

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, JUNE 5, 1902.

NO. 16.



If you have a want in Dry Goods we can supply it at **REGULAR HARD TIMES PRICES**



..GOOD SHOES CHEAP..

Not just as good, but better--the kinds that wear well. Most complete stock of shoes in Merkel. Special prices on ladies' and Children's Slippers.

How about a hat? We sell the celebrated Beaver, Eclipse, Black Cat, and Cock of the Walk—the best and cheapest line of hats on the market.

We have many things to show you. Come in, look around, and price our goods.



Big reduction in price of all ladies' waists. See our price card on lace curtains, waists and skirts.

These are all new and seasonable, and you will find that the prices are the lowest in the city, quality considered.



The reason why we advertise in dull Times is

TO GET YOUR TRADE



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Merkel Mercantile Company, - Proprietors

10 per cent Reduction on all LADIES' SKIRTS.

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Hereafter people wanting to exchange or make remittances to any point in the U. S., we have decided not to make any charges on anything amounting to \$50 or less.

Very respectfully,
The First National Bank,
By Geo. S. Berry.

We have the finest line of Carpets and matting ever shown in the town.

W. P. Browning & Co.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

How to Avoid Trouble.

Now is the time to provide yourself and family with a bottle of Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It is almost certain to be needed before the summer is over, and if procured now will save you a trip to town in the night or in your busiest season. It is everywhere admitted to be the most successful medicine in use for bowel complaints, both for children and adults. No family can afford to be without it. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Try reading The Mail and see if you don't feel better.

A Terrible Charge.

Tallie Moran, Scranton, Pa., in Canadian Baptist.

"Prisoner at the bar, have you anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon you?"

A solemn hush fell over the crowded court room, and every person waited in almost breathless expectation for an answer to the judge's question.

Will the prisoner answer? Is there nothing that will make him show signs of emotion?

Will he maintain the cool indifferent attitude that he has shown through the long trial, even to the place of execution?

Such were the questions that passed through the minds of those who had followed the case from day to day.

The judge still wrote in dignified silence.

Not a whisper was heard anywhere, and the situation had become painfully oppressive, when the prisoner was seen to move, his head was raised, his hands were clinched, and the blood had rushed into his pale, care-worn face. His teeth were firmly set, and into his haggard eyes came a flash of light. Suddenly he rose to his feet, and in a low, firm, but distinct voice, said:

"I have! Your honor, you have asked me a question, and now I ask, as the last favor on earth, that you will not interrupt my answer until I am through.

"I stand here before this bar, convicted of the wilful murder of my wife. Truthful witnesses have testified to the fact that I

was a loafer, a drunkard and a wretch; that I returned from one of my prolonged debauches and fired the fatal shot that killed the wife that I had sworn to love, cherish and protect. While I have no remembrance of committing the fearful, cowardly and inhuman deed, I have no right to complain or to condemn the verdict of the twelve good men who have acted as a jury in this case, for their verdict is in accordance with the evidence.

"But may it please the court, I wish to show that I am not alone responsible for the murder of my wife!"

This startling statement created a tremendous sensation. The judge leaned over the desk, the lawyers wheeled around and faced the prisoner, the jurors looked at each other in amazement, while the spectators could hardly suppress their intense excitement. The prisoner paused a few seconds, and then continued in the same firm, distinct voice:

"I repeat, your honor, that I am not the only one guilty of the murder of my wife. The judge on this bench, the jury in the box, the lawyers within this bar, and most of the witnesses, including the pastor of the old church, are also guilty before Almighty God, and will have to appear with me before His judgment throne, where all shall be righteously judged.

"If twenty men conspire together for the murder of one person, the law power of this land will arrest the twenty, and each will be tried, convicted and executed for a whole murder, and

not one-twentieth of the crime.

"I have been made a drunkard by law. If it had not been for the legalized saloons of my town I never would have become a drunkard; my wife would not have been murdered; I would not be here now, ready to be hurled into eternity. Had it not been for the human traps set out with the consent of the government, I would have been a sober man, an industrious workman, a tender father and a loving husband. But today my home is destroyed, my wife murdered, my little children—God bless and care for them!—cast out on the mercy of a cold and cruel world, while I am to be murdered by the strong arm of the state.

"For one year our town was without a saloon. For one year I was a sober man. For one year my wife and children were supremely happy, and our little home a perfect paradise.

"I was one of those who signed the remonstrances against re-opening the saloons in our town. The names of one half of this jury can be found today on the petition certifying to the good moral characters of the rum-sellers, and falsely saying that the sale of liquor was necessary in our town. The prosecuting attorney on this case was the one that so eloquently pleaded with this court for the license, and the judge who sits on this bench, and who asked me if I had anything to say before sentence of death should be passed on me, granted the license."

The impassioned words of the (continued on last page.)

INSURANCE...



I represent the following Companies....

Liverpool, London & Globe.
New Hampshire Fire.
Philadelphia Fire Associa'n.
and many others.

T. A. JOHNSON.

Office in First National Bank.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

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Residence..... 37

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

DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES.

- For County Judge:
D. G. HILL.
- For County Treasurer:
J. H. THORNTON.
- For Sheriff:
J. V. CUNNINGHAM.
- For Tax Assessor:
C. C. JACKSON.
- For County Clerk:
S. H. GARRISON
- For County Attorney:
T. A. BLEDSOE.
- For Tax Collector:
BAYLOR CRAWFORD.
- For District Clerk:
V. F. WOMACK.
- For Justice of Peace, Pre. 5, and
Commissioner Pre. 2:
W. W. WHEELER.
- For Hide and Animal Inspector:
ROSS G. HALL.
- For Public Weigher at Merkel:
T. F. COMPTON.

Thoughts on Prohibitinn.

The war that is now waging between the two factions in the prohibition campaign reminds me in many ways of the story I once heard of an old lady who was driven to desperation by the thought that 'twas the influence of the profligate life of their father that her sons were becoming more and more wreckless—led on futher and further in sin. When her husband had become physically broken down, struggling between life and death, she was one day found standing by his bedside pounding him with all her might where she thought the blows most fatal. When asked what she was doing, replied: "I'm helping the Lord to kill James; he's a tough old dog to die." Now we have a great and stalwart James abroad in our land, wrecking the morals of society and dealing out desolation and ruin to our sons and daughters. We have long since known where the trouble lies and many have been hoping, trusting and praying that the saloon business be suppressed, but faith without words is dead; so lets manifest a deeper concern in stamping out this evil. We are grateful for the war now on, the battle is raging, so lets rally to the front and rescue our own land from the clutches of this dread monster. Some of the literature issued by the anti-prohibitionists is appalling; can we silyly by while men cry out for their damnation? Many of whom are professed Christians, too. Can we consistently pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evll," and yet throw wide open the door of temptation and lead our sons and daughters forth amid the attending evils, and drag them down to the depths of degradatation and ruin, when it is in our power to set before them that which is pure, noble and good? Must we harbor so great an evil, that robs many of even daily bread and brings grief and shame to our country, that a few already moneyed men may amass wealth? Now to the rescue, and lets offer

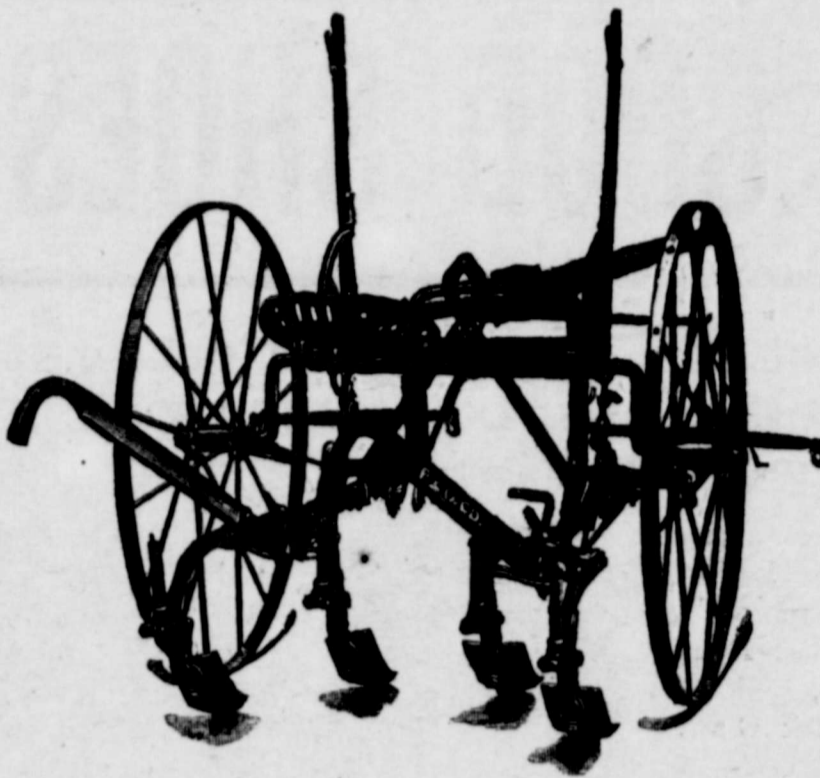
YOU WANT THE BEST..

When you get anything in the "P. & O. Canton Line" of Farming Implements, you get THE BEST.....

....THE....

Success Sulky,
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Planter,
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Have no equals, as evidenced by their growing popularity. We've handled these goods for 10 years because they are what the successful farmer demands--THE BEST.



We also carry a full line of....

GROCERIES,
GRAIN and
FEED.....



If you need a
BUGGY
call on us

G. F. WEST

a united prayer to the Father of us all that he may open the eyes of all men, that right shall prevail, for we have the assurance that we are on the side of God and right.

P. Y. Q.

THE SALOON IN POLITICS

The saloon is responsible for most of the political corruption that exists. The saloon is a great factor in politics, whether considered nationally in the state county or city, and its influence is ever on the side of vice and iniquity. The saloons bribe voters purchases office holders, defeats the execution of law, and in every way menaces the purity and stability of our government. It is folly to talk about a free ballot and fair count so long as saloons, brewers and distillers are so completely organized to defeat the will of the people and corrupt every phase of government. So formidable has become this power that it is seriously a question in most of our elections, if an officer is strong enough to resist the corrupting influences and money of the saloons. The law requiring saloons to close on election days is a declaration by the legislature that saloons are corrupting and a menace to the purity of the ballot box. The declaration that prohibition does not prohibit is but a confession that the dealers in liquors have no respect for the law, no respect for the verdict of the ballot box, for the rights and liberties of the people, and that is the determination of these liquor vendors to over ride law, and put at defiance every effort at good government. When a power becomes so corrupting, and so bold in its declarations to defeat the laws of the land, it is high time for every man who loves the institutions of liberty to rally with a determined and united effort to crush it.

The new law prohibiting the shipment of liquor C. O. D. into local option counties and precincts is agre at help. The decisions of the court of criminal appeals have been in the main favorable, too, and an honest fearless officer can enforce the law as easily as he can any other law.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.
T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

CAPITAL, - \$30,000
SURPLUS, - \$ 6,000

The detail of Accounts receive the personal attention of an officer of the bank. We guarantee prompt, accurate, and economical service, and as liberal accommodations as are warranted by the account and prudent banking. Correspondence and personal interviews invited.

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 newspaper that money and brains can produce—and those should be the distinguished traits of the newspaper that is designed to be read by all the members of the family.

Subscription price, \$1 a year. Any newsdealer, newspaper or postmaster will receive your subscription, or you may mail it direct to

The Republic,
St. Louis, Mo.

Tax on Babies.

Extreme hot weather is a great tax upon the digestive power of babies; when puny and feeble they should be given a few doses of White's Cream Vermifuge, the childrens' tonic. It will stimulate and faciliate the digestion of their food, so that they soon become strong, healthy and active. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Second-hand cook stove and kitchen cabinet for sale for cash or on time.

W. P. Thurmond.

NOTICE.

Our Photo Gallery will be open for work two days (Friday and Saturday) in each week until further notice.

Barnhill & Wife,
W. P. Thurmond and wife are visiting at Sweetwater.

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 bran 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

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

JOS. H. WARNICK, ...BANKER...

Capital - - - \$15,000.00
Surplus and Profits \$ 1,707.53

We will appreciate your business, however small, and guarantee satisfaction to every customer. Give us a trial.

This is strictly a prohibition issue, but the space has not been purchased. Read it from the head line to the period. Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, of Weathersford, will be here June 13 and 14.

TO THE VOTERS OF TAYLOR COUNTY

THE County Commissioners of Taylor County, acting under the local option laws of the State, after having been presented with a petition asking for an election, have called an election to be held at all the voting places in the county on June 7th, 1902, to determine whether or not intoxicating liquors shall be sold in this county. Feeling that it would be opposed to the interests of the county morally, socially, financially and politically to continue the open saloon in our county, we respectfully submit the following thoughts in the hope that you will give them your most earnest and serious attention, and that on the 7th day of June you will join us in defeating this effort of the monster liquor traffic to continue to cast its baleful influence over our county and homes:

Some Objections to Prohibition Answered.

Objection 1—I do not think the principle of prohibition is right.

Answer—Then you do not think the principle of the Ten Commandments is right, for they are decidedly prohibitory in character. They ring out with a sharp and emphatic "Thou shalt not." You would also object to every law on our statute books, for each law is prohibitory in character. In fact, no law can be enacted, whether human or divine, that is not prohibitory. To object to all laws that are prohibitory is equivalent to objecting to all laws. This would then stamp you as an anarchist, for a community that is without law is in a state of anarchy.

Objection 2—I believe in personal liberty, and the prohibition of the liquor traffic takes from me my personal liberty.

Answer—If you mean by the words "personal liberty" the option of doing whatever you please, regardless of right and wrong, and regardless of all the rights and claims of other people, then you are in favor of a very dangerous principle. There are two kinds of liberty—personal liberty and civil liberty. Personal liberty is the liberty of the savage, who chooses to do his own will without regard to right or wrong, and without respect to the rights and claims of others. Civil liberty is the liberty that men enjoy in civilized communities. It respects the rights of others. It yields some things for the sake of getting a greater good. Upon the principle of such "personal liberty" there can be built neither government nor civilization. There could be no guarantee of protection for life nor property. Those who favor personal liberties must surrender some of their personal liberties for civil liberty. Anarchy and savagery would be the inevitable results of the triumph of such a principle. If a man lives and enjoys the benefits of civilization and government, it is right that he should be prohibited from doing what would injure another. The liquor traffic does injure others and it is right that a law should be enacted and enforced to prohibit such injuries. This is claimed not on the ground of personal liberty, but on the ground of civil liberty. If a man insists on personal liberty, let him go a thousand miles from a human being and then he can enjoy it. But so long as he mixes and mingles with his fellowmen, he must be civil to them, and regard their rights as well as his own. If he has a proper regard for right and wrong, or respects the rights and interests of his fellowman, he will stop selling liquor. If he does not stop it, it is the right of others to force him to stop. Hence the need of a prohibitory law.

Objection 3—I am a democrat, and I think the prohibition of the liquor traffic is contrary to the

principles of my party.

Answer—The democratic party should be its own interpreter of its principles. It is better qualified to interpret its principles than any single individual. What is democracy, anyhow? Webster says it is "government by the people." It is commonly said to be "government of the people, for the people and by the people." Accepting this definition, can prohibition when enacted by the people be un-democratic? Government should be administered for the common good, and democracy proposes that the governed shall govern, i. e., that the people shall make their own laws for their own good. Now, what is the liquor traffic? It is not an individual personal right, the prohibition of which will interfere with personal liberty. It is a public business that law proposes to regulate, hence, by the existing law of the people (democracy), the individual who engages in the traffic first buys for cash the right to vend intoxicating liquor. Now we submit: If it is a community right it is not an individual personal right, and hence to prohibit the traffic is not an abridgement of personal liberty. Since the license of the individual is, by law and according to democracy, to be bought from the people, it behooves the people before selling the individual a license to vent ardent spirits to consider the questions, Will this traffic, if licensed by us, do good or evil? Will it be prudent? Will it be for the best interest of society? If it will do good, educate our children, provide for our morals and tend to the general elevation of society, we must license it. But if it should make widows and orphans, cause the commission of crime and the shedding of blood, keep many children from an education and tend to the general demoralization of society, democracy—a government of the people, for the people and by the people—will surely say that we cannot give or sell the license, as the trade would be bad for us. To illustrate: A man would buy a horse. I need the horse more than the money, or his price is not sufficient. I decline. He proposes to take my horse away. I forbid him. Is my action undemocratic? A carpenter would build me a house. I do not need it, or am unable to have it built. He proceeds to get the material on my credit. I forbid him. Is my action undemocratic? The cases are parallel. The saloonists ask the people for license to vend intoxicants. The people decide that it will not pay and refuse to sell the license. The saloonists go to selling without license, and the people, having refused to grant license, prohibit the unlicensed sale. Is their action undemocratic? Shall the people not be allowed to rule? Yet for the people to put down an evil, acknowledged evil, is undemocratic! According to dem-

ocracy, the people are to consider and act in public just as the individual does in his private matters. It is surely democratic for the people to rule. If, therefore, the people find the continuation of saloons in their midst to result in more harm than good, and this is an acknowledged fact, public weal demands their annihilation. Democracy being for the people, as well as of and by the people, seconds with a loud "Amen" the watchword of the prohibition hosts, "Pulverize the Rum Power."

Objection 4—Prohibition does not prohibit.

Answer—It may be granted that the prohibition law does not perfectly prohibit. Neither does the law against murder, theft and other crimes. But who thinks of voting for their repeal simply because they are sometimes violated? But if prohibition does not prohibit, why do saloonists become so disturbed at the mention of a local option election? Why do the great liquor dealers' associations engage lawyers to speak against it, and pour out money so lavishly to defeat prohibition even in a small community? The liquor dealers' association certainly would not oppose a law that would enhance their sales. The conduct of those who deal in liquor is strongly at variance with this argument. One of the greatest benefits of this law is in the protection of the rising generation from ever acquiring the drink habit. There is a well defined plan among liquor dealers to cultivate this dangerous habit in the young. Even the president of the greatest liquor dealers' association in America, about four years ago, sent broadcast over America the advice that saloon men should treat boys and young men, buy bottles from little boys and treat them to cultivate the thirst for drink among the young, and argued that five cents spent in treats to the young would return in dollars from them when the habit was acquired. One is horrified at this hellish suggestion, but it accounts in a measure for the corrupting of the young that is going on all over this land. Now the open saloon is the recruiting station for drunkards. Boys are needed for the perpetuation of the traffic. Saloons plan for the corruption of the young, and generally succeed, to the horror and dismay of parents and guardians. Now, were we to admit that old toppers, consumed by thirst acquired under the regime of the open saloons are able to get their drinks, either by importing it from abroad or otherwise, still to keep out those recruiting stations for the army of drunkards becomes the imperative duty of every citizen. This consideration alone is sufficient to decide every voter against the saloon, if honesty and reason hold sway. But when we consider that the enforcement of the law is easily possible, that it is successfully operated in various other parts of the state and even in our own county, and that it does prohibit, even to the extent of stirring up the antagonism of both the confirmed drinkers and liquor dealers, whether retail or wholesale, and that men generally do not spend money to defeat a law that helps their business, it is readily seen that the argument that prohibition does not prohibit falls to the ground, and that to vote against the saloon is the imperative duty of all who love the human race. But we need not go away from home

to find a condition of things that completely refutes the statement that prohibition does not prohibit. Our own county furnishes us with an object lesson showing that prohibition may and in Taylor county does prohibit. The law is better enforced in Merkel than ever before, and the traffic is suppressed. No intoxicants of any kind can be found in Merkel. The prohibition law is as well enforced as any other law.

Objection 5—The enforcement of this law results in making men violate law, and tell falsehoods to obtain liquor.

Answer—It is refreshing to hear this argument, for it indicates that the one who uses it is deeply concerned for the moral welfare of the people. But it seems a little strange that a man who sees so much moral disturbance over these things should be unable to see the wreck and ruin that comes from the liquor traffic. It seems strange that the debauchery of men, the wreck of them, soul and body, the ruin of homes, the breaking of hearts, the murder, the insanity, the pauperizing of men, women and children, can not be seen by them. They are greatly disturbed over the occasional violation of the prohibition law and the telling of a few falsehoods to obtain liquor, but the blasting effects of the saloon traffic make no impressions upon them. One is almost convinced that the men who use the argument must be joking.

Objection 6—But the bible endorses it. Does not Paul tell Timothy to take a little wine for his stomach's sake?

Answer—It is a rule in courts of justice that a man can not impeach his own witness. If men introduce the Bible as testimony, they should be willing to accept its arbitrament. The Bible does speak out on the question at issue with no uncertain sound. Paul uses the following language: "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine own infirmities." But notice that he advises the use of wine, and not the malt and distilled liquors of modern use. It is very questionable if the wine he referred to was even fermented. Notice also he advises Timothy to use but a "little." Notice again that it was only for medicine and in a case of necessity. Now, to try and make this scripture justify the saloon business, with its corrupting influences, its system of drunkard-making, its murder production, its pauper-creating, and its asylum-filling methods is to do violence to common sense and scripture. There is not a prohibitionist in Taylor county that would object to giving the advice that Paul gave. But to saddle upon that scripture all the iniquities of this body-killing, soul-destroying, home-wrecking, heart-breaking and hell-filling traffic is an outrage to the word of God, and nothing short of blasphemy. It shows again that the devil has not lost the art of quoting scripture to justify the most awful atrocities. But God does speak out on this subject with emphatic denunciation. To the drinker He says: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."—Prov. 20:1. "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink that continues until night, till wine inflame them."—Is. 5:11. "Awake, ye drunkards, and weep and howl, all ye drinkers of wine."—Joel 1:5. "Drunkards cannot inherit the Kingdom of

Heaven."—1 Cor. 6:10. But God prohibits a man from going to saloons: "Be not among wine bibbers."—Prov. 23:20. God prohibits the selling or giving away of liquors: "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth the bottle to him and maketh him drunken."—Hab. 11:15. God prohibits the voting for the saloon or any method of building up a city by iniquity: "Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity."—Hab. 2:12. These are clear and emphatic declarations from the God of all the earth. Those who introduce the Bible as a witness in this case should be willing to accept its authority. When God speaks there should be an end to the controversy. To refuse to do so is to declare one's self an infidel or a sinner. Whenever anyone is able to show from the word of God that the modern saloon, with its vile methods and its atmosphere of blasphemy and degraded wickedness is commanded and endorsed by Jehovah, then the prohibitionists are ready to give up the fight. But so long as captious objections are raised, and the scripture is distorted to the service of Satan, the fight will continue.

Study this question earnestly and impartially, to the end that you may see right and vote for Prohibition June 7th.

CAUTION!

All sorts of schemes may be expected to render the election on the 7th of this month void. Watch for these. Let every prohibitionist see that his ticket reads "FOR PROHIBITION." Nothing more, nothing less. Use no tickets with the words "Local Option" on them. Use no tickets printed on colored paper. Use no tickets which require scratching.

The Saloons And Poverty

Another thing chargeable to the saloons is the poverty of the people. Some have estimated that ninety per cent. of the poverty of the people can be traced to this cause. Some have thought that this poverty was caused by the financial question, but we could pile all the silver and gold in the United States into one pile and it would not equal the amount that is spent for liquors in one year. Some have thought if we could get the tariff legislation just right our poverty would cease. If we would estimate all the imports to this country at its ad valorem value it would not equal our liquor bill for one year. Some have thought if we could get our national bank system just right the poverty would disappear. But all the national bank stock of all the banks in America does not equal our liquor bill for one year. Drink has locked up the channels through which our resources flow, and our products lie rotting for want of a market, while the people are suffering for food and clothing. If the twelve hundred million dollars that we annually burn up in liquors were turned into homes of the drinkers, it would supply them with the necessities of life and poverty would disappear from our land. Liquor selling and drinking is the cause of most of our poverty.

A GOOD BUGGY, same as new, for sale, either for cash or good note. Enquire at this office.

Second-hand cook stove and kitchen cabinet for sale for cash or on time.

W. P. Thurmond.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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

Subscription Rates

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Six months50
Three months25
Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES per month
One inch space \$.50
Two inch space 1.00
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Half column (9 inches) 4.00
One column (18 inches) 7.50

Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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

For the Glen Rose Herald.

Merkel Mail \$2.00
Cisco Round-up 2.00
Stephenville Appeal 2.00
Abilene News 2.00

NEXT!

Let's cultivate the beautiful spirit of brotherly kindness and generosity.

THE LAST STRAW.

In the Taylor County News last week, the space of which the antis have bought for use in the campaign, we find this paragraph:

In proportion to population more boys from Merkel have been indicted in Taylor county for felonies and also misdemeanors than from Abilene.

This statement is false in toto. But granted that it is the truth what are the results that have led up to this? First, Merkel has no corporation court to look into and punish misdemeanors. Second, the people of Merkel help to ferret out crime and assist the officers in the discharge of their various duties. Third, the law is more rigidly enforced at Merkel than at Abilene, because there are more "sympathizers" at Abilene. Fourth, criminals have no saloons at Merkel to protect and shield them from the laws, hence they are easily apprehended. Fifth, the county attorney has been repeatedly called on to enforce the law at Merkel; no such effort has been made at Abilene. There are various and sundry good reasons which we might give if they were deemed necessary to refute the charge. The Mail unhesitatingly holds that the charges are false and is willing to stake its reputation on that fact. Just after the grand jury adjourned at its last regular meeting, in which it made the statement that it found the county comparatively free of crime of every character, 16 men and one woman were jerked up before the city attorney of Abilene, on the evidence of a pro—not an anti—and convicted of gambling.

There are hundreds of such occurrences every year in Abilene that either go unpunished or the knowledge of them is suppressed, even after conviction.

Has the writer of that charge made a single effort to keep down crime and punish criminals? No, he hasn't done this, but he has threatened Merkel with every kind of lawlessness which emanates from the whiskey traffic, if the cursed stuff is voted out of the county. This is the principle they work on. Merkel people have the moral courage to uphold the right and condemn the wrong under any and all circumstances, and they are going to roll up such a majority for prohibition June 7 as will forever put a quietus to the whisky traffic.

Viewing the liquor traffic only as to its economic aspect and it is appalling. The magnitude of the traffic is immense and the cost is paid not by the millionaire, but by the industrial classes. The direct cost of the drink traffic for 1900 was a billion and a quarter dollars. Besides this, the indirect losses from drink through loss of work by hard drinkers, poor workmanship of drinking classes, death of drunkards, and the poverty and crime induced by drink for the same year reach fully five hundred million dollars. This makes a total loss of \$1,750,000,000 to the country in one year because of strong drink. Whether it is a sound financial policy to encourage or even to permit a positive loss of one and three-fourth billions of dollars to the people in order that the government may gain a revenue of about \$150,000,000, the revenue for 1900, is a question easily answered. The drink traffic is universally recognized as an evil; then why keep it going? Why?

The "cold storage" circular gotten out by the antis has about as much logic in it as the assertion of the young hopeful, who, when asked to define an epistle, blurted out, "An epistle is the wife of an apostle." The cold storage is the wife of the saloon and the law deals with both. A cold storage can not be lawfully carried on (read Articles 400, 402, 403 and 406, White's Penal Code) no more than you can commit murder and go unpunished. Where the antis purposefully make such misleading statements they are presuming that you are an ignoramus. If your neighbor should accuse you of being a fool you would promptly knock him down. Show that you resent this insult by going to the polls on June 7th and voting against the whiskey traffic.

Of all the states in the Union only four have no temperance education law. In fourteen the study of temperance is required by all pupils. Fifteen others require a text book on temperance. In twenty states the law requires that temperance be taught in the same manner and as thoroughly as other branches. Five states require that text books on education must give one-fourth space to temperance. And in thirty states the law requires all teachers to be examined on the subject of temperance. If temperance is not a good thing why is its study mandatory in the public schools? Can temperance be successfully practiced at the door of a saloon? No. Blot 'em from the face of the earth.

One of the greatest and most important questions before the American people today, and one which more widely concerns the interests of the laboring classes than any other, is the temperance question. The fact that intemperance is the blighting curse of labor, and one of the deadliest foes of the workingmen of this country, is impressing itself more and more upon the minds of labor organizations and their leaders. It is among the poor, the laboring classes, that intemperance does its most destructive work. Stamp out the saloons and thus aid in the furtherance of the temperance question, and at the same time help to establish a greater basis of prosperity for the entire country.

Drunkenness is a tramp-producing vice. Few of the men who are today tramping the

country for bread and shelter no doubt found plenty of employment and friends when they were sober and honestly sought work. But when they began to drink they went rapidly down from bad to worse until they were forced from community to community in search of employment among those who knew not of their vices, but their appearance and character soon condemned them and they were doomed to become outcasts. Wipe out the saloons and you will destroy one of the most fruitful sources of the tramp nuisance.

Over one hundred thousand dollars go into the rapacious coffers of the Abilene saloons every year. What do the banks and business men think of this? It means that the country would be that much better off. It means that the banks would have at least fifty thousand dollars more deposits. It means that the business men would have fifty thousand dollars more trade, and fifty thousand dollars distributed in food throughout the country would be no small item in its prosperity. Would it not be to your interests to stab this leach of prosperity with your vote?

What makes the saloon evil all the more powerful is that very frequently the saloon controls politics. Political parties must at least be silent on the temperance question, or else they will lose the vote of the whiskey element. In many cases the saloon dictates the platforms and candidates. Do you wish to have a say-so in the selection of the administrators of law? Then cast your vote against the saloon.

The first thing in restoring the reign of justice and to help the helpless and to protect the innocent is to break down the terrible power of strong drinks. With the intellect sobered and the hands steadied even the sot may soon be able to see plainly for himself and make provisions for his own prosperity. A clear head and a strong arm is all that is necessary to make life a success. Tear down the saloon barriers and let the fallen creatures go out and commune with the sunshine of God's holy presence.

There is a sufficient number of loyal, patriotic, and God-fearing citizens to banish the drink traffic from the land. These see the great evil of the traffic, but are at variance as to the treatment to be given it. That's the trouble. But when all Christian, patriotic, and liberty-loving American citizens stand united on this question, the greatest enemy of the toiling masses, the greatest foe of our nation, the greatest hindrance to prosperity will speedily be removed from the land.

The moral aspect of the whiskey traffic can not be reckoned in dollars and cents, but a study of the question will demonstrate the fact that the financial ruin that it brings upon the nation is slight compared to the demoralization and utter ruin of noble manhood. Vote to save your boys from this curse.

The saloon is a bane to right living and right thinking. It is a leech which saps at the vitals of prosperity. It is a stagnant to the intellect of man. It destroys the vitality of youth and makes drones of workers. It enters the home and severs home ties, cankers home love, robs home of happiness, and leaves it a hell on earth. Down with it!

Good Clothes

When a man buys goods he likes to be satisfied. We have yet to encounter a customer of ours who expressed dissatisfaction with our way of doing business. Our axiom, "Your Money Back if not Perfectly Satisfied," will be strictly adhered to at all times.

SPECIAL DRIVE ON CLOTHING!

In order to close out what Clothing we have on hand, QUICK, until Saturday, June 7, we are going to knock off all the profits. Look at these prices:

\$15.00 Suits at only \$10.35
\$10.00 Suits at only \$ 6.95
\$ 8.50 Suits at only \$ 4.15

Our line of Boys' Clothing is complete, and you will find that the prices are the Lowest in the city.



If you want a tailor-made suit, we can suit you; fit guaranteed. But be sure to take advantage of our special suit sale on Saturday, June 7. It will be a feast of Bargains.

The Fitts & Smith Store.

Second-Hand Store and New Tin Shop

Patronize home industry, and buy your Tinware, Well Casing, Well Buckets, Guttering, Spouting Roofing, Flues, Ventilators, Rain Proofs, Galvanized Iron cisterns, Filters, Stock Tanks—in fact, everything usually kept in a first-class Tin Shop, of Bell. Repairing a specialty.

Yours for Business,

Jno. B. Bell, Jr.

Millinery..

Latest Styles,
Newest Designs
Most Stylish
Effects

I can suit you
in Price, Quality,
and Style.

MRS. F. B. HOOPLE

Precinct Chairman Stallings has requested the statement that the precinct convention, to nominate delegates to the county convention, will be held in Merkel June 14 at 2 p. m. Come out.

When you want grain or any
 I of field seed, see G. M.
 Sharp.

The statement is made in the Taylor County News, which has turned its "merchandise" over to the antis, as to the number of offenses prosecuted in Jones county since April 1900, presumably to show that prohibition does not prohibit. They say Jones county has had prohibition for 18 years, and they might have added that those good people will have it for 18 years more, and they will continue to prosecute every saloon bum and gambler who comes in there and tries to run his nefarious games against the will of the people. Everybody who knows anything about Jones Co. knows that the increased showing of prosecutions in that county during the time stated was the result of building a railroad into a prohibition county (even if they never built into such places) and the consequent introduction of a class of people who were not accustomed to the observance of the law as required by the good citizens of Jones Co., and it required the atmosphere of the jail to get some of them acclimated, and some of them had to emigrate. Prohibitionists do not claim that local option laws will not be violated. While there are some antis who will aid in the enforcement of all laws, many of them threaten in advance violations of this law. The fact that there are so many prosecutions for violation of the local option law only serves to show the spirit of disregard which the whiskey element has for all laws, and presents the very strongest possible argument why that element should be suppressed at all hazards. The safety of our government depends on the wiping out of this element, and if we can get but one saloon out of Taylor Co. at a time, let us rise up to a man and put it out and then go to another one.

filthy Temples in India.

Sacred cows often defile Indian temples, but worse yet is a body that's polluted by constipation. Don't permit it. Cleanse your system with Dr. King's New Life Pills and avoid untold misery. They give lively livers, active bowels, good digestion, fine appetite. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

"The Voice of the Business Men of Abilene" contains some very striking evidences of unmitigated gall. About a dozen of the signers of that article are "imports" brought to Abilene to do work on the Federal building which should have been done by the workingmen of Abilene. They do not own a dollar's worth of property in Taylor county; they have never contributed a dollar to the up-building of Abilene or Taylor county; they are not legal voters in Taylor county; yet they have the gall to say to the sturdy farmers and workingmen of this county, the intelligent voters who have helped and are helping to build up the country, and who have their all in Taylor county, and who pay the taxes to support the government: "You stay at home and chop weeds. We do not want any interference on your part in this matter. This is no concern of your. Stay away from the polls on June 7th, and attend to your own affairs, while we save Abilene and Taylor county." If the people of Taylor county fail to resent this piece of brazen effrontery on the part of these "imports," the work to be done in Taylor county

ought to be turned over to "imports" entirely.

The Mail desires to apologize to Mr. Henry James of Abilene for mentioning the fact that his name was affixed to the "cold storage" circular scattered in Merkel last week. When the "merchandise" issue of the Taylor County News came we discovered that his name had been "lost" from the signers of that document, which was reproduced minus his signature. It would have been better for the antis if they could have persuaded Max to lose the whole article.

There are some amusing things in the article in the News entitled "The Voice of the Business Men of Abilene." Among those signing it are 5 CAPITALISTS. The tax rolls of Taylor county show that the whole bunch rendered last year for taxation the magnificent sum of \$900 in money and credits, and only \$16,350 in real estate. One of these capitalists does not even pay a poll tax. We expect, as soon as these capitalists have manipulated the poor people of Taylor county in the election of June 7th, to hear of them next in Wall Street contesting with J. P. Morgan and Geo. Gould for the control of all the great railway systems of the United States.

The alarming proportions of the annual drink bill, together with the loss of 100,000 lives from the drink habit every year and the degradation attendant, has forced the business world, the moral and intellectual world, to unite to overthrow this gigantic evil, and it is coming quick and sure.

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

The Mail's 'phone is 31. If you know any item of news, or if friends or relatives are visiting you, or if you are going or have been off on a visit, please let us know. It will be a great favor.

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

For a short time I have decided to drill wells and take stock in payment for the work. If you want a well drilled let me figure with you, for I will save you money.

E. D. Coats.

All jewelry is good, bad or indifferent. The kind Ustick has is good—and cheap.

Plenty of corn at G.M.Sharp's.

Drugs..

To the people of Merkel and surrounding country:—I have bought the F.M. Davis stock of Drugs and will continue to sell the best of everything pertaining to the business in the town. Have had 15 years experience and registered under the State pharmacy laws. Prescription work a specialty, day or night. So give me a trial if needing anything in my line. I will treat you right.

Cool off at our Fountain.....

J. B. COLLIER

**THOMSON'S
 BIAS-GORED**



"MILITANT"
 CORSET
 THE ACME OF CORSET ELEGANCE.

We have Thompson's Glove Fitting Corsets in the following Styles:

Short Hip (Paris Style.)

Ventilating

Militant (straight front.)

True Fit Girdle

Nursing

J. T. WARREN

- The Thoroughbred for \$3.00
- The Statesman for \$2.50
- The Mound City for \$2.00
- The Globe for \$1.50

You don't have to be a judge of Hats to buy intelligently here. Price and quality conform at this store.



FOR SALE BY
J. T. WARREN

A Splendid Remedy.

Neuralgia pains, rheumatism, lumbago and sciatic pains yield to the penetrating influences of Ballard's Snow Liniment. It penetrates to the nerves and bone, and being absorbed into the blood, its healing properties are conveyed to every part of the body and effect some wonderful cures. Mr. D. F. Moore, Agent Illinois Central Railway, Milan, Tenn., states: "I have used Ballard's Snow Liniment for rheumatism, backache, etc., in my family. It is a splendid remedy. We could not do without it." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

The District Epworth League Conference by a large majority decided to meet in Breckinridge next year. This body is composed of about one hundred delegates, and it paid a high tribute to Breckinridge by selecting it over Weatherford and other towns that competed for the honor. Breckinridge is becoming noted far and wide as a live town in which "prohibition prohibits," and it is favored by the moral element no less than it is abhorred by the other class.—Breckinridge Democrat.

The antis have been reduced to the extremity of calling up the ghosts of Jeff Davis, Tilden, Lincoln et al., to vouch for them. They may frighten the negroes with "ghosts," but the intelligent citizens of Taylor county are dealing with present conditions and while they respect the memory of these men, they will vote what they think best in the light of their own experience and observations.

Read it in His Newspaper.

George Schaub, a well known German citizen of New Lebanon, Ohio, is a constant reader of the Dayton Volkszeitung. He knows that this paper aims to advertise only the best in its columns, and when he saw Chamberlain's Pain Balm advertised therein for lame back, he did not hesitate in buying a bottle of it for his wife, who for eight weeks had suffered with the most terrible pains in her back and could get no relief. He says: "After using the Pain Balm for several days my wife said to me, 'I feel as though born anew,' and before using the entire contents of the bottle the unbearable pains had entirely vanished and she could again take up her household duties." He is very thankful and hopes that all suffering likewise will hear of her wonderful recovery. This valuable liniment is for sale by Rust & Pittard.

The eleventh annual session of the West Tennessee Medical and Surgical Association, which met at Jackson, Tenn., May 22, recommended that alcoholic treatment for tubercular consumption should be prohibited and that the legislature should pass a law prohibiting its use in the treatment of the disease. Even the physicians of the land realize the deadly influence of this terrible narcotic on the rising generation.

Be it said to the credit of Abilene that the "manifesto" does not represent near all the business men of that city. They had to get one man who is not a lawyer to sign as such to make nine, when there are sixteen lawyers in Abilene who did not offer the insult to the people of Taylor Co. contained in the manifesto, and out of sixty merchants only 19 signed it. What do you think of that as an expression of the wishes of the business men of Abilene?

The Bankers' Association, in looking over the records of absconding bank officials, has declared that the man who drinks cannot be employed in their banks. In fact, we find that all merchants, all business men who employ help, are drawing the lines close and the drinking man is shut out. There never was such a premium upon clear brains as now.

Since 1845 the Supreme Court of the United States has held "that it is not an inherent right of any citizen of any state or any citizen of the United States to sell intoxicating liquors, because it was dangerous to public safety and morals." Therefore we are not taking the "rights" from any man when we sell his saloon from under him.

The patrons of our schools demand sober, clean teachers, and the state law, known as the Scientific Temperance Instruction law, declares that the evils of whiskey and tobacco must be taught in the public schools in order that we may become a nation of intelligent total abstainers.

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth the bottle to him and maketh him drunken also." Habakuk 2:15.

From a bushel of corn the distiller gets 4 gallons of whiskey which retails for \$16.80. The farmer gets 25c.; the U. S. government gets \$4.40; the railroad gets \$4.00; the drayman gets 15c.; the retailer gets \$7.00; the consumer gets drunk; the wife gets hunger, and the children get rags. The men who vote to license the saloon get what?

The War In South Africa..

Cuts No Ice at This Store.

Our sympathies are for the people of this Country. We realize the fact that you have had a short crop year and must buy goods CHEAP; therefore, we have reduced the prices on our goods in every department. Come in and see us and inspect our goods. We will save you money on everything you buy at this store.

J. P. SHARP & CO.

"WOE TO THE MAN

That Putteth the Bottle to His Neighbors Lips."

Farmers Insulted. To say that the farmers of Taylor county go to Abilene to trade because they can get whiskey there, is an insult to this worthy class of citizens.

The Farm or the Saloon—Which is the basis of the prosperity and wealth of the country? All great students of finance say it is the farm. Advocates of the saloon, say that the prosperity of the country is based on the saloon. Saloons keep the country full of money, just like holes in the bottom of a tub keep it full of water. Money goes into the saloon; nothing comes out but drunkards.

"In prohibition towns whiskey is sold legitimately only at a drug store, and only on the prescription of a physician, given in good faith." This is strictly true. But will any man, say that he needs whiskey, save as a medicine? If a man is sick enough to need whiskey, he is sick enough to need the services of a physician, in which case the prescription of whiskey will not add one cent to his medical account. Whiskey is not a food. The best authorities agree on this point. Whiskey is of unquestionable value as a tonic, indeed it has been established as an unquestioned fact that its regular use is positively injurious in its effects upon every vital organ. Whiskey can be dispensed with altogether as a medicine. But if your doctor thinks that you need whiskey, it will not cost you a cent more to get it under prohibition than it does now, provided you really need it.

The Saloon's only Advertisement. A little boy once saw a drunkard fall out of a saloon door upon the sidewalk and called out to the saloon-keeper: "Say, Mister, your sign's fell down."

The Saloon Menace.—The saloon, as an institution, is a menace to the welfare, the personal liberty and happiness of every citizen. It fires the brain of the anarchist and in the home of anarchy is the club room of the social agitator. It loads the criminal docket in our courts and increases the burden of taxation on every producer. It is itself a non-producer, except of a harvest of ruined homes, bleeding hearts, deserted wives and orphaned children, of blasted

fortunes, blighted intellects and wrecked ambitions. Down with the saloon.

FROM HICO.

Prohibition does prohibit in Hico. There is not a single place in the town where anyone can get a drink of anything that intoxicates, not even hop ale. Prohibition has not hurt our town from a business standpoint, but on the contrary, business is much better than when we had the saloon. Our town is improving each year and no business except the whiskey business, has ever suffered here on account of local option.

Yours respectfully,
J. P. Rogers, Mayor.

DECATUR, TEXAS.

The sale of liquor is greatly diminished and at present I do not think a drop can be bought under any circumstances in Wise county. I confess that prohibition is far preferable to all institutions that benefit mankind, and to schools and parents who desire to raise sober boys there is no choice. Take away the social glass.

Yours very truly,

S. G. Tankersley, Co. Judge.

Saloons keep Abilene full of money just like seven holes in the bottom of a tub keep it full of water.

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS.

I have seen more young men under the influence of liquor on one day with saloons open than during the more than 1400 days prohibition. The saloon business is the only business perhaps, except that of the undertaker, the grave diggers and that of the lawyers, that has decreased by local option. My observation has been that a large majority of men who engage in the liquor business have no intention of obeying the law. When a license is procured they give bond, obligating themselves not to sell to minors, nor to men whose wives or daughters request them in writing not to, not to permit minors to enter or remain about their places of business, nor to permit gaming.

J. M. Rishards, Att. at law.

Creating Appetites.

Every father should ponder deeply over the following remarks by the president of the Ohio Liquor League:

"The success of our business is dependent, largely, upon the creation of appetite for drink. Men who drink liquor like others will die, and if there are no new appetites created our counters

will be empty, as will our coffers. The open field for the creation of this appetite is among the boys. After men are grown and their habits are formed, they rarely ever change in this regard. It will be needed, therefore, that missionary work be done among the boys, and I make the suggestion, gentlemen, that nickles expended in treats to the boys now will return in dollars to your tills after the appetite has been formed. Above all things create appetite.

God Condemns The Traffic

The first reason we shall advance is that God condemns the traffic. He says: "Woe unto him that buildeth a town with blood, and that establisheth a city by iniquity. Woe unto him giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him and maketh him drunken also."—Hab. 2: 12-15 While it is wrong to disobey God yet woe and sorrow would come from doing these things just as truly if God had never and sorrow come as naturally from liquor traffic, as fruit comes from a tree so whether you accept the Bible or not, the facts are the same, and demand of you a vote for prohibition. To build a town with blood, to establish a city by iniquity, to give your neighbor drink and make him drunken will entail woe and sorrow just as sure as effect follows a cause. Many of our towns and cities have tried the experiment, and their pavements have been stained with blood, and iniquity has abounded to the horror and grief of its citizenship. We call upon you to cease these efforts to bring good out of evil, and try the plan commended of God and common sense.

The Violet Glass Cure.

There has just been placed in the New York Flower hospital an expensive electrical apparatus which is known as an actinote, said to be the first complete instrument of the kind permanently set up in an American hospital. By its operation it is hoped to make a thorough test of the theory that the powerfully concentrated chemical, or actinic, rays of violet-colored light possesses distinctly curative properties in cases of cancer or tuberculosis. To the patient the operation is an entirely painless one, and its advocates claim for it that it has none of the objectionable features that often attend the application of the Roentgen rays to sensitive portions of the human body.

Gave Medicine to a Tree.

A curious example of superstition was made public the other day in the law courts of Berlin. A tree, growing opposite the gateway of a farmer, was noticed to be withering away. It was found that a deep hole had been bored in it, probably by some person who wished to kill it. As the tree somewhat incommoded the entrance to the farmer's house, he was charged with the deed and fined. He, however, appealed and succeeded in proving that the hole had been bored by some superstitious person who believed that, if illness attacks a household, it can be driven away by "burying" it in a healthy tree. A hole is bored in the tree, and all kinds of medicines are buried in the hole, which is then carefully stopped up, amid the singing of wierd incantations. This could have been done by any superstitious person in the neighborhood, the farmer pointed out. The judge acquitted him.

Grant Monument in Washington.

The design for a Grant monument to be erected in Washington comprise a terrace some 280 feet long and 70 feet deep, whose platform shall be a little over five feet above the ground and be reached by a series of board steps with shallow rises. In the center, on an enormous pedestal, rises a statue of General Grant on horseback. Front and rear, the statue is to be cornered by four lions, each on a lesser pedestal. At either end of the terrace is a group, one depicting a charge of cavalry, the other a battery of field artillery going into action. A long balustrade at the rear and a carved semi-circular railing in front of the Grant group complete the structure. The figures are to be of bronze, the rest of white marble.

An Accomplished Tear-Shedder.

When Ellen Terry, in her childhood, first impersonated Prince Arthur in "King John," she left the stage, after hearing from Hubert that her eyes were to be burned out, with such composure that Mrs. Kean reproved her severely, and the little girl shed tears at the scolding. "Oh, if you can only do that on the stage, what a Prince Arthur you would be!" said Mrs. Kean. Born actress as she is, she shed those tears to perfection the next night, and the critics praised her dramatic force, delightful simplicity, tenderness and truth to nature.

"The drink bill of the United States in one year is nine hundred million dollars." Think of that; nine hundred millions, not

the dollars and cents of the wealthy alone, but of the poor working man, many of whom are and have been for months out of employment. It is enough money to have kept all the idle factories running—enough to supply all the destitute men, women and children with the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. It is more than is paid for bread, shoes and stockings, public schools, sugar and molasses, clergymen's salaries home and foreign missions combined. If you should lay these standard silver dollars on the ground edge down you would have three rows reaching from Buffalo to Chicago. Or, if piled one above the other they would make a column which would reach 1,600 miles into the air; more than two hundred and fifty times higher than the highest mountain peak of the world." Would this wonderful silver monument represent and commemorate love and happiness? but tears, broken hearts, destroyed and blasted ambitions—60,000 people in drunkards graves and 200,000 more in the poor house

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

SPECIALY EDITED

If you'll read The News awhile you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not hap-hazzard go into The News' make-up.

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. Subscribe now.

Gray Hair

"I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for over thirty years. It has kept my scalp free from dandruff and has prevented my hair from turning gray."—Mrs. F. A. Soule, Billings, Mont.

There is this peculiar thing about Ayer's Hair Vigor—it is a hair food, not a dye. Your hair does not suddenly turn black, look dead and lifeless. But gradually the old color comes back,—all the rich, dark color it used to have. The hair stops falling, too.

\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send us one dollar and we will express you a bottle. Be sure and give the name of your nearest express office. Address, J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

of Weather Weakness.

You feel fagged out, listless, lacking in energy, you are perhaps suffering from the debilitating effects of summer weather. These symptoms indicate that a tonic is needed that will create a healthy appetite, make digestion perfect, regulate the bowels and impart natural activity to the liver. This, Herbine will do; it is a tonic, laxative and restorative. H. J. Freegard, Prop. Grand View Hotel, Cheney, Kan., writes: "I have used Herbine for the last 12 years, and nothing in the world can beat it. It was recommended to me by Dr. Newton, Newton, Kan." 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

Local Option in Eastland County.

We the undersigned citizens and business men of Cisco take pleasure in making the following statement in regard to the effect of local option in our town and county since Dec. 16, 1901, the date same went into effect.

From a business standpoint we have lost nothing, men who formerly came to town and spent their money in saloons, now come to town, do their trading and go home sober. From a moral standpoint much has been gained, the temptation to the young and those not addicted to the habit of drink has been removed. Local option as enforced in our community has proven satisfactory and many who formerly opposed us, now sanction it.

This article is signed by 35 business men of Cisco, including the names of such men as Jno. F. Patterson, Mancill Bros., J. T. Berry, R. A. St. John, Citizens National Bank, J. J. Martin, M. T. Jones, and others.

Against Employing Drunkards.

"It is a well known truth that no reliable insurance company will now take risks on the lives of saloon-keepers, gamblers, pug and rarely upon those who ally use intoxicating liquors beverage."

It is also well known that the railroads no longer employ men known to become intoxicated and rapidly total abstinence is being made the test fitness for employment; in manufacturing where great steadiness of nerve and the utmost concentration of thought is required; where an infinitesimal mistake means untold loss, not only is total abstinence from rum demanded, but tobacco and all narcotics. The young man who forms the habits of drinking liquor, unfits himself for any lucrative employment and absolutely debars himself from any high position of trust and responsibility in the industrial world. Plainly, total abstinence is bound to come—we can retard its progress if we will, but cannot prevent its coming if we would.

My little son had an attack of whooping cough and was threatened with pneumonia; but for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy we would have had a serious time of it. It also saved him from several severe attacks of croup.—H. J. Strickfaden, editor World-Herald, Fair Haven, Wash. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Mollie Bailey's famous show drew the crowds Monday night. The times are never too hard for the people to enjoy this annual event.

Mrs. H. A. Browner of Baird visiting relatives in the city.

Allyn was down from Monday.

Farm Implements...

If you want to know what kind of Implements are THE BEST, call on W. H. DICKSON. He has handled the Bement goods for over 12 years, and they have stood the test. They are unquestionably the BEST. Call and see me and I will take a delight in explaining their merits.

W. H. DICKSON.

Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Beech, G. B.
- Brable, Mrs. R. L.
- Bull, Bill
- Clark, Fannie
- Combs, C. G.
- Crawford, J. F.
- Glenn, Evans.
- Nichols, Wm.
- Ross, Sid
- Williams, Oil
- Gamboa, Gridro
- Rioz, Esteban.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

Wood Beds and Matting, all kinds, are going at greatly reduced prices. Call and see them.

W. P. Browning & Co.

Constipated Bowels.

To have good health, the body should be kept in a laxative condition, and the bowels moved at least once a day, so that all the poisonous wastes are expelled daily. Mr. G. L. Edwards, 142 N. Main St., Wichita, Kan., writes: "I have used Herbine to regulate the liver and bowels for the past ten years, and found it a reliable remedy." 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

Prohibition Does Prohibit.

Hillsboro, Tex. May 29—County Attorney Greenwood announced today that the Mount Calm local option contests were at an end, the defendant having pleaded guilty in two cases and paid fines and costs to the amount of over \$400 and accepted the jail penalty for forty days. In addition thereto he has a written agreement to move his liquor and furniture away from Mount Calm by Saturday night. These cases have attracted the attention of the County Court this week resulting in one acquittal, one conviction and two pleas of guilty.

Howe, Tex. April, 6, 1902.—Howe has been a Prohibition town eight years. Prior to this time we had two saloons, both doing a flourishing business, causing the people of Howe a great deal of trouble. There were many violations of the law and criminal persecution in many cases was necessary. Our ladies

could not pass the saloons without being subjected to vile oaths and other obscene language. During this time we had only four stores, one very rude frame school building, two church edifices and a population of three hundred inhabitants. Under prohibition which has been well enforced, Howe has prospered, though the competition of anti-towns has been very strong. To day we have 10 stores two National banks, a two story commodious brick school building, with a full corps of teachers and 300 pupils. Our people are well pleased with prohibition and any attempt to change the present rule has been defeated overwhelmingly. We now have a population of 700 and four churches. Howe is enlisted on the side of God and right, and peace and prosperity smile upon us.

The Editor Knew His Business.

The late Frank Stockton like others who subsequently became eminent as novelists, set in to be a poet. Of his efforts in poetry the Boston Transcript tells this interesting story: "In conjunction with his brother John, he wrote many poems with which he afflicted the editors of various periodicals. The effusions came back always. The editor of one magazine was an especial target of the Stocktons, but as none of their poems were ever accepted, the brothers came to the conclusion that this editor had no conception of good poetry. To prove their belief they hunted up and dispatched to him an ode little known from Milton. Within two days they received a check and a letter of thanks. 'I came to the conclusion that the editor knew poetry when he saw it, after all,' Mr. Stockton used to say, 'and gave up trying to write it.'"

Bank Money Orders.

Bank money orders are issued by all banks, for any amount, and may be cashed at any bank in the United States. No limit to the time in which they will be paid; they are good always. No limit to the number of endorsements or transfers. They are good everywhere, and will be received by merchants and business men anywhere, the same as cash, and can be deposited in any bank at their full face value. All business men, jobbers, wholesale houses, mail-order houses, and newspapers prefer them. They are paid on demand. If lost, duplicate will be issued on application, no delay, no expense. No written application required in purchasing a Bank Money Order. The money is paid immediately upon presentation. They are absolutely safe.

COMPARE THESE PRICES:

Postoffice and Express Orders Cost—	Bank Money Orders Cost—
\$ 5..... 5 cts	\$ 5..... 5 cts
10..... 8 cts	10..... 8 cts
20..... 10 cts	20..... 10 cts
30..... 12 cts	30..... 10 cts
40..... 15 cts	40..... 15 cts
50..... 18 cts	50..... 15 cts
60..... 20 cts	60..... 15 cts
75..... 25 cts	75..... 20 cts
100..... 30 cts	100..... 25 cts

Ask for them at

WARNICK'S BANK.

Heart-Aches.

A mother hearing the above said: "It is not the money but the heart-aches that count." When children go cold and hungry and mother's hearts break and fathers fill drunkards graves, what does a few dollars amount to?

Recently a bright young man, a victim of the saloons, despairing of overcoming the drink habit, gave up the struggle and wrote a note to his mother, "Goodbye, mother, it's no use to try any longer, I'm going to hell, and I know it," then blew his brains out with a pistol. That occurrence may happen in our town at any time. What is the value, in cold cash, of that mother's grief? Bring the question home and ask yourself if what we pay for the ruin of Abilene boys, the destruction of manhood and the agony of dear and tender hearts, is not too great a price to be longer considered for a moment?

Mrs. Aura Johnson and sister, Maggie, came in from Baird Sunday and are visiting their parents.

For Sale or Trade—A good Jack.

2t J. M. Bryson, Dora, Texas.

*Cold
..Drinks..*

We have a nice Ice Cream Parlor, and invite only the best trade.

Fresh Bread kept always on hand.

Oysters every Saturday.

Meals served at all hours.

Blue Front Restaurant.

DR. J. W. LITTLE...

Resident Dentist

EXAMINATIONS FREE—

Office upstairs, Ferrier Bldg.



A Miraculous Feat.

"It seemed that nothing short of a miracle could save my little daughter from an untimely death," says City Marshall A. H. Malcolm, of Cherokee, Kan. "When two years old she was taken with stomach and bowel trouble and despite the efforts of the best physicians we could procure, she grew gradually worse and was pronounced incurable. A friend advised

Dr. Miles' Nervine

and after giving it a few days she began to improve and finally fully recovered. She is now past five years of age and the very picture of health."

Sold by all Druggists.

Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

Miss Mattie Comegys left for Alvord Saturday night to visit friends.

Mr. Wiman, who has been with the Globe since its location here, left Monday night for Abilene.

Old hunters say The MARLIN

has so many things to commend it. The top of the action is always closed, the mechanism the most simple, the finish elegant, the form attractive. It seems to throw its bullets a little more accurately and plant them with a little more force than any other rifle. For deer take a 38-55 or 30-30. 120-page catalog, 300 illustrations, colored cover by Remington, for 5 stamps. MARLIN FIRE ARMS CO. NEW HAVEN, CONN.

EASON & HILL,
(STAR STORE BUILDING.)
THE MERKEL BARBERS.

Razors sharp,
Towels clean.

Bath room in connection.
Your patronage solicited.

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

First class work and prompt and
polite attention to all.

J. J. MILLER,
Justice Peace and Notary Public

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

I. O. O. F. LODGE

No. 355 meets every Friday
night. Visiting brethren cor-
dially invited to attend.

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

DR. T. S. HOLLIS,
THE DENTIST →

Office over Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

H. C. WILLIAMS,
Real Estate and Insurance Agent
Notary Public

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

J. A. LEEMAN

Physician and Surgeon.

Office, Davis' Drug Store.

G. H. RICHARDSON

Physician and Surgeon.

Residence, West Merkel.

DR. E. B. GILBERT
→ SPECIALIST ←

Practice limited to the EYE, EAR,
NOSE AND THROAT.

Office over Harris' Drug Store, Abilene, Texas.

BEST
PASSENGER SERVICE
IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*The State's
Dearest
and Best
Love
to our
Sweet
Home*

P. TURNER,
GEN'L PASS'G AND TICKET AGENT,
DALLAS, TEXAS.

MORE LIVES ARE SAVED
...BY USING...
Dr. King's New Discovery,
...FOR...

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

This wonderful medicine positively
cures Consumption, Coughs, Colds,
Bronchitis, Asthma, Pneumonia, Hay
Fever, Pleurisy, LaGrippe, Hoarseness,
Sore Throat, Croup and Whooping
Cough. **NO CURE. NO PAY.**
Price 50c. & \$1. Trial Bottle Free.

(continued from first page.)

prisoner fell like coals of fire up-
on those present, and many of
the spectators and some of the
lawyers were moved to tears.
The judge made a motion as if to
stop any further speech on the
part of the prisoner when the
speaker hastily said:

"No! no! your honor, do not
close my lips; I am nearly
through, and they are the last
words I shall utter on earth.

"I began my downward career
at a saloon BAR—legalized and
protected by the voters of this
commonwealth, which has re-
ceived annually a part of this
blood-money from the poor, de-
luded victims. After the state
had made a drunkard and a
murderer, I am taken before
another BAR—the bar of justice
(?) by the same power of law
that legalized the first bar, and
now the law-power will conduct
me to the place of execution and
hasten my soul into eternity. I
shall appear before another bar
—the JUDGMENT BAR OF GOD, and
there you, who have legalized the
traffic, will have to appear with
me. Think you that the Judge
will hold me—the poor, weak,
helpless victim of your traffic—
alone responsible for the murder
of my wife? Nay, I in my drunken,
frenzied, irresponsible condition,
have murdered ONE, but you have
deliberately and wilfully murder-
ed your thousands, and the murder-
mills are in full operation to-
day, with your consent.

"All of you know in your hearts
that these words of mine are not
the ravings of an unsound mind,
but God Almighty's truth. The
liquor traffic of this nation is re-
sponsible for nearly all the mur-
ders, bloodshed, riots, poverty,
misery, wretchedness and woe. It
breaks up thousands of happy
homes every year; sends the hus-
band and father to prison or to
the gallows, and drives countless
mothers and little children into
the world to suffer and die. It
furnishes nearly all the criminal
business of this and every other
court, and blasts every commu-
nity it touches.

"This infernal traffic is legalized
and protected by both of the po-
litical parties, which you sustain
with your ballots. And yet some
of you have the audacity to say
that you are in favor of prohib-
iting the traffic, while your votes
go into the ballot box with those
of the rumsellers and the worst
elements in the land in favor of
continuing the business! Every
year you are given the opportu-
nity of voting a protest against
this soul-and-body-destroying
and wash your hands of all re-
sponsibility for the fearful results
of the traffic, but instead you in-
form the government by your
ballot that you are perfectly sat-
isfied with the present condition
of things, and they shall continue.

"You legalized the saloon that
made me a drunkard and a murder-
er, and you are guilty with me,
before God and man, for the
murder of my wife.

"Your honor, I am done. I am
now ready to receive my sentence
and be led forth to the place of
execution and be murdered ac-
cording to the laws of the state.
You will close by asking the Lord
to have mercy on my soul. I
will close by asking God to open
your eyes to the truth, to your
own individual responsibility, so
that you will cease to give your
support to this hell-born traf-
fic."

Fine watch repairing is the
kind you want. That's the kind
Ustick does. Guaranteed.

Virulent Cancer Cured.

Startling proof of a wonderful
advance in medicine is given by
druggist G. W. Coberts of Eliza-
beth, W. Va. An old man there
had long suffered with what good
doctors pronounced incurable
cancer. They believed his case
hopeless till he used Electric
Bitters and applied Bucklen's
Arnica Salve, which treatment
completely cured him. When
Electric Bitters are used to expel
bilious, kidney and microbe
poisons at the same time this
salve exerts its matchless healing
power, blood diseases, skin eru-
ptions, ulcers and sores vanish.
Bitters 50c salve 25c at Rust &
Pittard's.

Mr. Cunningham's Argument.

The Mail last week accused
J. F. Cunningham of trying to
mislead the people and of being
a hireling of the saloon element.
We have nothing to take back.
The assertions were based on
Mr. Cunningham's own state-
ments. He says that both the
pros and antis came to him and
offered a money consideration if
he would manage their campaign.
He did not state that he accepted
either of the offers, neither did
he state that he refused them,
but he did say that he had al-
ways been a pro up to NOW and
gave no reason for his change of
heart. Mr. Cunningham made
no attempt to refute The Mail's
charges. He merely gave an
illustration of the old-time ashe-
hopper and by way of comment
set fire to a copy of The Mail,
caught the ashes in his hand,
poured in a little water, stirred it
up and said that was all there is
in it. Was there any argument
in this? The Mail gave Abilene's
great criminal lawyer credit for
more consistency than he dis-
played Saturday night. He is a
good man, but really thought he
could produce arguments during
his former visit here that the
people would gulp down like un-
to the way some of the members
of the anti campaign committee
are in the habit of gulping down
"rot-gut" whiskey. Mr. Cun-
ningham stated to an Abilene
lawyer, when asked why he made
such and such statements at
Merkel, that it suited his purpose
to do so. If he has always been
a pro why this change of heart
at the eleventh hour, and why is
he trying to deliver the county to
the saloons? But be it said to
his credit, he hasn't made the
least impression on the people.

Saved From an Awful Fate.

"Everybody said I had con-
sumption," writes Mrs. A. M.
Shields, of Chambersburg, Pa.,
"I was so low after six months of
severe sickness, caused by hay
fever and asthma, that few
thought I could get well but I
learned of the marvelous merit of
Dr. King's New Discovery for
Consumption, used it, and was
completely cured." For desper-
ate throat and lung troubles it is
the safest cure in the world, and
it is infallible for coughs, colds
and bronchial affections. Gua-
ranteed bottles 50c and \$1.00.
Trial bottles free at Rust & Pit-
tard's.

Happy Time in Old Town.

"We felt verry happy," writes
R. N. Bevill, Old Town, Va.,
"when Bucklen's Arnica Salve
wholly cured our daughter of a
bad case of scald head." It de-
lights all who use it for cuts,
corns, burns, bruises, ulcers,
boils, eruptions. Infallible for
piles. Only 25c at Rust & Pit-
tard's.

Try reading The Mail.

All in One

The Upper part contains
a 50-lb flour bin with sifter,
a moulding board,
a tilting sugar bin, with
close fitting lid,
three drawers, one with 6
partitions for spices.
In the lower part are
3 large drawers for table
linen, groceries, etc.
ample cupboard room for
cooking utensils. Shelves, brackets, mirror and top piece
make the Cabinet as handsome as it is convenient. It is
mounted on the finest ball bearing casters. If you have any
reason to believe that your kitchen work would not be less-
ened and that you would not feel better and happier with a
Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet than without it, won't you kindly
tell us what is the reason? If there is none, may we not
have your order?
Yours truly,
ED S. HUGHES & CO.
Abilene, Texas

S. W. SHEPPARD

Groceries
Vegetables
Fruits
Country
Produce
and Fresh
Meats, etc.

We sell almost
everything afford-
ed by the market,
and sell at reason-
able prices. Come
to us for your gro-
ceries....

..NEW GOODS..

We are receiving our New
Spring Goods. They embrace
all the latest creations on the
market, and we are pleased
to announce that our stock is
the largest and best selected
we have ever carried. Come
and see for yourself...

J. O. HAMILTON

ELLIOTT & MILLER
DEALERS IN

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

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

WINCHESTER
FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS
"New Rival" "Leader" "Repeater"

IF you are looking for reliable shotgun am-
munition, the kind that shoots where you
point your gun, buy Winchester Factory
Loaded Shotgun Shells! "New Rival," loaded with
Black powder; "Leader" and "Repeater," loaded
with Smokeless. Insist upon having Winchester
Factory Loaded Shells, and accept no others
ALL DEALERS KEEP THEM