

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, JULY 2, 1903.

NO. 19.

Plenty of 8 Per Cent Money!

We have just about caught up with the rush we had for loans last fall. The demand for money was enormous and it has taken us some time to get through with it, but we are now up and better prepared than ever before to get loans through quickly, and at very little expense to the borrower, the expense being much less than it has been heretofore. Don't wait until you have to have the money before you apply, for you can't lose any thing by applying now, and besides that by applying now you will be in plenty of time and avoid the rush this coming fall. We will inspect again in July, so if you need money take it up with us immediately. We have plenty of money now in bank ready for this business.

COMPERE BROTHERS,

REAL ESTATE DEALERS AND MONEY LENDERS. ABILENE, TEXAS.

Southern Womanhood.

Prize Oration of Alonzo Bickley, Polytechnic College, Fort Worth, Texas, May 27th, 1903.

With tender thoughts of a mother's love and the memory of a precious home, I come to offer the tribute of a grateful heart. If I could spin my thoughts into words, and weave those words into beautiful sentences, and with the skill of an orator fashion them into beautiful fabrics of Rhetoric, and cast this robe upon woman, I should fail in my greatest effort to do justice to the glory and grandeur of the devoted christian mothers, who have been our stay in the past, and to the fair maidens who are our hope for the future.

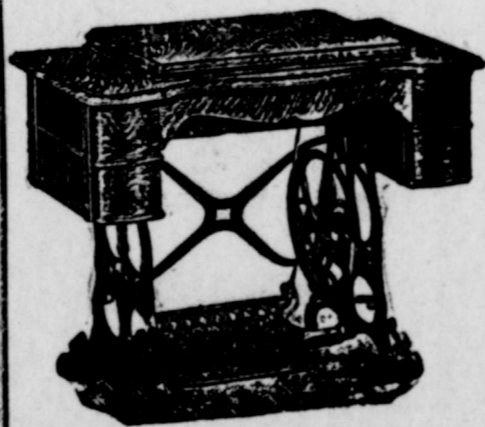
You have unrolled the scrolls that tell the progress of this glorious South-land; before whose eyes have passed the panorama of man's struggles, achievements and progression, find the one story of the self-sacrificing devotion of the southern woman.

The men, who after a stormy voyage landed in Virginia and began the establishment of a civilization that was to reach from sea to sea, found that the bone and sinew of all civilization was lacking. Woman's influence was needed to stem the voyage they were bringing, which would only end when the heaving sea of time had been traversed. What this voyage, whether of the Old Ship of State or of Church, has been, can be measured only by estimating woman's influence. For it has controlled the fountains of power of this nation, formed the character of her citizens and statesmen and is shaping our destiny as a nation. What grander tribute could we pay to the past History of our nation than this, what happier assurances of the present, what more auspicious omens of the future, could heaven vouchsafe us than those which live and move and have their being in woman's influence? It has guided man along the path of progress in science, literature and art till now our nation reaches to the western slopes where our teeming cities light their lamps by the setting sun.

She has been man's stay when the dove of peace hovered over the land, but much more so when in 1774 the deep-toned mutterings of distant thunder sounded the signal of approaching danger.

When the gods of war were marshalling their forces to play well their part in the great scene of destruction, then, with her voice quivering with emotion, she said: Husband! Son! stand firm at the wheel. We will face the storm together! Beyond the raging elements there is the peaceful quiet of undisturbed liberty! Under the inspiration of such voice our forefathers bore the heat of summer, the cold of winter and the pangs of hunger; they knew no danger, but bravely watered the tree of liberty with their blood.

Washington wore for forty years a chain about his neck, that held the miniature likeness of her who had been his greatest inspiration, whether among the snows at Valley Forge, or amid the honors of the presidential chair. Not only during the struggle for liberty, but when our Southern fathers were battling for what they considered justice, they encouraged them with their sympathy and love, and by tireless labor enabled them to perform tasks that startled the world. When they laid aside their weapons of war and began to struggle against the storm of poverty that was sweeping over the land, alarm seized them and they were about to give up the struggle; but the noble wives stood fearless upon the deck and boldly faced the warring elements. They spoke peace to the storm, and to the waves they said, "Be still." They stooped over our broken confederacy, and



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.

W. P. Browning & Co.

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

with a hand of love brought together the fragments which were fashioned into eleven beautiful stars which were placed in the crown of our nation.

Let us now enter the temple of society and call for the most precious gifts from off its altar. It would be a woman who, like an angel of light, had soared upward and onward until her feet had pressed the summit of moral beauty, where man has never gone. From this exalted position she reaches down her loving hand to lay hold of the sin-stained spirit, and with one stroke of her matchless power raises the seige of sin around the heart of the wicked, breaks the chain of its bondage, and draws forth the wreck of a pure being; cleanses it in the overflowing tides of love, clothes it anew in robes of righteousness; and sends it rejoicing along the pathway of an honorable, upright life.

Young ladies, your influence in shaping the destiny of the young men of this land cannot be estimated. You can erect a standard of intellectual and moral excellence, and the young men of our country will reach it, or, like the youths of Sparta, die in their effort. You sit as queen upon the throne of Society. Clothed with robes of morality, crowned with chastity, and with a sceptre of love, you can marshal the mighty armies of society into your presence, and with your influence lead them along life's pathway, till the battles have been fought, the victories won, and then in robes of celestial beauty walk through the pearly gates into the city of light, and cast your trophies at the feet of him who said: "She hath done what she could."

Let us now, with feelings of deepest devotion, approach, "The altar of home and look upon her who sways the scepter of love, and reigns as queen in the hearts of the civilized world. The immortal Grady said: "The home is the strength of the American Republic." Let us enter this paradise of the soul and for a time contemplate its beauty. From the hearthstone, around which linger the thoughts of a devoted wife who awaits his return, come all the purity, all the hope and all the courage with which man fights the battles of life. The man who is not thus inspired, who labors not so much to secure the applause of the world as the solid and more pre-

vious approval of his home, accomplishes little of good for others or of honor for himself. He does not reach forth his hand and with a grateful heart take this most precious gift of God to man, is but half prepared for the Journey of life. The men who have been a success in life owe it to the one who stood by them in every emergency, who has shared their sorrows, increased their joys, lifted the veil from their hearts, and scattered sunshine amid their darkest hours. It is the inspiration of such an one that makes the toil of the laboring man sweet; and though he may become weary and worn from the anxieties of a business life, there is a place of refuge to which he may go where peace and happiness await him, where he can hear the sweet songs of love, and receive such words of comfort as only a true wife can give.

We will now enter memory's picture gallery and select from the walls its most beautiful picture—one whose beauty is not marred by the marks of time, but grows more beautiful with age. Of all the words cherished in the recollection of man, of all the names held sacred in his memory, that of mother falls upon the heart with the most sublime influence. She is the bright and morning star of humanity—its prime fashioner—the first in order of time—the first in degree of importance. She outlines the form of the future of man, which is then handed over to the painstaking teacher, who can only follow the outlines marked out in the nature, and bring forth in rigid permanence of glorious beauty the image the mother had stamped upon the organization.

As she causes the child-soul to unfold in its beauty, she is writing a living poem, carving a vital form of beauty, and tuning the full powers of life to orchestral harmony, thus setting in motion a mighty wave of influence that flows from the fam-

ily to the Church, from the Church to the state and to the world at large.

John Randolph, the American statesman said: "I should have been an atheist if it had not been for one recollection—and that was the memory of the time when my departed mother used to take my little hand in hers and caused me on my knees to say, "Our Father who art in heaven." John Adams said: "All that I am my mother made me." Well might the poet say: "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." I would kiss that withered and wrinkled hand. The very seams and scars upon your faces are beautiful, noble memorials. I look into your dim but uncomplaining eyes, and remember that you have poured out your life blood upon the altar of your home. I look upon your heads, whose every hair is a white lily ready to be plucked and woven into the beautiful garland that surrounds the throne of God.

Then I realize that your example, your precepts and your characters have passed into this generation. And if anything dangerous should assault this nation, millions of your sons, though we may not have kept all your precepts, will rise up from one sea-washed limit of the republic to the other and defend the sacred altars you are leaving behind.

It is said that three angels came down from heaven to find what was most precious and enduring on the earth. The first took a beautiful white lily, and pressing the flower to its bosom, said: "Surely this is beautiful and will endure." The second took the smile of a lovely babe, saying, "Surely this will abide." The third took mother's love and said, "Surely this is the most enduring." They took their flight to the glory world. When they entered the pearly gates, behold the lily had withered, the

continued on editorial page

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.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office..... 57
Residence..... 11

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.

COMP. LOVE IS ASSASSINATED

A Discharged Employe Commits the Heinous Crime in a Blood-thirsty Manner.

Austin, Texas, June 30.—This morning at 10 o'clock Mr. Love and Rev. Mr. Cowden of Bonham were seated in the office of the former discussing a religious question.

W. G. Hill a former clerk under Comptroller Finley, entered. Mr. Love greeted him cordially and then shook hands and Hill was introduced to Rev. Mr. Cowden. Hill drew from his pocket a letter, handing it to Love, questioning him to read it. Rev. Mr. Cowden, thinking it was private stepped from the room, and saw Chief Bookkeeper Stevens, whose office adjoins the comptroller's, struggling with Hill and the comptroller falling from his chair.

Steven's says when he hurried into the room Hill was running around Mr. Love's desk toward the door. He intercepted him and in the struggle Hill attempted to kill him. Hill's pistol finally went off, accidentally, Stevens thinks, and the ball entered Hill's breast, inflicting a wound that he could not survive.

Comptroller Love was shot twice, both balls entering his left breast. The cause was an old grudge, because Love would not give Hill a clerkship.

Mr. Love died in his office, surrounded by his family, the state officials and clerks.

The scene was pathetic and strong men wept.

No arrangements have yet been made for Mr. Love's funeral.

Hill, who did the shooting, was about 40 years old. He had been employed as mailing clerk in the comptroller's department under the former administration. He leaves a wife and three daughters. He bore an excellent reputation.

R. M. Love was about 55 years of age. His position as comptroller was the first state office he had ever held. He is widely known through the state, however, having served as sheriff of Limestone county, where he made an excellent record. He is survived by a wife, one son and three daughters, one of whom is Mrs. Irwin of Fort Worth.

The letter that provoked the shooting when picked up was dyed in blood and read as follows:

Austin, Tex.,—1903.—Col. R. M. Love, State Controller: Dear Sir—Public office is a public trust. Public officers are created for the service of the people and not for the aggrandizement of a few individuals. The practice of bartering department clerkships for private gain is a disgrace to the public service and all this nefarious traffic you are a "record breaker." You have robbed the State employes and your incompetent administration has prompted others to rob the

State.

The man who, claiming to be a Christian, deprives others of employment without cause is a hypocrite and a tyrant.

The greatest mind that ever gave its wisdom to the world; the mind of all others most capable of "umpiring the mutiny between right and wrong," said: "You take my life when you do take from me the means by which I live."

If that be true, you are a murderer of the deepest crime or hue.

Although, I can not help myself, before laying life's burden down, I shall strike a blow—feeble thought it be—for the good of my deserving fellow-man—

"For the right against the wrong;

For the weak against the strong."

Yours truly, W. G. Hill.

Just before dying Controller Love made the following statement:

"Mr. Hill shot me. He presented a letter of indorsement to me for a place in the department. I was reading the letter when he shot me. I had asked him about his brother's wife's death. I regretted her death very much. Mrs. Hill was a good woman. I have no idea why he shot me. May the Lord bless him and forgive him." The tragedy was the result of a grievance Hill had against Love for discharging him a year ago. Hill said after the shooting:

"I shot Love because he did not treat me right. I did not shoot myself."

Boys, Let It Alone.

A too strong indulgence in intoxicating drink will lead any man down to disgrace and ruin. No man with an ounce of brain will deny this. Just where the dividing, or danger line lies no philosopher can discover.

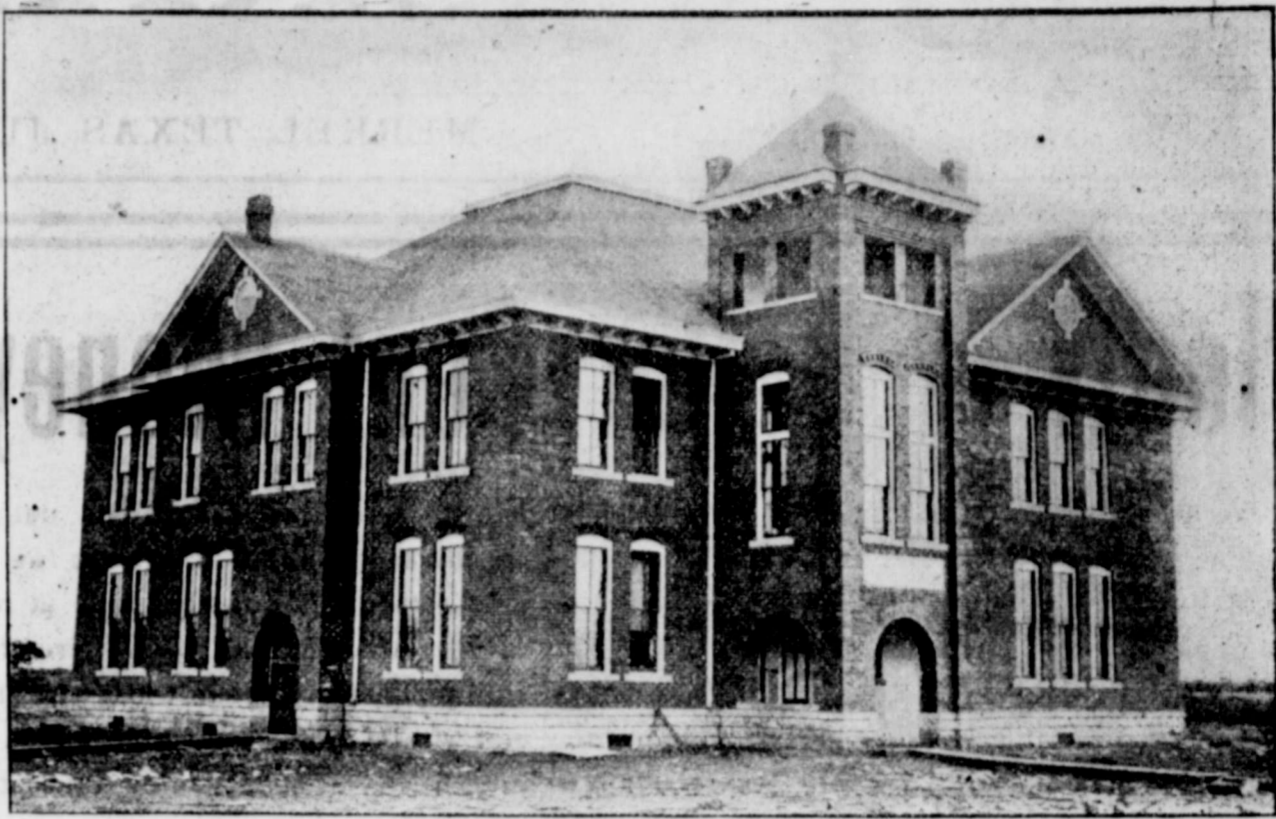
Not long ago near Peabody, Kansas, a tramp was found in a dying condition.

Before he died the officials discovered that he had a cousin at St. Joseph, Mo., and the sheriff talked to the cousin over the telephone. Later the cousin wrote a letter, from which the following is an extract.

"Since talking with you yesterday I have been talking with some of Jack's cousins and like myself they are not in shape to do anything for him. Poor Jack, I am indeed sorry for him. By nature a gentleman, a college graduate, and an expert accountant, a royal good fellow, but cursed by an appetite for whiskey that has thrown him down and kept him from holding the position in business and society his talents so amply qualified him for. God pity him. I would divide my last meal with him, the same as if he were one of my own children, but 200 miles away I can do him no good. Treat him as well as you can and if he dies, like a tree in the forest, he must lie where he falls. How came him to be in Morrison county is a mystery to me. He had no business or friends in that direction."

Boys, let it alone. You may tamper with it a while and escape but why take the chances when there is nothing to win, and all to lose?—Austin Statesman.

The serene soul is strong. Every moment of worry weakens the soul for its combat. Worry is spiritual nearsightedness, a fumbling way of looking at little things and of magnifying their value. True spiritual vision sweeps the universe and sees



MERKEL PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING.—Photo by Barnhill.

things in their right proportion. The great landscape of Corot viewed askint or out of focus would appear distorted and untrue. Let us hang life on the line, as the painters say, and look at it honestly.—Selected.

[The head of this item was misplaced and will be found on editorial page.]

seven years, and during that time he made a host of life time friends, who will be glad to learn of his appointment. He is a fine educator and competent in every way to perform the duties required of him as a member of the board.—Anson Western-News.

The Boss Worm Medicine.

H. P. Kumpe, Druggist, Leighton, Ala., writes: "One of my customers had a child, which was sick, and threw up all food, could retain nothing on its stomach. He bought one bottle of White's Cream Vermifuge, and it brought up 119 worms from the child. It's the boss worm medicine in the world." White's Cream Vermifuge is also the children's tonic. It improves their digestion and assimilation of food, strengthens their nervous system and restores them to their health, vigor and elasticity of spirits natural to childhood. 25c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Being, Not Seeming.

Nature intended the face to be the stamp of man's character. Man changed that standard into clothes. Yet, long ago, both were found wanting, and the verdict given, "All is not gold that glitters." Shakespeare was, perhaps, the greatest character reader that ever lived, and we may know that his judgment was correct.

We see it every day—the well-dressed man admitted to the highest society who, if his true life was known, would be cast out as the lowest scoundrel. On the other hand, the poor deserving man of brains is given the cold shoulder because he does not wear a silk hat and a coat of broadcloth. It would surprise some of our good people to know just with whom they come in contact every day. If some mighty magician could lay bare the hearts of mortal man, what a scene would be presented.

O, let us be, not seem. Let us be our own selves under all circumstances. Let us throw away the deceit and hypocrisy of which already the world has had a surfeit. Let our smiles be frank and true, bespeaking the kindly thoughts within, and let

our lives show forth these thoughts.—The Idleist.

As a result of one of the provisions of the new drug law, passed by the last legislature, after July 1st it will require a physician's prescription to secure paregoric, laudanum Squibb's mixture, bromidia, Dewee's carminative, chloral hydrate, morphine, opium, Dover's powder or cocaine.

A Measley Shame.

Cisco Round Up.

It looks like a measley shame that we poor devils of men haven't got graceful necks, and dimpled arms and shoulders, pink skin, etc., or at least haven't some legitimate excuse for wearing those mosquito-bar affairs which the fair sex call waists—those lacey, holey things that show arms and shoulders all over in spots, and are not of sufficient density to obstruct even the slightest little zephyr. Awful hot, these starched shirts, and high collars, and neckties, and suspenders, etc.

The Vital Statistic Law, passed by the last legislature, will become operative on July 1st. This law requires all physicians to report to county clerk all births and deaths that they have been called upon to attend. The physician thus failing to report is subject to a fine of \$5 for each offense. They have thirty days, after such births or deaths have occurred, in which to file their reports.

Will Buy It Back.

You assume no risk when you buy Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. Bur-

roughs & Mann will refund your money if you are not satisfied after using it. It is everywhere admitted to be the most successful remedy in use for bowel complaints and the only one that never fails. It is pleasant, safe and reliable.

Corn is suffering for rain, and to benefit the crop the rain must come inside of ten days. Cotton is not suffering to any great extent. July 4th hardly ever passes without bringing rain, however, this is not a prediction.

The "good old summer time" is here with a vengeance.

The glorious first and the glorious fourth come uncomfortably close together.

No use buying buggies from foreign concerns when you can do fully as well, if not better, at home. Read the advertisements of Merkel's two big hardware dealers.

J. P. Sharp & Co. are offering some rare bargains to Mail readers. Read their large ad.

A good rain during the next few days would brighten prospects considerably.

A little child was born to Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Douglass Friday, living only a few minutes after birth. The interment took place at the Merkel cemetery that evening. The Mail extends sympathy to the parents and relatives.

Dr. Rust's buggy horse broke loose from a hitching post at his residence Sunday evening and took a spin towards town. No damage done other than a slight injury to the buggy and harness.

BUGGIES!

BUGGIES

WEST has 'em:

Buggies that RIDE EASY,
Buggies that LOOK WELL,
Buggies that LAST WELL,
Buggies that STAND HARD USAGE,
Buggies that PLEASE the PURCHASER,
Buggies that are UP-TO-DATE,
Buggies at a REASONABLE PRICE.
A full car just received. Come get one.

G. F. WEST.

30 Day Clearance Sale!

In order to close out all Summer Goods, we inaugurate a 30 Day Clearance Sale.

During This Sale We Offer

All 7½c Lawns and Dimities at per yard 5c
 10c Dimities and Lawns at 8½c
 12½c Lawns and Batiste at 10c
 15c Lawns, Batiste and Dimities at 12½c
 Lace stripe Etamine, white and tan, reduced from 65 to 50c
 20 per cent reduction on all ladies' Skirts and Waists.
 2 pieces Silk Waisting as long as it lasts at 10c yard.
 1 piece black Brocaded Silk, regular 50c value to close at 25c

We are closing out all ladies' and children's Oxfords and Sandals at greatly reduced prices.

CLOTHING

Ours is the kind that fits well, wears well and looks well.

Our \$15.00 Suits, sale price \$12.45.
 Our 12.50 Suits, sale price 9.95.
 Our 10.00 Suits, sale price 8.55.
 Our 6.50 Suits, sale price 4.95.

All boys' and youths' clothing reduced in like proportion.

SHOES

We have just received a large shipment of the celebrated STAR BRAND SHOES, and will sell them at the lowest prices possible.

We carry a well assorted stock of Staple and Fancy Groceries, and will appreciate your trade in both Dry Goods and Groceries.



The Star Store

Avery Cultivators are the BEST; try one



Insurance Settlements.

The insurance adjusters were here this week and made settlement for nearly all losses occasioned by the fire. None of the settlements were entirely satisfactory, but a majority of the claimants were not in a position to hold out against the stubbornness of the adjusters.

Basham, Shepherd & Co. contended for \$188.50, but agreed on \$125.

R. L. Hudson's loss was fully \$350; however, an inventory of his stock failed to disclose his full loss, owing to the fact that in keeping his cash book the items of sales and repair work were not kept separate. He received \$265.

J. B. Ferrier, whose building was damaged fully \$1,000, compromised for \$675.

No agreement has been made on the Flemming building and no compromise will be made. The building is considered a total loss. It was valued at \$2,180 and insured at \$1,635. Contentions were made for the entire insurance, but the adjuster thought that the owner should shoulder one-fourth of the loss, notwithstanding the building was insured for only three-fourths of its value.

Minor claims were allowed for damage to plate glass, etc., amounting to possibly \$250.

Dr. Little was allowed only \$56 for damages to his dental office.

Adjusters for the Masonic hall and W. H. Dickson have not made their appearance.

Mr. Reuben Boss of near Trent had his right shoulder dislocated in a runaway Tuesday evening, besides sustaining other slight injuries. He is not seriously hurt as the attending physician, Dr. Leeman, reports.

Time to Feel Good.

The man who can't feel good these days is a mighty poor sort of a man. The noise of the harvester is heard in the land, and the farmer with a broad smile is telling of the twenty-five and

thirty bushels of wheat to the acre he is making on land he bought for less than the crop on it. Then another farmer tells of eighty and a hundred bushels of oats to the acre, and still another talks about two tons of alfalfa to the cutting, four cuttings a year, and alfalfa worth \$12.50 to \$16.00 a ton. Then there is the rye, the millet, the barley, the fresh peas and beans, beets, potatoes, onions, strawberries, dewberries, blackberries, peaches coming along, apple trees hanging full of maturing fruit, pear trees loaded down, plums, persimmons, figs—in fact everything that any reasonable man could ask for. Above all the most delightful climate the year round, free from malaria and nearly all human ills, and the consciousness that you are living among the best



Mrs. Fred Unrath,
 President Country Club, Benton Harbor, Mich.

"After my first baby was born I did not seem to regain my strength although the doctor gave me a tonic which he considered very superior, but instead of getting better I grew weaker every day. My husband insisted that I take Wine of Cardui for a week and see what it would do for me. I did take the medicine and was very grateful to find my strength and health slowly returning. In two weeks I was out of bed and in a month I was able to take up my usual duties. I am very enthusiastic in its praise."

Wine of Cardui reinforces the organs of generation for the ordeal of pregnancy and childbirth. It prevents miscarriage. No woman who takes Wine of Cardui need fear the coming of her child. If Mrs. Unrath had taken Wine of Cardui before her baby came she would not have been weakened as she was. Her rapid recovery should commend this great remedy to every expectant mother. Wine of Cardui regulates the menstrual flow.

WINE OF CARDUI

people on earth, makes this pretty near an earthly paradise for the rich and the poor. If you are not feeling that the earth is yours and the fullness thereof, go off somewhere and hide; you will never be happy in this world nor in the world to come.—Ex.

A Liberal Education.

Palestine Visitor.

The modern girl's education is incomplete unless she has learned:

- To sew.
- To cook.
- To mend.
- To be gentle.
- To dress neatly.
- To keep a secret.
- To avoid idleness.
- To be self-reliant.
- To darn stockings.
- To respect old age.
- To make good bread.
- To keep a house tidy.
- To make home happy.
- To control her temper.
- To be above gossiping.
- To take care of the sick.
- To sweep down cobwebs.
- To take care of the baby.
- To take plenty of exercise.
- To read the very best of books.
- To keep clear of trashy literature.

To be light-hearted and fleet-footed.

When she has learned all this, if she does not grow wings and fly away to a better land she will make some lucky man a most excellent wife.

Disposition.

Have you ever said, "I wish I had a more cheerful disposition?" How much do you wish it? Enough to dispose yourself so as to be in the way of getting it? Your words are idle and sinful unless you will to have it, instead of wishing to have it. You are not responsible for the disposition you were born with, but you are responsible for the one you have today. And you have no business to bewail your "bad disposition" while doing nothing to improve it.

Everything you carelessly or

seriously purpose to do, affects what you are disposed to do. You are disposed to look on the dark side, borrow trouble, and say discouraging things. Suppose you earnestly purpose for one week, to look for pleasant things and speak of them, and never speak of what you dread or do not like. You will be more cheerfully and hopefully disposed of at the end of the week, and you know it. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." It is your duty—your happiness in life—to work up out of your evil environments, whatever they may chance to be.

The Bridge We Do Not Cross.

How oft we trouble borrow,
 And suffer mental pain,
 Conjuring clouds tomorrow
 While yet no signs of rain.
 Future gloom foreboding,
 At night on pillows toss,
 In fear of overloading
 The bridge we do not cross.

From road there is no turning
 That we can see just now,
 Trouble ahead discerning
 To avoid we know not how,
 And so we roll and tumble
 At night, with sleep a loss,
 And we hear the distant
 rumble

On the bridge we do not cross.

We see no silver lining,
 On clouds our fancy paints;
 No stars through rifts are shining

Blackness our paths attains.
 Open daylight shows our folly,
 We then may count the cost
 Passing streams of melancholy,
 The bridge we have not
 crossed.

—News Letter.

If the clergyman talked more to the people about their home lives, and said less about the future life, the latter would take care of itself. The man who makes a good husband, father and citizen will make a good angel when the time comes. The woman who renders her home the most peaceful and lovely place on earth will adorn heaven when she reaches there, and its gates are wide open to receive her.—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

W. W. WHEELER,
 Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tornado Insurance Agent,
 Notary Public.
 Takes Acknowledgements, Draws up Deeds, etc.
 Office in First National Bank.

J. M. PATE
THE BARBER,
 NORTH FRONT STREET.

M. J. PATE,
**Tonsorial Artist and
 Cranium Manipulator**
 First class barber work guaranteed. Give me a trial.

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.

R. B. USTICK
 DEALER IN
 Watches, Clocks, Jew-
 elry, Etc.
 Repairing a Specialty

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

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

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

If you are not taking THE SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL you should be OFFER... It is helpful to the best interests of your town and county. For \$7.75, 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.

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

A SENSIBLE NEGRO.

Whenever you find an old-time negro, you also find good horse sense, honesty and industry. The up-to-date coon is a mixture of deceit, indolence, bigotry and general worthlessness.

At the colored celebration at Beeville, June 19, the oldest negro in the community was called upon to speak. He addressed his audience as follows:

"Gentleman and lady:—I'm older than you is, and I advise you to shun two classes of folks—the town negro who has a bottle in one pocket and a deck of cards in t'other. T'other is white folks that drink out of the same bucket with him, and 'low him to set at the same table and eat with his family. Both of them is enemies to the honest negro. Now you rent land from good white men that will treat you like we niggers were always treated in slavery time, and you will be alright, and the race question will be dissolved.

This thing of chasing all over Texas to find a judge that is willing to issue a writ of injunction against putting the local option law into effect, is becoming a public nuisance. And the criss-cross decisions of our higher courts on technicalities arising from such elections are equally as obnoxious. In the Grayson county case the services of a judge over 300 miles distant were secured, because those nearer home refused to issue writs on such jumped up charges. In the Hunt county case eleven judges declared that the election was valid, against two who declared it was invalid. Should the act of the judge who issued the writ take precedence over the acts of those who refused to issue it? Is not the opinions of the eleven judges as far reaching as those that cast the dissenting votes? Yet the higher court stood a majority against the validity of the election, and the majority must rule. A majority of the people said the saloon must go, but by reason of a technicality the law is knocked out and the wishes of the people are held in contempt. Common decency denounces some changealong this line.

The decision of the Court of Criminal Appeals at Austin in the Riley Trent case has caused consternation among cattlemen who believe in the rigid enforcement of quarantine regulations. About two years ago Mr. Trent was arrested on a charge of driving cattle from Fisher county into Lynn county in violation of the quarantine law. He was tried at Roby and fined \$100. The case was appealed to the Court of Criminal Appeals by attacking the constitutionality of



MISS INEZ SHARP MISS RUTH TUCKER MISS NANNIE O'ZEE

the law, and the higher court has reversed and dismissed the case. Just what effect this decision will have on the quarantine officers in enforcing the rules and regulations of the quarantine line, is not known.

In the recent local option election in Erath county (the Thurber precinct omitted) every box in the county went pro. This was doubtless caused by the anti-defeating the law on a technicality. We believe in majority rule no matter which side wins, in any contest.—Baird Star.

The Star is honest in its belief, and the expression is sound logic. It is not always the man who yells the loudest for the saloon that does the least to enforce the law. The fellow who sees the law violated and then proclaims "I told you so," is a close kin to the fellow who, before the election, said he was a prohibitionist, but didn't believe it would prohibit. Whether a law is good or bad, it is the duty of every man to see that it is enforced. And in every instance the majority should rule regardless of which side wins.

The lynchings of negroes in two of the largest northern states last week is proof positive that human nature is pretty much the same everywhere. Whether in the North or in the South, the rape fiend will run up against Judge Lynch's court.

The officers have succeeded in running the cold storages out of Bowie. How did they accomplish it? Simply by doing their duty. 'Nuff said.

The prohibition "spasms" are paralyzing the saloon interests. "Spasms" or paralysis—take your choice.

What The Railroad Pays.

The erroneous idea prevails with some that all big corporations, and especially the railroads, in some way get around paying taxes, and that the burdens of taxation falls heaviest upon those least able to carry it. The following figures taken from the records show the fallacy of this reasoning:

In this county a valuation of \$8,000 per mile is placed on the railroad rightofway, or about \$250,000 for the county. Its rolling stock in this division, consisting of the counties of Callahan, Taylor, Nolan, Mitchell and Howard, is valued at \$44,130, which is an increase of \$5,595 over last year. This amount is

pro rated among the five counties, and the valuation for this county is in the neighborhood of \$9,000.

In the Merkel Independent School district the company pays an annual tax of a little over \$200 for school purposes alone on its right of way and rolling stock. Town property is not included in this estimate.

It is unnecessary to mention the fact that the company never kicks at the assessments made against it. Especially is this true in the matter of school purposes; for it realizes that a town or community without a good school is small potatoes and few in the hill.

County Court.

Following cases interesting to west end people were disposed of last week:

T. J. Coggin vs. T. & P. Ry. Co., damage, \$50.

Geo. Young vs C.R. Hutcheson suit for damage on contract, continued by agreement.

Y. H. Berry vs. T. & P. et al., damages, verdict of \$190 against St. Louis & S. W., the other defendants go hence without day.

J. W. Daniel vs. T. & P. et al., judgment for damage for \$150 against the T. & P., and \$100 against the M. K. & T. and M. K. & T. of Texas.

On the criminal docket the State vs. Mack Wheat, charged with theft, was dismissed for lack of evidence to convict.

St. John's Day.

Wednesday of last week was celebrated in Masonic circles as the day of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and following the custom that has long prevailed, it was the intention of the local lodge to install officers for the ensuing year. However, the fire of Tuesday prevented the ceremonies and the officers were installed at Abilene on Thursday.

To all intents and purposes the lodge is inoperative, having neither charter nor meeting place, and can only resume operations through a dispensation from the grand lodge.

S. A. B. McDougall, the enterprising citizen of Snyder who first introduced pressed brick in West Texas, will light the fires to his brick kiln today, and in nine days will turn out the first pressed brick ever made in West Texas. He has 75,000 brick in the kiln, and each brick will average six pounds.—Light.

The Mail gives all the news.

The Fire

is out! I am now ready for business in the Ferrier building, with a bran new stock of goods. So if you need

Saddles, Harness, Etc.,

come and see me. I can repair anything promptly and guarantee satisfaction.

R. L. HUDSON.

No Ticks! No Black Leg! No Fever!

But strong, healthy cattle and horses made by BASS' MEDICATED STOCK SALT. Cattle fatten faster, grow faster and free from ticks if free access to the Medicated Salt is had. Not an experiment, but a tried success. Price, \$2.50 per 100 lb. sack; 1000 lbs. for \$22.50.

J. T. WARREN, Merkel, Tex.

SOUTHERN WOMANHOOD.

(continued from first page)

smile of the babe had changed to a frown, but mother's love was fresh and pure as a new-blown rose.

When we think of this love that never fades, we cry out with the poet:

"Backward, turn backward, O time in your flight,
Make me a child again just for tonight.
Mother come back from the echoless shore,
Take me again to your arms as of yore."

If I could walk through the floral gardens of the world and pluck the flowers of rarest beauty and sweetest perfume, and then select from the crowns of kings and queens the rarest jewels that glisten there, I would fasten them into a more beauteous crown and with the hand of love I would place that crown upon the brow of the mother.

Prof. Cecil E. Evans principal of the Merkel High School, has been appointed on the board of State Examiners, and will go to Austin, in the latter part of July to meet with a session of the board. Prof. Evans was principal

of the Anson High School for Ex-officio county superintendent, Jesse Wright, has just finished the enumeration of the scholastic census of Fisher county for this year. The census shows 568 males and 466 females; a total of 1034 children of scholastic age. The above does not include Roby independent school district which has 97 males and 98 females, making a grand total of 1229 scholastic scholars in Fisher county.—Roby Banner.

One year ago at this time the mercury was fooling around about the 100's, and the hot winds were blasting vegetation. On the night of June 18, 1902, a hard wind came up from the southwest, which "fixed" the corn crop. The wind seemed to be charged with electricity, and next day the corn looked like a fire had singed it. Within a week, scarcely a green blade was visible, especially on the lower part of the corn stalks.—Garland News.

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

The Old Reliable

Mitchell Wagon

Has been on the market for over

65--SIXTY-FIVE YEARS--65

More MITCHELLS in West Texas to-day than any other make. The almost perfect satisfaction they've given explains why. ∴ ∴ ∴

GET THE MITCHELL WAGON.

It is the Best.
The Best is Cheapest.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.

ABILENE, TEXAS

Repulsive Features.

Blackheads, pimples, greasy faces and muddy complexions, which are so common among women, especially girls at a certain age, destroying beauty, disfiguring and making repulsive, features which would otherwise appear attractive and refined, indicates that the liver is out of order. An occasional dose of Herbine will cleanse the bowels, regulate the liver and also establish a clear, healthy complexion. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

A Complete Success.

The old soldiers' reunion and picnic at the Tabernacle Saturday was an old time love feast, and by all present was pronounced a very pleasant affair.

There was a noticeable lack of attendance by the town people, although those from the country, all of whom brought well filled baskets, made up for the deficiency, and there was an abundance of good things to eat for all present.

Considering the short time in which to make arrangements, the exercises were very good, and everything passed off smoothly.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the program were the incidents related by the "old boys" of war time days—incidents both ludicrous and pathetic which came under their personal observation during those perilous times.

It is the intention each year to hold a similar reunion of merely a local nature, and it is hoped that the town people will hereafter co-operate with the camp, and that a mere announcement of the event will answer the purpose of a general invitation.

The camp is small, there are but few to take part in the exercises, and their few remaining years should be a source of concern to all of us.

The blue and the gray meeting on the common ground is one of the most beautiful sights the world has ever witnessed. May their next reunion be even more representative of the united brotherhood.

The Deadman community, some twenty-five miles northeast of town, has been invaded by grasshoppers in small swarms, but very little damage has been done so far. Farmers are fighting them very successfully.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hamm entertained the young folks last Saturday night in a pleasing manner.

Chops, meal and bran to arrive at J. P. Sharp & Co.'s this week.

Revs. J. J. F. Lockhart and J. P. Copeland will begin a meeting at the Tabernacle on Saturday night before the third Sunday in July.

All parties desiring to transfer their children to Merkel School District should do so at once.

Don't forget to speak a good word for Merkel High School. With unity and interest, we will have the best school in our history.

Mr. and Mrs. Gass of Hereford are visiting the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Counts.

Roy Goedeke, a boy 14 years of age, was accidentally killed by a train at Abilene Saturday night. Just how the accident occurred is not known, as the remains were not found until Sunday morning.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

50 Per Cent.

Increase IN SALES OVER LAST YEAR

This is largely due to the class of merchandise carried in stock. No one wants to buy year after year the old things, when something newer and better is obtainable. When you shop here your purchase is secured by the best judgement of merchandise buyers of 15 years experience. Not an article is here but expert skill has selected it for its price and purpose. Being the oldest general store in Merkel, we had choice of different lines for this place.

Below we give some of the selections made:

Hamilton-Brown Shoes,
Thoroughbred Hats,
Majestic Clothing,
Topsy Hosiery,
Eagle Shirts.



Bray Clothing for Workingmen,
Thompson's Glove Fit'g Corsets,
Chase & Sanborn Tea and Coffee,
Peace-maker Flour,
McDonald Overalls.

You can't make a mistake in buying this class of merchandise.

J. T. Warren.

Cholera Infantum.

This has been regarded as one of the most dangerous and fatal diseases to which infants are subject. It can be cured, however, when properly treated. All that is necessary is to give Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and castor oil, as directed with each bottle, and a cure is certain. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Our fall line of stationery is here. In quality and prices it can't be beat.

Burroughs & Mann.

Miss Mellie Stephenson of Abilene is the guest of Miss Clara Browning.

Isaac N. Taylor was up from Abilene and took in the picnic, and in turn was taken in by the girls.

Through oversight, The Mail neglected to mention the appointment of Prof. S. M. Sewell as conductor of the Abilene Summer Normal. He entered upon the performance of his duties Monday. This is quite an honor and one which fell on worthy shoulders.

Teachers Elected.

In the catalogue of Merkel High School, just issued, will be found a list of the teachers for the next session, with the exception of the place vacated by Prof. Sewell.

There is no change in the various departments, all the old teachers being retained. It is with pride that The Mail makes this statement, for a more efficient corps of teachers can not be found in this section. The trustees are to be commended also, not only for this selection, but because of the services which they have rendered the school and the town.

Wanted—300 bushels good, fresh peach seed. Will pay liberal price, or will exchange fruit trees for same.

W. H. Slaton.

Cures Sciatica.

Rev. W. L. Riley, L. L. D., Cuba, New York, writes: "After fifteen days of excruciating pain from sciatic rheumatism, under various treatments, I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment, the first application giving my first relief, and the second, entire relief. I can give it unqualified recommendation." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Burroughs & Mann have more than 1,000 new writing tablets. They can please you in anything you want.

The Baptist church of this place has again called Rev. C. R. Hairfield to the pastorate of the church.

W. T. Wilson, who made the race for county attorney at the last election, is critically ill at Tombstone, Ariz. Hundreds of friends here hope for his early recovery.

John Hamm, Sr., and his good wife were on hand at the picnic with a plentiful supply of good things—mostly the product of their own skill. Mr. Hamm moved here 20 years ago and along with him came a year's supply of meat and lard. Soon after his arrival he purchased a few pigs, and year after year has raised his own meat and shortening at home. Not a dollar has been expended in that direction. Hogs can be raised easier and cheaper here than anywhere else, he says, and the flavor of that home-made ham—well, it lingers with us still.

The floods of the Rio Grande are playing havoc in New Mexico, hundreds of people having been rendered homeless and are fleeing to the foothills for safety. At Pearlham, in Don Ana county, great suffering is reported. Quite a number of people from this county, who moved out there the past year, are probably in the track of the flood. J. B. Sykes, who moved from Trent, is at Pearlham.

Working Night and Day.

The busiest and mightiest little thing that ever was made is Dr. King's New Life Pills. These pills change weakness into strength, listlessness into energy, brain-fag into mental power. They're wonderful in building up the health. Only 25c per box. Sold by Rust & Pittard.

DRY GOODS AT WHOLESALE 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.

To The Public.

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

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.

To Ice Consumers.

Orders for ice should be given not later than 10 o'clock for morning deliveries and by 5 o'clock for evening deliveries. This will enable us to make deliveries promptly and satisfactorily. Please bear this in mind.

J. W. & L. M. Watkins.

The Perfect Liver Medicine.

Mrs. M. A. Jolley, Noble, O. T., writes: "I have used Herbine for a number of years, and can cheerfully recommend it as the most perfect liver medicine, and the greatest blood purifier. It is a medicine of positive merit, and fully accomplishes all that is claimed for it." Malaria cannot find a lodgment in the system while the liver is in perfect order, for one of its functions is to prevent the absorption of fever producing poisons. Herbine is a most efficient liver regulator. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Our new line of 1903 box stationery is a very satisfactory proposition. Inspect it before buying.

Burroughs & Mann.

Card of Thanks.

We take this, our first opportunity, of thanking the citizens of Merkel and all others who assisted so nobly in saving our goods from the fire. Words can not express our feelings of gratitude to these good people. These kind services saved us from a very serious loss, and we again thank one and all, and we hope that some day we will be able to show our appreciation in some way.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.,
R. L. Hudson.

Little Things at Saving Prices.

- 1500 tooth picks.....3c
- Carriage bolts, 3 to 4 1/2 in. long, each.....1c
- Harness snaps, each...2 1/2c
- Egg beater, Dover pat...9c
- No. 1 lamp burner.....5c
- No. 2 lamp burner.....7c
- Buggy washers, roll....5c
- 5x6 in. shelf brackets pr .5c
- Good double blade mincing knife.....5c
- Good steel trap.....12c

- Hand saw.....25c
- Hand saw, better one...50c
- Old style coffee mill....23c
- Coffee mill with holder for lb of coffee.....28c
- Carpenters' chalk doz...10c
- Violin strings, each...2 1/2c
- Guitar strings, set.....15c
- Banjo strings, set.....10c
- A Nice New Haven alarm clock only.....84c
- Nice wallpockets just rec'd.

If prices and qualities count for anything, we expect a share of your trade.

THE RACKET STORE.

AT COST

All trimmed hats at ACTUAL COST! No fake, but a fact. Come and see . . .



Mrs. HOOPLE,

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

Dr. King's New Discovery

For CONSUMPTION OF THROAT AND LUNGS Price 50c & \$1.00

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



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

C. E. Evans, W. M. R. B. Ustick, Sec.

Advertised Letters.

Following letters remain un-called for in the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, and if not called for will be sent to the Dead Letter office Aug. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Arants, Miss Jimmie
Bradley, Mrs. Sarah
Cavett, W. T.
Davidson, Mrs. Maud
English, Bob
Griffin, W. A.
Hays, Rev. L. A.
Martin, Chas.
Martin, W. S.
Miranda, Vincent
Marin, Francisco
Patterson, John
Reed, Jim
Thompson, Chas.

Ice Cream Supper.

The ladies of the Methodist church will give an ice cream supper on July 10th at the Tabernacle, beginning at 4 o'clock p. m. A nice program has been arranged. Everybody cordially invited to attend. 2t

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.

It is easier for a man to go to heaven on a full stomach than on an empty one. Now is the time to advertise.

We like best to call SCOTT'S EMULSION

a food because it stands so emphatically for perfect nutrition. And yet in the matter of restoring appetite, of giving new strength to the tissues, especially to the nerves, its action is that of a medicine.

Send for free sample. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, 409-415 Pearl Street, New York. 50c and \$1.00; all druggists.

List of Subscribers of Merkel Telegram, phone Exchange.

Alsobrook, Mrs B S res.....	87
Adkisson, Dr J A res.....	17
" " office.....	43
Allen, I S res.....	40
Bank, First National.....	66
Bank, Warnick's.....	18
Berry, Geo S res.....	27
Browning, W P res.....	77
" & Co furniture.....	68
Burroughs & Mann drugs.....	59
Burton-Lingo Co lumber.....	60
Bruce, T D res.....	9
Bigham, W R res.....	47
Barnhill, W A res.....	98
Clay, W L res.....	21
Coats, E D res.....	42
Counts, J H res.....	13
Chenault & Hand grocers.....	56
Coggin, T J res.....	64
Comegys, G E.....	51
Davis, C E res.....	85
Davis, C E Pool hall.....	62
Dickson, W H hardware.....	53
" " residence.....	49
Dennis Bros grocery.....	33
Depot, T & P.....	2
Elliott, John res.....	50
Elliott & Miller shop.....	55
Grimmett, W N M res.....	63
Hughes & Co livery.....	4
Hamm, J C res.....	36
" " lumber.....	45
" Frank res.....	81
Hoople, Frank res.....	49
Hamilton, J O store.....	31
Hughes, J H res.....	10
Hotel, Alsobrook.....	1
" South Side.....	37
Harris, Alex res.....	29
Hutcheson, C R res.....	24
" store.....	86
Johnson, T A res.....	26
King, Dr J H C res.....	41
" Dr J H C office.....	59
Largent, C M ranch.....	67
Leeman, Dr J A res.....	70
" " office.....	59
" Ed J res.....	11
Little, Dr J W res.....	58
" " office.....	76
McGuffin, F P res.....	65
Martin & Hill store.....	46
Mann, J L res.....	35
McCord, W H res.....	48
MERKEL MAIL.....	57
Maxwell & Son store.....	25
Norris, J M res.....	22
Pittard, J K res.....	15
Pate, J M res.....	88
Rust, Dr E M res.....	78
" " office.....	43
Rust & Pittard drugs.....	43
Rose, Henry res.....	83
Star Store.....	69
Sheppard & Hoople mar.....	52
Sharp & Co store.....	44
Senter, D M res.....	34
Thurmond, W P res.....	5
Warnick, Dr J H res.....	84
" " office.....	18
Warren, J T res.....	93
" " store.....	54
" C P ranch.....	23
West, G F res.....	6
" hardware-grocery.....	72
Williamson's restaurant.....	32
Williams, H C res.....	12
Watkins & Son market.....	61
Watkins, J C sec-hand store.....	74
Woodard, J A livery stable.....	80
Watkins, J C res.....	89
Watkins' Restaurant.....	90
Young, R B res.....	39

This list is corrected up to July 1, 1903. Do away with all previous lists.

J. T. Warren will ship a car of yearlings to market tomorrow.

Jap Martin shipped and accompanied two cars of horses to Louisiana yesterday.

J. C. Hamm went up to Roscoe yesterday to look after his lumber interests.

Miss Annie Trent returned to her home at Eskota yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. McWhorter returned from their farm at Tuscola yesterday.

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.

Horror in Marion.

Marion, Tex., June 30.—A diabolical deed that is one of the greatest crimes in the history of Guadalupe County was perpetrated near here today. Mrs. Anna Kronle, wife of Emil Kronle and daughter of Geo. W. Oetz, lies in the jaws of death, with no show or hope for recovery, while the black perpetrator is hotly pursued by hundreds of indignant men who indicate that they will avenge the crime if the brute be captured. Officers from Guadalupe, Comal and Bexar counties are here with bloodhounds and hundreds of citizens from adjoining counties are scouring the woods, the fields and pastures. The sentiment is at such a stage that should he be captured there is hardly any probability that the officers can evade the indignant pursuers, and the word on every lip is "Burn him at the stake," though there are some extremely conservative men, who suggest that he be hanged without trial if caught.

The Merkel Mail explains that it did not mean to give the impression that it was no longer in the fight on local option, as a newspaper, as its expression "this editor" led us to think, and we do not wish to put our neighbor in a false attitude, so cheerfully make the statement. The Mail is a good paper, its editor a good and law abiding citizen conscientious in the performance of his duties as such and ever ready to defend his opinions.—Reporter.

The Mail thanks the Reporter for the favor. We have no hard feelings over the matter, but by being placed in such an attitude before the people we are subjected to much railery and not a little criticism. The editor of The Mail neither expected nor desired remuneration in the contest in this county. It was, and is still, a matter of principle with him, and so long as the saloons are conducted as they now are, we will continue fighting the battles of local option.

If you want a cut of your building, either residence or business house, in The Mail, bring around a picture and \$2.50 in money.

Basham, Shepherd & Co., and R. L. Hudson are occupying the Ferrier building and have about straightened out their stocks of goods.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY

to get good photos, but you'll have to hurry to get them cheap at Barnhill's Foto Gallery.

Only 99c for the best this week.

There are good indications of rain this morning.

Miss Ella Tippet of Abilene is visiting the family of W. L. Harkrider.

Mrs. Woodruff, wife of Judge C. P. Woodruff of Sweetwater, died at Dallas Sunday morning, where she had gone for some slight surgical treatment. Mrs. Woodruff was a daughter of ex-Congressman J. V. Cockrell of Abilene; she was a leader in club and religious circles, and hundreds of friends have received the announcement of her death with genuine sorrow.

Miss Jewel Coggin returned from Sweetwater Monday, where she has been visiting friends and relatives.

Give Home Men Preference.

Among the items held out as bait to the unwary by the mail order representatives, was a large grain coffee priced at 37 1/2c per pound. Tuesday a drummer made the town and among his samples was the same coffee, the retail price of which was 20c per pound. Those who examined the coffee, among whom were several farmers who made purchases from the agents, pronounced it the same brand.

Now this is but one bait—there are others. Two years ago the people were taken in by buggy agents and last year by sewing machine agents, and now comes the fellow who has groceries—the very same (?) sold here—at less than wholesale prices. Why do they work a week at a time trying to unload on the farmers, when, if their wares were as represented, they could sell car after to merchants? Is it because they love the farmers more? Why do the farmers year after year submit to such imposition?

Read the advertisements in The Mail, glance at the prices and compare them with those of other concerns on standard goods, and you will be easily convinced that you are going against your own interests and interests of your town and country by sending off for your goods. Always give home men preference.

W. A. Moon leaves tomorrow for Cisco and other points on a ten days' visit.

Misses Nora and Willie Crim of Abilene visited in the city yesterday.

Prof. S. M. Sewell writes from Abilene that the normal has had a very successful beginning; enrollment 66, with several more in view. Only 69 enrolled last year.

The young people were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Diltz, southwest of town, Tuesday night. A dray wagon with the bed covered with straw was the mode of transportation.

Miss Jewel Roberts of Abilene was the successful contestant in the Fort Worth Telegram contest, the prize being a \$400 piano. West Texas girls and boys "get there" and "stay there" on every proposition. The Mail congratulates Miss Jewel upon her success.

Arthur Sears, a well known stockman, and Miss May Winters, a highly esteemed and very popular young lady of Hodges, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Winters, were married Thursday of last week. The Myil joins with their friends in best wishes.

Declares a Dividend.

The First National Bank of Merkel declared a 6 per cent dividend on July 1, and mailed out to its stockholders checks aggregating \$3,000 in value. Most of the stockholders are home men, hence this money will remain at home and circulate among home people.

The growth of the bank has been marvelous, and the management of the institution are due much praise for the efficient manner in which they have conducted its affairs.

The adjuster for the Springfield and German companies came in this morning and is straightening up the losses.

You Will Be Happy if Well.

Paine's Celery Compound

Bestows that Health and Vigor that Makes Living a Pleasure.

If you are sick and out-of-sorts, it is in your power to make yourself healthy, strong, and happy.

There is not the slightest reason why you should go through life feeling sickly, miserable, languid, and melancholic. To be well and strong, means happiness and true joy.

If you are sleepless, rheumatic, neuralgic, dyspeptic, or have the shadows of disease hovering over you; if you are not as bright, energetic, and strong as you were some weeks ago, the use of Paine's Celery Compound will tone up and fortify your whole system, cleanse the blood, correct digestion, sharpen the appetite, and conduce to restful sleep. Thousands once in a half-dead condition owe their present good health to the use of Paine's Celery Compound. Mr. Wm. S. Gibson, of Pleasureville, Ky., who, through sickness and suffering, was brought near the dark grave, writes as follows, regarding his marvelous cure:—

"I have been broken down in health and strength, nervous system shattered, kidneys out of order, had nervous and trembling spells out and on for the last ten years. I have taken three bottles of your Paine's Celery Compound and all of the above-mentioned troubles have left me, and I can now do a good day's work. I go about my business all day long and it don't worry me, and I now feel better than I have in ten years. I have a good appetite, and can eat and get around on foot as active as when I was a boy. My age is 65 years."

DIAMOND DYES

Color Jackets, Coats, Capes, Ribbons, Neckties, Waists...

Stockings will not fade or crock when dyed with Diamond Dyes. Direction book and 45 dyed samples free. DIAMOND DYES, Burlington, Vt.

A Great Reduction Sale

For 15 Days Only!

The glorious 4th is almost here. Don't overdo the day, don't get your fingers shot off or drink too much lemonade, but have a good time generally. We are always glad to see this natal day, and are glad when the three days following are past and we have recovered from the attack. It's going to be quite dull in store life during July compared to the regular season, but this store will look very busy compared to the ordinary store. Too many people coming to see us now for us to get so awfully idle. We are going to give you some Great Bargains for the next 15 days, some pushing prices that'll naturally force business. It's not how much profit we make so much as to run the stock down to a healthy ebb. We just won't carry goods over. Nearly everything in the store has a bargain price on it. We want you to be sure and come in before the fifteenth day.

Shoes	Groceries	Shirts	Shirt Waists
100 pr ladies' 1.50 and 1.75 shoes go in this sale at.....1.25	All canned goods go at a discount.	100 men's shirts at..... 1/2 off	\$2.00-\$2.25 shirt waists at\$1.50
3.00 slippers at2.25			1.75- 1.50 " " at 1.13
2.50 slippers at1.65			1.00- 1.25 " " at82
1.50 slippers at1.10			.75- .85 " " at55
75 pr mens 1.75 and 1.50 shoes 1.25			.35 " " at25
3.00 shoes at.....2.50			
2.50 shoes at.....2.00			
			Ladies' Skirts
			\$5.00 skirts at\$3.56
			3.25 skirts at 2.25
			1.50 skirts at98
			Clothing
			\$15.00 suits at\$11.00
			12.50 suits at 9.00
			10.00 suits at 8.50
			8.50 suits at 6.50
			7.00 suits at 5.00

Dress Goods

15c Batiste and Dimities at....10c
 27 1/2c Mercerized Silk Zephyr...20c
 25c Pineapple Zephyr.....17c
 8 1/2c Almena Batiste.....7c
 7 1/2c Dimity5c
 Vendome Challe.....2 1/2c

The above prices will only run until July 15, and are made for SPOT CASH.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

Brutally Tortured.

A case came to light that for persistent and unmerciful torture has perhaps never been equaled. Joe Golobick of Colusa, Calif., writes. "For 15 years I endured insufferable pain from Rheumatism and nothing relieved me though I tried everything known. I came across Electric Bitters and it's the greatest medicine on earth for that trouble. A few bottles of it completely relieved and cured me." Just as good for Liver and Kidney troubles and general debility. Only 50c. Satisfaction guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, Druggists.

Campmeeting and Convention.

The Christian churches of the Abilene district will hold a campmeeting in connection with their District convention. It will be held at Sweetwater, Tex., beginning July 22nd, 1903 and continuing two or three weeks.

The preaching will be done principally by Bro. B. J. Waugh, of Longview, Tex. He will be aided by attendant preaching brethren.

The singing will be led by E. M. Douthit, of Austin, Tex.

The District convention will be held on the 4th and 5th days of the campmeeting, July 26th and 27th.

The T. & P. will give special rates. Ask your agent for them.

Come and enjoy the rich treat. For further information address R. A. Musgrove, or Grant E. Pike, Sweetwater, Tex.

Two Opinions.

Last week we gave the opinion of the Clipper on the local option situation at Colorado. Below is the opinion of the Spokesman. The reader is left to draw his own conclusions. The Spokesman says:

Among other things that varied

considerably from the truth, the Clipper asserts that nine-tenths of the business men of Colorado were opposed to local option, which is one of the most unjust and untrue statements that man could make. If that per cent of the business men had been opposed to the issue the county would have remained "wet" by a good majority. The Clipper will have to show us in this instance, and he will certainly find himself up against an assertion he cannot begin to back. The Spokesman is not in the habit of taking any notice of the braying of a Jaekass or the croaking of frogs with cracked heads, but when our town is misrepresented by such unreasonable and unfounded statements, we do not propose to remain silent any longer. It is an injustice to the town and majority of the voting population of Mitchell county.—Colorado Spokesman.

Night Was Her Terror.

"I would cough nearly all night long," writes Mrs. Chas. Applegate, of Alexandria, Ind., "and could hardly get any sleep. I had consumption so bad that if I walked a block I would cough frightfully and spit blood, but, when all other medicines failed, three \$1.00 bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery wholly cured me and I gained 58 pounds." It's absolutely guaranteed to cure Coughs, Colds, LaGrippe, Bronchitis and all Throat and Lung Troubles. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's drug store.

Does the Shoe Fit You?

One of the best signs of good breeding, as well as common-sense, is proper behavior in church. When you see a young man or woman sit still through a service and pay attention to the

same, you may rest assured that he or she has had proper raising, and besides is possessed of a good stock of "horse sense." On the contrary, if they fidget about, whisper to those near them, write notes, or what is most despicable of all, write in the song books, you may put it down that they are lacking in both sense and culture, and deserve the pity if not the contempt of right thinking people. This is not intended to be personal unless it fits you, bud and sis.—Garland News.

Industry and Economy.

Southwestern Texan. These tools, gentleman, are the pick and shovel of life. You must be industrious to make a dollar, and practice economy to save it. To work steadily and live within your means—that is how it is done. No man can live like a prince on a \$6 salary and he need not try it. If he does he will leave an unpaid grocery bill about in his pocket, and will soon be limited in his credit. Time is too precious to sit around day after day doing nothing. You keep on eating beans and bacon and wearing out your suspenders just the same. Shake the dust off your feet, back your ears and run into something. It's more honorable to be a horny handed laborer with 15 cents in money and a clear receipt from the world than a bankrupt count, borrowing money from your wife's rich kinfolks. No man has ever accumulated a very extensive fortune hunkered down waiting for a streak of luck to strike him. Friends, don't try it any longer.

Destructive Hail Storm.

At about 6 o'clock Tuesday evening, a terrific hail storm passed over Roby, almost completely demolishing everything

in its path in the way of crops, gardens and orchards. The path of the storm was about one mile wide and it traveled in a south easterly direction, reaching as far down the river as Sylvester.

The stones were larger than goose eggs, and a number were picked up after the storm which weighed a pound.

The local telephone system was badly damaged, and carpenters and tinnners are very busy patching up buildings.

East of here the hail was accompanied by a heavy rain and the damage was not so great.

The Last Straw.

The Grayson county prohibition situation is clearing up some, the saloons having received some two or three setbacks, but they have one more plea to be heard on and that is this: Dr. Yeidel seeks to intervene and have the law declared unconstitutional for the reason that he is a Jew and the Jewish creed requires the drinking of wine on Friday and Saturday evenings, not as a sacrament but as a beverage, and that during the feasts of the Purim, Passover and other stated occasions it is required that all orthodox Jews drink wine four times each day, not as a sacrament but as a beverage, and that the Jews will be unable under the law to perform these religious obligations in a community in which prohibition laws of Texas are in force and effect, because sacraments being essentially Christian they, the Jews, could not secure the wine upon affidavits truthfully filed that said wine was intended for sacramental purposes.—Taylor County News.

Quite a number of Merkel W. O. W. camp went out to Stith Monday night and instituted a lodge at that place.

F. E. Telford came in from Stephenville and spent a few days here this week. Mr. Telford asked The Mail to kindly thank all who in any way assisted in saving his property from the flames. He is deeply grateful for the efforts made in his behalf.

Oscar Wilson came up from Caps and went out to his ranch northwest of town Monday, returning yesterday. He reports his cattle in prime condition, and gave The Mail permission to go out and bring in a beef so as to increase our avoirdupois.

Mr. John Hamm has placed The Mail under renewed obligations to him.

J. C. Calvert called around Tuesday and enthused The Mail with his bubbling enthusiasm in school matters, and he said and did some nice things which our modesty prevents an allusion to. Mr. Calvert thinks the school has brighter prospects this year than ever before, and he is doing a considerable amount of missionary work for it. There is one thing sure, too much can not be said for the school.

OUR METHODS

are calculated to ensure prompt and efficient service in every department of banking. Perhaps you would like to give us a trial? : : :

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas,

Vehicles!

I have the best line of Buggies and Wagons on the market. The prices speak for themselves. Come and see

W. H. Dickson

The Farmer's Column.

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

Texas is furnishing many of the products of the soil at this time of year. Papers coming to this office tell stories of mammoth figs in the central and southern part of the state. East Texas papers are filled with news about the mammoth tomatoes, berries and the peaches to come on the market very soon. We also read about potatoes in many places, alfalfa in a number, wheat and oats on the thousands and thousands of acres, fat cattle in the west and southwest, cabbage along the coast, vegetables nearly everywhere and roasting ears nearly ripe in north Texas. The good things of earth are ours if we will only be diligent and work in season. Energy is rewarded many fold and there is still room for a million homes in grand old Texas.

Every family should raise poultry, if not for sale, at least an abundance for home use. The flesh and eggs are both wholesome and delicious food. On a farm the cost of raising fowls is very little. The farmer may also raise fowls and eggs for market, with much greater profit than those who buy their chicken feed. It is impracticable except in the immediate vicinity of a large city for a farmer to make a fortune in a few years from fowls, because large numbers cannot be successfully grown on a farm without a large expense in providing houses and runs, and an expert to manage the whole plant. Most attempts at keeping large numbers of fowls have failed.

Good horses and mules command a good price in the local market. Yesterday at the court house square in Sherman four mules were sold for \$250 each, making \$1,000 for the two spans. The mules were raised in Grayson County, and the price is said to have been the highest ever paid in this county. The mules were bought for shipment to St. Louis.—Denison Herald.

"Every farmer boy," says a North Missouri exchange, "wants to be a school teacher; every school teacher wants to be an editor as a rule; an editor would like to be a banker; every ban-

ker would like to be a trust magnate and every trust magnate hopes some day to own a farm and have chickens, cows and pigs to look after, so what's the use?"

What a pity it is that our farmers could not have had their last year's crop of cotton all on hand and placed it on the market last week while cotton was ranging in price from 12 to 14 cents. But then these things never happen until all the cotton has passed out of the hands of the farmers. Speculation in cotton is all wrong and has cost the southern states millions.

There is every reason to believe that a crop of at least 11,500,000 will be needed this year to meet the requirements of consumption, which during the last season has considerably exceeded eleven million bales. It would be a mistake should the South be unable to furnish all the cotton required, as such a failure would greatly stimulate competing countries to increase their cotton acreage.—New Orleans Picayune.

Palestine, Tex., June 26.—Charles E. Young, right of way agent for the International and Great Northern Railway, has just returned from a trip through Houston, Leon, Madison, Trinity and Walker Counties. He reports boll weevil by the million, but farmers hopeful that the hot weather may help them out. He reports none of consequence in Cherokee and Anderson Counties and says every station in those counties is piled high with tomatoes and fruit, chiefly tomatoes, the first having been cut off by the late freeze.

If a farmer's boy is born right and treated right, he will not want to leave the farm. In fact you could not drive him away from the farm by any sort of treatment. The boy should be early imbued with the beauty of thoroughly practical and scientific farming, and this should be done both by precept and example. The teaching should be the best available, and the example should be before him at all times. Then, by the judicious distribution of responsibilities and

emoluments, the boy's anchor may be made fast in the soil, and all the allurements of city life will be unable to make it drag.

Belton, Tex., June 25.—T. J. Neeley of this city has just returned from the northeastern part of Lampasas County, near Lometa, and brought with him a dozen or more large grasshoppers of a kind which, he says, are very numerous there, and are destroying the cotton and grass in that part of the State. He says many farmers there have abandoned their cotton crops on account of this destructive pest. The specimen the writer was shown is about two inches long, about an inch in circumference around the largest part of its body, has six legs, has four light brown and three light green stripes extending the entire length of its body. It looks like it might be a very voracious and destructive eater.

Did Him No Good.

Cornelius Vanderbilt said to a friend just before he died: "I don't know what good it does me, all this money you say is mine. I can't eat it, or spend it, in fact I never saw it, and never had it in my hands for a moment. I dress no better than my private secretary and cannot eat as much as my coachman. I live in a big servants' boarding house, am bothered to death by beggars, have dyspepsia, and my money is in the hands of others who use it mainly for their own benefit."

Very Remarkable Cure of Diarrhoea.

"About six years ago for the first time in my life I had a sudden and severe attack of diarrhoea," says Mrs. Alice Miller, of Morgan, Texas. "I got temporary relief, but it came back again and again, and for six long years I have suffered more misery and agony than I can tell. It was worse than death. My husband spent hundreds of dollars for physicians' prescriptions and treatment without avail. Finally we moved to Bosque county, our present home, and one day I happened to see an advertisement of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy with a testimonial of a man who had been cured by it. The case was so similar to my own that I concluded to try the Remedy. The result was wonderful. I could hardly realize that I was well again, or believe it could be so after having suffered so long, but that one bottle of medicine, costing but a few cents, cured me." For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Proper Kind of Boy.

A gentleman advertised for a boy and nearly fifty came to see him. Out of the whole number he chose one and dismissed the rest. "I should like to know," said a friend, "why you picked out that boy who had not a single recommendation." "You are mistaken," said the gentleman, "he had a great many. He wiped his feet when he came in, and closed the door after him, showing that he was careful. He gave his seat instantly to that lame old man, showing that he was kind and thoughtful. He took off his cap and answered my questions promptly, showing that he was gentlemanly. He picked up the book which I purposely laid on the floor and returned it to its place on the table; and he waited quietly for his turn instead of crowding and pushing, showing that he was honorable and orderly. I noticed that his clothes were brushed and his hair in order; when he wrote his name I noticed that his finger

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

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN,

Merkel, Tex.

nails were clean. Don't you call that recommendations? I do, and I would give more for what I can tell about a boy by using my eyes than for all the letters he can bring."

A Symposium.

From Life.
"What is the secret of success?" asked the Sphinx.
"Push," said the Button.
"Take pains," said the Window.
"Never be led," said the Pencil.
"Be up-to-date," said the Calendar.
"Always keep cool," said the Ice.
"Do business on tick," said the clock.
"Never lose your head," said the Barrel.
"Do a driving business," said the Hammer.
"Aspire to great things," said the Nutmeg.
"Make light of everything," said the Fire.
"Make much of small things," said the Microscope.
"Never do anything offhand," said the Glove.
"Spend much time in reflection," said the Mirror.
"Do the work you are suited for," said the Flue.
"Get a good pull with the ring,"

said the Doorbell.
"Be sharp in all your dealings," said the Knife.
"Find a good thing and stick to it," said the Glue.
"Trust to your stars for success," said the Night.
"Strive to make a good impression," said the Seal.
"Turn all things to your advantage," said the Lathe.
"Make the most of your good points," said the Compass.
"Be always on the lookout for a snap," said the Camera.
"Be ever ready to do a good turn for anyone," said the Crank.
"Never take sides, but be round when you're wanted," said the Ball.
"Sacrifice yourself, that through you others may succeed," said the Orange.
"Keep a good heart, though you be drawn and quartered for it," said the Oak.

No Pity Shown.

"For years fate was after me continuously," writes F. A. Guldedge, Verbena, Ala. "I had a terrible case of Piles causing 24 tumors. When all failed Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured me." Equally good for Burns and all aches and pains. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

The Man WHO TOILS

Deserves and certainly should appreciate a pretty and a comfortable home.



GOOD AND DURABLE FURNITURE

is our hobby and it's one that has won friends and customers for us.

INDUCEMENTS

To newly married couples to buy their outfits here.

Geo. L. PAXTON

ABILENE, TEXAS.