

THE MERKEL MAIL.

ear.

Devoted to the Interests of Merkel and the Merkel Country.

Eight Pages.

II.

MERKEL, TEXAS, DECEMBER 27, 1901

NO. 45.

OF CHRISTMAS MORN.

Of the merry morning,
 red burns through the gray,
 wintry world lies waiting
 glory of the day,
 hear a fitful rushing
 without upon the stair,
 two white phantoms coming,
 catch the gleam of sunny hair.

Are they Christmas fairies stealing
 Rows of little socks to fill?
 Are they angels floating hither
 With their message of good will?
 'Tis sweet spell these elves are weaving,
 As like larks they chirp and sing;
 'Tis palms of peace from heaven
 That these lovely spirits bring?

Soft feet upon the threshold,
 Eager faces peeping through,
 With the first red ray of sunshine,
 Chanting cherubs come in view;
 Mistletoe and gleaming holly,
 Symbols of a blessed day,
 In their chubby hands they carry,
 Streaming all along the way.

Well we know them, never weary
 Of this innocent surprise;
 Waiting, watching, listening always,
 With full hearts and tender eyes,
 While our little household angels,
 White and golden in the sun,
 Greet us with the sweet old welcome,
 "Merry Christmas, every one!"

His Revenge

A Christmas Story

It was Christmas Eve that year when John Maxwell went away to make his mark in this world. Alice Tower was just eighteen. They had been lovers for a few years and were now engaged. Something that she had said to him about the quality of the present he brought to her on Christmas Eve piqued him. "Two years from now," he said, "I will come back to claim you. Then I will be a rich man." These had been John Maxwell's last words; and there had been a fire in his eye, and certain lines of determination about his mouth which augured that he would make them good. But the two years had passed and six months more and Alice had heard no word.

Sitting under the old apple tree one warm May afternoon, she idly wondered whether his silence gave her pain or pleasure. When John had bidden her good-by the thought of his return had been the sustaining power in the moment of his departure. Though she had shed bitter tears over the story of his many failures; though she had received with gladness the knowledge of his first successes; though she had once waited with impatience for letters that did not come, she now felt it to be almost a relief—nay, quite—for two years is a long, long time, and Alice felt that in two years she had grown old not only to

years but in experience. Did it not make the difference between eighteen and twenty? Surely, when one had left their teens behind them it was time to learn wisdom.

Ah! Alice would not whisper to her own thoughts that there had been another teacher that not so easy would have been the lesson of forgetfulness had not another lesson been coned in its stead. It was all a bewildering maze in the little head under the masses of rich brown hair, with just a glint of red among them as the sun gave them its farewell kiss.

But a brighter red stole into the rounded cheek as a well-known step drew nearer, and a shadow for which the apple trees were not responsible was thrown beside hers.

"Good evening, Miss Alice," said a cheery voice. "I thought that I should find you here. The evening is too lovely for indoor life."

"Yes," she answered, "it is very lovely."

"As it should be," he added, in lower, more impressive tones, "to grace your presence, Alice," he continued throwing himself on the ground beside her, "I tell you why I am so glad to find you here? Because it seems the most fitting place to tell you something else, which, though you must already know it is fit that I should put into words. They are poor words, darling, I am not versed in eloquence and even were I, here eloquence in its stammer. But they are words of love as the world itself. 'I love you; I have but one hope in life, and that is, that you will share it. It is not much, but I can offer you, dear. Perhaps I should say wait, before I take you from your comfortable home. But yet, what should I. If you love me, you will stand bravely by my side, and we will share whatever storms life may have in store for us, as we share its sunshine. Alice, what is your answer? Will you be my wife?'"

Ah, it had come at last. Once the girl had tried to check the torrent of his words. He had not caught the little, detaining hand in his own strong palm and held it tightly. The small heart had dropped lower. A short, gasping sob was in her throat, letting no word find its way there. What was she to do? Two years ago she had given another promise; two years of toil and homesickness had been endured for her sake; but for six months she had heard nothing. Perhaps John had forgotten her—as ah, she had almost added, "as she had forgotten him." But of John Dent Dexter knew nothing, and Dent Dexter she loved. So it was, that when, half wondering at her long silence, he again repeated his question, she simply raised to him the sweet, fair face, and content with what he read there, he stooped and pressed his first kiss

upon the young red lips.

Curiously enough, their wedding day was set for Christmas Day, the third anniversary of John Maxwell's leave-taking. Dent wanted the event fixed for a nearer date. Alice was persistent. Perhaps she had a special

reason for fixing the time so far ahead. Poor John Maxwell! Maybe she thought of him.

In all these weeks she had told him nothing of John. Somehow she could not gather courage to frame the words. And John had forgotten her. He would never know. It was better that he should not. Love is ever jealous, and he might upbraid her, or think even while he had won her that she might prove inconstant to him as to her first lover. Some day when she was his wife, his very own, she would whisper the story into his ear, and then they would bury poor John together.

Somebody has said it was bad luck for a bride to don her wedding dress before the wedding day. It was all nonsense, Alice thought, as later, she stood before her mirror and saw reflected there her own form clad in its white silken robes.

Poor John! She wished she had not thought of him, as she stood in her wedding dress. The air was very heavy tonight. It was this which oppressed her so.

"Come in," she called to the knock at her door.

The little maid entered.

"Oh, Miss Alice! law, Miss, how beautiful you do look. The gentleman is downstairs and wants to see you immed-te, Miss."

The gentleman! Of course she meant Dent. She had a great mind to run down just as she was, to hear if he would echo the little maid's verdict, and say that he, too, thought her beautiful. The impulse of vanity was not to be resisted, and gathering up her silken skirts she ran lightly down the stairs. The room was in shadow, the large, old-fashioned lamp on the table burn'd dimly; but sitting in a corner on the sofa she saw a man's form, a man who rose impetuously to his feet as she entered.

With a smile upon her lips and in her eyes, and a bright spot of scarlet in her cheeks, she tripped across the floor and turned the lamp so that its light streamed full upon her, then looked up into Dent's face to see the look of love and admiration gathering there—looked to find it not Dent, but some one who, for a moment, seemed a stranger—some one whose face was bronzed and bearded, but with a strange pallor gathering on it as he looked in vain for the words of love and recognition which did not come—looked from her own paling face, from the dying spots of scarlet in her cheek, to the silken train which swept the floor in its purity, and the orange flowers she had fastened in her breast. Yes, she knew him now. It was John, come home to claim her for his very own. His voice was very hoarse when he spoke.

"I came for my bride," he said. "Is she here? Is this dress for me?"

"Have pity," she wailed, in answer. "Two years were such a long while. For six months I had not heard. I thought you were dead, or had forgotten me—"

"Men do not forget," he answered. "We leave that to the women who undo us. Six months! And it seemed to you a long time to wait. Child, do you know what I have endured for the reward of this moment? What was hunger, toil, privation, homesickness to me? I almost welcomed them, for ever behind them all was the thought that all were for you, for the day which was slowly, slowly creeping when I might stand before you and say: 'Alice, I have proved my worth at a price. You may accept it, or not, but fear. It has been long, and when, six crowning success search of you; but had done their

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...EVERYTHING AT...

WHOLESALE COST

at THE STAR STORE.

In order to close out all goods as near as possible by Jan. 1st, we offer our entire stock at ACTUAL COST. Our stock is broken in many lines, but we still have a pretty fair assortment of Men's and Boys' Clothing and Ladies' Capes. Big lot of regular 10c Cotton Flannel, good width, heavy fleece, for only 7½c. Double width Percale 4½c. Calicoes 3½c. Yard wide Percale, suitable for Boys' Waists and Shirts, only 7½c. Good width heavy weight Outing worth 12½c, only 6½c. Nice line Bed Comforts, Blankets and White Quilts. Heavy weight, fleece lined Ladies' Vests, only 18c. Ounita Union Suits 45c, worth 75c. A few Table Covers and Scarfs; make nice Xmas Presents for the ladies and grls. Candy 10 and 15c lb. A box of 10c Roseberry Cigars would make nice present for husband or sweetheart. 50 for \$3.00. Come at once and take advantage of this sale. Goods will not last long at these Prices.

Yours truly.

The Star Store Co.

We still pay the Highest Market Prices for Cotton.

beauty to his. I loved you then. Believe me, I loved you then."

Through the open window stole her words, paralyzing the form of an unseen listener, who had at that moment appeared upon the scene. What did it mean?

He heard not the man's answering words—"Forgive you? Never!"—but saw her, last, mad, passionate embrace as he snatched her unresisting form in his arms and covered her face with kisses which seemed half hatred and half love, then released her and went out into the night.

The next day a little note was put into John Maxwell's hand, and, as he tore it open, the strong man trembled like a child. He had grown calmer since the night previous, though all the joy and lightness had died out of his life.

"You have had your revenge," she wrote. "The man I was to marry saw you take me in your arms, and heard me say that I had loved you. Perhaps I deserved my punishment, but it is very bitter. You left me two years. If you had loved me you would not have done so. I was a child, and I forgot you and learned to love another. I no longer ask you to forgive me, since you have wreaked upon me your revenge."

His own life stretched bare and blank and desolate before him. For a moment he felt a wild joy that so hers might prove. The next, after a brief struggle, his manhood conquered. His revenge should be something nobler than a girl's wrecked life—something which, after long and lonely years, he might recall without a blush of shame.

Dent Dexter was alone in the cottage and prepared for his bride

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never knew until, a year later, husband bent over her where with her baby boy sleeping on breast, and told her all the story with a proud glance at

"He gave us our happiness. We will name our boy who wreaked on us."

THE HOME G

An Ingenious Treatment are Being Cured selves.

No Noxious Doses. es. A Pleasant and Liquor Habit.

It is now generally known an Drunkenness is a disease and a body filled with poison and shattered by periodical or consticating liquors, require neutralizing and erad

stroying the craving may now cure the licity or loss of derful "HOM perfected a treatment cording is posi nate rec

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THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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

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

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

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

The Christmas Pudding.

Provident housewives are now preparing their Christmas plum pudding. Plum pudding is much improved by standing several weeks before it is used. An excellent recipe for Christmas pudding consists of three-fourths of a pound of suet chopped very fine. Mix with it while chopping a table-spoonful of flour; three-fourths of a pound of raisins, seeded; three-fourths of a pound of currants, three-fourths of a pound of sugar, three-fourths of a pound of fresh bread crumbs, the grated zest of one lemon, one-fourth of a pound of candied orange peel and citrus fruit cut into thin shavings, one-half cupful each of ground cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice. Mix the materials together thoroughly and add six eggs, one at a time, and half cupful of bran. Add another egg if too stiff and more bread crumbs if too soft. Wet a strong cloth in cold water, wring it dry, but not so dry that it will crack, and dredge it with flour. Turn the mixture into the center and draw the cloth together over the top, leaving a little space for the pudding to swell a little. Tie it firmly. Give it a good round with the fist. Put it into a pot of boiling water, having it completely covered. Cover the pot and boil for four hours. Do not let the water fall below the pudding and in adding more water be hot. After it is removed from the water let it rest in the bag ten minutes to harden a little. Then cut the pudding and turn it carefully into a dish. Before serving pour a little brandy, if you like, over the pudding and touch a match to it just before serving.

The Christmas Traveler.

When Christmas day dawns many a traveler will be unfortunate enough to find himself far from home with no prospect of getting there for the celebration of the greatest holiday of all. Many of these this necessity is a bitter misfortune, and many of them are not the result of such a misadventure, but perhaps no settled traveler or no especial traveler for many years to be on the road. These people are travelers. Most of them are traveling on business, and some because it is necessary. They are on the road for a minute of the day to go to the office, to the merry-making with those who are

Prize Ring Made Into a Kitchen.

Almost anything may be expected now during lunch hour at the Jackson County Democratic Club. The old prize ring has been relegated to the kitchen. When President Kemper took hold of the club he made a solemn vow that never during his administration would fistic entertainments be permitted, and when a week ago the chef howled for a new kitchen, tables, plate racks and scullery fittings he also howled for lumber and a carpenter.

"Take the prize ring," said the president with a wave of his hand. "Make that thing into tables and plate racks and scullery fittings. I expect the minute you put the knives and forks on the thing they will jump to the center and start a battle royal, but I can not help it. Bring on your carpenter."

So the carpenter was put to work and yesterday morning the last vestige of the ring on which "Young Corbett" and other gentry of that ilk danced was transformed into the humble though more useful adjuncts of a kitchen.

"I guess we will have to tell Dimmitt," suggested Deacon Ridge, ever mindful of the arch enemy of the club.

A Million Voices

Could hardly express the thanks of Homer Hall, of West Point, La. Listen why: A severe cold had settled on his lungs, causing a most obstinate cough. Several physicians said he had consumption, but could not help him. When all thought he was doomed he began to use Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption and writes—"it completely cured me and saved my life. I now weigh 227 pounds." It's positively guaranteed for coughs, colds and lung troubles. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's.

Pitchers, Pitchers and Pitchers.

A Newark, N. J., woman has a collection of 1,500 pitchers, no two of which are alike. They are of every shape and color under the sun, and have been picked up in all the odd nooks and corners of the world. One of them was obtained at the little store that Dickens immortalized as "the old curiosity shop." The whole 1,500 are on exhibition in the rooms of the New Jersey Historical Society.

Biograph Craze in British Society.

The biograph craze of the '80s is being equaled by the mustecope mania of today in England, and English society delights in seeing itself as the biograph sees it. At an exhibition in Binghampton the other day Mrs. Champlain came across a reproduction of her husband making his speech at Blenheim. "It is wonderful, Joe," she exclaimed to her husband. "Why, I am just doing my parasol."

The Evolution of Leadville.

"From a mining camp with a reputation for bloodshed that extends to the ocean," says the Leadville (Col.) Democrat, "Leadville has developed into one of the most upright cities of the country, as free from violence and crime of any kind as a New England village. The result has been brought about by the influence of the city. The city of officials



To Be Slaughtered

We will commence Friday December 6th, to sell our entire stock at Slaughter Prices. A great many lines we will sell regardless of Cost. The house we are in has been rented by G. V. Cane & Co., and that will throw us without a house. And so far we have been unable to get another that we can go into. So we will be compelled to sell our entire stock of

Clothing, Dress Goods, Millinery and Shoes

AT ABSOLUTE COST FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS.

We mean every word we say in this ad., and will barry out exactly what we say.

Rollins & Young.

Diver's Limitations.

Submarine divers have not yet succeeded in reaching 200 feet below the surface with all the advantage of armor, air supply and weights to sink them. The effort has been made to reach a wreck in 240 feet of water. The accounts state that at 130 feet the diver began to experience serious trouble. At 200 feet, after suffering terribly, he lost consciousness and was hauled up. Divers cannot work much below 100 feet.

Voted as They Pleased.

Among surprising incidents of the recent city and county election in New York State was the vote of J. N. Locke, who sheriff of Hamilton, independent voters were all candidates no

The Best is the Cheapest.

Not how cheap, but how good, is the question. The Twice-a-Week Republic is not as cheap as are some so-called newspapers. But it is as cheap as it is possible to sell a first-class newspaper. It prints all the news that is worth printing. If you read it all the year round, you are posted on all the important and interesting affairs of the world. It is the best and most reliable news that money and those who care for the paper by all year.

A WORTHY SUCCESSOR.

"Something New Under the Sun." All doctors have tried to cure Catarrh of the nose, throat and lungs, but in vain. The use of powders, acid gases, inhalants, and paste form. Their powder's dry up the mucous membranes causing them to crack open and bleed. The powder's used in the inhalers have entirely eaten away the same membranes that their makers have aimed to cure, while the gases and ointments can not reach the disease. An old and experienced practitioner who has for many years made a close study and specialty of the treatment of Catarrh has at last perfected a treatment which, when faithfully used, not only relieves at once, but permanently cures Catarrh, by removing the cause, stopping the discharges and curing all inflammation. It is the only remedy known to science that actually reaches the afflicted parts. This wonderful remedy is known as "SNUFFLES, the Guaranteed Catarrh Cure" and is sold at the extremely low price of One Dollar, each package containing internal medicine sufficient for a month's treatment and everything necessary for perfect use. "SNUFFLES" is the only perfect ever made and is now recognized as the only and positive cure for that annoying disease. It cures Catarrh of the nose, throat and lungs.

Disease and danger lurk in the vital organs. The blood becomes vitiated and the general health is undermined whenever the stomach and liver fail to perform their functions as nature intended. Herbine will tone up the stomach, regulate the liver, where other preparations only relieve. Price, 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

Dress Making.

We have opened a dress making establishment in the Vaughan building, south of depot, and should be glad to have the ladies of Merkel and surrounding country call on us. Work first-class; prices reasonable.

Mrs. Waldroup,
Miss Hammonds.

Cheapness without worth is high priced. We give you value with price.

J. T. Warren.

Miss Mattie Comegys leaves tonight to spend the holidays with friends at Alvord.

J. T. Warren sold a car of flour in two weeks. "Peace-Maker" did it. It doesn't take the people always to find out a good thing.

LETTERS TO SANTA.

The Mail's letter box was overcrowded with letters this morning and from the lot we select the following:

Dear Santa Claus: Send me a grown-up girl that is able to buy her own furniture.

Arthur Browning.

Dear Santa Claus: I want a shirt, some sox and pants. All I had was burned up.

Mack Angus.

Dear Santa Claus: I want a little brown jug like the other fellows have got.

Bumps Smith.

Dear Santa Claus: Some hair oil, perfume and a red necktie will do me.

Chas. Craven.

Dear Santa Claus: Do, please bring me a rise in cotton; it's awful low.

W. B. Alsobrook.

Dear Santa Claus: Bring my Cousin Isaac back. The Girls.

Dear Santa Claus: I want a little curly-headed doll, too.

Lewis Martin.

Dear Santa Claus: I have been a good little boy and would like a tin horn, a pistol and caps, and five packs of fire crackers.

Geo. S. Berry.

Dear Santa Claus: Bring me a big house full of goods.

J. T. Warren.

Dear Santa Claus: We want an epidemic of grip; it's distressingly healthy. The Doctors.

Dear Santa Claus: Please do not send any more fires—they're expensive—send customers.

Austin Fitts.

Facts About JEWELRY.

able in my stock ly good and

so compre- ried as to ry selec-

stands be- I sell, is

It's Not the Saying But the Doing that Counts.

For the benefit of those who may never have tried way of doing, we will call attention to our facilities for plying your needs in

DRY GOODS and GROCERIES

Blankets and Comforts.

We have a good assortment, in fact, too many for the time of year. Will make special prices on them during the next few days.

Wraps.

We had a little jag of Jackets and Capes which were back ordered and came in after the fire. We need the money that is in them and you can own them at what they cost.

Shoes

Any old shoe will sorter do for warm weather, but you ought to get a pair of of Hamilton and Brown's for winter. We have a complete stock on hand

WE ARE

The Price-Makers.

J. T. WARREN

Praise the bridge that carries you over either a flood or cough. Ballard's Horehound Syrup has brought so many over throat and lung troubles, such as coughs, colds, bronchitis, etc., that its praises are sung everywhere. Price, 25 and 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

We have a complete stock of Hamilton-Brown Shoes; every pair new and up-to-now.

J. T. Warren.

This is, you see, a Christmas tree, one of the

best type, too! and while, dear sir, 'tis not a fir, yet it was made fir you. 'Tis true, you see upon this tree no presents rich and rare; yet please be kind, and bear in mind, in wish the gifts are there. We now wish all, the short and tall, young, middle-aged and gray;

the poor the rich, white, black, pitch, crist

Worms take refuge in the small intestine, where they can easily multiply. White's Cream Vermifuge will destroy these parasites. The verdict of the people tells plainly how well it has succeeded. Price, 25 cents at F. M. Davis'.

Rust & Pittard have an immense assortment of Christmas presents suitable for every member of the family. Be sure to give us a call.

Top prices for green and dry hides.

F. P. McGuffin.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Boyce left last Friday night for a month's visit with Mrs. Boyce's father, J. J. French, at Beaumont.

NOTICE.

We have put on a delivery wagon, and can get all goods out promptly. Dellered free to any part of the city. 'Phone us your orders.

J. O. Hamilton.

LOST—Three head of sheep in a flock, one with bell on. Will pay liberal reward for information leading to their recovery.

F. P. McGuffin.

Misses Sudie White and Carrie Woodard are visiting their parents at Roscoe.

D'ri and I, The Crisis, Richa Carvel, Lazarre, Captain Rav Shaw, The Sky Pilot, She St Alone, Black Rock, etc.,

books and copyright n price from \$1.00

Tabler's Buckeye ment has been thoroughly tes for many years, and is a posi cure and is a positive cur this most distressing and barrassing of troubles. 50 cents in bottles. cents at F. M. Davis'.

We have our own and can get goods out ordered. Try us.

J. T. Warren.

Plenty of corn at Sharp's.

A full line of boy's and youth's long received at

J. O. Ham

J. S. Barn in today.

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If You Must Economize

Then go where you can get the Greatest Measures of Values. That place is here. Our prices on any and all articles are at all times the lowest to be found, Quality considered. Commencing Saturday, Dec. 13, and continuing for two weeks we will make prices that will prove to economical buyers, that if they would make DOLLARS DO DOUBLE DUTY they should go to Sharp's. THESE PRICES DO THE TALKING:

at 75c	\$5.00 Men's Suits go at \$4.00	\$1.00 Jeans Pants go at 75c
..... 55c	8.00 Men's Suits go at 6.50	65c Overalls go at 50c
..... 45c	6.50 Men's Suits go at 5.00	\$1.75 Casmere Pants go at \$1.25
Wash Fleece at 8 1/2c	12.50 Men's Suits go at 9.00	\$1.25 Capes go at 75c
Dark finish Fleece at 12 1/2c	5c Calicoes go at 4c	\$2.00 Capes go at \$1.25
Other goods in proportion.	6 1/2c Calicoes go at 5c	50c Capes go at 35c

J. P. Sharp & Company.

Says Sampson is Not to Blame.

Park Benjamin, a well known writer on naval topics, acquits Rear Admiral Sampson, in the New York Independent, of the charge of having even, directly or indirectly, given Mr. Maclay any justification or support for his accusations against Rear Admiral Schley. Mr. Benjamin is a friend of Schley and has if anything, taken the Schley side in the controversy.

Lamont Mentioned for President.

The Chicago Record-Herald thinks Daniel S. Lamont, of New York, is likely to be a candidate for the presidential nomination in the next Democratic national campaign, and adds that the Lamont suggestion comes from and finds favor with those Democrats who believed in Cleveland.

good horse and buggy for sale. Will take milch cow as payment. Enquire at this office.



A Good Cough Medicine.

(From the Gazette, Toowoomba, Australia.)

I find Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is an excellent medicine. I have been suffering from a severe cough for the last two months, and it has effected a cure. I have great pleasure in recommending it.—W. C. Wockner. This is the opinion of one of our oldest and most respected residents, and has been voluntarily given in good faith that others may try the remedy and be benefitted, as was Mr. Wockner. This remedy is sold by Rust & Pittard.

New York's Fancy Flowers.

New Yorkers interested in flowers have now a very good opportunity to visit some fine collections. Miss Helen Miller Gould's greenhouses at Lyndhurst are open to the public, and contain a collection of chrysanthemums of rare beauty. There are more than 2000 specimens, many of them being rare varieties. Another fine collection of chrysanthemums is on view in the Prospect Park conservatories. This collection contains eighty varieties. In another house is the cactus collection, which received the first prize at the recent flower show in Madison Square garden. There are about 100 varieties in this collection, including the Crown of Thorns, with its blood-red bloom, and the Old Man, a strange pyramid plant covered with a white hairy substance.

Ship's Pets Prevented Starvation.

The bark Ella arrived at New York last week, forty-one days from Jamaica, having encountered the furious northwest gales that have been blown offshore for weeks. Captain McLaughlin reports the worst weather he ever saw. The Ella not only lost topmasts, spars and much rigging, but provisions ran out, and no vessel having been spoken for relief the crew had the alternative of eating the ship's pets or starving. The last to be killed and eaten was the pet kitten of the captain's daughter. On November 13 relief was had and provisions planted in public squares and the crew was saved from starvation.

nothing going regardless of price. Call and inspect same before buying. We will sell

A GOOD THING.

German Syrup is the special prescription of Dr. A. Boschee, a celebrated German Physician, and is acknowledged to be one of the most fortunate discoveries in Medicine. It quickly cures Coughs, Colds and all Lung troubles of the severest nature, removing, as it does, the cause of the affection and leaving the parts in a strong and healthy condition. It is not an experimental medicine, but has stood the test of years, giving satisfaction in every case, which its rapidly increasing sale every season confirms. Two million bottles sold annually. Boschee's German Syrup was introduced in the United States in 1868, and is now sold in every town and village in the civilized world. Three doses will relieve any ordinary cough. Price 75c at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Prize Almanac.

A Nice Bunch of Steel Money.

On a recent visit of some of the officials of the American Sheet Steel Company to Vandergrift, Pa., President C. M. Schwab, of the United States Steel corporation, tendered a gift of \$50,000 to the town for a Young Men's Christian Association building.

A Negro Justice in Washington.

Among the ten new justices of the peace appointed for the District of Columbia is a negro lawyer named Robert N. Terrell. He graduated from Harvard college in the class of 1884 with a degree cum laude. He was strongly commended by Booker T. Washington.

Georgia to Try Dispensaries.

Under an act just passed by the Georgia legislature, the dispensary liquor system is giving extended local option recognition. Any county, on petition of one-third of the qualified voters, will be privileged to vote (1) whether the liquor traffic shall be prohibited altogether or not and (2) whether, if the traffic is favored, the same shall be controlled through dispensaries or through salaried agents. The dispensaries are to be open only on certain days and will sell

GOOD ADVICE.

The most miserable beings in the world are those suffering from Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint. More than seventy-five per cent of the people in the United States are afflicted with these two diseases, and their effects; such as Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Habitual Costiveness, Palpitation of the Heart, Heart-burn, Waterbrash, Gnawing and Burning Pains at the Pit of the Stomach, Yellow Skin, Coated Tongue and Disagreeable Taste in the Mouth. Coming up of Food after eating, Low Spirits etc. Go to your Druggist and get a bottle of August Flower for 75c. Two doses will relieve you. Try it at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Prize Almanac.

Dewey Liked the Highballs.

The revenue cutter McCulloch, Dewey's dispatch boat in the Philippines, was often visited by the admiral after the battle of Manila. In his uniform of white duck, with white canvas shoes and a golf cap, he would lounge for hours in a comfortable armchair on the vessel's poop, Victor Smith says. Under the awning that shaded the deck a lazy breeze mollified the tropic heat, and every once in a while "Uncle George" would sing out to the lieutenant: "Mr. Joynes, if anything could add to the pleasure of this visit it would be another of those glorious Scotch highballs which see you attain a perfection on the deck lock never dreamed of elsewhere. He was a most companionable chap, loved and venerated by all who served with him. He went in the squadron with the revenue cutter McCulloch, and then on his private yacht, and then on his own ship, the McCulloch, for two or three years of his recreation.

Lots of Crabs.

Cape Cod, Mass. The crabs are plentiful this fall.

J. T. Warren, Pres.
S. F. West, V. Pres.
Geo. S. Berry, Cash.

The First National Bank

of Merkel

CAPITAL, \$30,000.

Surplus and Undivided Profits \$1704.86

We give attention to our customers.

PRICE AND QUALITY

These Are the Levers Which do the Prizing at

FITTS & SMITH'S

We bank on the Quality of our Goods, and we are satisfied to sell them on their merits alone. At the same time we want to remind you that we will compare prices with any concern in the country. Our stock, as you know, is brand new. Besides its newness it also has style and up-to-dateness to recommend it to you. Prices Right, Quality the Best and Style in Keeping with the Times---what more could you want? Are not those the essential points to be considered in the purchase of Dry Goods? We will verify these statements if you will come to our store and let us show and price our mammoth stock of Goods to you.

We want to show and price our Goods to you, whether you buy or not. You will be pleased at the variety and assortment.

Your Money Back if You Are Not SATISFIED.

FITTS & SMITH, SPOT CASH MERCHANTS.

THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Entered in 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
Three column (18 inches) 7.50
Our issues constitute a month. All advertising is run and charged for until ordered out. Limit is specified when insertion is made. All prices on time contracts. Special 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. Quotations, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

Harsh, but Effectual Cure.

A Chicago doctor who enjoys a large practice has what the Chronicle characterizes as a brutal way of putting an end to alleged attacks of his female patients. He was called only discover- ing married apparently examining a pair of his patient's eyes. He said that he had since under-

The residents of the East Tennessee mountains celebrate Christmas day with a barbecue. An ox or steer is prepared for roasting, the interior is filled with chickens, ducks, wild turkeys and birds, and the whole is suspended over a huge wood fire which is built in some convenient outdoor locality.

The guests come from adjacent counties in great wagons covered with cornstalks, from beneath which black jugs are drawn and their contents sampled.

There are side-issues in the shape of small fires at which the boys roast the fat coons captured in their con hunts, and there is a fiddler who no sooner starts up "The Arkansaw Traveler" than old and young begin to dance.

Ice cream there is none and bonbons are unknown, but cider and gingerbread abound. Often girls, escorted by their admirers, will walk seven miles to attend.

Christmas Aboard a Man-of-War. Christmas day is nowhere anticipated with more pleasure or celebrated more joyfully than among the jacksies on board the men-of-war. Wherever the ship may be on Christmas, and the navy is usually scattered all over the world, the day is invariably set aside for a general jollification. The elaborate Christmas dinner, the decorating of the ship, the skylarking and games have become tradition in the navy. The officers and men alike all join in making the day a very merry Christmas.

Turning the Leaf. He who has well nigh filled, perchance unprofitably, the space allotted to his little episode in the universal record, whose fingers tremble over perhaps the last leaf of his autobiography, will do well to look to the rounding of his final period; while the youth who has just commenced his life journal cannot be too careful that it shall contain no entry which, dying, he would wish to blot.

For this remarkable feast of Christmas of the olden time a favorite English dish was plum porridge. The Englishmen of the early centuries ate his plum porridge with a zest he might well have saved for the more elaborate dishes. After such a bowl of porridge as he considered his portion there is reason to wonder where he found place for his after the centuries long gone. It was always served of the

SOME TRADITIONS OF CHRISTMAS.

Customs That Prevailed Prior to the Christian Era.

That many of our Christmas customs antedate the birth of Christ is a fact unknown by many.

Antiquarians tell us that the Christians of the earliest ages found that it was not wise to entirely forbid all the pagan celebrations to which their recent converts were attached by use, history and tradition.

One of the ancient names given to our Christmas was "The Feast of Lights." This name is distinctly traceable to a pagan festival, formerly occurring at the same season as our Christmas-tide, a day annually observed before Christianity's time as a "Festival of the Sun."

Then, too, in ancient Rome, Saturn's claim to notice was honored each December by a feast of seven (usually) days, called Saturnalia. During these days the order of Roman society was reversed, the masters and slaves changed places. The slaves had every freedom of action and speech, and their masters served them meekly.

The very Christmas tree itself is said to be but a Christianized bit of the old Saturnalia; and also the gift-giving is but the relic of Roman customs, although beautified by the early Christians in attributing the gifts to the Christ-child, whom the children were taught to believe passed over the houses at midnight, leaving gifts for all the good children, even as in Germany, later on, the children were taught to believe in the fairies, Kris-Kringle, or Santa Claus.

The custom, too, of decking the festival with evergreens, holly and mistletoe, dates back to the dark ages, when the booths and huts were so decked, either to drive away the bad fairies or to furnish resting-places for the good ones.

The mistletoe owes its charm to the fables of Baldur, Loki and other gods. The popularity of Baldur's story, however, was so great that the mother had secured an oath that neither of the children should ever harm

But Freyja had a rootless mistletoe sequence fore had He could not

ness to hurl it at his enemy. The god responded; and Baldur fell dead, shot "through and through."

But Loki was not loved, and the other gods restored Baldur to life, and gave Freyja command over the mistletoe, and she hung it high on the trees out of touch with the earth, so that Loki could no more use it. There it hung ever after, and all treaties of peace were made under it. To stand under the mistletoe and to give a kiss beneath was a solemn promise to be true and do no harm to the other party.

The Druids thought that whatever grew upon the oak was sacred; hence their regard for the mistletoe. The varieties which grew upon the apple and other trees were held by the Druids as of far less value.

Legend of St. Nick.

A French story proves the love and protecting power of St. Nicholas for young maidens, and it is from this that the custom of Santa Claus arose. The saint heard that a poor gentleman with three portionless daughters was about to commit a crime in order to provide his daughters with dowries. Seized with pity for the three unhappy maidens, Nicholas visited their house by night and threw a well-filled purse into the father's room through the open window, thus enabling him to portion his eldest daughter.

In convent schools the love and care that St. Nicholas bore to all maidens was proved in the same manner. On Nicholas eve the pupils were ordered to hang up their stockings outside the doors of their rooms, and in the hose to place a written request for the saint's patronage and protection. The nuns took upon themselves the duty of acting as his deputies and filled the expected stockings with sweetmeats and other trifles, and in this manner the reality of the saint's care is clearly seen the origin of the custom of Santa Claus and children's stockings on eve. How the custom was from St. Nicholas day Christmas day is not

on Christmas are n-ersified. The royal eature of club heel sets and CS, A

hastings. BOXING BOOBS are not unusual. The bowlers as a rule let up on that sport for the day, as they have previously won their Christmas turkeys on the alleys and remain at home to enjoy the fruits of their prowess.

Where do all the Christmas trees come from? In this country alone millions of them are sold every Yuletide and year after year the supply is equal to the demand. One would think that after a time the forests would be depleted of the young growth of pines and fir and spruce that for the most part comprise the evergreen required by custom, but each season the market contains the usual variety. Maine and Michigan are the principal sources of supply.

CHARLES DICKENS' "CAROL".

Tremendous Work Done by the Author in Less Than Two Months.

Pre-eminent among Christmas books may be placed the "Christmas Carol" of Charles Dickens, which has always ranked among the most popular of his works. Rarely has a book which made so great a public favor taken so high a place in the circumstances of its production and in so short a space of time. The "ghost of an idea," which, as Charles Dickens said in his preface, gave birth to "this ghostly little book," came to him during a visit to Manchester in October, 1843, and the story was completed before the end of November, the time available for its composition being such spare hours as were not actually needed for the two numbers of "Martin Chuzzlewit," then in progress. It was a tremendous piece of work, and was not without a remarkable effect upon its author, young and vigorous as he was.

Writing to Professor Felton after the book was published, he said: "Over which 'Christmas Carol' Charles Dickens wept and laughed, and wept again, and excited himself in a most extraordinary manner in the composition; and thinking whereon he walked about the black streets of London fifteen and twenty miles many a night when all the sober folks had gone to bed. . . . To keep the 'wit' going and to do this little in the odd time between two was pretty tight work."

MILLER

and Water Supply Goods...

el mill, direct stroke and back gear; Aeromotor steel mills; a full assortment to 2 in., plain and galvanized; brass wheels from 2 to 4 in. We buy in car lots prices on anything in our line.

C. KING & CO.

DEALERS IN

rugs and Medicines.

Nice line Sundries and Toilet Articles.

Accurately and Promptly Compounded, Day or Night.



ARE YOU DEAF? ANY HEAD NOISES?
ALL CASES OF **DEAFNESS OR HARD HEARING ARE NOW CURABLE**

by our new invention. Only those born deaf are incurable.

HEAD NOISES CEASE IMMEDIATELY.

F. A. WERMAN, OF BALTIMORE, SAYS:

Gentlemen:—Being entirely cured of deafness, thanks to your treatment, I will now give you a full history of my case, to be used at your discretion. About five years ago my right ear began to ring, and this kept on getting worse, until I lost my hearing in this ear entirely. I underwent a treatment for catarrh, for three months, without any success, consulted a number of physicians, among others, the most eminent ear specialist of this city, who told me that only an operation could help me, and even that only temporarily, that the head noises would then cease, but the hearing in the affected ear would be lost forever. I then saw your advertisement accidentally in a New York paper, and ordered your treatment. After I had used it only a few days according to your directions, the noises ceased, and to-day, after five weeks, my hearing in the diseased ear has been entirely restored. I thank you heartily and beg to remain Very truly yours.

F. A. WERMAN, 730 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.

Our treatment does not interfere with your usual occupation.

Examination and advice free. **YOU CAN CURE YOURSELF AT HOME** at a nominal cost. INTERNATIONAL AURAL CLINIC, 596 LA SALLE AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.

HAVE A LOOK

And you will be convinced we have the best all-around general line in the country, consisting of

- John Deere Working Plows :: Standard Disc Plows
- John Deere Sulkey Plows :: Standard Cultivators
- John Deere Cultivators :: and
- John Deere Disc Harrows :: Hancock Disc Plows

The Old Reliable

Studebaker Wagons,

Are the Best.

Buggies, Phaetons, Surries and hacks.

All Grades and Kinds. We have some Genuine Bargains.

LOOK at OUR FURNITURE COOK STOVES HEATING STOVES All kinds HARDWARE

Our Motto:—

Prices Below Our Competitors

...GEO. L. PAXTON, Abilene

A CHANCE TO GO HOME

For your Christmas and New Year is offered by the Texas & Pacific Railway Company. This popular line which has always been most prominent in handling Holiday excursion will sell round tickets between all points on their line in Texas and Louisiana and to points on other lines in Texas on December 23, 24, 25, 26, and 31, and January 1, with final limit to return as late as January 3, 1902, at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip. Also on December 21, 22 and 23, will sell round trip tickets to points in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, North and South Dakota, Nebraska. All Southwestern States and to Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colorado and to Mexico at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip. These latter tickets to be limited to return 30 days from date of sale. Choice of inviting routes will be offered and every politeness will be shown and every effort made by our employes to see patrons are enabled to make trip pleasantly and comfortably, and our equipment cannot be equaled.

For further information in regard to sleeping car accommodations rates, etc., see any Ticket Agent or write H. P. Hughes, Traveling Passenger Agent, Ft. Worth, or E. P. Turner, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, the Texas & Pacific Railway Co., Dallas, Texas.

Amusement for Insane Patients.

The amusement programme provided by the superintendent of one of the Massachusetts insane asylum includes picnics, dances, concerts and other diverting entertainments. At one of the dances there were thirteen sets of four couples each on the floor for the quadrille, and out of 250 women 102 have taken part in the dances. The masculine inmates have not been permitted to attend the dances in the same proportion, owing to their more excitable condition. Nevertheless, they all share more or less in the treatment.

Jenny Lind's Soldier Son.

Captain Ernest Goldschmidt, who was recently mentioned in the Gazette as deserving of praise for distinguished service in the South African war, is a son of Jenny Lind, the once famous vocalist. He belongs to a Welsh regiment.

Sensible Change.

Dmitri Kosjsujajkean, an Armenian who arrived at the Garrett Biblical institute, Illinois, to study theology, has changed his name to "Mr. Little," as none of the professors was able to pronounce his American name.

DRUGS..

EVERYTHING NEW!

I have opened up a stock of Pure, Fresh Drugs, Patent Medicines, Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, Sundries, Etc., next door to First National Bank, and invite the patronage of all.

Prescription Work is Registered Pharmacy best results

Christmas

MILLINERY

AT COST.

In order to reduce stock, I have decided to reduce all Winter Millinery, including Trimmed Hats, at **ABSOLUTE COST.** Come and avail yourself of these very low prices for new and seasonable goods.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople

H. D. CLARK
Groceries, Grain and Hay

Country Produce

See me for Seed Oats, clear of Johnson Grass

Your Patronage Invited. The Lowest Possible Prices to All.

Two 3 inch Weber wagons for sale—part cash, balance next fall. The Star Store Co.

Horse and buggy for sale; worth \$175, but \$125 cash will buy them, Buggy good as new, horse in good condition. Apply at this office.

Smooth Election Trick.

"One of the smoothest political tricks ever played," said a Baltimore man recently, "was pulled off in Talbot county, on the eastern shore of Maryland, some years ago, when about 200 negroes voted the wrong ticket without knowing it before our side found out that anything was going wrong. The county was very close that year, and the republicans had to count upon the votes of the negroes to win. Few of these citizens could read, but they had been instructed to put their cross mark on the Australian ballot in front of Massa Lincoln's nose. They had shown that they could at least do this much, and the republicans considered everything well in hand. But the democrats were in control of the county, and the Jackson and Liberty emblem had first place on the ballot, the democrats also having charge of all the election printing. When the official sample ballots were published, not one republican in the county, for some strange reason, noticed that Lincoln's head in the republican emblem was turned to the left instead of to the right. The result was, naturally, that all the illiterate negroes who voted 'in front of Lincoln's nose,' marked their crosses to the right of 'Jackson and liberty,' thereby voting the straight democratic ticket. About 11 a. m. some backwoods republican noticed that Lincoln's face was turned the wrong way and reported to the managers. Then there were doings."

My friend, are you suffering from any painful and annoying disease, such as ringworm, eczema or anything similar? Just try one box of He... never fails. Guar...

Fortune Knocks Once at Every Man's Door

and this may be the rap that will tempt you to court the fair goddess that rules the world.

The days of '49 were a wild scramble of the adventurer to find the yellow metal that has brought prosperity in its wake wherever found and made more millionaires than any other on industry. Mining for precious metals has been gradually narrowing down to a science until today it is considered the safest avenue for the investment of money with almost surely the largest returns.

INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

of small sums in the co-operative plan of mining has put not a few men and women on the road to prosperity. The company doing this advertising has four undeveloped but promising claims in a proven mining district and offers an attractive proposition to secure the co-operation of money to be used in the development of its property. It is now placing the first installment of treasury stock on the market at a nominal figure. If you are interested in this prospectus a copy will be mailed to you on application.

Spanish Co

Or

Che

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cover

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subst

riably

hostile

Smith & Davis can furnish you with what you want to eat. Phone No. 43.

No equal on earth has Hunt's Rubbing Oil for rheumatism, neuralgia, as well as sprains, burns, bruises, and insect stings. Guaranteed. 50 cents.

The Pride of He

Many soldiers in the world wrote to say that for bruises, cuts, wounds, sore feet and stiff joints, Dr. J. C. Allen's Arnica Salve is the best in the world. It is a scal... tior... pa

Buy the Best Stove
The
Celebrated
Bridge and
Beach.

Yellow
Kid
Disc Plows
They will do
the work
every time.

Queensware

I am overstocked on Queens-
ware and until Jan. 1 will sell

● AT COST, ●

this line of goods. Many ar-
ticles suitable for Christmas
Presents and worth double the
prices asked for them. Come
and take a look at the goods.

W. H. DICKSON

Baker Perfect Barbed Wire is the BEST...

Headquarters for
Hardware
Implements
Glassware
Etc.

Bible and
Lansing
Wagons
Best High-Grade
wagons on the
Market....

Homes for
Homeless.
\$100 Per Section.

For \$100, we will give
you one section of
school land under
guarantee--no land to
pay.

Mr. Kinchen, of this
firm, is an ex-County
and District Clerk of
Stephens county, and
an up-to-date lawyer--
the man who settled
the famous Block 97,
of Scurry county. Got
more homes for the
homeless than any
man in the State.

For further informa-
tion address

KINCHEN & HILL
Lubbock, Texas.

For patented land
write B. F. Hill, Sec. of
the Western Land
Abstract Co. From
to 10,000 acres for sale.
Rates reasonable and
cheap: terms easy.

Wanted--A second-hand
candy. Must be in good condition
and cheap. Stanhope or Phari-
ton preferred.

E. M. RUST.

Merkel, Texas.

S. W. Sheppard has the finest
lot of Christmas candies and
sweet meats ever brought to this
town.

Buy your Grain, Hay and
Salt from G. M. Sharp, the only
exclusive Grain Dealer in Mer-
kel.

Hamlet: "Angels and minist-
ters of grace defend us: be thou
a spirit or health or goblin
damned," if I know a better place
to buy Wind Mills and pumps
than from Elliott & Miller.

For Sale.

My home place in Merkel. 10
or 12 Sewing Machines; your
choice for \$3.50. 160 acre farm
in the Canyon. I would appre-
ciate a prompt settlement of all
accounts due me. Please call at
once and straighten up, as I am
selling out and want my money.
J. C. WATKINS.

All persons indebted to us will
please call and settle at once and
greatly oblige.

The Star Store Co.

Bronchitis

"I have kept Ayer's Cherry Pec-
toral in my house for a great many
years. It is the best medicine in
the world for coughs and colds."
J. C. Williams, Attica, N. Y.

All serious lung
troubles begin with
tickling in the throat.
You can stop this
in a single day with
Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.
Use it all day long
and for a long time.

Three sizes

DR. JOS. H. WARNICK, PRES.
WM. H. DUNNING, CASHIER.

Jos. H. Warnick

BANKER

CAPITAL, \$15,000

DOES A GENERAL BANKING AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS.

Our vault equipment is modern in every respect. We are using the Mosler Patent
Screw Door Safe, with triple Yale Timer, affording the greatest possible security.
It is our purpose to deal justly and liberally with all. Our patrons will receive every
courtesy and accommodation within the range of prudent Banking.

THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

When you read a thing you
like to feel that it's the truth.
The Dallas Semi-Weekly News
gives the facts in the case.

SPECIALLY
EDITED.

If you'll read The News a while
you'll like it. It holds the at-
tention. It is specially edited,
that's why. Brains and not hap-
hazzard go into the makeup of
The News.

TWO PAPERS
YOU NEED.

You need The Merkel Mail,
because it's your local paper.
It gives a class of news you can't
get elsewhere. You need The
News because it gives you all
the State news. The Merkel
Mail and The Semi-Weekly
News one year for only \$1.75,
cash in advance.

The News is promptly stopped
at expiration of time paid for.

Foils a Deadly Attack.

"My wife was so ill that good
physicians were unable to help
her," writes M. M. Austin of
Winchester, Ind., "but was com-
pletely cured by Dr. King's New
Life Pills." They work wonders
in stomach and liver troubles.
Cure constipation, sick headache.
25c at Rust & Pittard's.

When wanting anything to eat
phone 43.

Reasoning Crows.

Many tales have been told about
the rational powers of the common
old black crow. Here is a good one:
Two brothers Caw lighted upon a
frozen pond. One got a firm footing
upon a cake of ice, but the other
pitched into some pulpy snow, from
which he found it impossible to ex-
tricate himself. Crow No. 1 went
to the rescue, but being unable to
help his partner out of the scrape,
stopped, cocked his head on one side
in deliberation, chattered for a mo-
ment with the prisoner and flew off.
In about ten minutes he returned,
accompanied by two other crows, and
thet hree, putting their heads togeth-
er for a consultation, flew around
their unfortunate comrade to exam-
ine his condition. Then, by a joint
effort raised him up and set him up-
on the ice. He was very cold and
weak, but they brushed the snow
from his limbs, rubbed against him
until the warmth of their bodies
thawed him out, and finally all de-
parted together, the rescued crow
being in the center of the others, as
though it was still necessary to wait

Coughs and Colds in Children.

Recommendation of a Well Known
Chicago Physician.

I use and prescribe Chamber-
lain's Cough Remedy for almost
all obstinate, constricted coughs,
with direct results. I prescribe
it to children of all ages. Am
glad to recommend it to all in
need and seeking relief from
colds and coughs and bronchial
afflictions. It is non-narcotic
and safe in the hands of the most
unprofessional.—Mrs. Mary R.
Meleudy, M. D., Ph. D., Chicago,
Ill. This remedy is for sale by
Rust & Pittard.

Advertised Letters.

Following letters remain un-
called for in the Post Office at
Merkel, Texas, and if not called
for will be sent to the Dead Let-
ter office Jan. 1. When call-
ing for them please state adver-
tised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Burk, John
Blankenship, Bery
Blaty, Alvin
Gallagher, Miss Victory
Guitar, D C
Miller, Miss Mahaley
Mordock, Miss Ethel
Memorta, M W
McClure, Mr.
McClure, W N
McLendon, Mrs. Thankful
Pearce, F S
Pitts & Son, H B
Scully, M
Shelton, J O
Yates, W S
Westernhoover, W W
Woods, Mrs Cora

Go to G. M. Sharp's for your
bran, oats and wheat chops.

G. M. Sharp will have 3 cars of
corn for Christmas. Call and
leave orders.

Female Suffrage Stamps.

The new French postage stamps
represent a young woman resting her
hand on a tablet which bears the
words: "The rights of man." This
has suggested a clever notion to
Mme. Hubertine Auclert, a French
woman who favors equal rights. At
her own cost she has caused to be
printed a large number of stamps
showing a young man resting his
hand on a tablet bearing the words:
"The rights of woman." Mme. Au-
clert has mailed hundreds of letters
to all parts of France, each letter
bearing one of the stamps alongside
that of

Talk That Talks...

It's nice to do business with
plenty of nice, new goods
and plenty of appreciative
customers. We have the

Right Goods at Right Prices!

Our stock of General Mer-
chandise is complete, and
we should be glad to show
and price it to you.

J. O. HAMILTON.

Big Cut In Lumber Yard!

We have moved and remodeled our old sheds, erected a
new one in center of yard and have filled all with a brand new
stock of Lumber, Shingles, Sash Doors, Brick, Lime, Cement
Building Paper, etc.

This cut has widened our yard driveways all around,
which enables us to serve as many more of our customers at
the same time with the best material ever brought to Merkel.

Our Lumber is of all dimensions—short, wide and long,
Thick, but dry and bright, these things it takes, you know;
To make your home good tight and strong—
It is to your interest to buy of Burton-Lingo.

BURTON-LINGO CO.,

Lumber Dealers

J. S. Barnes,

Manager

THE MERKEL MAIL--ONLY \$1.00 PER YEAR

WILL, BARBER.

Model Steam Laundry of Abilene.

F. EASON, THE BARBER.

NORTH FRONT STREET.

Anteel shaving parlor for genteel people.

M. PATE, BARBER.

NORTH FRONT STREET.

Best class work and prompt and polite attention to all.

DR. F. N. BROWN, DENTIST.

Nitrous Oxide Gas Administered. Office, Pine St. Abilene.

J. J. MILLER, Justice Peace and Notary Public

Also fire insurance agent. Will write deeds, take acknowledgements, pay taxes on land, furnish abstracts of title and transact all other business entrusted to him.

O. O. F. LODGE

355 meets every Friday. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend. S. H. Basham, N.G. Compton, Sec.

T. S. HOLLIS, THE DENTIST

Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

C. WILLIAMS,

Estate and Insurance Agent Notary Public Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc. OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

I. N. TAYLOR,

Attorney-at-law & Notary Public. Office in the Bank building.

J. A. LEEMAN

Physician and Surgeon. Office, King's Drug Store.

G. H. RICHARDSON

Physician and Surgeon. Residence, West Merkel.

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*No Stratek's
Cheatham's
Laxative Tablets
is our best friend
from the
Texas*

AGENT, LAS, TEXAS.

trifle with in some

room could almost be heard. Not a muscle of Rose's body moved. Her head was still averted.

"I tell you this, because it is you—not I—who hereafter will own this fortune. That is all."

When she turned sharply he was gone. The blood surged to her cheeks, and left them again deadly pale. Was it true? Yes; she knew that it was. She might taunt him with having won her by false claims, but she knew, in her soul, that falsity and he could not together be mentioned. His word was never doubted. What did he mean, then, by saying that his fortune, which had fallen to him in the hour of direct need, like rain from the clouds,

was to be hers, not his? Gathering up the long, rustling train of her ball-dress, she mounted the stairs, pushed open the door of his dressing room—"Edwin—my God!"

The cry broke from the lips that had grown stiff and still. She crept forward. Her white arm and wrist struck against his uplifted hand.

"Edwin! Why did you do this? You were about to take your life! Why? Why?"

Her hands closed upon his wrist. The vice-like pressure recalled him from the trance in which he had stood until then.

"Why not?" He spoke hoarsely. "Can you love me? Can anything recall the words you uttered two weeks ago?"

"Edwin! Forget them! Forget!" "I thought I knew you," he went on as before. "I thought I knew you as cold—but not as you revealed yourself that day. I always hoped, hoped for your heart some time. That afternoon I saw you and your heart as they were. You have what you wish—a fortune. Me you will not need."

"I do!" she cried. "You must listen to me. You must understand me, though I scarcely understand myself. My heart was cruel and cold because it had never been awakened. I never knew you as you are—as the man you are!"

Edwin Thompson and his wife have been abroad two years. Theirs is a harmonious household. Their fortune generously expended draws society about them. But Mrs. Thompson has ceased to be a "society woman."

"Since when have you so changed, Rose?" asks her friends.

She smiles in a sad yet happy way and replies:

"Since my last New Year's ball."

How the Boys View It.

"Say," said one small boy the other afternoon, "has your mother begun to 'hurl th' Santa Claus gags into you yet?"

"Aw, sure," was the reply. "I bin gittin' that f'r a couple o' months now. Ev'ry time I make a break she points her finger at me and tells me Santa Claus ain't a-goin' t' bring me nothin' 'f don't get next t' m'self."

"What d'ye do then?" "Aw, what else would I do but let her go on thinkin' that I b'lieve in Santa Claus?"

"That's right, all right," said the other boy. "Y' might jes' as well let 'em keep on thinkin' you believe in th' old fake. It makes 'em feel good, an' you get more w'en they think you b'lieve in Santy, too."

"Sure thing. An', say, it's a good game t' write down on a piece o' paper what you want th' old dub t' chuck in your stockin', an' han' th' list t' your mother. She wants you t' keep right on b'leevin' in his old whisker-lets, an' she don't want t' disappoint you, an' she's lib'le t' put mos' o' th' things you ask f'r in your sockin'."

"Oh, I always work that old one," said the other boy, and then they went on playing shinny.

And a man who had overheard the conversation strolled away with a feeling that the world is growing a bit hoar and sad.—Chicago Chronicle.

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CHRISTMAS BELLS.

Softly silvery, and golden clear,
The passing bells of the passing year,
Ring out! ring out! O chimed!
A knell for the rose, and the summer
dead,
For the lavish autumn full richly sped,
And the blossomy April times.

Softly silvery, O Christmas bells!
Your dinsome clamor or falls or swells
In a horus rhyt ringing,
Hark! hark! It swells into upper air,
To join the stave, so fine, so rare,
The earth, the heavens, are singing.

Richly silvery and high and far,
As the dazzling gleam of a falling star,
Hark to the angels crying:
"Peace upon earth! Good will to men!"
And bells from hamlet, plain and glen,
In high accord replying.
—Frank Leslie's Magazine.

The New Years Ball

"But merciful goodness!" the man cried out, driven to half-crazed desperation. "Don't you understand? Can't you understand? It is ruin! It is complete ruin!"

She stood before him like one of the antique Greek statues that look calmly out from jeweled eyes. Her cold mouth curved a little.

"I suppose you mean that our expenditure has been too heavy; that we must retrench. You are dramatic about it—as you are about everything." She shrugged her shoulders. "And you know that I detest the dramatic."

As he saw that still she did not understand, the moisture came out on his forehead.

"No, I do not mean that we must retrench, as you conceive the word, Rose. I mean that everything is gone."

"Everything!" "You will not starve. You will have a house over your head. But—"

"Thank you." She smiled ironically. "That is much. Yes, I think I understand now."

She turned to the door.

"Rose!" He called her back. His eyes strained out of his ashen face. "If you knew—if you knew—how I have struggled against it! For months it has been coming. But I always hoped that I would retrieve all. One unfortunate investment followed another. Still I would not tell you; I could not—could not! But now I will explain everything."

"Oh, pray spare me!" She drew aside the folds of her houserobe, as if his outstretched hand might seize and detain her. "I wish for no explanation of disagreeable events. After our New Year's eve ball I will hear as much of what you may have to say as I care to know—though speech is useless enough now."

"After the ball?" he repeated. "You do not mean—it is not possible—that you think of still giving this New Year's ball?"

"Certainly." She gazed at him coldly. "This ball shall be given. My invitations went out today."

"But it is monstrous!" cried Edwin Thompson. "Do you realize what will be said of us? In a fortnight more the whole world will know that I am a bankrupt. My honor—"

"Your honor!" she interrupted, laughing a little. "A man who marries a girl above him socially, but of impoverished family, under the claim of being wealthy, and who, five years later, announces to her that he is bankrupt, need talk little of his honor!"

She turned away again and finally, as she uttered the words. They had been spoken in her even, clear, cruel voice. Surely in the five years of their married life Edwin Thompson had learned to know those tones well. They had never warmed with love or melted with tenderness. They had remained what they had been when he, a self-made man, a man who had arrived at great riches, despite his youth, had paid his addresses to the daughter of the old Viokas, and had been willing that she should marry him without, as she confessed with explicit calmness, loving him in the least.

Mrs. Edwin Thompson had given her ball and it marked the summit of the holiday season. The early morning hours wore on towards the dawn. The last carriage rolled away. Mrs. Thompson would fall; but it would be a fall enwrapped in splendor.

She was about to move past her husband without a word. He checked her.

"I have been waiting to see you until the last guest had gone. There has happened one thing of which I wish to speak to you—very briefly. I shall not keep you long. I had a relative—an uncle of my mother. He was an unmarried man, and rich. For years we held no communication with each other. It came to me that I would appeal to him—not for myself—for you."

He paused. She stood, her head half averted, reluctantly waiting. He looked at her. She did not see the glance. He resumed.

"I wrote three days ago. Today I received this letter." He took out a folded sheet. "It is from the old man's My uncle go, an

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