening poring over a sheet of figures trying to figure out how they were to meet the spring interest on the farm mortgage. Today the clerk is still a clerk, the delivery boy is running a bowling alley for another party, the cashier of the bank is dead, the lawyer has gone west and is booming some mining schemes, and the tax collector is running a snide real estate office, while the farmer and his wife come to town in a double seated surey and this winter are spending several weeks in California leaving their farm in the care of a bright sixteen-year-old son. The above is a true story and only one of many such.—

Peoria (Ill) Star.

Why Some Farmers Fail.

They will not make compost. They breed to and from scrubs. They do not curry their horses. They have no shelter for stock. They put off greasing the wagon. They are wedded to old methods. They give no attention to details. They have no method or system. They see no good in a new thing. They let their fowls roost in trees. They weigh and measure stingily. They leave their plows in the field. They hang their harness in the dust. They take no pleasure in their work. They never use paint on the farm.

They prop the barn door with a nail. They milk the cows late in the day. They starve the calf and milk the cow. They think small things are not important. They let their gates sag and fall down. They don't keep up with improvements. They don't know the best is the cheapest. They do not read the best books and newspapers. They think the buyer of a successful neighbor's stock at good prices is a fool, and the seller very "lucky." They sell hay, grain and straw off the farm, instead of turning them into meat, cheese and butter, and increasing the supply of manure.—Ex.

An Object Lesson.

The following story, which is going the rounds of the press, furnishes an object lesson to many a young man who has an insane desire to leave the old farm: "The son of an immensely wealthy American, having graduated from college, went to Paris to study art. He worked hard in the Paris studios for three years. One day he made up his mind that he would never be a great artist, and that he would rather be a successful farmer than a fairly successful painter. Now—although still a young man—he has a model farm, covering 10,000 acres, in Illinois.

He knows every foot of it, what it should produce, and he sees that it produces every thing it should. He has built magnificent house, in which not an ornament jars the finest taste. He goes to Europe every winter and studies European methods of scientific farming and cattle raising. He is developing the land as his fathers did before him. He employs scores of men; he helps the small farmer about him; he is likely to be a great factor in the development of the state during the next few years. And this is the story of a young American who works for the love of it, and who is a great success because, anxious to do things, he knew when he had not found his work."

Dyspeptic Philosophy.

The average man only gets religion after he has lost everything else. The professional reformer is justified in feeling that he has a steady job for the rest of his life. Few women can

pass a mirror without a pause for reflection. Most men are too clumsy to fall in love gracefully.

No man is so greedy as to take both sides of an argument.

The money some people owe doesn't trouble them so much as the money they would like to owe.

The chronic kicker generally has corns on his conscience.

The fellow who knows it all would be a wonder if he could only convince other people of it.

A white lie may simply be a black one bleached.

A girl of sixteen is apt to think her soul yearning for the unattainable when the trouble really is that she is hungry.

The world soon forgets a man who rests on his laurels.

Good resolutions are not always what they are cracked up to be.

The prodigal son of the hard working hen is usually a bad egg.

People who marry for fun have a most perverted sense of humor.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



Shakespeare said, A rose by any other name would smell as sweet; but when it comes to PLOWS

John Deere and Standard Plows

stand for all that is good in the plow line. Better get the best Plows and Farm Implements if you want the best results. Their

Riding Planter

is a winner for 1903. Prices Right, Goods right.

GEO. L. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.