

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 12, 1903.

NO. 51.

The Star Store

MERKEL,
TEXAS.

Dry Goods,
Notions,
Clothing,
Shoes
and Hats.

P. S. We have just received a shipment of New Spring Gingham. Call and see them

LEADERS OF LOW PRICES!

Use Hospitality.

Looking at my watch, and finding it was after midnight, I arose to retire. My host was a lawyer of eminence and of long and varied experience, and his conversation had been so full of interest that the hours had slipped, unheeded, by. The home which had received me as a guest, was in a beautiful western city. It was one of those in Methodism, where hospitality is dispensed as if in fulfillment of a divine command, and where you feel a welcome in the very atmosphere; where the coming of a guest makes no trouble, and household affairs move calmly on—and everybody, even down to the dog who lays his chin on your knee, with a welcoming wag of his tail and a friendly glance of his eyes seems disposed to contribute to your entertainment, and make you forget that you came a stranger.

Taking the lawyer by the hand I said, "My brotner you are a happy man. You have been successful in your profession; wealth has flowed in upon you—your family have good health—your children all have been converted to God—your son-in-laws are honorable young men—nothing is lacking to make you grateful and happy." "Well," said the lawyer, "all my good fortune began by inviting a Methodist preacher home to dinner with me. Sit down and I will tell you about it: Many years ago, when this was a new country and sparsely populated, there came to the settlement where I lived, news that on the following Sabbath the Methodist circuit rider would preach. It was a rare event, and the congregation was very good. I was unconverted, but wicked as I was, I could not help feeling great regard for those historic itinerants who, on poor pay and fare, planted the church in this wilderness. There were but few Methodist here, and after the sermon I watched to see if any one

would invite the preacher to dinner. Some in the congregation shook hands with him, but after awhile I was left alone with him. He stood leaning against the rude pulpit with a tired look upon his face, and I thought, also a shade of disappointment.

"There was a hotel at the place, but Methodist preachers had no money to go to hotels. Without an abounding hospitality, the church never could have been planted in this great west. I approached him, shook his hand, and said, 'I am a sinner, sir, but if you will go home with me, my wife and I will be glad to take care of you.'

"He gladly accepted my invitation. His horse was soon in my little barn, and the preacher sitting at my table and seemed from the first perfectly at home. As long as he was on the circuit, he was a welcome guest at our hearthstone. Others invited him but he always seemed glad to get back to our home. A great revival followed his labors, and among the first fruit were my wife and myself. We were both converted and joined the church, and from that time to this, all has gone well with me. My children

were converted early in life. We made other acquaintances among the ministry, but there was one whose memory we always cherished with peculiar respect and love, and whose name was a household word.

"One evening I brought a letter from the post office, addressed to my wife. I threw it into her lap. She was sitting just where she is now. Unfolding my evening paper, I began to read, when I was startled by a sob. I looked up, and saw that she was weeping, and still holding that letter in her hand. In great alarm, I inquired what had happened. 'John,' she said, 'George Bicknell has been superannuated at conference. His health has broken down, he never can take another appointment. He has no home, no money, nothing but the scanty allowance from the conference fund.' And then she came over and sat by my side. 'John,' she said, 'you know what a blessing he has been to us. I have one request to make. You have a house in this town for rent. Let it be vacated. Let me furnish it. I will write to him this very day and tell him all about it.'

"In thirty days the superannuated came with his family and took possession of their home. He rallied some, but after a few months, consumption did its work, and we gathered around to see him die. As he was going, I sat holding his hand, fearing he might have some lingering anxiety about his family. As I saw him looking from one to another of the little group, I whispered, 'George, don't be troubled, I'll take care of them all.' The look he gave me paid me over for all I had ever done for him, and left our original debt still uncanceled.

"And so it came that all my earthly prosperity, as well as spiritual, began with that invitation to a weary itinerant to come to dinner with me."

As we separated for the night, two passages from the word of the Lord were chiming away in all our hearts. "Use hospitality without grudging—Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby, some have entertained angels unawares."

Texas a "Whopper."

A Texan, while visiting in another state, was asked to tell in a speech what he knew about

Texas, and he responded:

"Texas is a whooper. She's a peach. She's the widest and the broadest and the longest country on earth, extending from east to west and from north to south. She could put Rhode Island in her vest pocket. She could swallow three or four states like Maryland and wash 'em down by drinking the Mississippi dry, and could digest 'em without ever having the colic. Texas is the empire state of the union without any Kaiser Bill for an emperor. She's the chiefest among ten thousand and altogether lively, wild and reckless. She's the pebble on the beach. She's one of the old blue hen's chickens. She's the cock of the walk and the democrat of the world. She's a wolf and it's her day to howl.

"Texas is bounded on the east by the alligators of Louisiana and the huckleberry thickets of Arkansaw. She is bonnded on the north by the tomahawk and the war whood of the Red Men. She is bounded on the west by the chile con carne of New Mexico and the hot tamales of Old Mexico. She is bounded on the south by the Gulf of Mexico; and

if it wasn't for that meazly body of salty water she would extend beyond the south pole. As I said in the beginning, Texas is a whopper; she's a Jim Dandy and don't you never doubt it."

Kissing Party.

Our Devil says,

"It's sweet to kiss,
But, oh! how bitter,
To kiss a girl
And miss her spitter."

The Devil says, also,

"When Adam in bliss
Asked Eve for a kiss,
She puckered up her lips
with a coo
Gave a look so ecstatic,
And answered emphatic,
'I don't care A—dam if I do.'"

—Ex.

Steps That Betray.

Steps that are quick are indicative of energy and agitation.

Tiptoe walking betrays surprise, curiosity, discretion or mystery.

Turned in toes are often found with preoccupied, absent-minded persons.

The miser's walk is represented as stooping, noiseless, with short, nervous, anxious steps.

Slow steps, whether long or short, suggests a reflective state of mind as the case may be.

The proud step is slow and measured; the toes are conspicuously turned out, the legs straightened.

Where a revengeful purpose is hidden under a feigned smile the step will be slinking and noiseless.

The direction of the steps wavering and following every changing impulse of the mind inevitably betrays uncertainty, hesitation and indecision.

Obstinate people, who in argument rely more on masculinity than on intellectual power, rest the feet flatly and firmly on the ground, walking heavily and slowly and stand with the legs firmly planted far apart.—Ex.

Watch This

Next Issue

Produce

Eggs
Chickens
Butter, Etc.

Frying size chickens from \$1.90 to \$2.40 dz
Eggs.....15c dz
Butter, per pound.....15c

Groceries

Flour
Meat
Lard, Etc.

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

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

MAXWELL & SONS.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office 31
Residence 37

If you know of any news item, we will consider it a special favor if you will report same to this office, either by person, letter or over the phone to either of the above numbers.

FARM AND RANCH.

The man who planted a turnip patch, a garden and a few acres of oats last fall, and fattened a hog on the scraps from the kitchen, thinks this is a good country, while those who folded their hands in dreamy idleness are blaming fate for their poverty or talking socialism politically. It is not luck but energy and pluck that makes the difference.—De vine News.

Mr. J. P. Steichen made the Appeal office a pleasant call Saturday. He is a typical successful farmer and takes pleasure and pride in his business. Some of his remarks would make an interesting talk for the Institute but for fear they will not be heard there we give them below.

"I feed my cows all the year round," said Mr. Steichen, "and can contract to sell fifteen pounds of butter every week. The butter is the best that can be made and I get ready sale for it.

"I try to raise every thing I eat. The consequence is that the sale of this butter pays my grocery bill and a good deal of my dry goods bill. Chickens and butter together pay most of my expenses.

"In my crops I don't depend on cotton, for it's risky. The thing for a farmer to do is to have three or four crops. Then if one fails he don't suffer like the cotton

farmer does."—Stephenville Appeal.

We are told often and over that it cost as much to grow and keep a scrub animal as one worth four times as much. This is practically true, and it cost as much to grow a scrub fruit or vegetable as it does to grow better varieties, such as people are willing to pay good prices for. If farmers and fruit growers would give more attention to quality in their products, they would find them in greater demand. There is as much difference between the best and worst in the vegetable as in the animal races.—Farm and Ranch.

Wilkes Hudson says that for sure returns and large profits on a small investment, hog raising is easy money. Some months since he bought a sow shoat for \$3.00. This week he sold her sowship, which had increased her avoirdupois to about 400 pounds, for \$6.50 per hundred, netting him something over \$25.00. But that is not all. When she gave up her life to be converted into sausage, lard, hams, ribs, sides and shoulders, she left behind her a family of six pigs, for which Wilkes has already been offered \$1.00 each. Thus, at their present valuation, he has \$85 in sight on his \$3.00 investment, \$82 of which is clear profit, as the hogs have been fed altogether on slop. However, he says he has no intention of selling the pigs, and estimates that they will bring him over \$100 more when they are fattened.—Dublin Telephone.

§ § §

Nursery rhymes—Plant fruit trees, plant them in the winter; Plant them from Hazle Dell clear to Palo Pinto. They will grow like fury while the ground is good and wet; They will bring you dollars where cotton brings you debt. Plant hogs instead of mortgages, and watch the net

result; They will shoe and clothe the children, and fatten the purse of the adult.—Comanche Chief.

Our cotton growers should adopt the plan of growing 20 bales on twenty acres, instead of 20 bales on 45 acres as heretofore. Better preparation, better seed and better cultivation will no it, for it has done it many times. And then the war with the boll weevil will be reduced to practical limits. Also this plan will leave more acres for grain and forage plants. True we have had so much rain that fall and winter plowing has been practically prohibited, but the ground will be dry enough to plow after awhile and then the work should be pushed if it requires fourteen hours' work per day; for the walking delegate does not visit the rural district. — Farm and Ranch.

League Program.

Leader—Comer Clay.
Subject—Life of Dr. Charles Taylor.

Leading thought—God's power in missionary work.

Song.
Prayer.
Scripture lesson—Acts 1:1-8.
Song.

Prayer.
Song.
Voluntary references.
Sentence prayer.

Song.
Work, and not curiosity—Miss Edith Freeman.

Power necessary—Miss Myrtle Williamson.

The source of power—Miss Sue Browning.
How to obtain power—Elmer Maxwell.

Results of power bestowed—Mr. Stallings.

Voluntary comments.
Closing song.

Topics quoted in the program will be found in the Epworth Era.

February 15th.

Reserved for
GEO. F. WEST,
Hardware and Groceries.

ELLIOTT & MILLER

DEALERS IN

...Wind Mills, Pumps and Water Supply Goods...

We keep in stock the Star steel mill, direct stroke and back gear; Eclipse wood mill, Dandy and Aermotor steel mills; a full assortment of pumps, piping from 1/4 to 2 in., plain and galvanized; brass cylinders and working barrels from 2 to 4 in. We buy in car lots and can make Fort Worth prices on anything in our line.

Burton-Lingo Co.,

Lumber Dealers,

Merkel, Texas.

Bankrupt Sale Now On

The Entire Stock of THE GLOBE, consisting of

Dry Goods, Clothing and Shoes

is on the market. Prices are cut in half. This stock of goods is only going to be in Merkel for a short time and you can certainly save money on your purchases while it is here. Remember in a sale like this goods are sold regardless of Manufacturer's Cost, and you are the one benefited. Come to this sale while stock is here; you'll not regret it.

The Globe Bankrupt Sale.

Intemperance

Girls, beware of the young man who uses intoxicants, no matter how "moderately." Human nature is very much the same, everywhere. In America we have been used to warn men against the use of intoxicating liquor because of the impetuosity of the American character. It is said that the American goes wild over whatever he undertakes; becomes too enthusiastic, and he drinks liquors as enthusiastically as he does anything else. The certainty of his losing control of his appetite, if he drinks at all, is almost absolute.

Facts do not seem to sustain the opinion, once prevalent, that the drinking people of other nations are safe from the results which follow indulgence here. The French, so often cited as a sober people, although indulging in the lighter wines, are becoming much addicted to intemperance, and are substituting stronger wines for the lighter ones. Appetite is about the same, everywhere. The Chinaman becomes a slave to the opium habit, as will any one, of whatever nationality, who uses it. With indulgence, the appetite for intoxicants grows; and, while it may take the Frenchman a little longer to become a drunkard than it does the high strung, nervous American, he reaches the level at last. The German may stick to his beer for a longer time, but he, too, will reach the end in time. The only safe rule is to let it alone. If men will not drink, there will be no drunkards,

Millinery & Dress Making.

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

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

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

but if they do, beginning ever so lightly, they will find it grow harder and harder to subdue the craving until appetite will rule them to their destruction.

A resident of the Ozark country went to Texas a few weeks ago to work on a cattle ranch. The other day a postal card was mailed to him which read as follows: "Dear Jim: Got nothin' but good news fer you. The crop paid off the mortgage, your brother broke out of jail, and your pap jest got \$400 out of the railroad company for cuttin' off his right leg. Ain't Providence providen'?"

Deputy Sheriff Lon Cunningham was in the city Friday. He said Merkel would be rushed next week for jurors for the March term of court.

Chicago
is the place to buy your
supplies for least money;
also quickest shipments.

Buy at Wholesale Prices

We Sell
better goods at lower prices
and make quicker shipments
than any other firm.

and save 15 to 40 per cent on everything you use. It can be done. Over 375,000 wide-awake, careful buyers sent us their orders last month and got high-grade, honest merchandise—the kind it pays to buy—at a big saving over usual prices. They were the people who knew the value of a dollar saved. You, too, can do it. A FEW SPECIMEN VALUES are here shown, selected from our 1100-page catalogue, which contains pictures and prices on 70,000 articles of everyday use.



MORRIS CHAIR

Made of golden oak or in mahogany or weathered oak finish. Massive, heavy carved and well-finished frame; reversible cushions covered with imported figured velour plush; adjustable back. An exceedingly comfortable chair. \$4.50

Retailers charge \$8.00 to \$10.00.
Order No. R72. Our Price . . .



KITCHEN TABLE

A very handy time, space and labor saver; hardwood; top white and frame finished in the golden color. 2 drawers, 2 bins holding 50 lbs. of flour or sugar each, and 2 baking or meat boards. 26x46 in. Weight, 90 lbs. One of the greatest genuine bargains ever offered. Dealers ask \$4.50 to \$5.50. Order No. R491. Our Price . . .

\$2.95



LACE CURTAINS

Made in imitation of and look like imported, and high-priced goods. Center has beautiful detached design, handsome ribbon and floral border, and edge woven to have the effect of the real ruffle. 48 1/2 inches wide; 4 yards long. Exceptional value for the price. Order Number P122

\$1.54



SEWING Machine

Our very latest drop-head style. Strongly made, well finished in solid oak, does nice work, is guaranteed for 5 years and is a most wonderful machine for the price. This is positively the lowest price that any warranted machine is being sold for. Order No. L4359. Price, \$8.45

\$8.45

We have everything in all grades, from the cheapest that's good to the best that's made. Write for catalogue at once, enclosing 15 cents to help pay the postage.

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are the best endorsement of our
goods, prices and methods.

Montgomery Ward & Co., Michigan Ave. & Madison Street, Chicago.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

The country around Santa Rosalia is noted for its fertility, and great quantities of fruits and vegetables that are raised and shipped to different parts of the country. From May to November it is a succession of figs, pomegranates, grapes, quinces, pears, plums, nectarines, peaches and apricots. Apples do not do so well, but there is a fruit called "peron" that seems to be a combination of pear and apple that does very well. There has been some effort made to improve by grafting, but most of the fruits are seedlings. The high mountains protect the valley from cold winds and late frosts. The soil seems to be warmer than in other places.

The Concho is quite a large stream. At its lowest stage it is about 100 yards wide where it passes Santa Rosalia. The water is clear and cool and full of fish of a fine quality and large size. The land on both sides of the river is irrigated. After leaving here it joins the San Pedro river, and after a very tortuous course empties into the Rio Grande at Presidio del Norte. The Kansas City, Mexico & Orient R'y after leaving Chihuahua runs through this rich valley, and considerable speculation is being done in land along this new road. The land can yet be bought very reasonable, but in a short time will command a much higher price. All through the Concho, Florido and San Pedro valleys, which are in some places 15 to 20 miles wide, immense crops of wheat and corn are raised. Along the Rio Grande in some places corn is planted close to the track, and it is no unusual thing to see the tassels touching the wires on the telegraph lines. Fifteen to 20 feet corn stalks are no rarity.

The Rio Florido is a beautiful little stream that has its source in the mountains near Parral and for over a hundred miles flows through rich farming lands till it joins the Concho at Santa Rosalia. At Jimenez it is a good sized stream, and from there to its mouth every few miles it is crossed by dams and the water taken out in ditches for irrigation; but in a couple of miles below the dams it seems to be as large as ever. The secret is that it is fed by springs and in the hottest of weather it is pure and cool. On the west side of the valley is a range of low mountains of volcanic origin—almost pure lava, thrown up in strange shapes, black and glistening, looking as

if oil had been poured on them when they were not. This freak of nature extends from near Jimenez to Bustamante—a few miles from Santa Rosalia—a distance of about 40 miles. From this break in the crust of the earth comes a wonderful supply of water, which runs about 10 or 20 feet below the surface till it finds its way into the Florido. In some places sloping tunnels are dug and the women walk down and fill their water jars from the underground stream. In a few places the water is so near the surface that the land is sub-irrigated, raising fine crops with very little effort. In the spring time the first flowers are found along the Florido and all through the summer the ground is carpeted with sweet scented clover like what used to grow in our grandmothers' gardens. The stream is fringed with willows and in the valley are groves of giant elms and cottonwoods. The water is well stocked with fish, from the nimble trout and perch to the sluggish cat, that often weigh 15 or 20 pounds. The disciple of Isaac Walton can enjoy himself here. Beautiful Rio Florido! I love to think of the rambles along thy banks, luring the finny tribe or hunting the water fowl that come by thousands every spring and fall. For six years we lived in this valley, and some of the happiest hours of my life have been spent along the Rio Florido (Flower River).

The people of each plantation are collected in one place, where the fine building of the owner is surrounded by the plainer houses

HOW PEOPLE LOSE THEIR MONEY...

By concealing it about the person; by stowing it away in mugs and jars; by sewing it up in skirts and ticks; by tucking it under couches and carpets, in cupboard and bureau drawers; these are some of the ways by which people lose their money and sometimes their lives.

HOW PEOPLE SAVE THEIR MONEY

By depositing it in a good, reliable bank. Confident that this bank fully meets the public's needs, we tender its services to all who believe in keeping on the safe side.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.

of the peons, and often the granaries and stables. Some of these ranches or "pueblos" are surrounded by high walls, and in some of the older ones two or four towers with loop holes are on the corners as a defense against Indians or bandits; for it is not so very long since the Apache raids were common. Then all the stock were driven inside the enclosure, the great door barred, the towers filled with riflemen, and the peaceful ranch became a fort. The owner of the San Miguel takes pride in showing marks on the adobe walls from the bullets of the marauders. A short distance below the Diaz station are the ruins of "Molino Viejo" (old mill) on the west bank of the Florido, where not many years ago one Saturday night there was a "baile" (dance), and to the music of the violin and harp the young folks "chased the fleeting hours with flying feet." Suddenly, as if by magic, the place was surrounded by Indians, and very few of the revelers escaped. Our "mozo" showed us the flour room where the dead, wounded and living had been shut in and all cremated together.

About three miles south of Diaz in the "malpais" (lava beds) is a place where walls and breastworks are made from the lava rocks. Inside the enclosure and several places outside are a number of small circular enclosures made from small stones. One of the largest had a cross of wood which is a curiosity, as it was made of one piece of a limb of a tree, the limbs forming a perfect cross. (This cross is now in a private collection in El Paso.) The people say that at one time this was the scene of a fierce battle between a company of American and Mexican prospectors who were surrounded by Indians, and the rocks had been built up in defense, but all were finally killed. The small circular pens of stone were made to mark the places where some had fallen or were buried. The Mexicans always mark the place where anyone is killed by a cross. Tradition says a large amount of gold and silver was buried before all were killed, but although some effort has been made to find it, none has been found—so far as we know. I know one American and Mexican who dug into one of these monuments about five feet one afternoon and night coming on they decided to leave it till next day, when they would go down further. Imagine their surprise next morning when they found that the hole had been put down about 10 feet further, and the ground showed it had been filled in at some time. Perhaps

some able-bodied fairies had been at work, but more likely some one had been watching and completed the job during the night.

Nowhere have we found more hospitable people than along this valley. In one of our rambles through the mountains with an old miner we came to a ranch late at night. The owner, Don Jesus, made us welcome, got his daughters out of bed to cook us supper, and the only beds in the house were given us, while the family slept in the next room on dried cow hides spread on the floor. Such is the hospitality of these kind hearted people.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

MUSICAL PROGRAM.

To Be Held at Opera House Thursday Night, Feb. 12.

PART I.

1. Orchestra.
2. Vocal Solo—Miss Jewell Coggin.
3. Instrumental Solo—Miss Eva Williams.
4. Duet: The Race Course—Misses Bigham and Witt.
5. Instrumental Solo: In Dreamland—Miss Mattie Comegys.
6. Instrumental Duet: A Coquettish Smile—Misses Lucile Beavers and Birdie Collins.
7. Orchestra.

PART II.

8. Vocal Quartette: Sweet and Low—Misses Julian and Sheppard, Messrs. Clay and Williams.
9. Violin Solo: Reubenstein's Molodie in F—Mrs. Berry.
10. Reading—Miss Scoggin.
11. Instrumental Duet: Bohemian Girl—Mrs. Hoople, Miss Agnes Beavers.
12. Instrumental Solo: The Palms—Miss Julian.
13. Instrumental Solo: The Flatterer—Miss Agnes Beavers.
14. Vocal Duet: Goodnight—Misses Williams and Sheppard.
15. Orchestra.

What a Father Can Do.

Fort Worth Telegram.
There are two things that can be done by a father for his daughter, and that, if they are always done, would in the course of a single generation, make our womankind approach a level which they have not yet reached. The first is to gain the confidence of his daughter in her earlier years, and the second is to keep it unimpaired and to perpetuate it. If he be his daughter's friend and chosen companion, sharing all her little confidences and imparting to her much of what he knows, with the intuition of a woman and the breadth and sanity of a man, the girl will

Winter is Robbed

Of its terror and made comfortable when you know the full value of "Prescription 3363"—25c, and "Bass White Pine and Tar"—25c

Prescription 3363 is a most wonderful medicine. It relieves pain of any kind, cures colds, La Grippe, headache, neuralgia and Fever. White Pine and Tar is the perfect family cough remedy. Harmless and efficient, and can be given without danger to baby or invalid. Most cough syrups are dangerous in large doses.

There is hardly a day in winter when these two preparations are not needed in almost every family. Your money back if you want it. For sale by Burroughs & Mann and Rust & Pittard, of Merkel.

BASS BRO.'S DRUG CO., Abilene, Texas.

grow up with a mind unlike the minds of many women in whom femininity verges upon fatuity. From close association with a father, the young girl quite unconsciously acquires something of the largeness of a man's nature and loses something of the pittance and narrowness of the woman's. His tolerant, genial spirit will moderate her tense emotionalism. His sense of humor will rid her of sentimentalism and imbue her with a sense of true proportion. His fun, his good comradeship, his affection, and his knowledge of life, will help to send her forth into the world, strengthened and developed as no purely feminine influence could strengthen and develop her.

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

A Bundle Party.

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

Paine's Celery Compound

Cures

**DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION,
AND STOMACH TROUBLES.**

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

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

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

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

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

HILL & MARTIN,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

Dealers In....

**Dry Goods, Clothing,
Shoes and Hats,
Staple and Fancy
Groceries, Produce,
Etc., Etc.**

We have just received an elegant line of shoes in all the latest toes and the prices are RIGHT.

In order to make room, we have put very close prices on all men's and boys' clothing and furnishing goods. Now is the time to buy good goods cheap.

Everything in Garden and Field Seeds.

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

TO SUBSCRIBERS:

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

February 1st, forty-two years ago, Texas seceded from the Union. Only one man who was a member of that notable convention is living today—Judge Wm. H. Stewart of Galveston.

The poll tax law has added \$400,000 to the school fund this year. This amount will be doubled next year.

The Big Springs Enterprise says the school buildings at both Sweetwater and Merkel are mere pigmies as compared to that of its town. We had supposed the Enterprise a victim of last year's flood, as this is its first appearance at this office for several moons, but are glad it is able to warble a spring-time lay. Where is Big Springs, anyway?

The Merkel Country is strictly in the swim this year. Just watch us expand.

Mayor Riggins of Waco has resigned the chairmanship of the

Texas Anti-Prohibition Association because "it interfered with his official duties." Rats!

County Treasurer Thornton has gone into print in denunciation of the bill, recently introduced in the Legislature, to abolish the office of County Treasurer. He advances several reasons why he is opposed to the measure, all good ones, but is probably mistaken when he says his people are opposed to it. We have heard many expressions to the contrary. And so far as it precipitating a bank fight is concerned, it is hardly likely that it could be more bitterly waged than heretofore. The people of Taylor County would welcome a digression along this line.

THE QUARANTINE LINE.

The citizens of Big Springs are after our representative, W. J. Bryan, with a sharp stick. At a mass meeting held there last week resolutions were passed condemning the bill introduced by him in the Legislature which seeks to modify the quarantine law. The enactment into law of some of the provisions of the bill, it is claimed, will work great disaster to livestock interests, and for the following reasons:

First, It will cause the United States government to place the state below the line and prohibit the moving of Texas cattle to northern pastures and allow them moved only for immediate slaughter.

Second, That provision of the proposed law which allows an open season has been tried and was done away with when actual experience demonstrated that it was unwise.

Third, Those provisions of the proposed law wherein a certificate of inspection insures the passage of cattle without further molestation and providing a penalty for violation of said provisions would only encourage lawlessness, for no man would allow infected cattle to pass through his pasture.

These points of contention have been raised before, but are untenable because experience has not demonstrated their wisdom. The results of the proposed law can not be forecasted at this time and mere guesswork of the events to follow in the wake of its adoption should not be brought to bear in influencing legislation along this line. Any measure that affords relief to a majority of the people is needed

legislation. The few stockmen above the line into whose hands the state has played so long will find themselves up against a hard proposition when they threaten to meet the adoption of legislation with acts of lawlessness in order to defeat the ends of justice.

A GENTLEMAN.

What is a gentleman? Thackeray asked and answered that question in one of his writings: "Is it to have lofty aims, to keep your honour virgin, to have the esteem of your fellow-citizens and the love of your fire-side, to bear good fortune meekly, to suffer evil with constancy, and through good or evil to maintain truth always? Show me the happy man who exhibits these qualities, and him we will salute as a gentleman whatever his rank may be."

Proposed New Judicial District.

The bill now before the Legislature having for its purpose the creation of a new judicial district out of Comanche, Coryell and Hamilton Counties eliminates Comanche County from the 42nd Judicial District. The present judge, N. R. Lindsey, resides in Comanche County. Should the bill pass, the Governor will have to appoint a judge for this district.

It is rumored that there will be several applicants for the place. Judge D. K. Scott of this place, D. G. Hill of Abilene, and Judge J. H. Calhoun of Albany are applicants for the appointment.

A petition was circulated and numerously signed, this week, in favor of Judge Scott. He also has the endorsement of the Eastland County bar, and has excellent chances for plucking the plum.—Cisco Round-up.

The evidence is not yet all in. Callahan and Jones Counties are yet to hear from, and it is surmised that both of them will have a candidate in the field. There will be a hot old time if the new district is created.

Whither Are We Drifting?

Sulphur Springs Gazette: Some time ago a wise fellow discovered that it was unhealthy for two people to occupy the same bed; later another found out that it was unsafe to ride in a car with other people, to attend church where other people attend; later an association of physicians decided that to kiss was to tempt death in all manner of hideous diseases. The latest is the discovery of a French scientist that the practice of handshaking is a prolific source of spreading disease. If things keep up it will soon be unhealthy to be buried in the same graveyard with other people. The only place where a person can feel absolutely safe is at mid-week prayer meetings. Nobody attends them.

Jefferson Jimplecute: Drink water and you get typhoid. Drink milk and get tuberculosis. Drink whiskey and get jimjams. Eat white flour and get appendicitis. Eat soup and get Bright's disease. Eat beef and encourage apoplexy. Eat oysters and acquire toxemia. Eat vegetables and weaken the system. Eat desserts and take on paresis. Smoke cigarettes and die early. Smoke cigars and secure a nice catarrh. Drink coffee and tea and obtain nervous prostration. Drink beer and have dyspepsia. Drink wine and get the gout. In order to be perfectly healthy one must eat nothing, drink

nothing, smoke nothing, and even before breathing one should see that the air is properly sterilized.

A Quaint Old Cross.

Blest they who seek
While in their youth,
With spirit meek,
To them the sacred Scriptures
Now display Christ as the only
True and living way; His precious
Blood on Calvary was given to
Make them heirs of bliss in
Heaven; and e'en on earth a
Child of God can trade the
Blessings of his Savior's grace.
For them He bore
Lest He declare
His Father's crown;
For them He wore
The thorny crown;
Nailed to the cross,
Endured its pain,
That His life's loss
Might be their gain;
Then haste to choose
That better part,
Nor e'en refuse
The Lord thy heart.
"I know you not,"
And deep despair
Should be your lot.

Now look to Jesus, who on
Calvary died and trust in Him
Who there was crucified.

—Henry Wilson.

Christianity is a failure! Then man is a failure. Then the government is a failure. The man whose face is seamed and ridged all over with the fruits of vice says virtue is a failure. The bloated, besotted, driveling inebriate says temperance is a failure. The reckless violator of the law of health says the science of medicine is a failure. Pope Pius IX said the civilization of the nineteenth century is a failure. Is it any wonder that man may be heard to say that Christianity is a failure? It's an old cry; every single century since Christ it has been sounded out. But somehow this thing we call Christianity does not fail. And the charges against Christianity never seemed quite so absurd as in the morning of this twentieth century. He only can make the charge who shuts his eyes to some tremendous facts, and who is smitten with the notion that his own little world of doubt is the whole wide world of thought and feeling of today.—Ex.

Buying off a Thief.

It is said that the American Bankers' association is going to pay a salary of \$500 a month to the notorious forger Chas. Becker when in a few months he finishes serving a seven years sentence in San Quentin (Cal.) prison. He is to receive this amount "just to be good" and not to do any more forging. All of which calls to mind the story of the Southern judge who had a fine lot of hogs and on seeing a colored man notorious for stealing said: "Uncle Jack I'll tell you what I'll do: Pick out two of those hogs you think you'll like the best and I'll give them to you, provided you won't steal any of the others." And the negro replied: "Judge, you've always been a good neighbor, an' I likes yuh an' I wants to do right by yuh an' I accepts der offah yuh makes, but I wants you to know dat I'll lose meat by it."

A drive into the country Saturday impressed us with the energy displayed by the farmers in preparing their land for another crop. On many farms plows were following the cotton pickers and as fast as a row of cotton was picked out it was promptly

turned under. The soil is loose and mellow, and indications now promise a bountiful harvest later on. All farm work is progressing nicely.

NO. 5881 REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF The First National Bank of Merkel

At Merkel, in the State of Texas, at the
Close of Business, Feby. 6, 1903

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts	\$111,562.56
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	2,827.45
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	15,000.00
Premium on U. S. Bonds	956.25
Banking house, furniture and fixtures	6,000.00
Due from approved reserve agents	7,899.81
Checks and other cash items	70.47
Notes of other National Banks	3,150.00
Frac. paper currency, nickles & cents	146.00
LAWFUL MONEY RESERVE IN BANK, VIZ	
Specie	1,737.50
Legal-tender notes	4,000.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation)	750.00
TOTAL	\$154,094.04

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus fund	10,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	2,444.42
National Bank notes outstanding	15,000.00
Due to other National Banks	1,802.34
Due to State Banks and Bankers	99.07
Individual deposits subject to check	72,754.21
Time certificates of deposit	2,000.00
Certified Check	none
Cashier's checks outstanding	none
Notes and bills rediscounted	none
Bills payable, including certificates of deposit for money borrowed	none
TOTAL	\$154,094.04

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR, SS:
I, Geo. S. Berry, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
GEO. S. BERRY, Cashier.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9 day of Feb., 1903.
J. J. MILLER,
Notary Public.
CORRECT—Attest: Taylor Co., Texas.
J. T. WARREN,
C. M. LARGENT,
J. O. HAMILTON, } Directors

The Right Kind of Grit.

One frequently hears applied to some individual the expression: "he has got plenty of grit," and the application may be appropriate to the case in point; but there are different styles of shoes, hats, horses, etc. The question should be, in every case, has he the grit to be the right sort of a man—a square man, an honest, law abiding, God fearing man? The worst kind of a man may have superfluity of a certain kind of courage commonly called "grit." The citizen who cuts no ice as a producer and aid to the general welfare of the community may have grit to spare; the man who is always spoiling for a fight, who is always in trouble and involving other people in his trouble to their hurt financially or other-wise may be gritty, but no good to himself or his community; in that case his grit pans out naught but trials and tribulations, and it is a dingy, scrubby, mouldy article of grit. The man who has the courage to walk upright in the sight of man and his Maker possesses the genuine article of the attribute called grit and he'll do for the world to tie to.—Oakwood Call.

Have Convictions and Stick to Them.

Men who do things, who achieve results, have strong convictions; they believe something in particular, and believe it without reservation. A man who is willing to fight for an idea, to sacrifice everything in order to develop it, has something definite in his life, a specific certainty that will bring him out somewhere in the neighborhood of success.

A man without a policy, without a definite purpose, without a strong conviction of any kind, who believes a little of everything and not much of anything, who is willing upon pressure to relinquish his opinion on any subject, to abandon any idea he has conceived, whether it be feasible or not, who does not hold on to any one thing tenaciously will never accomplish much in this world.—Success.

A Mother's Recommendation.

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

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

E. Maxwell.

Get your Triumph seed potatoes at Sharps.

An Irrigation Plant.

Vol Martin has had a large force of hands at work on an irrigation plant which he is establishing on his farm. Saturday a Mail reporter had the pleasure of viewing the improvements made. The arrangements are unique. Three or four reservoirs have been arranged in a semi-circle covering several acres of ground and are fed by a small stream. The reservoirs are connected and the water of each can be carried by means of large pipes to irrigation ditches which connect with a five acre track of ground laid off in the form of a garden, the ditches winding around so that almost every yard of land can be flooded. This land will be planted in garden truck. In addition to this another plot of land has been laid off into a park and one of the reservoirs has been stocked with fish. Boats will be provided later on for the amusement and recreation of the public.

Mr. Martin is to be commended for his enterprise, and we feel sure that he will reap a rich reward from his labors. A truck garden such as he contemplates can but prove profitable, for there is a great demand in every town for vegetables that have not become stale from confinement for days at a time in cold storages. Let others of our farmers follow Mr. Martin's example.

Hill & Martin have increased the size of their advertisement. They are enjoying a good patronage.

Teachers' Institute.

Program for the Jones county Teachers' Institute to be held at Stith, Feb. 27 and 28, 1903.

FRIDAY EVENING, 7:30.

Invocation and address—Rev. J. P. Copeland.

Proper incentives to study—A. W. Hampton and Miss May Winter.

General discussion.

SATURDAY A. M. 9.

Best methods for teaching history—G. F. Williams and W. H. Bozarth.

To what extent should we specialize in teaching?—Luther B. Gill and J. L. Powers

Business meeting.

SATURDAY, P. M.

Mistakes in teaching arithmetic—H. H. Copeland and J. B. Shanon.

Grammar, best methods: Paper—Miss Florence McGee, discussion—J. E. Woodrome.

We cordially invite both teachers and patrons of Taylor county to meet with us. Committee.

Per. J. L. Powers, sec.

Repent of Your Sins

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

Nearly Forfeits His Life.

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

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

Will Leeman.

St. Valentine's Day.

Authorities disagree widely on the origin of that custom which on the 14th day of each February brings to expectant hands gorgeous missives bearing words of love and affection, or what is now more common, weird and distorted pictorial representations of persons, the import of which is to bring ridicule upon the recipient. The latter are accompanied by verses of the rankest doggerel mortal ever composed.

Others state that its origin was found in the celebration of the festival of St. Valentine, a Christian martyr, whose head was lopped off at Rome by order of the Emperor Claudius in his prosecution of the Christians.

Still others believe that it came down from heathen observances of early ages in honor of the goddess Juno, which took place about the same time in the year.

In Merkel there is no indication that the day will be observed, and throughout the country the custom of sending valentines is on the wane. Love lorn lads and lasses, however, will to the end of time make this an occasion for the sending of love ditties, and though no names accompany the missives the writer is generally known to the recipient. However silly it may seem, the custom is a beautiful one, and even those who have become calloused to the significance of the true valentine can but approve of the motive which prompted it—love.

Gee Whiz! You ought to see the pretty things that Ustick got this week.

Your Dirty Clothes!

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

Basket leaves Tuesday.

Will Leeman, Agt.

Ben E. Rupp, the well known "knight of the grip" who makes this territory for the Ballard Medicine Co., of St. Louis, was in the city a part of the week on his annual visit. He was accompanied by his wife, a very pleasant lady, and The Mail acknowledges a pleasant visit from them.

A Good Rain.

Tuesday night witnessed the heaviest fall of rain that has visited this section since last July. A slow, gentle rain began falling Monday at noon which continued until dark, when it increased in volume and came down in great sheets, continuing the greater part of the night.

This rain insures a fine season and an abundance of stock water. The winter has been unusually wet, although no heavy rains have fallen, and stock water was none too plentiful. It has raised the prospects of the country considerable.

Better Than Gold.

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

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

J. T. Warren.

To The Public.

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

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

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

E. Maxwell.

Triumph seed potatoes at Sharps.

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

The ground is now in fine shape and the season is the best ever known at this time of year. A few days of clear weather now will give a great impetus to all farm work, which is pretty generally advanced. This will prove the best year of them all—if all signs don't fail.

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

J. T. Warren.

We sell the New Royal sewing machine.

W. P. Browning & Co.

The court of appeals will hear the Taylor county prohibition case a week from Saturday, the 21st inst.

T. L. Stevens called around and renewed for The Mail last press day. Mr. Stevens has been in the county five years and during that time has paid ten dollars in subscriptions to his home paper.

Miss Mattie Comegys returned last week from a visit to Haskell. Miss Willie Crim of Abilene accompanied her and will spend some time as her guest.

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

Bundle Party.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Christian church will give a "Bundle Party" at the residence of W. P. Thurmond Feb. 14, 7 to 11 p. m., at which time prizes will be awarded for the nearest guess of the contents of bundles. An admission fee of 25c will be charged, refreshments served and games of various kinds indulged in. No effort will be spared to make the occasion a complete success, and The Mail hopes it will be accorded a free and liberal patronage in keeping with the spirit of christian ethics which prompted it.

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

W. P. Browning & Co.

Just received shipment of Cox & Gordon lard and hams.

The Star Store.

To Grocers Buyers:

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

J. T. Warren

Cured Consumption.

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

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

Pate & Rollins.

Real Estate Transfers.

J. R. McAdams of Gorman to W. G. Wood, two lots in West Merkel for \$120.

Geo. S. Berry to John Davis, three lots in Abilene for \$200.

W. G. Hunt to C. H. Winfrey, three lots in Merkel for \$150.

Over 20 members have been secured for the K. of P. lodge and the installation will take place some time next month. Necessary paraphernalia has already been ordered.

Mysterious Circumstance.

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

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

The Star Store.

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

W. W. Wheeler has just received annual statements from his insurance companies, which show a very satisfactory increase in business done at his office for the past year. Letters received compliment him very highly for the accuracy in which he has transacted the business, and for promptness to duties.

Will Leeman spent Saturday in Cisco.

PROFIT

The matter of feed is of tremendous importance to the farmer. Wrong feeding is loss. Right feeding is profit.

The up-to-date farmer knows what to feed his cows to get the most milk, his pigs to get the most pork, his hens to get the most eggs. Science.

But how about the children? Are they fed according to science, a bone food if bones are soft and undeveloped, a flesh and muscle food if they are thin and weak and a blood food if there is anemia?

Scott's Emulsion is a mixed food; the Cod Liver Oil in it makes flesh, blood and muscle, the Lime and Soda make bone and brain. It is the standard scientific food for delicate children.



Send for free sample.

Be sure that this picture in the form of a label is on the wrapper of every bottle of Emulsion you buy.

Scott & Bowne
CHEMISTS,
409 Pearl St., N. Y.
50c. and \$1; all druggists.

Are You Restless At Night?

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

A preacher used to tell the following story: He said he was in Appanoosa county, Iowa, preaching on one occasion when he stopped at a farm house to get dinner. While eating, the lady inquired his business and he replied: "I'm hunting the lost sheep of the house of Israel." She left the house and in a few minutes returned with her husband when she said, "This man is hunting lost sheep and I'll bet that old long wool ram that's been around here is his'n." "No sister, you don't understand me. I'm hunting sinners, those for whom Christ died." "And is he dead?" she asked. "Yes," replied the man of God, astonished at her ignorance. "And buried, too, I reckon?" "Oh yes, long ago." "There now, old man, I told you we'd die in ignorance for not taking a newspaper."

How to Succeed in Business.

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

NOTICE.

To the ladies of Merkel and surrounding country:

Bring your sewing to the South Side Hotel. Would appreciate your patronage.

Miss Lela George.

The K. of P. lodge will be instituted here Feb. 20, and the installation exercises will be in the hands of the Abilene lodge. Twenty-four is the number of charter members secured.

Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

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

Open Your Mouth

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

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

For Boys to Think About.

It is easier to keep out of jail than to break out, provided you begin in time.

It is easier to avoid forming a bad habit than it is to break away from a bad habit.

The dollar you earn and spend is only a dollar; the dollar you earn and save is two dollars.

He who makes it a rule to always earn his dollar before he spends it, will never be a beggar or a slave to debt.

It is easier to avoid beginning to tamper with tobacco and strong drink than it is to free yourself from the appetite if it once be acquired.

Poverty may keep a boy down for a time, but if he has in him the true mettle he will rise. Jay Gould was a povertystricken surveyor. Geo. W. Child was a bookseller's errandboy at a salary of four dollars a month. John Wannamaker started a business on a salary of a dollar and a quarter a week. Andrew Carnegie began life on a weekly salary of three dollars. Abraham Lincoln was a miserable poor farmer's son. Andrew Johnson was a tailor apprentice boy, and learned to read after he was married. James A. Garfield was a poor widow's son, and as a barefooted boy drove mules on the tow-path of an Ohio canal.—Religious Telescope.

A report of the condition of the First National Bank of Merkel will be found in this issue. The Mail especially calls your attention to this statement because it is doubtful if there is a bank in all this country that can make such a showing. The First National Bank is conducted on a sound, safe and conservative basis and its rapid strides forward is a source of great satisfaction to its patrons and friends, as well as to the management of the institution. May it continue to grow and prosper.

Geo. S. Berry is in receipt of a letter from his brother, Charley, who is railroad contracting in Old Mexico. Charley has a big contract on hand and is in a fair way of making a fortune. He has many friends here who will

CHEAP JOHN?

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

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

Come to us for Good Goods and Little Prices.

Yours for a Prosperous Year,

J. P. Sharp & Co.

join The Mail in best wishes for his success.

R. H. Collins arrived from the east, last night, with a carload of hogs, and by noon today almost the entire lot had been disposed of to the farmers. The Mail is glad to see them reach out along the line of diversification, for it pays to "plant hogs." Mr. Collins is to be commended for his foresight and judgement, and for supplying this long felt want.

S. W. SHEPPARD

Groceries!
Vegetables
Fruits
Country
Produce
and Fresh
Meats, etc.

We sell almost everything afforded by the market, and sell at reasonable prices. Come to us for your groceries....

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

"I can strongly recommend Herbine as a medicine of remarkable efficacy for indigestion, loss of appetite, sour taste in the mouth, palpitation, headache, drowsiness after meals with distressing mental depressions and low spirits. Herbine must be a unique preparation for cases such as mine, for a few doses entirely removed my complaint. I wonder at people going on suffering or spending their money on worthless things, when Herbine is procurable, and so cheap. 50c a bottle at Rust & Pittards.

The Mail learns with much regret that Mrs. Beavers and family will leave next week for Oklahoma. The young ladies made many warm friends here who are loath to give them up, but extend best wishes for their future welfare.

Try reading The Mail.

A Perilous Leap

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

Mens Opinions of Woman.

A handsome woman is always right.—German.

A good wife makes a good husband.—French.

She moves a goddess and she looks a quenn.—Pope.

Earth's noblest thing—a woman perfected.—Lowell.

Kind words and few are a woman's ornament.—Danish.

The action of woman on our destiny is increasing.—Beaconfield.

Wisdom in the man, patience in the wife, bring peace to the house.—Shakespear.

There is nothing on earth to be compared with a virtuous and lovely woman.—Arabian.

The most beautiful object in the world, it will be allowed, is a beautiful woman.—Macaulay.

Mortgages,
Bills of Sale,
Notes, etc.
Any Kind
of Printing at
Guaranteed
Prices.
The Mail.

Calendars for 1904.

Business men who use calendars as one means of advertising (and a good one it is, too) should hold their orders until our line is in. The Mail makes a specialty of calendar work and is prepared to save you money on them in either large or small quantities.

Don't send away for anything you may need in this line. **tf**

The Mail to Be Boycotted.

Four or five of the business men of the town have openly avowed that they are going to boycott The Mail—in other words they are going to withdraw their patronage from it because it is carrying an advertisement for a mail order concern.

In justice to ourselves we are compelled to make the following statements:

The Mail is a business institution and as such should be conducted along business lines. A merchant would not refuse to sell goods to a man because he lived in some other trade territory. A newspaper should not be expected to turn down a cash offer simply because it comes from a foreign concern. We are all out after the money.

Now let those who have been talking boycott come to us in the right way and let's talk it over. If we can not convince them that it is a matter of bread and butter with us, then we will either discontinue the objectionable advertising or step down and out and make room for some one else. This is a fair proposition. We are entitled to a hearing. It is not right that we should accede to these demands when disinterested parties are sent to us and the names of the senders withheld.

Still advertising does not pay—oh, no! Will you take the space occupied by the mail order concern at a discount of 10 per cent?

These are plain statements, but they are facts. Bring your grievances to The Mail and we will meet you half way on any proposition. At least give us a chance.

To boycott the paper would benefit no one, but would only cause us to close up shop. This we don't want to do. We may be starved out, but we want it distinctly understood that we can not be driven out.

**THEDFORD'S
BLACK-DRAUGHT
THE ORIGINAL
LIVER MEDICINE**

A sallow complexion, dizziness, biliousness and a coated tongue are common indications of liver and kidney diseases. Stomach and bowel troubles, severe as they are, give immediate warning by pain, but liver and kidney troubles, though less painful at the start, are much harder to cure. Theford's Black-Draught never fails to benefit diseased liver and weakened kidneys. It stirs up the torpid liver to throw off the germs of fever and ague. It is a certain preventive of cholera and Bright's disease of the kidneys. With kidneys reinforced by Theford's Black-Draught thousands of persons have dwelt immune in the midst of yellow fever. Many families live in perfect health and have no other doctor than Theford's Black-Draught. It is always on hand for use in an emergency and saves many expensive calls of a doctor.

Mullins, S. C., March 10, 1901.
I have used Theford's Black-Draught for three years and I have not had to go to a doctor since I have been taking it. It is the best medicine for me that is on the market for liver and kidney troubles and dyspepsia and other complaints. Rev. A. G. LEWIS.

Life.

The Philosopher.

Born of love and hope, of ecstasy and pain, of agony and fear, of tears and joy—dowered with the wealth of two united hearts—held in happy arms, with lips upon life's drifted font, blue-veined and fair, where perfect peace finds perfect form—rocked by willing feet and wooed to shadowy shores of sleep by siren mother singing soft and low—looking with wonder's wide and startled eyes at common things of life and day—taught by want and wish and contact with the things that touch the dimpled flesh of babes—lured by light and flame and charmed by color's wondrous robes—learning the use of hands and feet, and by the love of mimicry beguiled to utter speech—releasing prisoned thoughts from crabbled and curious marks on soiled and tattered leaves—puzzling the mind with crooked numbers and their changing, tangled worth—and so through the years of alternating day and night, until the captive grows familiar with the chains and walls and limitations of a life.

And time runs on in sun and shade, until the one of all the world is wooed and won, and all the lore of love is taught and learned again. Again a home is built with the fair chamber wherein faint dreams, like cool and shadowy vales, divide the billowed hours of love. Again the miracle of birth—the pain and joy, the kiss of welcome and the cradle-song drowning the drowsy prattle of the babe.

And then the sense of obligation and wrong—pity for those who toil and weep—tears for the imprisoned and despised love for the generous dead, and in the heart the rapture of a high resolve.

And then ambition, with its lust of pelf and peace and power, longing to put upon its breast distinction's worthless badge. Then keener thoughts of men and eyes that see behind the smiling mask of craft—flattered no more by the obsequious cringe of gain and greed—know the usefulness of hoarded gold—of honor bought from those who charge the usury of self-respect—of power that only bends coward's knees and forces from the lips of fear the lies of praise. Knowing at last the unstudied gesture of esteem, the reverent eyes made rich with honest thought, and holding high above all other things—high as hope's great throbbing star above the darkness of the dead—the love of wife and child and friend.

Then locks of gray and growing love of other days and half remembered things—holding the withered hands of those who first held his, while over dim and loving eyes death softly presses the lids to rest. And so, locking in marriage vows his children's hands and crossing others on the breasts of peace, with daughter's babes upon his knees, the white hair mingled with the gold, he journeys on from day to day to that horizon where the dusk is waiting for the night. At last—sitting by the holy hearth of home as evening's embers change from red to gray, he falls asleep within the arms of her he worshipped and adored feeling upon his pallid lips love's last and holiest kiss.

The little girl which was still-born unto Mr. and Mrs. Charley Mann last evening, will, we understand, be buried this evening. The Mail extends sympathy.

A "BARE" HUNT.

Hunting for better prices or better treatment than you will get at Dickson's Hardware Store is certain to turn out a "bare" hunt. Take a friendly suggestion and visit our store.

we handle a superior line of Stoves and Wagons. And we are making close prices.

Nothing is too good for our customers, therefore we handle the best of everything.

We extend you a special invitation to visit our store and inspect our line of Hardware, Implements, Wagons, Buggies, Plows, Stoves, etc.

W. H. DICKSON.

J. T. WARREN, PRES.

GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.

G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.

T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

MERKEL, TEXAS.

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

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

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

Isn't It Strange.

How many men like to boast of the price they pay for cigars?

How many men like to say they take no stock in ancestral glory?

How many men like to believe they have all the ill luck floating around?

How many women try to convince others of their power to attract men?

How many men hang on to an idea just because it pleases their vanity?

How many women demand attention because of supposed advanced position?

How many men are unable to explain the principles of their religious preference?

How many women torture themselves with thoughts of other women's prosperity?

How many women repeat the foolish utterances of men?—Philadelphia Bulletin.

W. E. Adams called around Tuesday and shoved his Mail figures up a few notches.

130 solid gold rings at Ustick's to choose from. Come and see.

Tendency of the Times.

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

Mistakes are Costly.

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

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.

Burroughs & Mann,

Dealers In

**Patent Medicines and
Druggists Sundries
Fancy & Toilet
Articles.**

**HAIR,
TOOTH
AND PAINT
BRUSHES**

Prescriptions filled by us contain only the purest ingredients and are compounded by skilled pharmacists.

W. W. Wheeler is in attendance upon commissioners court at Abilene this week.

FORWARD...

Our Business Is Still Marching Forward

We are pleased to say January 1903 was the best January we have witnessed. It's not so much what we say as what we do, and it's not so much what you pay as what you get that makes Hamiltons the best trading place

Talk is cheap, and we never make big talk that can not be carried out. We depend on Genuine Bargains, Fair Treatment and the Values we give to create customers for this store. Remember we have nothing to offer but the best of goods for the least money. Spring stock soon to arrive.

J. O. HAMILTON

PATE & ROLLINS, BARBERS

NORTH FRONT STREET.

I. O. O. F. LODGE

No. 355 meets every Tuesday night. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend.

N. HARRISON, N. G.
CHAS. CRAVEN, Sec.

H. C. WILLIAMS, Real Estate and Insurance Agent

Notary Public

Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc.
OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

DR. J. W. LITTLE, Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN
FERRIER BUILDING.

LEEMAN & KING, Physicians & Surgeons

Diseases of Women and Children a Specialty.
Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store.

MORE LIVES ARE SAVED ...BY USING...

Dr. King's New Discovery

Consumption, Coughs and Colds
Than by All Other Throat and
Lung Remedies Combined.

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

Price 50c & \$1. Trial Bottles Free.

W. W. WHEELER, Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tor- nado Insurance Agent, Notary Public.

Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, etc.
Office in First National Bank.

Merkel Camp No. 719, W.O.W.
—meets every second and fourth
Saturday night in each month at
the I. O. O. F. Hall.

G. E. Comegys, C. C.
John Elliott, Clerk.

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

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

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

We Tell no Secrets.

It is an open secret that Hunt's Lightning Oil cures everything except broken hearts and softening of the brain. 25 and 50c.

Old Soldiers' Column

The Gallant Smiths.

After General Grant had looked over the ground and said in that emphatic way of his, "The place must be taken," there was nothing else to do but take it of course. A column was formed, with General C. F. Smith's division on the left and Lew Wallace's on the right. One of the surviving veterans of that time says: "The ground in front of Smith was covered with abitis too thick for a rabbit to get through, but old Smith rode right in front of the center, as erect as a ramrod, and though I was nearly scared to death, I saw his white mustache over his shoulders and so went ahead. At the abitis the men fell in heaps. The fire was awful, and, seeing some wavering, Smith put his cap on his sword, swung it high in the air and yelled: 'Come on, boys! No flinching now!' as cool as a cucumber. Picking a path among the trees, our men followed their gallant chief up the hill and planted their colors on the breastworks."

The Smiths were "in it" that day, sure enough, for still another of the name afforded a striking instance of coolness under fire. Wallace's division was led by the Eleventh Indiana zouaves and the Eighth Missouri under Colonel Morgan I. Smith. As they set out on the ascent Colonel Smith lit a cigar and led the way until they reached the crest. Before they reached it, however, his cigar had been shot away, and taking out another, he asked for a match, which was handed him by a soldier.

"Thank you," he said. "Take your place now. We are almost up."

A Victory by Forrest.

It was General Forrest's motto, so tradition states, to "get there fustest with the mostest men" and to sweep his opponennts off their feet by the vehemence of his onslaughts. At one time, however, he was aparently taken at a disadvantage when General Sturges, with an army of 8,000 men, confronted Forrest when he had with him not half that number of troopers. He assailed Sturges on his own chosen position and was at first repulsed, his leading brigade being hurled back with terrible slaughter from the breastworks of rails and logs behind which were entrenched his foes. Believing that the time had come to advance and charge

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

the Confederates, the Union troops had no soocer got outside their breastworks before Forrest was upon them like a demon, having a two horse battery, the pieces of which were charged with canister. He opened up at a range of only 60 yards. Such a terrible gap was formed that the Union men were thrown into confusion, taking advantage of which two Confederate brigades charged hotly into the mass and, quickly taking six guns, turned them upon the foe, soon changing apparent victory for the Unions into pronounced defeat. This victory was won by Forrest at Bride's Farm, Mississippi, and was the outcome of Sturgis' attempt to sweep him from Sherman's line of communication.

The Southern and Northern Heroes.

A bill appropriating \$20,000 has been introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature for the erection of a bronze equestrian statue to the memory of General Robert E. Lee, with the proviso that the Virginia legislature appropriates an equal sum for the same purpose. The Virginia legislature has met the provision of the Pennsylvania legislature, and it would appear that the millenium had come, but not so. Various camps of Grand Army men are protesting against honoring the great Virginian. The attitude the south should assume with reference to northern heroes is best illustrated by an incident supposed to have occurred between a British and German sailor. Meeting in a drinking place, the latter proposed a toast to the health of the German Emperor to which the Briton readily drank. In turn the Briton proposed the health of his Queen, but the German balked. "Then up comes your bloody hemperor," and suiting his action to his words ran his finger down his throat and up came the toast to the Emperor. The south has long since accepted the results of the war, and is willing to honor the leaders of the other side, and in fact, has done so. Mississippi has a picture of Lincoln in its new capitol, and other states have from time to time shown its appreciation of the virtues of northern heroes. But, however, if the memories of southern heroes are to be caluminated by the north-

A Mint of Money



With a good Farm
Wagon on the place.
We realize this, and
that's just why we
offer you the....

STUDEBAKER WAGON . . .

It's built of high material
by master workmen...

JOHN DEERE BUGGIES,
HANCOCK DISC PLOWS,
STANDARD DISC PLOWS,
Hardware, Farm Machinery.

If you buy it here, it's RIGHT!

GEO. L. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.

ern press and public, as a matter of self respect it is time for the south to let testimonials to northern leaders be found alone in the north.

Cancer Cured

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

R. B. USTICK

DEALER IN

Watches, Clocks, Jew-
elry, Etc.

Repairing a Specialty.

Escaped An Awful Fate.

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

The Mail gives all the news.