

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1903.

NO. 29.

SUNDAY MORNING REFLECTIONS

What Preachers of the Various Denominations Are Talking About.

THE WIDER GOAL.

He alone lives wisely, with ever widening hope and courage and strength, who sees beyond the moment to the wider goal toward which he moves and in the light of which every step he takes wins a wider and nobler meaning. That nation alone is great whose policy is born of wide and noble dreams. That they see only what is near is the death sentence alike for the individual and the commonwealth.

WATCHWORD.

The watchword today in religious circles, as in the business world, is "training." It is a life of activity and self denial that is demanded. A life under discipline, a life that has a goal and that makes progress. No church today will succeed that ignores this law.

MIND SPIRITUALIZED.

When the mind is spiritualized the kingdom of God will stand revealed, and we all shall become partakers of the divine nature, discovering that in the kingdom of God all are gods. By the incarnation of the Christ elements and purposes is man made perfect.

AIM OF ALL CHRISTIAN EFFORTS.

No man can win a worthy prize without a tremendous effort. The prize is the reward of victory. Moral likeness to Christ ought to be the aim of all Christian efforts. To dream of the glory and felicity of heaven is our privilege.

CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION.

If it is age that gives validity to the claim of a religion, Judaism is entitled to the first place, because it is the oldest religion which today participates in the work of culture and civilization.

INFIDELITY.

I would rather believe Christianity if it were false than infidelity if it were true. The truth in such instance would have no value, and, therefore, could not be true, but Christianity, the inspiration of all virtue, courage and hope, so beckons us on while it holds us to life and work that if it be false, in the end, we are this one world ahead of the bewildered, despairing atheist.

A SIFTING PROCESS.

If the same style of sifting process that in our day is adopted in bringing men into the apostleship (which we call the ministry), had been applied in the first Galilean days, it might have shut Judas out, but likely enough it would have shut out Pete and John.

THE VITAL PRINCIPLE.

The vital principle of the Christian church is that the religion is founded upon Christ, the rock of our salvation.

Try reading The Mail.

Merkel Is Bidding For Your Cotton

DICKSON IS BIDDING FOR YOUR TRADE

Onward and Upward in my efforts to please the trade--this is my motto, and the many friends won for this store show how well I have succeeded.

LANSING WAGONS OWASSO BUGGIES

In this department I can certainly interest all. They are acknowledged leaders, and having handled them many years I can recommend them as the BEST. Get others' prices then come to me. It will be money in your pockets.

I sell the famous Yellow Kid Disc Plow.

I handle the time tried Bement Farm Implements:

Plows, Cultivators, Disc Plows, Harrows, etc.

They are the best, and you can well afford to come many miles to purchase such implements. They pay in the long run.

My prices are always right, and goods the best. Come and see.

BRIDGE and BEACH STOVES and RANGES

They are decidedly the best. Find a man who is using a Bridge & Beach and you will find one who has a satisfactory article.

I have everything usually carried in an up-to-date hardware store, and sell honest goods at honest prices.

A full line of Single and Double Harness.

W. H. DICKSON FOR HARDWARE

Collars! Bridles!

We don't keep them.
We sell them at prices that keep them moving. All kinds. Cheap ones 75c; better ones \$1.25 to \$1.75. Good, none better, at \$2 to \$2.50. Bridles! Oh, just any old price.

R. L. Hudson.

A Belated Plea for the Boy.

The graduating class of 1903 is the largest in the history of our public school, there being nineteen members in the class, eighteen girls and one boy.—Denison Herald.

This is about the tale of all towns—eighteen to one. The girls have the grit and ambition to pursue their studies to graduation, but the boys drop out for a \$15 per month job or to loaf.—Honey Grove Signal.

Dear Signal, don't blame the boys. Parents are to blame for this state of affairs, altogether to blame. A father will spend a thousand dollars educating his daughter in order that she may marry well, and he will refuse to keep his boy in school till he finishes the seventh grade. And that's one reason why we have so many worthless boys now. They are not incapacitated to do anything because they have not received sufficient education, as a result of which they will grow into criminals, vagabonds or ditch diggers. We favor the education of women, but when it is to be done at the expense of man we say it is wrong.—Sulphur Springs Gazette.

Of course the fathers are to blame, and some mothers, as well, but not always because they are unwilling to spend money on him. Fathers, as a rule, are as willing to educate their boys as their girls, but they expect a boy to give up everything else in order to pay for his books and his other school expenses, and whoever saw a real boy that could appreciate such a course. They do not require this of the girls. They have their dolls and their playmates and the

prettiest room in the house. What boy under such circumstances could resist the temptation to make a dollar and have some fun on it. On the other hand there are parents who are overindulgent. Time that should be spent in school is devoted to guns and fishing poles until interest in school and books is lost. Both results mean the quitting from school. If parents are not to blame, who are? It is as senseless to blame a boy for being bad as to censure a tree for growing crooked.—Cooper Review.

Whites in Peonage.

Troy, Ala., Aug. 30.—Evidence in the case of the United States against Marion Prestwood, a wealthy planter and turpentine operator, which was heard here yesterday before Federal Commissioner Tutuwiler, shows that poor whites as well as negroes are being held in slavery in Alabama.

Prestwood was charged with holding Robert English, a white man, and his family of ten children in peonage. The evidence showed that Prestwood made a contract with English in 1902 by which the former was to furnish the English family with rations in consideration of the latter working sixty acres on shares. When the crop was made, Prestwood ceased to furnish rations and seized the crop.

When the English family tried to secure work to save themselves from starving, Prestwood had the old man and six boys arrested, accusing them of burning turpentine boxes valued at \$46. This charge Prestwood admitted to Commissioner Tutuwiler was

groundless. After the arrest Prestwood told the men as he controlled the Magistrate he could send them to the penitentiary, but he said if the family would sign a contract to work for him until 1905 to repay the \$46 he would furnish them what they had to eat.

The father and sons became frightened, signed the contract and have since been at work for Prestwood.

A Conclusion.

It was this writer's sad experience to miss the advantages of a school education. Just about a year diggin' knowledge from a blue-back speller, Ray's arithmetic and McGuffey's reader with the "Old Oaken Bucket" in it and we boarded the Ship of Life and reported for duty. Ev-

ery day we feel the effects of what we missed. How often, O, how often have we stood on memory's misty bridge that leads back to the past, and viewed our neglected opportunities in the bright moonlight of present realization! Boys and girls you have no time to waste. Enter school determined to fit yourselves for the duties of life. And bear in mind that to that pupil who writes "my level best" as a motto on the first page of his book and lives up to it, there is no such word as f-a-i-l.

Be obedient to your teacher, strive to grasp all the knowledge you can, and above everything else guard your character—it is a gift from God; learn to love Truth, Honesty, and Sobriety, and to stand for those things which elevate life above the trodden clod.—Ozona Texan.



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.

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Basham, Shepherd & Co.

Your New Dress or Waist

Will be correct in style and price if it comes from our store. We have probably the largest and most complete stock of Dress Goods ever brought to Merkel, comprising a full assortment of all the new materials in both the mercerized cotton cloths and wool fabrics. Examine your October number of Delineator or fashion Journals and come to our store and see for yourself that our Dress Goods and Trimmings are as up-to-date as any city store, and at about a saving of 25 per cent. Below are a few of the newest materials for early wear:

Mercerized Cheviots, white, with colored figures, special value at, yard 15c

The new Mercerized Oxfords and Vestings, white with colored figures and stripes, at, per yard, 25, 35, 45 and 75c

New Buttons, Laces, Embroideries, Appliques, Medallions, Belts, Braid, etc., in a great variety of styles.

Malador Waistings in solid colors, with fancy stripes, at, yard 15c

Wool Dress Goods and Waistings in Zibelines, Tweeds, Friezes, Venetians and Broadcloths in all the new colors, per yard from 35c to \$1.25

Some special values in Calicos, Percales and Ginghams at from 4c to 10c



Call and see the new line of Ladies' Street Hats.

Watson & Bacon.

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.

J. E. Elrod and W. R. Rice of Little Elm, Denton Co., were here prospecting last week with the view to locating. They were very gloomy over the condition of crops in their county and were favorably impressed with the inducements which this country holds out to the agriculturalist.

A Remarkable Record.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has a remarkable record. It has been in use for over thirty years, during which time many million bottles have been sold and used. It has long been the standard and main reliance in the treatment of croup in thousands of homes, yet during all this time no case has ever been reported to the manufacturers in which it failed to effect a cure. When given as soon as the child becomes hoarse or even as soon as the croupy cough appears, it will prevent the attack. It is pleasant to take, many children like it. It contains no opium or other harmful substance and may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

The Mail and Dallas News one year only \$1.50. Subscribe now.

Brick work on the Flemming building has been completed and carpenters are in charge.

The report of vital statistics of this county for the month of August shows 40 births and 9 deaths. Of the births twenty-five are females and fifteen males, while of the deaths three are males and six females.

That Hat.

You are wondering what sort of a hat to order for fall. I can give you the best idea if you will come and look at my hats. I'll tell you what they are wearing at the fashion centers and tell you how cheaply I can make you a hat that will be becoming and fashionable.

Miss Mollie Huffman.

The hot, dry winds of the past week have about sapped the ground of what little moisture it retained from the slight wetting of two weeks ago. Unless it rains within the next few days the late feed crop will be almost a failure.

Kept in Hand.

It is not our desire to gather a large, unwieldy business, but rather one of moderate proportions; a business that can safely and comfortably be kept in hand.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.

To Parents.

Merkel Public School opens Monday, Sept. 14. It is important that all children enter at the beginning of the school term and continue in regular attendance during the school year. Prompt and regular attendance means that much may be accomplished—irregular attendance means little and poor work on the part of the pupil.

You will observe that our published school regulations require a satisfactory written excuse from parents in all cases of absence and tardiness, and your hearty co-operation in the enforcement of this rule will assure better work and more regular attendance.

Give encouragement to your children to study at home—for, novel reading, "company-keeping," and "party-going" are alike destructive of good school work.

Advise with us at any time relative to the intellectual and moral good of your child. If for any reason you do not think any regulation we have adopted is wise, remember that such regulation had in view the good of the pupils and not the convenience and comfort of the teacher.

Our aim is to make the Merkel school equal to any in the state, and to accomplish our purpose, we ask your help and assistance.

C. E. Evans, Prin.

J. C. Watkins was able to be at his place of business yesterday. He has been confined to his bed three weeks.

If the "blues" would make blueing, there would be no need of bringing it on in boxes and bags. Most every fellow you meet is well stocked.

PROVISIONS OF GAME LAW.

Condensation of the Statute for Benefit of Sportsmen During Season Now Here

Following are excerpts from the game law which it will do well for sportsmen to heed:

The protection lasts for five years from its passage, and does not include English or European house sparrows, hawks, crows, buzzards, blackbirds, ricebirds, or owls. These may be caught, killed or had in possession at any time.

Killing, catching, snaring or having in possession during the five years any wild bird other than a game bird, living or dead, is prohibited.

It is unlawful to sell or buy or offer for sale during the time wild turkeys, geese, grouse, prairie chickens, pheasants, partridges, quail, doves, pigeons, plover, snipe, jacksnipe or curlew, except at open seasons mentioned.

Nests or eggs of game birds must not be destroyed.

Deer, Rocky Mountain sheep, or antelope or their hides or antlers must not be sold or offered for sale.

The netting or trapping of wild birds is prohibited.

It is unlawful to kill any geese or ducks in any manner except by an ordinary gun held to the shoulder.

It is against the law to kill, catch or snare Mongolian pheasants, antelopes or Rocky Mountain sheep.

Only 25 birds may be killed in one day if the hunter wishes to be within the law.

Fire hunting of game, using lanterns or torches, is prohibited. Game may not be shipped or

received by a carrier for shipment unless affidavit is made that the game is for personal use and not for sale.

The open seasons are as follows: Deer, Nov. 1 to Jan. 1; turkeys, prairie chickens, partridges or quail, Nov. 1 to Feb. 1; doves, Sept. 1 to Feb. 1.

No person at any time is to kill or have in his possession a female deer or spotted fawn and no more than six wild bucks are to be taken during November and December of any year.

Farmers may kill birds that are destroying their crops.

Birds as domestic pets may be kept in cages, but must not be sold or exchanged for sale. Possession of birds applies also to birds caught outside the State.

Possession as used in this law is taken as prima facie evidence of guilt.

For violation the punishment for each individual bird, beast, nest or set of eggs is a fine of from \$10 to \$100 or imprisonment in the county jail of from five to thirty days, or both fine and imprisonment.

The term game is applied to the following: Deer, antelope, Rocky Mountain sheep, wild turkeys, wild ducks, wild geese, wild grouse, wild prairie chickens, wild Mongolian or English pheasants, quail or partridges, wild doves, wild pigeons, plover, snipe, jacksnipe and curlews.

The Mail's estimate of a bale to every five acres of cotton may be a little high, but we are going to stay with it—this week at least. It is best to be optimistic, anyway.

Don't buy your street hats until you see my selection. On display Sept. 21.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

The Star Store

Dry Goods, Clothing, Notions, Boots, Shoes and Hats, Staple and Fancy Groceries. Highest Market Price PAID FOR COTTON.

Merkel Mercantile Co., Propr's.

Swapping Lies

Is practiced, but don't swap off Hunt's Lightning Oil for a worthless article. Ask your druggist or merchant for a free sample bottle.

Brain Leaks.

Love lightens the heaviest load. Indestructible currency has not yet been invented.

Hypocrisy is the tribute evil pays to truth.

Building castles in the air is better than groveling in the mire.

A high ideal unreached is better than a low success achieved.

Satan is always well satisfied when he sees a sinner stand pat.

If you do not believe it yourself you cannot make others believe it.

The fool says, "I doubt." The Christian says, "I believe." God knows.

Many young men have gone to the bad trying to keep up with "good society."

Thank goodness they'll never form a trust and control baby laughter.

Men pinch and save to meet life insurance premiums, and never give a thought to soul insurance.

Our idea of a soft job is a high salaried clerkship in the store of the merchant who does not believe in advertising.

There are some women who spoil the appetites of their children by their fears that they will soil the tablecloth.

—W. M. Maupin

J. C. Copeland will leave this week, but is undecided where he will locate. He has The Mail's best wishes.

Simmons College at Abilene succeeds Monday.

Whips! Robes! Blankets!

They are the kind that give satisfaction, and the best of it is the prices are right. Just try them one time.

R. L. Hudson.

Can You Beat This?

In my jewelry store will be found a choice selection of Cut Glass, Silverware, flat and hollow, Fountain Pens, Plain and set Rings, Manicure Sets, Silver Knives, Forks and Spoons, Stag handle Carving Sets, Silk Umbrellas, gold and silver filled, Spectacles from 25c up, Infant Toilet Sets, Ladies' Brooches, Watches, Clocks, Chains, Link and plain Cuff Buttons, Ladies' and misses Locketts and neck Chains, Emblem Pins, And a miscellaneous collection of jewelry novelties. When you want jewelry go to an exclusive jewelry store, where standard goods are sold. No shoddy goods here. Every article guaranteed. And prices are right.

R. B. USTICK.

Prof. C. E. Evans was a member of the county board of examiners at Abilene Saturday.

Cotton is coming in at a lively gait now. Twenty-three bales were marketed here Tuesday. Cotton is opening very fast, and it is expected that the receipts will reach 500 bales by the latter part of next week.

Prohibition Matters.

The long run of prohibition victories has been broken, Henderson County going anti Thursday by between 800 and 900 majority.

However, Nacagdoches County went for prohibition by about 1000 majority, and on the same day Cottle County, the last of the wet counties in the Fifteenth Judicial District, comprising eleven Panhandle counties, went dry by about three to one. But when it is considered that the only saloon in this county moved out a few weeks ago through loss of patronage, the victory is not so remarkable after all.

Palo Pinto County went wet Saturday, it is claimed by the anti, by 3 majority.

A prohibition election will be ordered for Lamar County.

Runnels County holds her election today. Both sides are claiming the victory.

Up to two weeks ago, 136 counties in this State had total prohibition, 62 counties had partial prohibition, and 46 counties had unrestricted sale of liquors. The many prohibition victories of the past two weeks will change the above very materially.

Brown County has thrown off the yoke of the saloons, prohibition carrying Saturday by about 150 majority.

Rains County also went dry Saturday by 200 majority.

Open Again.

Barnhill's Photo Gallery is open again for work on Fridays and Saturdays in each week. Everything in the photo line done at prices to suit the times.

Deputy Sheriff Lon Cunningham was in the city Monday.

The government crop report of Sept. 8 shows a great deterioration of cotton from the report of last week.

LAND FOR SALE.

640 acres out of the H. T. Buse survey, 100 acres under fence and in cultivation; about 8 miles south of Merkel and near Nubia postoffice. Title perfect. Will sell cheap and on good terms. Write to Wallace & Camp, Rockdale, Texas, for prices and terms.

We can't Tell A Lie

When we say there is no shaking of bottles. No licking of spoons, no wry faces when Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets are used. 25cts. No cure—no pay.

G. E. Comegys and W. A. Sheppard, with their families, and quite a number of young folks are spending the week on Valley Creek fishing.

At a meeting called for the purpose of electing a night watchman, held Monday night, the office was tendered to Mr. John King, which he has accepted, and will assume his duties on Sept. 20. Mr. King is a good man for the place. It is believed that he will give entire satisfaction.

Photos.

are still made at the cut rate price at the Photo Car—\$4.00 Platino cabinets for \$1.00.

Clarence Osburn.

It is reported that the Morrison tract of 2,200 acres, which was recently purchased by W. G. Swenson of Abilene, will be cut up into small tracts and put on the market. This is all fine land and would no doubt go like hot cakes.

Prof. W. H. Buxton arrived from Johnson County yesterday. His family will arrive in a week or two. Prof. Buxton has created a favorable impression on both the trustees and patrons of the school, and will no doubt prove a valuable addition to the faculty. We welcome him to Merkel.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople and Miss Belle Adcock left yesterday for the eastern market to purchase their fall stock of millinery.

A shower of rain, sufficient to temporarily lay the dust and cool the atmosphere, fell last night. Some parts of Merkel's trade territory must have gotten a good rain, but owing to the early hour at which we go to press we can give no definite news of the rain. Indications are favorable for a rain this morning and if all signs don't fail, which they most generally do in this country, we will yet come in for the blessing. Three years ago, when we made that big crop, good rains fell on the 9th and 10th, the two days following the Galveston horror, and cotton put on everything after those rains. However, some cotton would be benefitted by a rain now and some wouldn't, but we'll take the chances, and the rain.

Let parents remember that a school opens Monday and start their at the beginning. Pupils can not show that advancement which parents desire unless given the opportunity. Remember this and don't lay all the blame on the teacher.

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, Jewelry, 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. 6-1p

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

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

If you are not taking THE SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL you should be OFFERED. It is helpful to the best interests of your town and county. For \$2.75, 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.

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

Dr. King's New Discovery

For CONSUMPTION, Price 50c & \$1.00
CROUPS and COLDS

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.

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 Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as second-class mail matter.

Subscription Rates:

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

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

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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

ERRONEOUS REPORTS.

Nothing does a country more harm than erroneous reports sent out about drouths, pestilences, and sorry crop prospects. Such reports are not only injurious to the country, but are an injustice to its people, especially the business men, while they have no effect at all upon the markets. Last week the Dallas News sent out requests to its correspondents for data concerning the cotton crop. The Merkel correspondent submits the following, which was published in the News Saturday:

The cotton crop in this locality is in a very poor condition. Some say it will take from ten to fifteen acres to make a bale. Others expect to make as much or more than last year, so on the whole there will be about as much made as last year. Farmers say there will be no appreciable increase or decrease, so far as they can tell, over last year.

This report is misleading in that an invidious comparison is made with last year's crop without giving the country credit for a 20 per cent increase in acreage. This week we interviewed a score or more farmers from various parts of the country. They were asked, How much cotton is in sight on your farm? The replies given show that, taking the country as a whole, it will take from two to eight acres to produce a bale. Averaging the estimated yields we have a crop of one-fifth of a bale already made, and with rain during the next few days the yield per acre on some farms will be materially increased. These reports can be relied upon and it is the true situation at this time. There is not a farm in this country, so far as we have been able to learn, that will produce as little as a bale to fifteen acres. On the general average of one-fifth of a bale to the acre, every acre planted to cotton will bring its owner ten dollars. The increased acreage, basing the yield equal to that of last year, insures fully 6,000 bales for this market on the lowest estimate.

The Mail hopes that no more such reports will be sent out. Many of our business men have vigorously protested against this injustice, and in the future they will see that a fairer estimate is made.

THE FARMERS' ENEMIES.

Everything and everybody seems conspiring against the cotton farmer this year. First, the elements, next the insects, and now comes the government with a false report on the condition of the crop that is destined to work the greatest injury of all. A few more such solar plexus blows and the hope of a record-breaking price will go aglimmering. Already there is a

perceptible weakening of spots, and the indications are that the price will drop below ten cents before the month is out. The report that did the mischief shows the average condition of cotton on Aug. 25 to have been 81.2 as compared with 79.7 on July 25, 1903; 64.0 on Aug. 26, 1902; 71.4 on Aug. 24, 1901, and a ten year's average of 72.4.

Coming in the face of the report that in thirty-five of the largest cotton-producing counties in Texas it will take from five to fifteen acres to produce a bale, the estimate of a bumper Texas crop is very fragile. This report practically places an estimate of 14,000,000 bales on this year's crop, while Texas is expected to produce in the neighborhood of 5,000,000 bales. Is the government playing into the hands of the cotton manipulators?

In the Dallas News crop report, published Saturday, reports were given by 441 correspondents covering 149 cotton-producing counties in Texas, and shows an increase of 2 3-5 per cent in the acreage, which is the only advantage this year's crop has over that of last year. The general tone of the reports intimates great discouragement over the rapid deterioration of the crop. Taking these reports as a basis for an estimate, the 1903-4 Texas cotton crop will fall considerably short of 4,000,000 bales.

THE DIVORCE PROBLEM.

Just now the discussion is going on as to whether it would not be better to go back to the old way of living, with a fig leaf for a covering and the wilderness for an abiding place, rather than confront the divorce problem. The divorce statistics are enough to startle the world. In Massachusetts the present divorce rate is one to every eighteen marriages, as against one to every thirty-four fifty years ago. All who seek to understand this state of affairs differ widely in their conclusions, some accounting for it by reason of the fact that twenty-seven per cent of the employees of that state who work for a living are females. This may or may not be one of the reasons for the enormous increase in the rate of divorces. There are other reasons. Many people have come to the conclusion that the greatest hell which will ever be encountered by man, is the attempt of two people to live together as man and wife when the last spark of love which drew them to each other has flickered and gone out. That there have been divorces granted which should not have been, can not be denied, but to offset these, we find the fact that crime, caused by the attempt to live together of man and wife, who should not have lived together, is greatly decreased.

It is probably true that there was never so great a per cent of happy marriages as exist to-day. Therefore the solution of the divorce problem will only be found in the solution of civilization.

THE NEGRO AND HIS FUTURE.

Major Vardaman was nominated for governor of Mississippi on a platform demanding that the school fund of the State should be divided between the whites and blacks in proportion to the amount each race paid in. This would practically cut out the negro. Among the ignorant classes it is taken as a menace to their liberty and means a return to slavery, and as a consequence there promises to be a general

exodus of the colored brother and his flock. The whole idea is ludicrous in the extreme, although such attempts have been made in one or two states recently.

Texas pays over one million dollars annually for the education of the negro children, and it is safe to say that not one-fiftieth part of this vast sum comes from the pockets of the colored tax payers. Still Texas is willing to educate the negro, but his future prospects along this line hinges on his conduct and his willingness to take advantage of and appreciate the State's generosity. The ignorant negro is a menace to the country. He must learn to keep his place, and above all he must be industrious and self-reliant, respectful and obedient to the laws. The future of the negro is in his own hands. Will he improve the opportunity?

We like the stand that John Temple Graves of Georgia took in his speech on the negro question, when he said: "Separation of the races is the way—the only way. If God hath made of one blood all the nations of the earth, he hath also established unto them the metes and bounds of their habitation." He did not intend that opposite and antagonistic races should live together. The act that brought these people together on this continent was a sin of the fathers—a sin of greed, an iniquity of trade, and the sorrow and suffering of the present is for the sin of the past—a sin against nature and a sin against God. The curse can be lifted only when nature is vindicated and God is obeyed. The problem will be solved only when the negro is restored to the 'bounds of his habitation.'"

This is an irrational conclusion, to be sure, but it must be admitted that there is more truth than wisdom in it. It is an unsolvable problem, truly.

TWO OF A KIND.

That political blatherskite, Cyclone Davis, is stumping the State for prohibition at so much per stump. "Cyclone" is being paid for his services, but the keenest delight that animates him through it all is that he has hopes for a division in democratic ranks over prohibition. The idea of life long Democrats hugging such a political monte bank to their bosoms as "Cyclone" simply because he is, or pretends to favor prohibition, is enough to disgust any one with politics for good.—Baird Star.

There would be just as much logic in applying the epithet to Stump Ashby, who is employed by the antis. Both are out for the dough and The Mail gives them credit as being honest in their convictions. Cyclone Davis has never claimed to be a Democrat, although at one time affiliated with the party. First he was a "greenbacker" and joined the pops when that party sprung into existence. He has never asked anything at the hands of the Democrats. Even now he is following his convictions, for he has always been a prohibitionist, and stumped the State for the cause during that campaign. The writer "grew up" near Cyclone's home and knows him to be honest. He has never affiliated with the prohibition party.

Don't impugn a man's motives until you are sure of your contentions, brother.

THIN VS. THICK COTTON.

The thinnest land has decidedly the best fruited cotton this year. In fact, the thin land and fields where the stands are poor generally escapes the ravages of the boll worms and other like

Saddles! Saddles! Saddles!

Come and see them.

The largest stock ever shown in Merkel. Prices ranging from \$15 to \$50. If we do not have what you want give us your order and will make it as you wish. We have the best leather and a man that knows how to cut it.

R. L. Hudson.

pests.—Italy News-Herald.

This contention has been proven in this country during drouthy years. Many of our best farmers thin their cotton to a meager stand, leaving only one stalk in a place and from two to three feet apart. It is a well known fact that the cotton plant saps the ground very fast. It sends its roots deep and branching out in every direction draws moisture from a surface eight or ten feet. Thinning the cotton aids it in withstanding the drouth and by allowing the sun's rays to penetrate to every part of the plant the ravages of the cotton pests are checked.

Farmers, remember that Merkel wants to buy your cotton, and remember also that our buyers are merchants and that they will give you full value for every pound of cotton they buy of you. They do not buy cotton for a profit, but as an accommodation and as an evidence of their appreciation of your trade. While our merchants buy all your cotton and other produce, paying the very top of the market for it, they likewise sell you goods as low as any fair-minded man could ask.

The Mail bows in humble contrition before the Abilene Reporter and sincerely begs its pardon. Had we known that it was trying to pay Merkel a compliment not a word would we have uttered. The Mail will be good henceforth if the pardon which we crave is granted. However, only a third of a column was devoted to the Reporter. It is not worth a whole column, we regret to say.

It is noticed that the anti papers are keen to cry that prohibition will eventually result in a

division in Democratic ranks, notwithstanding the people have repeatedly said by their ballots that it has nothing to do with the political situation. But perhaps the wish is father to the thought.

This dispatch from Mexico shows how they do things down there: "Several employes in the General Tax Collector's office at the City of Mexico were so indiscreet as to shake dice for the drinks in a saloon and were promptly discharged by order of President Diaz."

Prospectors are flocking to this country in droves. On the other hand, many are leaving the west where the rush for lands recently took place. A drouth in Western Texas plays into the hands of those who are opposed to the settlement of the country by farmers.

Merkel merchants are going to buy the cotton and sell the goods this fall. They are "built that way," and farmers from far and near are invited to come and be convinced.

During 1902 the average drink expenditure per capita in England was \$20.82, which, allowing five for the family, made an expenditure of \$104.10 for each household.

Booker T. Washington is laying up trouble for his race every time he tries to force his way into a white diningroom.

Leading simple lives is productive of greater happiness than all the pleasures that wealth can bestow.

The Democrats are coming together beautifully—in the sweet by and by.

Prohibition is a moral question and has nothing to do with politics.

RACINE VEHICLES

For 9 Years the Best Vehicles in the West

Durable, Stylish and unexcelled in all the world for

Genuine Comfort!

Used by thousands of people in West Texas, and endorsed by every user. Remember that RACINE vehicles are the BEST FOR THE MONEY ON THE MARKET.

Let us show you through our repository, or write us for 1903 RACINE catalog.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,

Distributors, Abilene, Texas.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

Has world-wide fame for marvellous cures. It surpasses any other salve, lotion, ointment or balms for Cuts, Corns, Burns, Boils, Sores, Felons, Ulcers, Tetter, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Chapped Hands, Skin Eruptions; Infallible for Piles. Cure Guaranteed. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

For good wagons cheap, see Dickson. He is overstocked and is making a special price on the celebrated Lansing Wagon.

I am overstocked on wagons. If you need one now is the time to get a good one cheap.

W. H. Dickson.

A Good Citizen Gone.

The death of Mr. D. Reidenbach Monday evening was a great shock to this town and the community in which he lived. Two weeks ago he took his bed with a bad cold which later developed into pneumonia, and he gradually grew worse despite the efforts of physicians and the helpful ministrations of his family and neighbors.

Mr. Reidenbach was a successful stock-farmer and had resided in the Rock Crossing community several years. By his neighbors he is spoken of as a good man, honest in all his dealings, and was loved and respected by them. He was an old soldier, having served with distinction in the Union army during the Civil War, and the last reveille found him willing and prepared to take up the last long march.

The interment took place from the Merkel cemetery Tuesday evening, a large concourse following the remains to their last resting place. The bereaved family have the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community in their sore bereavement.

L. B. White and family left Tuesday for Fort Stockton where they will make their future home. Mr. White lived here several years ago and has long been an appreciated reader of The Mail, being one among its first subscribers. We wish him success in his new home.

Elbert Barnes returned from his visit to Paris, Tenn., Thursday, and reports a very pleasant visit.

W. W. Harris left Saturday for Roswell, N. M., on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. T. D. Wiman.

J. C. Watkins took a relapse of the fever last week and has since been confined to his bed.

Mrs. Berry and children returned from Fort Worth Monday.

"Uncle Charlie" Williams informed us Tuesday of the marriage of his son, Bose, in Kentucky, last week. He will arrive with his bride next week. "Uncle Charlie" says his wife is coming home, too, but he is very impatient and says the days are very long. Mrs. Williams has been gone three months.

To arrive

2 cars Bran.
1 car Hay.

at Boyce's, the exclusive grain dealer.

Will Provine came in Friday from Hall County and is now counter jumping at Hill & Provine's.

Alonzo Bickley left Monday for Fort Worth to enter Polytechnic College another year. His friends extend best wishes success in his studies.

YOU'LL FIND IT IF YOU LOOK AT THE RIGHT PLACE!



WE have the place, you have the desire. We will give you the best for that desire and be glad of the opportunity. If you want good and up-to-date things at reasonable cost, come to us and let us satisfy you.

We have just returned from market where we selected an elegant stock for our store. In marking this stock it is our purpose to put a live and let live price on everything, rather than sell some goods at cost and take advantage on goods with which you're not so well posted. No misrepresentations allowed here if we know it. We want your business and promise as much for your money as you can get any place. New goods arriving daily. Shall be glad to show you if you just look like you want to buy. Come to see us.

J. T. WARREN

Devoured by Worms.

Children often cry, not from pain, but from hunger, although fed abundantly. The entire trouble arises from inanition, their food is not assimilated, but devoured by worms. A few doses of White's Cream Vermifuge will cause them to cease crying and begin to thrive at once, very much to the surprise and joy of the mother. 25c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Pads! Pads! Pads!

Collar pads, knee pads—pads of all kinds at Hudson's.

Read Here.

See Ben Nisbett for up-to-date tonsorial work. Hair cutting a specialty. Everything nice and clean. Next to Star Store.

See Boyce if you have any feed to sell and get the market price.

Mrs. F. E. Allyn visited at Eskota Sunday.

Dr. E. M. Rust spent Sunday in Baird.

Ben Nisbett visited in Abilene Sunday.

A fine boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Will Higgins Sunday.

G. B. Brown visited his family in Abilene Sunday.

Chas. Craven went down the road Sunday.

21 Years A Dyspeptic.

R. H. Foster, 318 S. 2d St., Salt Lake City, writes: "I have been bothered with dyspepsia or indigestion for 21 years; tried many doctors without relief; recently I got a bottle of Herbine. One bottle cured me, I am now tapering off on the second. I have recommended it to my friends; it is curing them, too." 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

G. W. Boyce's

New Grain House three doors west Watkins' Meat Market.

To The Public.

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

Boyce made a living price on bran. Others followed.

Religious Matters.

Rev. A. P. Lowery, who had been assisting his brother in a meeting at Truby, left Saturday for his home at Waco.

Elder J. B. Jones began a protracted meeting at the Tabernacle Saturday night and will continue the services through the week. He is an interesting speaker and is drawing large crowds.

The pastor, Rev. Young, assisted by Alonzo Bickley, has been conducting a protracted meeting at Rock Crossing which closed Sunday night. There were 20 conversions and 8 accessions to the church.

Aunt Lucindy

Always carries Hunt's Lightning Oil around with her, says it's fine for swellings, toothache, colic, weak back and backache, cuts, burns, neuralgia, catarrh. Aunt Lucindy has sixty-nine grandchildren and ought to know what she is talking about.

Wanted—Everybody to see that show case full of neckties at Warren's.

Miss Dora Collings of Pecos passed through Saturday night en route to Baird, where she will teach a music class in the Baird school.

The Mail has a nice order for stationery from J. F. Tipton & Co., of Nubia. We are pleased to learn that they are doing a nice business and have a long list of customers.

A Corn Mill.

I will grind your corn at reasonable prices; also have installed a turning lathe and can turn out anything in wood. See me.

R. L. Parker.

Prof. S. M. Sewell and family, of Merkel, passed through today en route to Gail. Prof. Sewell has been elected principal of the Gail school for the coming session.—Snyder Coming West.

W. F. Stanford retained a fee of \$1.00 out of his first bale for The Mail. We appreciate his annual offering.

What is Life?

In the last analysis nobody knows, but we do know that it is under strict law. Abuse that law even slightly, pain results. Irregular living means derangement of the organs, resulting in Constipation, Headache or Liver trouble. Dr. King's New Life Pills quickly re-adjusts this. It's gentle, yet thorough. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

The very newest things in ladies neckwear and belts can be seen at Warren's.

A Full House!

We have just unloaded a full car of Furniture, direct from the factory. It contained

**IRON BEDS, ROCKERS,
TABLES, SIDEBORDS,
ETC., ETC.**

This gives us one of the largest and best stocks of Furniture in this country, and the very low prices we are making ought to move it out. Drop in and let us show you.

W. P. Browning & Co.

A full line of carpets.

Industry and Economy.

These tools, gentlemen, 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 carry 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 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.—X.

Nearly 1,300 tons of gold lie today in the vaults of the United States treasury, the greatest horde of metal ever gathered in the history of the world by any one government. 400 tons of this gold are piled like bags of salt within the four walls of the sub-treasury in Wall Street, New York. The treasury holds in trust against outstanding gold certificates \$400,000,000 in gold bonds.

Definition of Kings.

Mullin Times.

The pupils of a school in a neighborhood city were asked to write an original composition on "Kings." The prize was won by bright youth who perpetrated

the following.

"The most powerful king on earth is wor-king.
 "The laziest, shir-king.
 "A very doubtful king, smo-king.
 "The wittiest, jo-king.
 "The leanest, thin-king.
 "The thirstiest, drin-king.
 "The slyest, win-king.
 "The most garrulous, tal-king."

A. M. Sheppard was in from the Hylton country with a load of peaches, tomatoes and sweet potatoes, yesterday. The fellow who says fruit and garden truck can not be successfully grown in this country should go down and see what a small tract of land irrigated with a windmill has done on Mr. Sheppard's place.

We are glad to note that Bud Marlow, who has been confined to his bed 68 days with slow fever, is improving.

District Court.

District Judge Calhoun discharged the jury for the week on Tuesday and took a recess until Monday, Sept. 14th. On Monday the Merrill case will be called.

On Monday Sept. 21st the criminal docket will be taken up, the Patterson murder case being set for Wednesday, Sept. 23rd.

On Monday Sept. 28 the Geo. P. Arthur murder case will be called.

This week only one case was tried, a negro being convicted and given the minimum penalty of five years in the pen.—Reporter.

Tuesday was the third anniversary of the Galveston horror, in which thousands of people were sent headlong to their Maker. This catyclasm will live in history.

The grand jury adjourned last Thursday after being in session just four days. Five bills of indictment were turned in. Last March the grand jury was in session about three weeks and upwards of 80 true bills were found. The last named was in session while the saloons were in full blast and the former during the rain of local option. The reader can draw his own conclusions.

"Priscilly is a pretty maid,"
 "indeed she is quite"
 "stunning. And when"
 "she sweeps along the"
 "curb, the chappies"
 "come running. Pris-"
 "o o o o o o o o o o"
 "cilly's pa gave her a"
 "purse to buy some"
 "o o o o o o o o o o"
 "needfuls trifling. Then"
 "'Cilly to the city went"
 "and there began her riffl"
 "ing. She traded"
 "here and traded"
 "there, and shopped to suit"
 "her fancy. Then home-"
 "ward she did swiftly fly"
 "to show her dear Aunt"
 "Nancy. Aunt Nancy"
 "gasp ed in"
 "sad alarm,"
 at dear Priscilly"
 "shocking. She"
 "o o o o o o o o o o"
 "o o o o o o o o o o"
 "had 100 pairs like"
 "this here pee-a-boo"
 "stitch stocking. Moral"
 "Gentlemen musn't rubber."
 "Ladies never do."

The Thornton place has been improved by the addition of a new fence.

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' Responsibility over ONE MILLION DOLLARS

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, Cashier.

Card of Thanks.

The children of D. Reidenbach requests that The Mail tender their heartfelt thanks to the kind friends and neighbors who were so faithful in their ministrations to the departed loved one. They are profoundly grateful and will ever remember their great kindness.

D. Reidenbach was a native of Ohio and was in his 62nd year. When quite young he moved to Missouri, but at the breaking out of the Civil War in 1861 he returned to Ohio and at the age of 20 years enlisted in a regiment then in process of organization. He was in many of the hardest fought battles of the war and served with distinction until its close. After the war he returned to Missouri and later moved to Texas where he has since resided. He was twice married, being the father of nine children—two by his first wife and seven by the second—all of whom, with the second wife, survive him. In all his dealings with his fellowmen he was scrupulously honest, and he lived an honorable, upright life, faithfully carrying out every contract and living up to his obligation to the very letter. The community is better by he having lived in it. Peace to his ashes.

I will have a nice display of street hats for your inspection Sept. 21. Wait for them.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

Resents It.

The local option fight is on in Kaufman county. The Times-Star of Terrell trots out the same old thread-bare argument so often discounted, that if local option succeeds the beautiful and thriving little city of Terrell will die of the dry rot because, forsooth, the people of Rockwall county will go elsewhere to trade. To which indictment J. C. Russell, a citizen of Rockwall, demurs in the following vigorous language:

Boyse City, Tex., July 28,

1903.—Editor Terrell Times-Star: As a citizen of Rockwall county I wish to resent the slur made on the fair name of our county in your last issue by saying that the trade from this county depended on Terrell keeping her saloons. It is a mistake, as our citizens take pride in the fact that they can have peaceful homes, raise and educate their children away from the evil influences of the saloon and its attending vices. I know of several young men and young women who are going off to school next term and would go to Terrell's college if it was not for the saloon and its attending vices. Saloons do not draw anything to a town that is worth drawing and stand for everything that is low and degrading, while the citizens of Kaufman county who wish to rid her of its curse are its truest and best citizens and stand for its homes, its schools and its churches.—J. C. Russell—Panola Watchman.

A Cleaner Merkel.

A clean town, not a cleaner town is the slogan in Merkel just now.

With this end in view the people put their heads together, monthly contributions to a scavenger fund were secured, and the results are apparent to all. Mr. R. B. Grider contracted to do the work, and he is putting in some good licks. The people should give him their support and encouragement. A comparison of the streets and alleys now with what they were two weeks ago will convince anyone of the wisdom of the move for a cleaner Merkel. They are "things of beauty and a joy forever"—or will be if the work is kept up. Do your part.

Heavy snows fell in Colorado this week. How would you like to see a snow bank?

Miss Susan White, who has been the guest of friends here, returned to her home at Roscoe yesterday.

Forward March!

Our business is marching forward and each year shows an increase over its predecessor. The reason is plain: We depend more on Genuine Bargains, Fair Treatment, and the Values we give than on talk. We have nothing but the best to offer. Come see. ∴ ∴ ∴
 Fall goods are arriving daily.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

"The Price Setters," : Merkel, Tex.

Harness! Harness! Harness!

We have them.

If you don't believe it come in and see for yourself. We make them to order. All kinds, styles and prices. Buggy harness from \$7 up. Wagon harness from \$10 up.

R. L. HUDSON.

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.

Mrs. Mollie Allen, of South Fork, Ky., says she has prevented attacks of cholera morbus by taking Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets when she felt an attack coming on. Such attacks are usually caused by indigestion and these Tablets are just what is needed to cleanse the stomach and ward off the approaching attack. Attacks of bilious colic may be prevented in the same way. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

About Boys.

Peacock's School Drummer. Truth is the foundation of character. A boy that never made a mistake never made anything. Never take a thing for granted. A boy that will lie about one thing will lie about two. It takes a brave man to get out of a difficulty. There is a difference between a mean boy and a mischievous boy. You have as much time as anybody else.

Opening of Public School.

Merkel High School opens for the session of 1903-4 Monday, and already there is great preparation being made. Heretofore it has been the rule to teach a pay term of one month prior to the opening of the free term, but this year there are funds sufficient to run the school the required time, and the free term is open to all children under 17 and over 7 years of age. Parents should start their children at the beginning and keep them in school to the end of the term. The school this year bids fair to be the best in the history of the town. We have an able corps of teachers. They are enthusiastic teachers and will give their best efforts to the work. Let the trustees and patrons of the school lend them their hearty support and encouragement, to the end that this may be the most prosperous term the school has yet enjoyed.

Mother's Ear

A WORD IN MOTHER'S EAR: WHEN NURSING AN INFANT, AND IN THE MONTHS THAT COME BEFORE THAT TIME.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

SUPPLIES THE EXTRA STRENGTH AND NOURISHMENT SO NECESSARY FOR THE HEALTH OF BOTH MOTHER AND CHILD.

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

BROOKS COLD TIRE SETTER

Tires Set Quicker and Better and Will Run Longer Without Loosening than is Possible When Set the Old Way.

Compresses the metal cold; no burnt or charred felloe surface to wear away, but a hard wood surface instead; no steam and water soaked felloes to shrink away and loosen the tire; no burnt paint to replace. It gives just the amount of dish required; no overdishing; no guess work about it. We guarantee our work and refund the money if not satisfactory. Give us a call and see the machine in operation.

Compton & Son,
Merkel, Texas.

A Tripple Hanging.

Smith, Brown and Jones hang their hopes of recovery upon Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets. They will be around soon shaking hands with friends. 25c. No cure—no pay.

Two Loafers Lassoed.

Tom Wheatt and Ben Pate, two of the most scientific ropers that ride the range, encountered two large lobo wolves last Thursday on the U range and after an exciting chase, they succeeded in dropping nooses about the necks of the monsters and bringing them into camp. They were fine specimens of their kind. It is not out of the ordinary to rope panthers, bears, deer, or even coyotes, but it is extremely rare that a grown loafer wolf is lassoed. These young gentlemen are regarded as very fortunate and as having accomplished a unique feat in the roping art.—Pecos News.

Negroes Not Wanted.

Roby, Tex., Aug. 31.—Following the action of the people of Nolan county, adjoining this, Fisher county has served notice that negroes are not desired as citizens, and none need apply for a residence location.

The Nolan county people have agreed to dispense with colored help and negroes are leaving the country on this account, the statement having gone forth that such citizens are undesirable. There are no negroes in Fisher county now. For all industrious white families the people extend a cordial invitation, promising the richest agricultural land at reasonable prices.

Gained Forty Pounds in Thirty Days.

For several months our younger brother had been troubled with indigestion. He tried several remedies but got no benefit from them. We purchased some of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets and he commenced taking them. Inside of thirty days he had gained forty pounds in flesh. He is now fully recovered. We have a good trade on the Tablets.—Holley Bros., Merchants, Long Branch, Mo. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

A Mr. Robertson of Matagorda County was here prospecting last week. He brings gloomy reports from that country, which, at one time, was the greatest cotton-producing section of the State. Rice and ribbon cane are the main dependence of the farmers, he says, but even these crops are partial failures. The negro is fast crowding out the white man, for the climate is unsuited to the white laborer. In the rice belt land is sky high and the people are taking advantage of the rice boom to sell their holdings and move to a more favored locality.

A Wild Man.

"The wild man of Borneo has just come to town."

Several parties have reported seeing a wild man, armed with a gun and Bowie knife, roaming in the bushes along Mulberry, east of town. A report is current to the effect that he appeared at a house near Tebo and badly frightened a lady. He was also seen by a party of campers. Officers have scoured the surrounding country, but so far have failed to find any trace of the supposed wild man.

By many it is believed that the man is a criminal and is masquerading in this way to escape detection. Be that as it may, it is hoped he will give this town a wide birth.

Caesar Conquered Britain

Malaria was conquered by Simon's Liver purifier (tin box). Protected from moisture, dust and insects. Clears the complexion, cures constipation, aids and corrects action of the liver.

The Farmers and Merchants Gin Co. are anxiously awaiting the arrival of some of the machinery which has been on the road several days. The machinery will probably arrive this week, and everything in readiness it will not take them long to install it and get down to business.

The Mail has had an unprecedented call for sample copies during the past two weeks. Prospectors have been unusually thick, and as a town is in some respects judged by its newspaper, they invariably head straight for the printing office. The average newspaper gives away many dollars along this line every year. What other enterprise of the town does so much?

Miss Mary Glasscock, of Abilene, who was taken ill while visiting here, is improving, her friends will be glad to learn. After being moved home she had a severe case of typhoid fever.

W. B. Alsbrook last week purchased and took charge of the Jones Restaurant at Abilene. Mr. Alsbrook knows how to cater to the public and that popular resort will lose none of its prestige through his management. His wife will run the hotel here.

The banks observed Monday as a holiday—Labor Day.

MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL.

First Session Begins Sept. 14, and Continues 9 Months—Outlook Very Bright.

Merkel High School opens Sept. 14, 1903, and continues nine months. All who wish to transfer their children to Merkel school should do so at once. There is every reason for believing that the next year will be the most successful year in the history of the school. It is the aim of all concerned to give the pupils attending Merkel High School advantages equal to those afforded by the best schools in the State.

You will make no mistake if you enter your children in Merkel High School. 3t

To the Ladies of Merkel and Surrounding Country.

We have moved to the Woodward building, just across the street from First Nat. Bank, and have fitted up a toilet room for the accommodation of the ladies who come to Merkel to trade.

Will leave for market Sept. 8. Will have a nice line of street hats on display Sept. 21.

Come and see us; make yourselves at home, and get our prices on all millinery goods.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

The Mail and Dallas News \$1.50.

Hereafter the price of The Mail and Dallas News, both for one year, will be only \$1.50, either to new subscribers or renewals. This gives you 156 papers a year at less than 1c a copy.

Take advantage of this offer now.

A New Market.

I have bought the Sheppard meat market and take this method of asking the patronage of the people. There is a great deal in knowing how to cut meat; I understand the business and can please the best epicure. Give me a trial.

C. V. Bigham.

We have two good second hand organs that we will trade for wood, cattle or good horse.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

HOUSE COLD TIRE SETTER

A Machine That Does the Work.

We are just in receipt of one of the House Cold Tire Setters, one of the best machines to be found. It will do the work claimed for other machines, and do it better. Come in and let us show it to you.

Moon & Hargroves.

DON'T BE Hidebound

The hidebound man is a harder proposition than the hidebound horse. Bass' Salt will cure the horse, the man's trouble is mental. Has a rock in one end of the sack, meal in the other. Aggravated case, you might say. "Dipping is the only way; you can't feed a cow anything that will kill ticks, lice, cure itch, mange, etc." Don't take that man on the jury if you want justice; evidence does not count with him. Bass' Medicated Salt has proven its case. See witnesses for first day; plenty more if needed:

Geo. W. McDaniel, Abilene, Tex.	Cooley Brothers, Hodges, Texas.
Mack Merchant, " "	Wm. Horn, " "
Judge D. G. Hill, " "	R. L. Olds, " "
W. J. Thompson, " "	Fred Robinson, Audra, Texas.
W. A. Farquhar, " "	J. P. McCasland, " "
P. D. Bumpass, " "	Walter Porter, Terrell, Texas.
W. B. Ellis, Tecumseh, Texas.	O. T. Maxwell, Cisco, Texas.

Sold by all Grocery and general stores. Freight paid if cash accompanies order. J. T. Warren agent at Merkel.

BASS BROS. DRUG CO., : Abilene.

Raised From the Dead.

C. W. Landis, "Porter" for the Oriental Hotel, Chanute, Kan., says: "I knew what it was to suffer with neuralgia, deed I did, and I got a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment and I was 'raised from the dead.' I tried to get some more, but before I had 'deposited' of my bottle, I was cured entirely. I am tellin' de truth too," 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

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

Burns, Mrs. Loula.
Chappel, J. H.
Rounsaville, D.
Singleton, J. H.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

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.

Pure Neatsfoot harness oil—the best—at Hudson's.

Heaven Helps Us

In our troubles, but use Hunt's cure for itch, Tetter, Ring worm, Itching Piles and eczema. Guaranteed.

Miss Lucy Leeman left Monday for Fort Worth where she will again enter Polytechnic College. She will complete her studies this session.

"Grandpa" Ware, who has just returned from Dallas, was in to see us Saturday. For several years he has suffered from what was diagnosed as sciatic rheumatism of the leg, but a short time ago submitted to an operation and an abscess or tumor was removed. He has since had no touch of the trouble and says he now feels as chipper as a four-year-old. We are glad to note his improvement.

Croup

Usually begins with the symptoms of a common cold; there is chilliness, sneezing, sore throat, hot skin, quick pulse, hoarseness and impeded respiration. Give frequent small doses of Ballard's Horehound Syrup, (the child will cry for it) and at the first sign of a croupy cough, apply frequently Ballard's Snow Liniment externally to the throat. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

ISAAC N. TAYLOR,

—LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC—

Office in First Nat'l Bank.

Watch for Announcement

Of the arrival of our NEW FALL GOODS. We bought a large stock, and the people will REAP THE BENEFITS. WATCH THIS SPACE.

J. O. HAMILTON

The Farmer's Column.

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

The hog is the mortgage lifter, the sheep the farm fertilizer, the cow the barn builder, and the hen the grocery-bill payer. This quartet, with a man and woman not afraid of the work in caring for them, will insure prosperity on any farm.—Lancaster Herald.

Twenty dollars a month on a farm is better than a \$35 a month job in the city. As a general thing, at the end of nine months the farmer boy has \$150 in cash, three pairs of overalls and a straw hat, while the city chap two or three suits of cloths and a pair of golf socks and is \$17 in the hole. Notwithstanding this result, there are usually seventy-five applicants for the latter position to one for the former.—Pike County Republican.

Keep The Farm Busy.

To make money farming it is necessary to run the farm on a principle similar to that of the merchant. The merchant don't stock up with winter goods in the spring, nor with spring goods in the fall. Neither does he keep for sale the same sort of goods the year round. Practically he makes two or more crops during the year, laying in suitable stocks for the season. If the farmers will do likewise they will fare better. The soil should be so handled as to yield as much as possible. This cannot be done by harvesting a crop in June and leaving the land to rest until planting time next year; and in the meantime the poor farmer will say that the reason he cannot pay off the mortgage on his home is because he has not land enough to make him more than bare subsistence. There are farmers, however, who practice a method more like that of a successful merchant. As soon as one crop is gathered and garnered they prepare the land for the crop, taking care that the crop shall be suited to the season, as well as to his purposes. They make their soil bring two crops every year, which is equivalent to doubling the size of the field. But this cannot continue to be done without feeding the soil. If a farmer would double the weight of his hogs or cattle or increase the milk of his cows, he must furnish them feed. To increase

the productive capacity of his land, it must also be fed. Feeding his stock will enable the farmer to feed his land also, for the crops grown on the land can be passed through the cattle making them grow and onto the land making it produce; and then with a little rotation and a good deal of know how, the more the soil produces the more it can produce. Many farmers with 160 acres would do better if they would make pasture of half of it and double the yield of the other half, which can often be done by rotation, fertilizing, restorative crops, good preparation and good cultivation. The farmer should keep busy by keeping his soil busy. He can get all needed rest by changing from one kind of work to another, which is really recreation. His land needs recreation and not rest.—Farm and Ranch.

Fearful Odds Against Him.

Bedridden, alone and destitute. Such, in brief was the condition of an old soldier by name of J. J. Havens, Versailles, O. For years he was troubled with Kidney disease and neither doctors nor medicines gave him relief. At length he tried Electric Bitters. It put him on his feet in short order and now he testifies. "I'm on the road to complete recovery." Best on earth for Liver and Kidney troubles and all forms of Stomach and Bowel Complaints. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, Druggists.

Some Funny Things.

How little we know when we stop to figure it out.
 Why a man will inquire at the restaurant if the lobster is fresh or canned and then order clam chowder.
 Why some women will dress to catch the eyes of men they don't respect.
 Why most of us will let our temper ruin our happiness.
 Why John Brown was hung for a traitor and is now a hero.
 Why the milk of human kindness is most sour.
 Why religion is so shamefully abused by its friends.—Clipped.
Our Truest Friends.
 Sometimes, similar to physicians who must need administer bitter potions for our physical

improvement, our very truest friends have to act in disagreeable capacities in order to best serve us. Friendship is often thus a hard taskmaster, not easily obeyed in its wisest dictations to suit us all. It is always difficult to speak a bitter truth to those whom we love best, yet if our silence only serves to blind them to impending storms or dangerous pitfalls along the way, then why should we not brave even the sacrifice of their continued friendship by warning them tenderly and judiciously? The darkness and danger of temptation come to us all, and some kind human hand must lead us on to the light, and some true voice whisper, "Beware!" until yonder unshadowed shore is safely reached.—Selected.

A Boy's Wild Ride For Life.

With family around expecting him to die, and a son riding for life, 18 miles, to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, W. H. Brown, of Leesville, Ind., endured death's agonies from asthma; but this wonderful medicine gave him instant relief and soon cured him. He writes: "I now sleep soundly every night." Like marvelous cures of Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds and Grip prove its matchless merit for all Throat and Lung troubles. Guaranteed bottles 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's drug store.

Learn to be Contented.

Sambo was tired of his kinky locks. He wanted straight hair like the white folks and the "yaller gals" had. He had put starch on them to make them stand straight, and nearly scared the wits out of his good mammy, who, coming suddenly, thought he was a hobgoblin. He had tied strings to his hair and tied the strings to the bed post. But it woke him up all night and did no good.
 So he had gone out behind the barn to grieve and complain, which, of course was entirely wrong.
 "I hate this plagued wool," he said, running his hand through his corkscrew ringlets.
 "Why can't a fellow's hair be decent and straight and silky?"
 "I can't go out, but what some white boy yells, 'Hi! there, woolly!'"
 "Wool ought not to grow on boys, anyway. It's only meant for dirty old sheep and they can't do nothin' but lie around and bleat. Dey's des no' count no how;" and he got up to look at himself in a bit of broken mirror.

But there had been some one listening to all this. Around the corner sat old Mr. Ram.

"Umph!" he said; "so he thinks that wool is only fit for no 'dout sheep, does he? And he's ashamed of his looks, is he? Well, I'd just like to show him that it isn't what a fellow looks like, but what he is that counts. I believe I will give him a lesson in manners, anyway. It isn't polite to remark on people's appearance behind their backs, and he called me 'dirty sheep.'"

With that he gave one loud "Bah!" and, ducking his head, went for Sambo.

My! how that little darkey ran! It was a long way to the fence, and before he made it the ram had caught him and lifted him over into the potato patch on the other side. He lit on his head, but got up instantly, scared, but unhurt. "My," said Sambo, reflectively, "if it hadn't been for my wool I'd 'a' got hurt."

"Of course you would, imprudence," said the ram. "Maybe now you won't complain about the way the Lord made you."

THE REPUBLIC'S GREAT OFFER

An Exceptional Opportunity for Old and New Subscribers.

Special arrangement has been made by The St. Louis Republic to furnish old or new subscribers with the only official and authorized life of Pope Leo XIII. This is one great volume, bound in elegant cardinal cloth, gilt and ink stamping, with Papal coat of arms, containing nearly 800 pages of text and illustrations. The work was prepared and written by Monsignor O'Reilly, D. D., L. D., D. Lit., official biographer of the Pope.

The regular cash price of this book is \$2.50. Any one remitting \$2.50 will be entitled to eighteen months subscription to The Twice-a-week Republic and a copy of the book. Postage prepaid. This offer is open to old and new subscribers. The book is printed in English, French, and German and is now ready for delivery. Address all orders to The Republic, St. Louis, Mo.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

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Furniture, Utensils,
 Studebaker Wagons,
 John Deere Buggies,
 Buck's Stoves and Ranges,

HANCOCK DISC PLOWS
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