

# The Merkel Mail.

VOL. 1. NO 2.

MERKEL, TEXAS, TH

AY, MARCH 27, 1890.

M. J. COX.

## HO FOR MERKEL!

—I HAVE JUST RECEIVED—

### A Large Stock of Boots and Shoes

direct from the manufacturers. I have also added to my stock a nice line of Queensware, Glassware and Farming Implements. I have on hand for sale both Corn and Oats. In fact I have a complete stock of

### GENERAL MERCHANDISE

### FARM and RANCH SUPPLIES.

and as I am here to stay I will not be undersold. G. H. Richardson, DEALING CONSIDERABLY

## G. H. Richardson

—PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON—

Office at Residence, N. Side R. R.

MERKEL, Tex.

## H. BULLAD'S Restaurant.

In the Rollins Building

THE PLACE TO

MEALS 25c.

Neat, Clean Beds . . . 25c.

MERKEL, Texas.

### MERKEL BARBER SHOP.

E. R. Boyett,

PROPRIETOR.

A CLEAN SHAVE,  
NEAT HAIR-CUT.

GOOD SHAMPOO.  
GIVE ME A CALL.

## City Hotel!

JAMES CORRIGAN, Proprietor.

First-Class Board by Day or

Week.

## Ed. S. Hughes & Co.,

—DEALERS IN—

Hardware, Stoves, Tinware, Baled Wire, Farm Implements, Guns, Ammunition, Fishing Tackle, Wagons and Buggies.

A Full Stock of Hardware.

ABILENE, Texas.

## T. C. TUNE, PHOTOGRAPHER.

ABILENE, TEXAS.

EVERYTHING IN PHOTO LINE EXECUTED IN THE FINEST POSSIBLE MANNER.

You will do well to trust your Business to him when in need of anything in his line, Especially ENLARGING, COPYING, etc.

ALL KINDS OF PICTURE FRAMES FURNISHED TO ORDER.

Give Me a Trial.

## Cox & Clark,

—DEALERS IN—

## Groceries and Provisions,

Dry Goods, Notions, Hardware, Tinware, Drugs, And General Merchandise.

Which will be sold as cheap as in any place west of Abilene.

—COUNTRY PRODUCE TAKEN IN EXCHANGE AT—

Highest Market Price.

Neat and well ventilated rooms at all times.

TABLE SUPPLIED WITH THE BEST THE MARKET AFFORDS.

—MERKEL—

TOWN-LOT AGENCY

—YOU CAN BUY—

A Fine Business or Residence Lot Near the Center of the Town for \$50.

—OR—  
A Fine Residence Lot on the College Addition for \$25.

NOW IS THE TIME

TO BUY A LOT  
—IN THE—  
Prettiest, And

MERKEL,

Texas.

## E. HEARN

Boot & Shoe Maker.

REPAIRING OF ALL KINDS DONE ON SHORT NOTICE. Shop two Doors East of Mail Office.

## B. A. Cox,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

LAND AND CLAIM AGENT, NOTARY PUBLIC AND CONVEYANCER.

Agent Grimes County School Lands in Taylor County.

MERKEL,

Texas.

Subscribe

—FOR THE—

MAIL.

\$1.50.

Town in WESTERN TEXAS! J. L. VAUGHAN, Agent.

## LOCAL DIRECTORY.

—OFFICERS—

Lanham, Congressman, State Senator, H. Tolar, Representative, D. H. Tolar, District Judge, D. H. Tolar, District Judge, D. H. Tolar, District Judge.

—COUNTY OFFICERS—

County Judge, County Attorney, District and Co. Clerk, Sheriff, Assessor, Surveyor, School.

—SCHOOL OFFICERS—

Superintendent, J. T. Tucker, J. M. C. Lyons, Commissioner, Justice, Constable.

—TERMS OF COURT—

Court, first Monday in April, June, August, October and December. Termers' Court, second day in February, May, and November.

—NEWS NOTES.

A national bank was organized at Houston with a capital of \$500,000. Authorized, \$1,000,000.

The baseball season in Texas opened on Saturday, the 29th, at Fort Worth, between the teams of that city and

the visiting team. The game was a close one, the home team winning by a score of 5 to 4.

Experiments in the use of a new kind of dynamite were begun with March 1, 1890. A little over a dozen experiments were made, the best of which was made by Mr. Frank Gilmore, of Texas, who got hold of a quantity of dynamite and took it to the mine.

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There was a boiler explosion took place in Overton last Saturday which resulted in the killing and fatally wounding of three young men named William and John Andrews and Wm. Parish.

Conductor Dave Falconer and Engineer May were arrested in El Paso last Saturday, for the killing of a Mexican, who was walking on the track and hadn't sense enough to get off as the train approached.

Another claimant to the celebrated Bean estate, has put in an appearance claiming on heirship through the mother's side of the family. There is still another claimant on the strength of a supposed will.

Rev. Dixon Williams, the evangelist, is still preaching to large congregations at Dallas. It is said that his audiences number from 2,000 to 4,000 nightly. Several hundred persons have been converted.

The capital stock of the Statten-Kirksey woolen mills company, of Waco, has been increased from \$100,000 to \$400,000. They employ about 400 hands and their weekly pay roll amounts to about \$2500, or \$130,000 per year.

Mrs. Mary A. Wilson and infant son, James L. Wilson, secured a verdict against the Ft. Worth & Denver R. R. for the sum of \$3000 for the former and \$5000 for the latter. The suit was for the death of Jas.

Major Gen. Crook commander of the department of Missouri, died in Chicago on last Friday, the funeral taking place Sunday. It is generally conceded that Brig. Gen. D. S. Stanley commander of the department of Texas, will be the successor to Gen. Crook.

Reports from the Cherokee strip state that the wire fences have been cut, and the posts pulled out, and the cattle have been scattered in every direction. The cowboys are trying to gather them in but they are having a pretty hard time of it.

The Mississippi river has been on a rampage, and great damage has been done along the river bottom farms and towns. A bill has passed congress to buy 2500 tents for persons who had houses destroyed by the flood. The river was higher than it has been since 1882.

On last Thursday the large pasture of E. A. Hearn, near Belle Plain, was destroyed by fire. The fire was started by a farmer near Clyde burning an old fence row, and the wind being very

Two smart Georgians recently went to New York to invest \$500 in "green goods," or counterfeit money. They returned home minus the \$500 or the "green goods," but with at least \$500 worth of experience.

A crowd of negroes was engaged in "crap-shooting" at Abilene, Texas, and got in a fight over the game, which resulted in a row, and one of them named Black was stabbed to death with a pocket-knife in the hands of Dan Raymond.

From latest reports it seems that Texas is to be left out by the Pan-American delegates, in their tour through the south. The reason given for not coming was seeming lack of interest by the leading cities of Texas. It may be possible yet to get them to include Texas in their tour, if proper efforts are made.

The phrase "Too Thin." The phrase "too thin" is generally regarded as an instance of American slang, and is supposed to find its proper place only in works devoted to that now important branch of philology. In support of this theory one occasionally sees newspaper stories obviously manufactured for the purpose of explaining the origin of this expression, and it has been called in the English press "a notable Americanism." The truth is, it has a most reputable English paternity, having been used by Dr. Chaucer Eldon in an opinion delivered in the case of Peacock vs. Peacock. The point under discussion was whether partnership

question was one for the court and jury to act upon, summing up his opinion in these words: "I cannot agree that reasonable notice is a subject too thin for a jury to act upon, as in many cases juries and courts do determine what is reasonable notice." Here the expression was applied in what we term its slang sense.

A Kindly Warning. A diffident young man, who chanced to be already engaged to be married, taught his first term of school in a western rural district some years ago, and, in accordance with the rural custom, he did a great deal of "visiting around."

He spent one night at the house of an old farmer who had a daughter famous, not for her beauty, but for lack of it. To enumerate her peculiarities of face and figure would be to give a catalogue of imperfection. Those who regard bawk as a mark of beauty, who think a head of red hair, cut short and parted at the side, is an attraction in a young lady, would have been charmed with "Becky

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FURNISHING all Material a Specialty.



# MERKEL MAIL.

M. J. COX, Editor and Publisher.

Entered at the Post-Office as second class mail matter.

TERMS. \$1.50 PER ANNUM.

Advertising rates made known on application.

Locals, per line, . . . . . 5c.

MERKEL, TEX., MARCH 27, '90

OUR exchanges have been coming in very slowly, and we have had to edit the first two issues of the MAIL from bought copies of the Ft. Worth Gazette and St. Louis Republic. It is a matter of impossibility for a newspaper to get along without exchanges, and we hope our brethren of the press will send them in as fast as possible.

WE ARE thankful indeed for the kind words contained in the "communication" in another column. If our readers will consider that communication carefully they will also find there is a few words for them too. The beauty of the writer of that communication, was that he practiced what he preached, and ordered the paper to be sent to him at this office.

FROM another issue of the Forney Tribune we see that Mr. Byron Drew declines to run for the legislature, and that Mr. M. H. Gossett will make the race. He is an elegant, self-made gentleman of ability and merit, and we would be glad to see him elected. We can't do much for him out here, but if he is elected we will certainly hurrah our loudest.

FROM an old copy of the Nolan County Record, we see our friend Muagrove is booming a Mr. Cowen for congressional honors. We haven't the pleasure of knowing the gentleman, but even admitting that he is all our contemporary claims for him, what's the matter with Lanham? We hope this district will not get in the shape of the 6th district from which we have traded a man of in-

Rev. J. A. Jones is still preaching to large crowds in Ft. Worth, and many conversions are reported. Our experience is that in about a year from now he will have to come back and convert again. This hurrah preaching may be the thing, and we don't like to sit in judgment on anyone, but we are old-fashioned enough to think that when a man or woman has calmly reasoned out the plan of salvation, and have resolved to lead a better life, without being moved by excitement attending these big revivals, he or she will come much nearer being a constant and faithful servant of God.

The cattlemen's convention at Fort Worth had wonderful possibilities within its reach. The best brain of the great industry was there, the time was ripe for an earnest discussion and a quick solution of the ills that have dogged the footsteps of the cowman for so many years, but the opportunity was lost, and nothing but a few bare resolutions was the result. Too much banquet—too little business. Combinations of buyers will always triumph, so long as the producers put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their

Mrs. Meda Taylor, who has been teaching school at Baird, returned home Monday evening accompanied by her cousin, Miss Katie Taylor, who will spend several days visiting the Misses Taylor.

Mr. Raney McMillen left Sunday on a business trip to Temple, Lampasas Springs and other places. Before leaving he supplied himself with several copies of the MAIL for distribution among friends.

To the farmers of East Texas: Sell your 310 lands, come to Taylor county, invest in \$7.50 land, just as good, put the surplus into horses, cattle, sheep, improvements, etc., and you will be glad of the investment.

The Workers' Institute of Sweetwater Association meets with the Baptist church at Abilene on the 8th inst. Introductory sermon by Rev. J. A. East, on that night at 8 o'clock, p. m. The programme for the meeting is an interesting one and it is to be hoped the attendance will be large. The session will close on Sunday night.

THE GRAND jury meets next Monday at Abilene and we hear that there will be a number of fishing and hunting parties made up from here to be gone for a week or so. Why this thushness? We don't understand it; do you?

WE understand that Dr. Alf. H. H. Tolar, of Abilene, will address the people of Trent on Saturday night. We also understand that he will in all probability be a candidate before the democratic convention for the office of land commissioner, and if such is the case, he has the best wishes of the MAIL for success, and he will have its earnest support. He is well and favorably known all through the west, and was one of the few legislators who obtained prominence in the last session of the legislature. He is a plain, but unassuming gentleman, well versed in land matters, and we know of no man who is better qualified for the position, and we hope he will be successful in capturing the prize.

SOME of our citizens, those who have only been here a short time, are beginning to get uneasy about the drouth. For our part, we see nothing as yet to get scared about. It is true we have not had as much rain as the eastern part of state, but our crops are growing well, and we have it from some of our most reliable old citizens that they always have enough rain here for a summer crop. Even in the drouth year of '83 a number of farmers made a half bale of cotton to the acre. This is about as much as some of the older counties make in their best years. With plenty of fat beeves and plenty of 60-cent wheat, and within 250 miles of 20-cent corn, what on earth is there to be afraid of? One thing is sure; there is no more reason to fear a failure of crops this year in this portion of the country from the drouth than there is in the eastern counties from too much rain.

EVERY day, or so we see windmills going out into the country

On inquiry we find the people just waking up to the importance of these adjuncts to irrigation. There is plenty of motive power in these gentle zephyrs blowing over the prairies, and plenty of water within 50 feet of the surface, and any of our farmers will find that an investment in a first-class windmill and pump will provide them with fine gardens, growing orchards and vineyards, and plenty of stock water in the driest time. We are not selling windmills, but we presume our readers very properly think that being an editor, we should be well versed on the subject of wind, as a great many of us have had, at some time in our career, to live on this and mountain scenery. There are some good points in this editorial, if it is windy, but after reading it over carefully we have failed to see them. Perhaps some of your readers may.

It is one of the easiest things in the world to write editorials provided, you have something to write about, and the printer isn't grumbling, and the devil isn't calling for copy, and your family isn't

Mr. J. A. Elliott left on Thursday for Ft. Worth to answer in the case of the State vs. J. A. Elliott, for some shooting done in Arlington's year ago last fall. Mr. Elliott has numerous friends here who hope that he may come out all right in the case, and fully believe that he will.

The MAIL man is a pretty early bird, but just as he was getting to the office on Monday morning he saw two or three teams going out of town with loads of lumber, which shows that somebody was up much earlier, and that the lumber market is lively.

Why can't the citizens of Merkel organize a book and ladder company? It would not cost much and might be the means of saving considerable property, some day in case of fire. Unless there is an organized effort of some kind there will be a fire here some day that will prove very destructive. We hope our citizens will think over the matter and make an effort to have some organization of this kind.

WE HAVE had a few proud to state, they were persons come in and we had gotten out and they wished us when it came to subscribe we were excused. Of course we do not force our paper on anyone if they mean anything good wishes, they state in spending 50c, even a dollar and as an earnest of their and in doing so, they would be in keeping words. We have made office, that if they did not ready cash now, we would them till later on in the and we make the same and if you really wish you will come right,

THERE has been the way of building Texas in the last five years, cause given for this, by leading papers, is the the legislature to railroads. It is already claimed by if a man is elected to a ship who is in favor of commission, there will capital invested in railroads Texas for several years the case, from present railroad building will we are not badly fooled will certainly be the one of Texas. The power is in her hands and she will probably she did in regard to the square against western portion of Texas well dotted with railroads the west needs them to help her resources, probably the weak to the strong. Some be a different tale.

ALTHOUGH the beginning to build our country

stand there in the field. In the west we see a great many dates are out already western country is than the East in our may be that our candi- fidence in announcing opposition to the success of parties in the ties desiring to fill tions. While it said quite as true that "the gets run over by the

OCCASIONALLY you may complain of the price of a county paper experience it that a kick at as low a price papers are put in it would not subscribe in was fifty cents, but he of his neighbor, or get paper in some way, no read every word of it, is no one that knows the newspaper business that if a newspaper upon its subscription it would bankrupt in the

IF THIS portion

might the lecture not given at the college buildings. This was quite a disappointment for many as they wished to hear the gentleman elaborate the ideas he advanced on the first night on the subject of "The Origin of Man."

We put in a short notice last week, that we were prepared to take a few loads of wood on subscription, and up to Wednesday, we had received twelve loads. We are full up on wood at the present writing, but if any of our readers have no other means of paying for the paper, and want it, we would be glad to have them come in and we'll put their names down and get the wood later on in the season.

We have received a great number of congratulations from our citizens on the paper we got out last week. We hope to make the MAIL a paper which will be looked for eagerly each week, and should we do this there will be no trouble in getting plenty of subscribers. In order to keep up with the local news we must have the assistance of all, so if you know of any local happenings, tell the editor about them.

## KIND WORDS.

THE following letter coming as it does from an old newspaper man, and one of the foremost citizens of the MAIL feel quite proud of his first issue. It is so complimentary, we give it verbatim: FRIEND COX: Your first issue is before me, has been read with much interest.

Allow me to congratulate you and the good people of Merkel; Merkel, in securing a live and energetic man to conduct her paper, and yourself in selecting a location for a home and prosperous business.

In the mechanical make-up as well as the editorial get it, you display ability, skill and enterprise that will insure your success. Turn yourself loose, and make the welkin ring for Merkel, the blis of the Prairie, Taylor

home-seeker who is in search of health, wealth and prosperity in the most delightful climate under God's great dome. With best wishes for your success and prosperity,

I am yours, ALF. H. H. TOLAR. Abilene, Texas, March 22.

## A COMMUNICATION.

S. W. CORNER JONES COUNTY, MARCH 25, 1890. Friends and Co-laborers:

Let us join in mutual congratulations on the advent of the press into our little town; and good wishes to the pioneer editor.

The first copy of the MAIL is before me, and in my opinion, it is just the trick. The editorials are good, and I believe the editor will fit Merkel a dot. Let us give the MAIL a liberal support, and not let her editor feel like an orphan among strangers. We can afford it. It will pay a large dividend on the investment. A town and the surrounding country cannot grow without a paper any more than a pig can make a hog without corn. Without such a stimulant, it will droop, become hide-bound, and resolve itself into

It is impossible to guess the age of a town that has never been blessed with a paper. View it from a hill half a mile away, and you will guess it to be three years old, perhaps. Walk down into its environs and look into its mouth, and lo, not one single tooth. You are bewildered with astonishment. You rap at the door of one of its dingy houses and ask a man of forty winters the age of his town. He tells you his "grand-daddy" built the first house 80 years ago, and the jubilant smile on his face will tell you that he is proud of his noble ancestor, the founder of a town that has lived to the age of 80 years, and perhaps will not "dicker" out till she reaches the age of 100. Wonderful town!

Ask if his town has a paper, and he will tell you no, and never has had one. A town must have steam. First, her citizens must be filled with self-respect, and unity, then the printing-press, that great instrument of civilization and refinement, with the hand of a live editor on the throttle, and lo! she moves up the hill of progress!

It seems that the Creator de-

signed the spot on which stands for the site of a city. The face of the ground is without a suspicion of a wrinkle to mar its loveliness—the prettiest face of any town in the state.

Should this humble letter of congratulations, good wishes, etc., I will try to write again.

A FRIEND TO PROGRESS.

Died, March 25, of consumption and pneumonia, Willie P. son of Mrs. Lou E. Hobb, at the age of nineteen. Willie was a pious good young man highly esteemed by those who associated with him, on account of his moral worth and integrity. Though not a member of the church, when the test came, he was not afraid to die. Much better he righteous out of the church, than wicked in the church. May the richest benedictions of heaven be abundant to the widowed mother and his dear brothers and sisters. Tell on, patiently waiting, and we'll meet beyond the river, in the sweet by and by. A. A. BAKER

# G. F. WEST,

THE LEADER IN LOW PRICES.

GROCERIES, HARDWARE, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, STOVES, BARBED WIRE, QUEENSWARE, GLASSWARE, HARNESS, Etc., Etc., Etc.

## CHEAPEST HOUSE WEST OF ABILENE.

MERKEL attempt to sell at Abilene prices, others being compelled to imitate!

### It was a Revolution in Prices, BUT THIS HOUSE DID IT, JUST THE SAME, AND WILL REPEAT IT EVERY DAY.

—Give us a Trial and be Convinced.—

New Store, New Goods, Low Prices and Fair Dealing.

—AGENT FOR THE CELEBRATED—

# Buckeye Light Binder.

MERKEL, TEXAS. J. T. V.

# CALVERT & WINN,

—DEALERS IN—

## Groceries and Provisions.

We keep on hand a first-class stock of Staple and Fancy Groceries, consisting of Sugar, Coffee, Rice, Canned Goods, Caudles, Tobaccos, and everything to be found in our line.

Highest Prices For Country Produce.

MERKEL, Texas.

# W. P. Browning & Co.

—Dealers in:—

## Dressed and Rough Lumber,

—Shingles, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Moulding—

And Everything found in a First Class Lumber Yard. We also handle the celebrated BAKER BARBED WIRE. Call and get our prices before buying.

Office: S. Side R. R. next to Dishman

# Merkel Meat Market,

## Craven & Elliott, Props.

Beef, Pork, Mutton, Sausage, and all kinds of fresh Meats.

### We also keep in stock

## A CHOICE SELECTION

OF GROCERIES, CANNED GOODS, TOBACCO, AND CIGARS.

### GIVE US A CALL.



KIND WORDS.

G. F. WEST,

THE LEADER IN LOW PRICES.

GROCERIES, HARDWARE, FARMING IMPLEMENTS, STOVES, BARBED WIRE, QUEENSWARE, GLASSWARE, HARNESS, Etc., Etc., Etc.

CHEAPEST HOUSE WEST OF ABILENE.

MERKEL attempt to sell at Abilene prices, others being compelled to imitate!

It was a Revolution in Prices,

BUT THIS HOUSE DID IT,

JUST THE SAME,

AND WILL REPEAT IT EVERY DAY.

-Give us a Trial and be Convinced.-

New Store, New Goods, Low Prices and Fair Dealing.

-AGENT FOR THE CELEBRATED-

Buckeye Light Binder.

MERKEL, TEXAS.

CALVERT & WINN,

DEALERS IN:

Groceries and Provisions.

We keep on hand a first-class stock of Staple and Fancy Groceries, consisting of Sugar, Coffee, Rice, Canned Goods, Candles, Tobaccos, and everything to be found in our line.

Highest Prices For Country Produce. MERKEL, Texas.

W. P. Browning & Co.

Dealers in:

Dressed and Rough Lumber,

Shingles, Doors, Sash, Blinds, Moulding.

And Everything found in a First Class Lumber Yard. We also handle the celebrated BAKER BARBED WIRE. Call and get our prices before buying.

Office: S. Side R. R. next to Dishman

Merkel Meat Market,

Craven & Elliott, Props.

Beef, Pork, Mutton, Sausage, and all kinds of fresh Meats.

We also keep in stock

A CHOICE SELECTION

OF GROCERIES, CANNED GOODS, TOBACCO, AND CIGARS.

GIVE US A CALL.

THE following letter coming as it does from an old newspaper man, and one of the foremost citizens of the West, makes the editor of the MAIL feel quite proud of his first issue. It is so complimentary, we give it verbatim:

FRIEND COX: Your first issue is before me, and has been read with much interest.

Allow me to congratulate you and the good people of Merkel, in securing a live and energetic man to conduct her paper, and yourself in selecting a location for a home and prosperous business.

In the mechanical make-up as well as the editorial get-up, you display ability, skill and enterprise that will insure your success. Turn yourself loose, and make the work for Merkel, the best of the Prairie, Taylor, and Texas, the direct

home-seeker who is in search of health, wealth and prosperity in the most delightful climate under God's great dome.

With best wishes for your success and prosperity,

I am yours, ALF. H. H. TOLAR, Abilene, Texas, March 22.

A COMMUNICATION.

S. W. CORNER JONES COUNTY, MARCH 25, 1890.

Friends and Co-laborers:

Let us join in mutual congratulations on the advent of the press into our little town; and good wishes to the pioneer editor.

The first copy of the MAIL is before me, and in my opinion, it is just the trick. The editorials are good, and I believe the editor will fit Merkel to a dot. Let us give the MAIL a liberal support, and not let her editor feel like an orphan among strangers. We can afford it. It will pay a large dividend on the investment. A town and the surrounding country cannot grow without a paper any more than a pig can make a hog without corn. Without such a stimulant, it will droop, become hide-bound, and resolve itself into

It is impossible to guess the age of a town that has never been blessed with a paper. View it from a hill half a mile away, and you will guess it to be three years old, perhaps. Walk down into its environs and look into its mouth, and lo, not one single tooth. You are bewildered with astonishment. You rap at the door of one of its dingy houses and ask a man of forty winters the age of his town. He tells you his "grand-daddy" built the first house 60 years ago, and the jubilant smile on his face will tell you that he is proud of his noble ancestor, the founder of a town that has lived to the age of 80 years, and perhaps will not "flicker" out till she reaches the age of 100. Wonderful town!

Ask if his town has a paper, and he will tell you no, and never has had one.

A town must have steam. First, her citizens must be filled with self-respect, and unity, then the printing-press, that great instrument of civilization and refinement, with the hand of a live editor on the throttle, and lo! she moves up the hill of progress!

It seems that the Creator de-

signed the spot on which she stands for the site of a city. The face of the ground is without a suspicion of a wrinkle to mar its loveliness—the prettiest face of any town in the state.

Should this humble letter of congratulations, good wishes, etc., I will try to write again.

A FRIEND TO PROGRESS.

Died: March 25, of consumption and pneumonia, Willie P. son of Mrs. Lou E. Hobbs, at the age of nineteen. Willie was a pious good young man highly esteemed by those who associated with him, on account of his moral worth and integrity. Though not a member of the church, when the test came, he was not afraid to die. Much better be righteous out of the church, than wicked in the church. May the richest benedictions of heaven be abundant to the widowed mother and his dear brothers and sisters. To I on, patiently waiting, and we'll meet beyond the River, in the sweet by and by. A. A. BAKER

Rev. J. Bishop, a minister of the Baptist church, preached to a large congregation at the Public School building on last Sunday night.

Mr. J. H. Thornton's for groceries. It has on hand over 100 unbroken barrels and boxes of groceries bought at the best wholesale market in Texas.

There was to be a social dance at the City Hotel on Friday night, but as the weather had a decidedly rainy appearance it was postponed to a later date.

G. L. Vaughan returned home Tuesday from a visit to Ft. Worth. It is said a pair of blue eyes, with calico attachments, was the attraction which carried him off.

Compliments of J. H. Thornton to the ladies of Merkel and vicinity. You are cordially invited to call at my store and see the prettiest selection of spring goods ever brought to Merkel.

Barnett Gray, a gentleman from southwest Missouri, has been in Merkel for the past week visiting the families of Parson Baker, J. C. Calvert and other old friends.

Now is the time for those pretty girls mentioned in last week's issue, to appear still prettier by adorning themselves with some of those beautiful spring goods at J. H. Thornton's.

Merkel is getting to be a place of note, so much so that the drummers now spend Sunday here. A couple of commercial artists were driven over

favorable terms and a number of names were added to our subscription list.

The young newsboy of the MAIL has been sick this week. His sickness may have been caused by the rapidly with which he sold first copies of the MAIL to enterprising citizens who patronized him extensively on last Friday.

Thos. Hollis left on Tuesday for a trip to Bryan, Madison county. He will be gone for five or six weeks, and in all probability will bring some prospectors back with him. He will also scatter several copies of the MAIL among his old neighbors.

A hunting and fishing party consisting of J. A. Elliott, H. C. Hayter, Wm. Alsobrook and Wm. Logan spent a couple of days on the Clear Fork this week, but as they failed to bring the editor any game, we guess the hunt did not pan out very big.

Owing to a typographical error no mention was made in the write-up of Merkel, in last week's paper, of the M. E. church, and the editor was hauled over the coals. We make the proper correction this week, and hope our Methodist friends will overlook the omission.

Merkel has religious institutions to be proud of. A MAIL man visited the College Sunday school last Sunday, and found it conducted in the best modern manner.

fence-posts. This will be quite a loss to those of our farmers who have been getting posts from there to improve their places. As there is no further smoke in that direction we presume the fire has been quenched.

Old Jordan whiskey is hard to beat, and don't you forget it. You will find it at the Maverick Saloon.

A young man about eighteen years old, named Reed, who has been living on Mrs. Rollins' place, was taken with the grip some time ago and on last week it turned into pneumonia, which ended fatally, he dying on Friday night at 6 o'clock. He was buried on Saturday evening in the Merkel Cemetery, but so late that there were not many present from the town.

If you want Bell Brook whiskey, you can get it at the Maverick Saloon, Abilene, Texas.

Prof. G. A. Witt, of Abilene, came in on Friday evening's train on a visit to his sister, Mrs. Buchanan, and stayed until Sunday morning. It is rumored that he will be a candidate for the office of tax assessor of this county. He has numerous friends here who knowing his many good qualities, and that he is well qualified to fill the office, that would be glad to see him elected.

Belle of Nelson whiskey is considered by many the best on the market. You can get it at the Maverick Saloon, Abilene, Texas.

G. F. West took in the metropolis of the West last Tuesday.

J. L. Vaughan has been quite indisposed for a few days this week, owing to a very severe cold.

J. H. Thornton don't boast of Abilene Prices. But the man that under sells him has not got here yet.

Miss Ida Wiman one of our charming young ladies, left on Monday evening for a visit to her sister at Sweetwater.

Didn't you see French & Warnick throwing out their old drugs? This indicates a fresh stock.

The town was full of teams again last Saturday and presented the appearance of live a young western city.

Miss Emma Thornton took the train Sunday morning with Prof. Witt for a short visit to his daughter at Abilene.

Rev. Colton made the Sunday school a nice talk Sunday evening. He left for Sweetwater on Sunday evening's train.

The T. & P. pay car passed through Merkel Sunday on its monthly tour, making the railroad boys as rich as could himself, for the time.

Miss Liza Glascock, who has been visiting her friend, Miss Bessie Browning for a few days, left on Monday for her home in Abilene.

Mr. J. H. Thornton received a large invoice of dry goods the last of last week, but trade was so brisk he had no time to open them up.

Miss Ida Taylor, of Abilene, who is here on a visit to her cousins. The party was well attended and all present enjoyed themselves hugely.

E. R. Boyott has removed his barber shop to rear end of the building occupied by D. M. Craven. He is going to fit it up nicely and have everything in first-class shape, and will be pleased to see you.

The south wind blew quite a gale on last Sunday and Monday until noon, which was very disagreeable indeed. It then changed to the north on Monday evening, since which time the weather has been very pleasant.

We had another very nice shower on last Friday, which though not as much as we wanted, was still enough to make vegetation put forth at a lively rate, and as a consequence gardens are looking much better.

Although the wind blew a perfect gale on last Sabbath the churchwardens all well attended and crowded houses filled both the buildings used for church purposes, both at preaching and Sunday school.

"It tickles me dreadfully," said a Merkel young man to his best girl the other night, "that my moustache is growing so well." "It tickles me some too," said the blushing young lady, but we'll not tell the rest.

We had the pleasure of a call from several gentlemen who live in the Trent neighborhood of last Saturday, who spoke of the paper in highly

vein. The new firm will give their attention principally to the meat market, and will supply their customers with the best beef the market affords.

For Pure Malt Whisky, go to the Maverick Saloon, Howard Young, proprietor, Abilene, Tex.

We received a postal card on Tuesday from Rane McMillen, at Weatherford, stating that he noted on his arrival there, a large force of workmen and teams, going to work on the railroad from Weatherford to mineral wells. Rane has always got his eyes open, and if anything transpires of interest to the general public, he is sure to 'catch on.'

Go to Thornton & Bullard's Livery Stable, on North side of railroad, for first class conveyance.

Constable J. B. Jernigan who has been attending Federal Court at Graham for the last three weeks returned home on last Sunday. He got home just in time to serve the necessary little papers to have the boys meet with the grand jury, which meets at Abilene on next Monday.

Should you desire a toddy made from the celebrated Kentucky Club Whisky, call at the Maverick Saloon and you will get it.

There was a big fire in the cedar brakes south of town for several days and nights last week, which destroyed a great deal of timber, that is used for

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**MERKEL MAIL.**

**M. J. COX, Editor and Publisher.**

Entered at the Post-Office as second class mail matter.

TERMS: \$1.50 PER ANNUM. Advertising rates made known on application. Locals, per line, 5c.

MERKEL, TEX., MARCH 27, '90

OUR exchanges have been coming in very slowly, and we have had to edit the first two issues of the MAIL from bought copies of the Ft. Worth Gazette and St. Louis Republic. It is a matter of impossibility for a newspaper to get along without exchanges, and we hope our brethren of the press will send them in as fast as possible.

WE ARE thankful indeed for the complimentary words contained in the "communication" in another column. If our readers will consider that communication carefully they will also find there is a few words for them too. The beauty of the writer of that communication, was that he practiced what he preached, and ordered the paper to be sent to him at this office.

FROM another issue of the Forney Tribune we see that Mr. Byron Drew declines to run for the legislature, and that Mr. M. H. Gossett will make the race. He is an elegant, self-made gentleman of ability and merit, and we would be glad to see him elected. We can't do much for him out here, but if he is elected we will certainly hurrah our loudest.

FROM an old copy of the Nolan County Record, we see our friend Musgrove is booming a Mr. Cowen for congressional honors. We haven't the pleasure of knowing the gentleman, but even admitting that he is all our contemporary claims for him, what's the matter with Lanham? We hope this district will not get in the shape of the 6th district from which we had trade a man of in-

Rev. J. Jones is still preaching to large crowds in Ft. Worth, and many conversions are reported. Our experience is that in about a year from now he will have to come back and convert again. This hurrah preaching may be the thing, and we don't like to sit in judgment on anyone, but we are old-fashioned enough to think that when a man or woman has calmly reasoned out the plan of salvation, and have resolved to lead a better life, without being moved by excitement attending these big revivals, he or she will come much nearer being a constant and faithful servant of God.

The cattlemen's convention at Fort Worth had wonderful possibilities within its reach. The best brain of the great industry was there, the time was ripe for an earnest discussion and a quick solution of the ills that have dogged the footsteps of the cowboy for so many years, but the opportunity was lost, and nothing but a few bare resolutions was the result. Too much banquet—too little business. Combinations of buyers will always triumph, so long as the producers put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their

Miss Meda Taylor, who has been teaching school at Baird, returned home Monday evening accompanied by her cousin, Miss Kaitie Taylor, who will spend several days visiting the Misses Taylor.

Mr. Ransy McMillen left Sunday on a business trip to Terrell, Lampasas Springs and other places. Before leaving he supplied himself with several copies of the MAIL for distribution among friends.

To the farmers of East Texas: Sell your 30 lands, come to Taylor county, invest in \$7.50 land, just as good, put the surplus into horses, cattle, sheep, improvements, etc., and you will be glad of the investment.

The Workers' Institute of Sweetwater Association meets with the Baptist church at Abilene on the 8th inst. Introductory sermon by Rev. J. A. Tant, on that night at 8 o'clock. p. m. The programme for the meeting is an interesting one and it is to be hoped the attendance will be large. The session will close on Sunday night.

THE GRAND jury meets next Monday at Abilene and we hear that there will be a number of fishing and hunting parties made up from here to be gone for a week or so. Why this thunders? We don't understand it; do you?

WE understand that Dr. Alf. H. H. Tolar, of Abilene, will address the people of Trent on Saturday night. We also understand that he will in all probability be a candidate before the democratic convention for the office of land commissioner, and if such is the case, he has the best wishes of the MAIL for success, and he will have its earnest support. He is well and favorably known all through the west, and was one of the few legislators who obtained prominence in the last session of the legislature. He is a plain, hard-working gentleman, well versed in land matters, and we know of no man who is better qualified for the position, and we hope he will be successful in capturing the prize.

SOME of our citizens, those who have only been here a short time, are beginning to get uneasy about the drought. For our part, we see nothing as yet to get scared about. It is true we have not had as much rain as the eastern part of state, but our crops are growing well, and we have it from some of our most reliable old citizens that they always have enough rain here for a summer crop. Even in the drought year of '83 a number of farmers made a half bale of cotton to the acre. This is about as much as some of the older counties make in their best years. With plenty of fat heaves and plenty of 60-cent wheat, and within 250 miles of 20-cent corn, what on earth is there to be afraid of? One thing is sure; there is no more reason to fear a failure of crops this year in this portion of the country from the drought than there is in the eastern counties from too much rain.

EVERY day or so we see windmills going out into the country

On inquiry we find the people just waking up to the importance of these adjuncts to irrigation. There is plenty of motive power in these gentle zephyrs blowing over the prairies, and plenty of water within 50 feet of the surface, and any of our farmers will find that an investment in a first-class windmill and pump will provide them with fine gardens, growing orchards and vineyards, and plenty of stock water in the driest time. We are not selling windmills, but we presume our readers very properly think, that being an editor, we should be well versed on the subject of wind, as a great many of us have had, at some time in our career, to live on this sad mountain scenery. There are some good points in this editorial, if it is windy, but after reading it over carefully we have failed to see them. Perhaps some of your readers may.

IT IS one of the easiest things in the world to write editorials provided, you have something to write about, and the printer isn't grumbling, and the devil isn't calling for copy, and your family isn't

WE HAVE had a few proud to state, they were persons come in and we had gotten out a and they wished us when it came to subscribe wished to be excused, of course we do force our paper on an if they mean anything good wishes, they late in spending 50c, even a dollar and as an earnest of their and in doing so, they would be in keeping words. We have made offer to all who have office, that if they didn't ready cash now, we would them till later on in the and we make the same and if you really wish you will come right, your

THERE has been the way of building Texas in the last five cause given for this, by leading papers, is the legislature to railroad. It is already claimed by if a man is elected to ship who is in favor of commission, there will capital invested in rail Texas for several years the case, from present railroad building we are not badly fooled will certainly be the power is in the and she will probably side in regard to the square against western portion of T well dotted with the west needs them probably her resources, probably the weak to the strong. Some be a different tale.

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The MAIL man is a pretty early bird, but just as he was getting to the office on Monday morning he saw two or three teams going out of town with loads of lumber, which shows that somebody was up much earlier, and that the lumber market is lively.

Why can't the citizens of Merkel organize a book and ladder company? It would not cost much and might be the means of saving considerable property, some day in case of fire. Unless there is an organized effort of some kind there will be a fire here some day that will prove very destructive. We hope our citizens will think over the matter and make an effort to have some organization of this kind.

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**KIND WORDS.**

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Ten and a half miles north of Carnesville, Ga., is a spot called the Indian ring. It is a circle of raised earth with a depression in the center, like many others in this section of the state. This ring was once the trying place of ghosts and goblins. Horsemen were frequently arrested in the journey by a huge barrel which rolled into the road before them, and which it was impossible to pass without leaping over it. At other times a fearful animal with protruding tongue, fiery eyes, a tail thirty feet long and a voice which struck terror to the heart of man and beast, would leap upon the horse behind the terrified rider and bear him company several hundred yards. A headless man, mounted on a large claybank horse, was often seen in the daytime riding through the woods and passing out of sight over the brow of the hill. Elmsy Wolf, in passing on foot one night, was confronted by a man of gigantic size, who emitted light. He had an immense roman nose and large glowing eyes and was dressed in a strange white robe. His limbs were loaded with chains that clinked as he strode back and

Dr. Nansen, the arctic explorer, in a lecture before the Geographical Society at Christiania, explaining his plans for a North Pole expedition, advocated the employment of a ship built with a special view to strength, and having its sides constructed at such an angle that, instead of being crushed by the ice, the vessel will be raised by it. The route proposed by Dr. Nansen is through the Behring Straits, where advantage is to be taken of the favorable current to carry the vessel northward and thus attempt to reach the New Siberian islands as soon as possible. Here the vessel would enter the ice floes and would proceed toward the North Pole, in which direction the current would probably carry it.

William Atkins of Masardis, a young hunter and guide of upper Aroostook region in Maine, gets his living wholly in the forest. In the summer he acts as guide for certain New York sportsmen, who spend the summer regularly in the forests about the headwaters of the Aroostook. During the winter he carries on all alone

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STOVES, BARBED WIRE,  
QUEENSWARE, GLASSWARE,  
HARNESS, Etc., Etc., Etc.  
**CHEAPEST HOUSE WEST OF ABILENE.**

**MERKEL, TEXAS**  
--Portraits, Views, Stereoscope Pictures--  
TAKEN IN HIGHEST STYLE OF ART.  
**TAYLOR COUNTY VIEWS FOR SALE.**  
NOTICE! NOTICE!!  
--ALL WHO INTEND TO BUILD--  
--THE NEW YELLOW PINE LUMBER YARD--  
J. S. BARNES, Manager,  
WILL TAKE PLEASURE IN FILLING ALL ORDERS, AND WILL GIVE SATISFACTION IN QUANTITY AND PRICES.  
See me before buying, and let me tell you!  
OFFICE - - - - J. H. THORNTON'S STORE  
W. R. BLANCHARD, W. G. SWEATT,  
**BLANCHARD & SWEATT,**  
--Blacksmith and Repair Shop--  
--MANUFACTURERS OF--  
WINDMILLS, SPURS, BRIDLE-BITS.  
We also Repair Pumps and Everything in the Blacksmith Line.

**JERNIGAN & Co.**  
--DEALERS IN--  
YELLOW PINE LUMBER CYPRESS SHINGLES, DOORS, SASH, ETC.  
--CAR - LOAD - LOTS - A - SPECIALTY--  
--ESTIMATES FOR BUILDINGS FURNISHED FREE--  
MERKEL - - - - Texas.

**FURNITURE STORE.**  
**R. J. REED,**  
Keeps on hand a first-class stock of Furniture, consisting of  
Bed-Room Suits, Bureaus, Dressing-Stands,  
And everything to be found in a first-class Furniture Store.  
get prices before going elsewhere.

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