

# THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, OCTOBER 16, 1902.

NO. 35.

Judgement in Buying and Honesty in Selling makes this store the cheapest place at which to do your trading.

## Take Care of Your Dimes!

Let us save you enough on your fall purchases of Dry Goods to buy a large part of your other actual necessities.

THE DOLLARS WILL TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

You can not only save dimes, but dollars by trading with us this fall; we know that our prices are very low, and try where you will you can't beat them. We are not given to boastful statements, but there is one thing we can strongly emphasize--"OUR PRICES ARE RIGHT." A close inspection of our new stock will convince you of this fact. Come in and look around; we are anxious to "show you" whether you buy or not.

We are showing a pretty line of woolen Dress Goods in Venetians, Zibilien, Dress Flannels and Broadcloths, with Appliques, Laces, and Braids to match.

Big line of Calicoes, Percales, Gingham, Madras and Outings--all new goods and new patterns.

**STAR BRAND SHOES ARE BETTER.**



For Men, Ladies, Boys and Girls

### LOOK AT THESE:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Special value in yard wide percale at .....    | 7½c  |
| Heavy yard wide LL Domestic .....              | 4½c  |
| Good quality soft finish Bleach Domestic ..... | 4½c  |
| Best quality Feather Ticking .....             | 12½c |
| Mattress Ticking .....                         | 4½c  |
| Extra heavy good width Cotton Flannel .....    | 8½c  |
| Fair quality Cotton Flannel .....              | 4½c  |
| 25 inch round thread Cotton Checks .....       | 3½c  |
| 6 spools Clark's O. N. T. Thread .....         | 25c  |

These are only a few of the many bargains we have in store for our customers.

We cordially invite the trading public to visit our store. You will always be welcome. We are in the market all the time for your cotton at top figures.

Very respectfully,

**THE STAR STORE,**  
LEADERS OF LOW PRICES.

Below is a Few Articles a Nickel Will Buy:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 10 balls Thread .....   | 5c |
| 5 papers Pins .....   | 5c |
| 2 bottles Ink .....   | 5c |
| 4 rubber tip Lead Pencils .....   | 5c |
| 4 cedar Slate Pencils .....   | 5c |
| Cork handle Penholder .....   | 5c |
| Keep fingers clean by using a "Morning glory" on your penholder; only ..... | 5c |
| Extra large Tablet .....  | 5c |
| 25 good Envelopes .....   | 5c |
| 12 inch School Rule .....   | 5c |
| 5 spools Embroidery Silk .....  | 5c |
| Box Bachelor Buttons .....  | 5c |
| Horn or rubber Fine Comb .....  | 5c |

Latest Styles in...

**LADIES' MISS ES' CHILDREN' JACKETS.....**



### The Higher Life

A Sermon and a Suicide.

A good many men are worth more dead than living.

In a New York hotel the other day a young man made his will and then committed suicide. Here is the will:

"I leave to society a ruined character. I leave to my father and mother as much misery as, in their feeble state, they can bear. I leave to my brothers and sisters the memory of my misspent life. I leave to my wife a broken heart, and to my children the memory that their father fills a drunkard's grave and has gone to a drunkard's hell."

In a way it is a good will. It is a sermon written on a coffin, and it ought to reach a good many men who are fools, who know they are fools and who would rather drift than pull up.

It is a good idea, once in a while, for a man to interview himself and ask, "What kind of a legacy am I leaving to my wife and children?"

That doesn't refer to money alone. In these days of business and prudence every man tries to so arrange his affairs that when he passes away the burden he leaves behind will rest lightly on his loved ones.

But there are mortals.

Why, a man owes to his children health, and if he is a drunkard and a rounder, how can he hope for robust offspring.

He wants his little ones to live in an atmosphere of respectability and peace and decency.

If he makes his life one long debauch, is he strong enough to drop his burden of immortality and sin at the door as he enters his home and seem to be a gentleman in the presence of his family?

So many men refuse to think. They are selfish in their business, selfish in their pleasures, selfish in their thoughts. Every man has some influence. No man can live wholly in himself. He leaves a legacy to some one.

It may be a memory of kind words, a tender love and thoughtful devotion, loving that has made a wife and children happy; it may be sorrow and shame, little ones with twisted limbs and unhealthy bodies; a woman with misery written in her eyes; parents who weep when a name is mentioned.

Pity the man who so blasts the life that God gave him that the world is glad when six feet of earth covers his coffin.

Yes, there is a sermon in that New York suicide.—Cincinnati Post.

#### Places of Business.

Rev. Hays, Presbyterian.

Christ desires with such an earnest longing to enter all the places of business and plant there his kingdom of righteousness and equity and salvation; but so many times he finds himself shut out by a strange door that will not open to him. The door is perfectly round. On the one

side is inscribed the word "Liberty," and on the other side "In God We Trust." It seems to be rightful place; but this mighty dollar is so securely fastened to the hinges of the heart that it will not open to him.

#### Treasure in Heaven.

Rev. Baldwin, United Brethren.

How much better it is to lay up heaven during all of our short earthly lives, so that when we leave the short human existence to enter upon that of eternity we shall have a treasure there to draw upon for support. And if we do not have treasure laid up in heaven we may not be able to reach there, but will be compelled to live in darkness.

Rev. Denny, Church of Christ.

It has been a lamented fact that the neglect of early childhood has caused many great evils. Christian people should take this more to heart than they do. Childhood is the time to accomplish great blessings or curses. As a child is brought up, so will it live in the future.

#### Report on Cotton.

Mr. Sidney Castles, of Anson, Texas, has been appointed a local special agent of the Census Office to collect cotton-ginning statistics for this county, and we join the Government in urging the ginners to give Mr. Castles their hearty support and cooperation, thus enabling him to make prompt and accurate returns. We would impress upon the ginners the fact that this agent is a sworn officer of the Government,

and his reports are forwarded as given to him directly to the Census Office, at Washington, without passing through the hands of any middlemen. The information given is held as strictly confidential, and the operations of individual ginners are not divulged. Upon the joint cooperation of the cotton growers, ginners, and local agents must depend the success of the Census Office in this inquiry, and its ability to render this great service to the Southern people and to all interested in the cotton staple.

The Census Office has demonstrated in three annual reports, the fact that the ginners are the only reliable source of information as to the volume of the annual cotton crop. This is very complimentary to the ginners, who, no doubt, will feel a pride in sustaining the reputation earned. Therefore, show Mr. Castles every courtesy, and give him all the information at your command.

#### A Country That Has No Strikes.

The Church Review says:

New Zealand has done the most daring things ever attempted by any modern government. The New Zealanders claim that New Zealand is a country without strikes. Laborers and employers have their disputes there as elsewhere, but the one can not quit work, or the other lock out workmen, pending a settlement of the dispute in courts. It is also a country without paupers or poorhouses, for injured workmen are cared for by their employers. The aged workman is

pensioned by the Government as a soldier of industry worn out in the ranks. The Government owns not only the postal system, but the express service, the telegraph lines, and the railroads. Recently it has purchased a coal mine to supply its locomotives with fuel, and it intends to compete with private mines in the sale of coal to the public for enough to keep the price of coal down to a reasonable figure.

A. C. Bennett says he has sold over 1,000 knee pads as a result of a three-line local carried in The Mail, and he don't know how many shoes he has repaired as a result of another small local. He has even received mail orders from other counties for reversible collar pads which were also advertised. This week he takes occasion to do some very loud talking. Read his ad.

There is a mudhole in the northeast part of town, on the Salt Branch road, to which our attention has been called. An hour's work would put it in good condition, and it should be attended to. Another rain soon would make it almost impassable.

A. C. Bennett returned Saturday from a prospecting trip to New Mexico.

The infant son of J. L. Mann has been quite sick with fever, but is improving.

Mrs. E. W. Dennis is reported quite sick.

For Sale—Eastman Bull's Eye kodak, carrying case and tripod. Good as new. Cheap. See Will Leeman.



## The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office ..... 31  
Residence ..... 37

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

### 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.

### Do You Want to Yawn?

Feel cold shiverings, aching in the bones, lack of energy, headache, and great depression? These symptoms may be followed by violent headache, high fever, extreme nervousness, a condition known as malaria. Herbine cures it. Take it before the disease gets a fair hold, though it will work a cure in any stage. J. A. Hopkins, of Manchester, Kan., writes: "I have used your great medicine, Herbine, several years. There is nothing better for malaria, chills and fever, headache, biliousness, and for a blood-purifying tonic, there is nothing as good." 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

### A Portable Street Light.

A portable street light of great illuminating power is the device of the Westminster county council for lessening accidents from London fogs. A cylindrical tank eighteen inches in diameter and two feet high is charged with twenty-five gallons of petroleum and compressed air forces vapor from the oil into a standpipe provided with a burner. On igniting, the torch flares up eighteen inches to two feet, with a power of 1,000 candles.

### A Peculiar Armchair.

An armchair has been grown from the seed of the gingko tree by a Korean. He planted it, pruned it, and guided each tendril of the growing plant for twenty years. The chair weighs over 100 pounds, is forty inches in height and thirty-five inches wide.

### Called Him to Order.

Lord Salisbury, until recently the British premier, was one time called to order in parliament for giving utterances to what was taken to be something stronger than a gibe or a flout. That was thirty years ago. The Earl of Granard had shown nationalistic leanings and had, in fact, in a moment of elation, written a very out-spoken letter which came under parliamentary discussion. Then it was that Lord Salisbury referred to Lord Granard's "cursed pen," as the lord chancellor and the house heard him. Called to order, he explained that the word in question was "cursive."

# ...Buggies at a Bargain...

I have a large stock of Buggies on hand--too large, in fact, for the time of year--and have decided to make prices on them that will compel them to go. Parties wanting anything in the Buggy line will SAVE MONEY by buying them now, while this car lasts. I mean to SELL them and will NAME YOU PRICES that no one else will duplicate.

## GEO. F. WEST.

### Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

May 24. Today, 36 years ago, we started out on our voyage of life together. Not being able to take a wedding trip at that time, we deferred it to some "more convenient season," and now, just 36 years after, we are in the cars of the "Mexico Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway," and bound for the tropics over the most picturesque railroad on the continent. Thanks to the managers for passes to as far as we wish to go on the road.

At 8 a. m. we leave the city. The morning is beautiful. We pass through the suburbs of the capital, through beautiful gardens of flowers and tropical vegetation, through the pretty little towns of Tocubaya and Mixcoac, where there are some fine residences belonging to men who have their business in the city. Both of these towns are connected with the city by electric lines.

At Contreras we stop to take on some wood. This is the site of one of the hardest fought battles between the Mexicans and Americans in 1845. The distance from the city is only 18 miles, but we are about 900 feet above it. There are immense fields of maguey plants here and pulque is offered for sale to the passengers by a crowd of women and girls, and Indian men go by laden with skin bottles filled with pulque. From here we get a fine view of Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl, the morning sun lighting up their tops of perpetual snow with a beauty no pen can describe, while clouds float by obscuring their tops for a time.

From Contreras the road gets steeper and steeper and we wonder how the engine can pull the three coaches. As we go higher the elms and cypress of the valley have given place to oak, birch and fir trees. It is one continuous lava bed--over fills made of lava, through cuts where the lava is piled up on each side, black and gloomy and in the most fantastic shapes. We remark that there must be a volcano near and looking out of the west side

of the car we see that we are climbing up the side of a volcano, the crater showing plainly on top. It is Ajusco, one of the volcanoes that surround the valley of Mexico. For over 300 years it has been extinct, but the eruption that threw out these immense lava deposits must have been a great one. As we near the summit the view of the valley is indeed grand. The whole valley, with the city, villages, lakes and circle of mountains, is spread out like a vast panorama. At every turn of the road "Old Popo" and his companion are bro't full to view. Some places we seem to run on the edge of precipices, and the valley 2,000 feet below us is covered with a bluish haze. The grade in many places is four per cent., and how a road was ever cut and laid through this lava is a wonder to all who see it, and is a credit to the prince of railroad builders, Col. Joe Hampson. Lava rock is noted for hardness, toughness, and being porous makes it very difficult to blast.

La Cima (The Summit) is 10,017 above sea level and 2,668 feet above the City of Mexico. A short distance from the station is the crater that rises several hundred feet high.

We were surprised to find quite a level piece of country on the summit, with nice little farms fenced with lava rock and quaint little farm houses built of lava and thatched with long grass, or made of reeds looking very much like hay stacks with a door in the side. The corn here is coming in tassel, and is of good size and healthy color. Wheat also looks well and is just beginning to ripen. In the valley it is dry and everybody waiting for rain, but away up here the condensation of the moisture every night is almost equal to a light rain. There are fine forests of white pine, and others that look like birch and maple. The rocks are covered with beautiful ferns and lichens like what grow in northern United States. The scenery

around us (leaving out the stone fences and thatched houses) resembles very much the top of the Alleghenies, where the B. & O. railroad crosses. It is quite cool here and the car windows are closed and overcoats and wraps are in demand. A good wagon road that we could see at intervals coming up the mountains crosses here. It is the road used by Maximilian while on his trips to the city of Cuernavaca, where he had his country residence. Cortez may have used this road, as he also sought recreation and health in Cuernavaca.

From La Cima we begin to go down the southern side of the mountain.

At Tres Marias, eight miles from the summit, is a pretty Indian town, with a quaint old church, a telegraph station and post office. The train stops long enough to get a lunch. There seems to be considerable farming here; corn looks splendid and wheat is about ready to cut. Tres Marias (Three Marys) is named for three mountain peaks nearby.

From here the descent is very rapid. We soon see the valley of Cuernavaca, nearly 4,000 feet below us. The vegetation on this side is some different from the other side. The trees are oak, ash and birch, with some cedars and long leaf pine. Beautiful orchids grow on the limbs of the trees, some of them with brilliant red flowers. Along the track we notice a large leaved shrub that grows about ten feet high, with a bunch of flowers on the top. This is called by the natives "tobacco cimmaron," and is a wild species of tobacco. There is not so much lava on this side, as the flow seems to have been to the north.

At El Parque the station agent has a very pretty little flower garden. The train men have to pour water on the wheels, so hot do they get from the friction of the brakes. Below us we count three lines of track; they are only windings of our road in its descent to the valley. The city of Cuernavaca looks like a mere dot on the landscape below us, but gets plainer as we descend. The temperature is improving and we again raise the windows, and at 12:20 p. m. we reach Cuernavaca.

The city is about a mile from the station. It is 5,062 feet above sea level and 75 miles from the City of Mexico. In this 75 miles we have been 2,668 feet above the City of Mexico, and now we are 2,287 feet below it, and the time used only 4 hrs., 20 min.

We find a good restaurant near the depot, with a fine grove of bananas in front of it. There is a round house and car shop here, and we change engines for the south. The north bound meets us here and for a half hour all is bustle and hurry. In a few minutes we leave for Iguala.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

### Williamsons Restaurant

Is the Place  
to go for....

### HOT LUNCHES

Meals served at all hours  
Everything neat & clean

### The "Paper Age."

Artificial teeth made of paper and "uppers" for boots and shoes of the same material are among the new uses to which paper is being put. The old saying, "There is nothing like leather," may some time be changed to "There's nothing like paper." At this very moment a substantial business firm in Boston is considering a proposition to take up the work of manufacturing paper hats. By and by a high hat, dress suit and shoes rivaling patent leather, all made of paper, may be considered quite the correct thing. The paper age may astonish the world to a greater degree than any that have preceded it.

### Her Own Opinion About It.

Representative Lamb of Virginia tells a story about a little girl and her prayers. She lives in Petersburg and is just 4 1-2 years old. Like all other good little girls, she kneels every night at her mother's knee, and, after reciting the Lord's prayer, silently adds a little prayer of her own. One night her mother, rather curious, asked her daughter what she had told the Lord. "Mamma," said the youngster, "I asked the Lord to please remove that mole on your face, but," added the little one, "I also told the Lord that I thought the mole had come to stay."



# NEW BUSINESS!

**New Store! New Goods!**  
**Old Buyers! Experienced Merchants!**

You Read Other Advertisements; Read This One; it will Interest you.

It's a new business and a new store, but our number of years of experience and unqualified success will be known when you see our prices and our goods. We are not over-enthusiastic; we want every person in and around Abilene to see our exhibit, compare it with others, and give us **ONLY THE CREDIT DUE**. Read our prices, examine our goods and pass upon their merits. Read the following closely, then come and see for yourself as to its **TRUTHFULNESS**.

**AN OLD ADAGE:**  
**Self Praise is Half Scandal.**

## Staples

Yard wide LL Brown Dom....4c  
 Yd wide LL heavy " ....5c  
 Yd wide S I " ....4½c  
 " " very heavy " ....7c  
 " Bleach sof fin " ....5c  
 Yard wide Bleach Domestic 8c,  
 7c and down to.....6c  
 10-4 brown sheeting.....15c  
 Heavy brown drilling, good...6c  
 Cotton plaids and checks 3,4 & 5c  
 Good stand, fancy calicoes 4 to 3c  
 Good stand, indigo blues and  
 calicoes .....4c  
 Oil red blues and greens.....5c  
 Good stand, silver grays.....4c  
 A C A feather ticking only...10c  
 Fancy feather ticking, double  
 fold .....10 to 15c  
 Mattress ticking 8, 7, 6 down to 5c  
 Staple checked gingham.....4c  
 " " better 5c  
 Fancy dress gingham.....7 & 8c  
 Fancy dress gingham and Mad-  
 ras cloth.....10c  
 Cotton flannels.....3½ to 5c  
 " " ....12, 10, 8 to 7c

## Shoes

Men's heavy solid all leather  
 work shoes.....\$1.00  
 Men's heavy oil grain—best shoe  
 for the money.....1.25  
 Men's dress shoe lace or con 1.00  
 Men's dress better goods 1.25,  
 1.35 and .....1.50  
 Our guaranteed shoes from 2.00,  
 2.50 to 3.50 are the best goods on  
 the market. See our shoes be-  
 fore you buy.  
 Ladies heavy shoes...80c to 1.00  
 Ladies nicer and bet. 1.25 to 1.75  
 Ladies dongola lace nice patent  
 tip .....80c  
 Ladies vici lace better .....1.35  
 Ladies vici lace, the best shoe on  
 earth for the money.....1.50  
 Our ladies 2.00, 2.50, 3.00 and up  
 shoes are beauties for the money.

Boys work shoes, 4s to 5s ...1.10  
 " " better 1.25 to 1.50  
 Boys nice dress shoes.....1.00  
 Boys nice vici and box calf shoes  
 from.....1.35, 1.50 to 2.00  
 Childs fancy soft shoe 1 to 3, 15c  
 Childs fancy, better ....25 to 50c  
 Childrens in blue and red, some-  
 thing nice.....85c, 1.00 to 1.10  
 Childs dongola button tip, sizes 3  
 to 5 .....35c  
 Childs dongola but., 5 to 7½, 50c  
 Childs nicer and better goods  
 at.....75c and 1.00  
 Misses heavy shoes 50, 65c & 1.00  
 Misses heavy, better and nicer  
 goods....75c, 1.00, 1.25 and 1.50  
 Misses nice dress shoes all prices  
 from.....75c to 1.00 and up.  
 Our line of misses and little gents  
 school shoes will be put against  
 anything in the state for quality  
 and price.

## Mens Furnishing Goods Department.

Mens rib. fleece undershirts..20c  
 " fancy " " ..25c  
 " heavy " " ..35c  
 " wool " lined " ..50  
 A Cotton flannel drawers with  
 elastic ankle .....25c  
 Bleach drill, Scrivens patent 50c  
 A Good Heavy Overshirt—Our  
 line of overshirts from 50, 75, 1.00  
 1.50, 2.00 and 2.50 are the best in  
 the country for the money.  
 Mens fancy dress shirt.....35c  
 " " " " 50c, 75c 1.00  
 Mens work shirts 25, 35 and 50c  
 Mens work pants 75, 1.00 and 1.50  
 Mens dress pants 2.00, 2.50 to 5.00

## White Goods Dept.

White table damask .....22½c  
 " " " 25, 35, 50, 75 to  
 .....1.25  
 Red table damask 20, 25 and up.  
 A bleach cotton towel 5c each or  
 10c a pair.

Bleach cotton towel, larger and  
 better, 20 and 25c a pair.  
 A nice large linen towel 25c each  
 or 50c a pair.  
 Bleach linen towels 75 to 2.00 pr.  
 Bleach crashes and toweling 4 to  
 10c per yard.  
 White counterpanes 60, 1.00, 1.50  
 2.00 to 2.50 and up.

In men's fur hats, we think we  
 have the best line in Abilene for  
 the money.  
 Mens fur hats, a good one...90c  
 " " " better grade, 1.00,  
 1.50 to 2.50.

Also a line of Stetson hats.  
 Boys hats...25, 35, 50c and up.  
 Mens caps...15, 25, 50c and up.  
 Boys caps...5, 10 to 50c and up.

Our line of hosiery in mens,  
 ladies, misses and children's will  
 be the best shown in Abilene, and  
 as to prices, we will say that no  
 house in the state will sell you  
 better, or as good, for the money  
 as we will sell you.

Mens sox .....5c and up.  
 Ladies seamless hose at...8½c.  
 And are the best goods that  
 can be shown for the money.

We handle the celebrated Jane  
 Hopkins line of boys clothing,  
 which are the most up-to-date  
 line of boys and children's cloth-  
 ing made. See them for style  
 and price.

## Skirts and Jackets.

The prettiest line of skirts in  
 the city, all colors and styles, the  
 very latest to be had. In wool-  
 ens from \$1.00 to \$10. Our silk  
 skirts are beauties, handsomely  
 trimmed and elegant in every  
 detail, from \$10 to \$20.

We also take orders for tailor-  
 made suits from the leading tail-  
 ors, with satisfaction guaranteed.  
 Ask to see samples.

## Jackets.

We made this a special feature  
 while in market. Every lady  
 wishes a handsome wrap, for that  
 is half the winter. Our Monte  
 Carlo's are just the thing in ele-  
 gance and style. Just look at  
 them and see.

We also have short jackets,  
 ranging from \$1.25 to \$5.00—  
 jackets that will always be the  
 style.

## Dress Goods Dept.

Our line of high grade dress  
 goods and novelties of this sea-  
 son's product are beauties in  
 Vigoroys, Venetians, Panama,  
 Suitings, Melton Cloths, Broad-  
 cloths, Corkscrews, Satin Soliel  
 Cloth and many other fine fab-  
 rics, which we will show you and  
 the prices we will not attempt to  
 quote on these lines.

## Millinery Dept.

Our millinery department is the  
 most up-to-date this side of Fort  
 Worth, and stands her own with  
 any in the state.

Miss DeLane is one of the best  
 designers and trimmers to be se-  
 cured in St. Louis, and will be  
 ably assisted by Mrs. Grimes,  
 who has had about eighteen  
 years practical experience in this  
 line. Call and see them to be  
 pleased.

## Flannel & Silk Waists.

Ask to see the shirt waists.  
 They are something that never  
 "goes out" with the season, and  
 we think we have a beautiful  
 line. Fine flannels and silks, all  
 prices, something that will catch  
 your eye.

**WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY LITTLE DISCOVERY**, consequently our goods are the most up-to-date in Style, Quality and Price, the Designs and Fabrics the Newest. Nothing is worse in business than advertising that says one thing and goods that speak another. We believe in buying and selling goods that you can tell the truth about. The truth is enough. Such goods do not simply supply a demand today; it creates one for tomorrow. Honesty, Quality, and Prices are worthy of consideration. Remember we have a commodious room especially fitted up for the ladies, where they can rest before and after shopping. Don't forget the place, the big Daylight Store on Chestnut and South Second St., ABILENE.

# S. W. GRIMES & CO.



# Our First Announcement.



**WE** HAVE BOUGHT OUT MR. AUSTIN FITTS' BUSINESS, and will continue it at the same old stand. Any courtesies and favors shown you by Mr. Fitts in the past will be gladly extended you now by us.

## We Are Here For Business

and want to get acquainted with you, so come around and let us reason together. Remember our **SPOT CASH** buying and selling and our policy of **SMALL PROFITS, QUICK SALES** makes the very cheapest goods for our customers. Mr. and Mrs. Fitts will be in the store until Jan. 1. New goods are bought and will be rolling in until our stock is complete.

YOURS FOR BUSINESS,

# WATSON & BACON.

## The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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

### Subscription Rates.

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

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

### SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the 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.)

## A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT

### ONE BOY SHOTS ANOTHER ACCIDENTALLY.

### PLAYING WHILE OUT HUNTING

Gun is Discharged, Taking Effect in the Breast and Causing Instant Death.

Saturday evening, while Harvey and Clifton Bickley, aged 18 and 16 years, respectively, were out hunting the older boy was accidentally killed by the accidental discharge of a shot gun in the hands of his brother. They are sons of J. S. Bickley, one of our best-known farmers, who lives four miles northwest of town.

Judge Miller, who held an inquest over the body, gives The Mail the following particulars of the sad affair:

The two boys with a neighbor boy were out in the field shooting doves, Clifton carrying the gun, when a dove flew before they got to them. The boy drew back the hammer of his gun, but did not shoot, and it is supposed he put the gun back on his shoulder without letting the hammer down. About this time the older boy came up and asked his brother for his knife. He was told that the knife was lost, whereupon he playfully picked up a switch, calling out as he advanced, "now you will give it to me, won't you?" Clifton grabbed at the switch, and it is supposed that the gun was thrown from his shoulder and in attempting to catch it touched the trigger and discharged it, though the boys don't know exactly how it was done. The entire load of birdshot penetrated the center of the breast bone and plowed its way into the body, causing almost instant death. As soon as the gun fired, Harvey wheeled around and started to run, but took only four or five steps, when he dropped dead in his tracks.

These facts came out at the inquest, which was held only a few hours after the accident occurred, all the witnesses making practically the same statement. The verdict of the inquest was that "deceased came to his death from wounds inflicted by a gun in the hands of his brother, Clifton Bickley."

No blame is attached to Clifton for his part in the sad affair. The boys were honest, manly fellows and devotedly attached to each other, so that no charge other than carelessness can be brought against the survivor of the accident, who is heart-broken over it.

The affair is one of the saddest

and most deplorable that we have ever been called upon to chronicle. Mr. Bickley and family have been residents of the community for a number of years and stand high in the estimation of all. The boys have always held themselves above reproach. It is one of those horrible accidents which are daily occurring, but which no one is criminally responsible for.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday evening and the interment took place at the Merkel cemetery. The procession was one of the longest ever seen here. The Mail, in common with the entire community, extends its heart-felt sympathy to the bereaved family and other relatives. May God comfort them with His presence.

G. W. Persfield moved his family here from Moran last week. He is employed at Bennett's saddle shop.

The Abilene Fair is in full blast this week, with large crowds in attendance. Many Merkel people are helping swell the numbers. The fair this year is better than ever before. Don't fail to attend.

Immense quantities of new goods are still arriving daily and the capacity of the depot is being taxed to its utmost. A new depot—that's what we need, but it is a long, a very long time in making its appearance. Like the double daily train service, it has probably been sidetracked.

O. S. Partain and Mr. Galbraith moved to Portales, N. M., this week, where they will locate.

A. C. Bennett left Sunday for Gorman.

The Star Store and Bacon & Watson have new ads which you are invited to read.

## ONE WOMAN'S PERFIDY.

### A Human Life Pays the Penalty For Her Crime.

Rev. Ellis and son, Jessie, are camped just this side of Abilene, and from their surroundings it is judged that they are none too well off in this world's goods and the comforts of life which every one craves. Our people should see that they do not suffer.

There is a peculiarly sad romance woven around the life of the father. Several years ago he was a licensed preacher in the West Texas conference of the Methodist church, and at that time was looked upon as one of the coming preachers of the conference. Shortly after entering the ministry he married and for a few years seemed to be as happy and contented as the usual run of mortals here below. However, the marriage was not a congenial one, as husband and wife held opposite views on everything, and the woman, who was the daughter of a reprobate and had not been raised up in the atmosphere of refinement, was unsuited to the duties of a minister's wife. She was wilful and given to fits of extreme anger when corrected in her conduct. She had the sympathy of the father to rely upon, and between the two the life of the preacher was made a hell upon earth, forcing him to finally resign from the ministry and settle down to the peaceful pursuit of spiritualizing the soil instead of the souls of men. A year or two passed in this way. Matters grew from bad to worse, until finally the wife was tempted and fell, the victim of a lecherous scoundrel in the garb of a man. She left home, husband, child, honor, and purity, and even now

may be found in a house of ill fame not two hundred miles distant from the wronged husband, who is slowly dying from the ravages of disease.

This blow to the hopes and ambition of the husband wrecked the once brilliant mind and set him a wanderer on the face of the earth—a man without a home, a husband without a wife, but a father whose affection was lavished upon a son. For several years he wandered from post to pillar, his mind clouded, but ever watchful of his son, until finally his mind cleared and he was himself again. But poverty and suffering had left him a physical wreck, and even now he is on the brink of eternity. The love and devotion of the son, a mere boy, is one of the most pathetically beautiful sights imaginable.

The woman still lives on in her shame—a bird in a gilded cage—but in a small wagon drawn by a pair of burros is the victim of her perfidy, with the sting of death upon his brow. Can there be a sadder sight, or one which should appeal more to the sympathies of the people?

Rev. Ellis is conscious that he has only a few days left, but is cheerful and resigned to the inevitable. He has forgiven the woman who brought to him only shame and sorrow where he should have brought happiness and honor. May his remaining days be beautiful and bright and his final reward the reward of the just.

Mr. Lindsey, who is with the Star Store, and Overton Anderson visited relatives in Abilene Sunday.

John Daniel had a tussle with a swine Saturday and came out second best. He is nursing a wounded knee this week.



# WE ARE FISHING

FOR YOUR TRADE WITH THE RIGHT KIND OF BLIT—

## PRICE AND QUALITY...

Our line of Saddles, Harness, Bridles, Collars, Whips, Laprobes, in fact, everything in Leather Goods, is complete, and the prices are very low. Give us a trial order.

Mr. G. W. Persfield, one of the best workmen in the State, is in charge of our repair department, and we guarantee every job turned out to be the very best.

### GREAT REDUCTION ON SADDLES:

\$30 Saddles now going at only.....\$20  
\$25 Saddles now going at only.....\$18

We can Save You Money on anything in our line. The goods must be sold.

**A. C. BENNETT,**  
THE SADDLE & HARNESS MAN.

## PRESCRIPTION 3363.

Cures Headache, Neuralgia and Colds...

Your druggist authorized to refund money if it does not benefit.

ABILENE...

**BASS BROS. DRUG CO..**

## A Division of the Profits

The people of the Merkel Country stayed with me during seasons of prosperity, and now that the country is not in the best of shape, I am going to divide the profits with my customers. My stock is new and complete. It embraces everything in the saddle and harness line, and the best that money can buy. Drop in and see me when in Merkel. I have employed an experienced workman and can turn out firstclass work on short notice. General repair work done.

**Z. F. GREEN...**

## NEW MILLINERY GOODS!

LEAVE for the market this week to buy my Fall and Winter Millinery Goods. It is my intention to buy a large stock, and of course the reputation of the establishment will be maintained by the purchase of only new, seasonable, fashionable goods. I ask that the ladies await the arrival of my stock, promising them that it will be best, cheapest and most up-to-date line ever carried in Merkel.

Watch for it!  
Wait for it!

Mrs. F. B. Hoople...

**ELLIOTT & MILLER**  
DEALERS IN

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

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

## Jennings' Bride.

BY WILLIAM WENDHAM.  
(Copyright, 1902, by Daily Story Pub. Co.)  
It all happened because Jennings concealed it from Laura that Jack, his brother, was his twin, and further that they resembled each other so closely that their nearest friends could not tell one from the other unless they were seen together, and then it was very doubtful. So near alike had these two young men been all their lives that in infancy their own mother had been compelled to mark them so she could tell them apart—which was Tom and which was John. It was a resemblance which went far beyond the physical. They acted alike, they gestured alike, their mannerisms of movement and speech were alike, they thought alike. They had always read the same books and deduced therefrom the same thoughts. All their theories of life and philosophy were alike—save only one. Tom was fond of fair-haired, blue-eyed girls, while Jack raved after brunettes of the most vivid type.

So it had come to pass that Tom, sent to the West on a long business mission, had wooed and won dainty Laura Maynard and they were on their honeymoon when the catastrophe happened. Jack had found it impossible to be present at the wedding, two thousand miles distant for one reason among others, that he was to be married himself within a week of the day set for the Jennings-Maynard nuptials. Then it was that the brothers had resolved, with one accord, after an elaborate exchange of telegrams, that it would be a good thing to give both brides a surprise and meet at the same watering place for the respective honeymoons. This required considerable finesse for two men without the aid of a feminine head, especially when the matter involved so important a part of two weddings. But they succeeded by hook or crook, and Tom triumphantly carried off his golden-haired beauty far across the continent to a seaside hotel of great fame and there installed her in palatial bridal suite, while he waited with much chuckling for the appearance of Jack and his bride.

With all this detailed explanation you can easily guess how it turned out and you really cannot blame Laura for her hasty and somewhat radical action.

Everything had been going so lovely that Laura seemed to be in a veritable fairyland and feared each moment that she would awaken and find it all a dream. In this frame of mind she did awaken very suddenly. Tom had slipped out for an afternoon cigar, he said, and presently, hungry for the loving gaze of his frank, sparkling eyes, she started down the spacious corridor, bent on going to the broad piazza and find him. She had little more than left her apartment than she came face to face with him. And (could she believe her eyes?) on his arm was a radiant beauty with saucy black eyes and a wealth of coal black hair, and he was bending toward her in an attitude unmistakably lover-like, and was whispering ardently into her very dainty and very willing ear. As Laura was about to scream out to him he turned and his eyes met hers. With an unrecognizing stare he turned back with a radiant glance of devotion to the dark woman on his arm and followed a bell boy into an apartment.

As the door closed she tried to scream, but her voice failed her. Mechanically she staggered back to her bridal chamber and sank upon a lounge. It all came to her presently, after her mind recovered somewhat from the stupefaction that had come at the glance her husband had given her. She had been betrayed, fooled. She was married to a man who did not love her, who was a mere trifier, if indeed he were not a bigamist. Was she in fact married at all? Who was this other woman? Why not another wife come to claim him? Then what was to become of her? She pondered on these things for many moments. Then she made up her mind.



On his arm was a radiant beauty with saucy black eyes. Dered on these things for many moments. Then she made up her mind.

She would go home.

Deliberately she took account of the well-filled purse her father had pressed into her hand at parting and from which she had thus far had no opportunity to make an expenditure. She rang for a bell boy and ascertained the time of the first train for the West. It was not until 9 o'clock. She then resolved to appear at dinner and show him that she was as indifferent as he. She dressed deliberately after packing a hand sachel and appeared at the dinner table more radiant than ever. She seated herself at the old place and glanced around to see if he had the audacity to appear. Yes, sure enough, there he was but two tables away still leaning adoringly over that terrible woman with the dusky olive skin and brilliant eyes. It was evidence of her coolness that she deliberately regarded his clothing and observed all the little characteristics she had learned to belong to him. Once during the meal he glanced toward her, regarding her with cold politeness. She noted that he continually glanced about the room as though watching for somebody.

In the meantime Tom had made the excuse of the afternoon cigar in order to get away and meet his brother and new sister-in-law at the train and arrange for a proper denouement. At the depot he learned that the train upon which they were coming had been detained by a wreck. A train was going in that direction and would meet it at a station about an hour's ride distant, the station agent assured him. So he decided to ride out and meet them and ride back with them. It would be much more pleasant than waiting about the depot.

But alas for human plans, the wreck was cleared much sooner than expected and when Tom arrived at the



"Good heavens, Laura! Where are you going?" he exclaimed.

station where he expected to meet it he learned to his chagrin that it had already passed and the more alarming news that there was not another train his way for two hours. He gnashed his teeth in impatience, but even then had no suspicion of the tragedy about to be enacted.

As the couple Laura was watching swept out of the dining-room after walking past her laughing and chatting happily, and evidently oblivious of her presence, she arose to retire also, and a familiar voice at her elbow said:

"So you wouldn't wait for me, sweetheart; I think you might. Did you think I had committed suicide?"

"Don't you dare to touch me, sir," she replied with flashing eyes and in tones of deepest scorn, turning on her husband and drawing herself away from him as something unclean, "nor speak to me, either. Go back to your brunette. Papa will settle with you later." Then she fled to her room while Tom stood rooted to the spot.

Presently recovering, he suspected the situation and rushed to the desk, where he learned of the arrival of his brother and his wife and the fact that they were located in the next suite to his own. He dashed upstairs, never waiting for the elevator, only to find his wife attired in traveling costume and armed with a traveling bag about to depart.

"Good heavens, Laura, where are you going?" he exclaimed. "There has been a terrible mistake. Let me explain."

"I desire to hear no explanations," she interrupted, coldly. "Keep them for papa. You will need them then. I am going home to get a divorce. Go back to the other woman."

As she swept down the corridor Tom dashed past her and, as if in mockery of her words, flung himself into the room she had seen him enter in the afternoon with the other woman. As she passed the door he reappeared, dragging with him in great excitement the dark woman and another man, whom she did not notice. She cast her eyes straight before her and fled from the gratuitous insult. Securing a carriage she was driven rapidly to the depot. An instant later two men clad in evening dress flung themselves into another carriage and started at a breakneck gait also for the depot. But it proved a case of the greater

the haste the less to the speed, for in the reckless driving the carriage collided with an omnibus and when the two passengers recovered consciousness the train had been gone for many minutes.

That is why the Maynards in their Western home received the incoherent but alarming message from their daughter that she had been cruelly deceived and was on her way home; which was followed quickly by an equally incoherent and mystifying wire from Tom:

"Am on the next train following Laura with my brother and his wife. All a terrible mistake. Case of mistaken identity. Brother is my twin and looks just like me. Make Laura wait and listen to reason before taking any step."

The upshot of it all was that the two bridal couples spent their honeymoons in the West instead of the East, and as an incident thereto Tom was compelled to shave his entire beard and to promise never to wear one again, while Jack was compelled to enter an equally solemn promise to his bride never to shave his beard.

"The idea," exclaimed Laura, "of a woman traveling around without a certainty that she knows her own husband from some other man!"

"Yes, indeed! The idea!" echoed Jack's bride.

## MONEY SAVED

By Buying Your.....

FURNITURE

Rockers  
Bedsteads  
Chiffoniers  
Fold. Beds  
Writ. Desks  
Iron Beds  
Dressers  
Tables  
Chairs  
ETC.

Full and Complete Line of...

Undertakers' Goods,  
Funeral Robes,  
Gloves and Shoes.

We are showing a nice assortment of Carpets and Rugs—all grades, and the prices are in reach of every purse, large or small.

We are not subject to spasmodic spells of selling goods cheap for a day, but our motto is: Best Goods at Lowest Living Prices, 365 Days in the Year. Come and be convinced.

Yours truly,

**W.P. Browning and Company.**

## Our Platform.

SAFETY first, LIBERALITY next. Both are essential to successful Banking. If you are satisfied with our platform come and see us.

**Warnick's Bank.**



# THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN, - - - Editor and Proprietor.

Entered at the Merkel, Texas, post office for transmission through the mails as second class mail matter.

## TWELVE PAGES.

### THE "NEW VOICE" BUGABOO.

The Haskell Headlight, in commenting upon the recent exposure (by the New Voice, a prohibition paper of Chicago) of the Texas editors, who were willing to sell their editorial columns for a mess of pottage, takes occasion to slap the prohibition papers in the face by intimating that they, and not the anti papers, are the ones which offered to sell out, and are roaring because the chickens came home to roost. In its zeal to administer a dose of roastology to the editors who dare to come out on the moral side of this question, the Headlight man shows a wanton disregard of the facts in the case. The Mail has heretofore had nothing to say in regard to this exposure; neither do we approve of the underhand methods employed by the New Voice in its disposition of the facts gleaned illegitimately. But the insinuations of the Headlight are so glaring that they should not go unchallenged. Now in refutation of the charge that the prohibition papers are the ones that offered to sell out and are roaring because they were exposed, The Mail agrees to name five of these papers, which do not pretend to be on the pro side, to each one named by the Headlight, which is an avowed pro, that these charges can be brought against. Further, we can name scores of papers which received the advertising proposition and immediately consigned it to the waste basket. Among the number in this immediate country we might mention such papers as the Cisco Round-up, Dublin Telephone, Brownwood Banner-Bulletin, Weatherford Democrat, Stephenville Appeal, Breckinridge Democrat, and others. On the other hand we could name fully as many of our neighbors, who agreed to sell advertising space to the saloon interests, and not one of them has ever claimed to be a prohib. Furthermore, we can name fully as many who are antis, but are roaring because the fact that they are such and that they were willing to sell out was made public. And, lastly, we can name fully as many who are pros, and yet condemn the New Voice for its perfidious trick. Therefore, the Headlight's charges are not tenable.

The Mail does not blame the editors for offering to sell legitimate advertising space even for the purpose designated; but the fellow who would sell his principle for a mess of pottage is beneath the notice of decent people.

The Headlight editor may rant and rave against the prohibition fallacy(?) until he is black in the face, but the fact remains that prohibition will be agitated, and practiced, long after his little pink toes are turned to the daisies. It is a very live proposition and has come to stay.

### THE DISPENSARY SYSTEM.

It is understood that an effort will be made during the next sitting of the Legislature to pass a dispensary law for the regulation of the whiskey business in this State. Representative Boyd of Hill County is at the head of the move. The bill, which is under preparation, is similar in many respects to the South Carolina law, with several changes more adapted to existing conditions in this State, and from general expressions it is judged that the measure will meet with popular favor.

The failure, whether deliberate or otherwise, of the prohibition law in Texas to remedy the saloon evil, has called for radical changes along this line, and a general scramble is being made for a law that can not be picked to pieces. The trouble is not in the law, however, as it is ample for all demands made upon it, but in its application. Too many officers, both in high and low places, have so persistently winked their eyes at open violations of the law that the people have become sick and tired of it, and sterner measures are demanded.

The bill as drafted for consideration by the Legislature will not interfere with local option districts where the people are satisfied with existing conditions. It is merely a law to regulate the sale of whiskey in this State by the abolishment of the saloons and the establishment of dispensaries instead. The business will be entirely under the control of the State, and dispensaries will be established wherever it is thought advisable to

maintain them, provided that they do not conflict with local option districts. The text of the proposed bill has not been made public, but the idea has been grasped by many people on both sides as a proper solution of a vexed problem. Next to absolute prohibition, the dispensary system is the best known method of regulating the whiskey traffic.

### LITTLE MAILETS.

The contested prohibition election in Panola County was settled out of court, when the saloon men agreed to close up by Jan. 7, 1903. This was a compromise, the saloon men getting ninety days instead of sixty. Panola County went dry last week.

A Dallas woman last week demanded a writ of injunction to restrain the spirits, spooks, hobgoblins, ghosts and other uncanny things from using her residence in which to hold nightly carnivals. There is no telling where this injunction business is going to end.

Borrow your neighbor's paper to read; use your neighbor's telephone; make your neighbor useful as well as ornamental. Of course it's no trouble to him, and while you are at it use his wood, drink his water, milk his cow, and make yourself generally helpful. What's a neighbor for, anyway, if not to dispense neighborly kindnesses?

A cent a pound for coal is a sign of prosperity—for the coal trust.

Keep something doing is the motto of Merkel people, and the growth of the town during the past three years shows that something has been done remarkably well. Keep up the lick.

Congressman John L. Sheppard is dead.

About the only kind of perpetual motion that has yet been invented is the wig-wagging of the average woman's tongue.

Two hundred and ninety-nine felons have been pardoned from the penitentiaries of this State during the past twenty months.

The coal strike has been settled.

Hereafter the people of the east will probably open the door to foreign coal. The trusts have been petted entirely too long.

Trade is still brisk in Merkel notwithstanding the short crops. Last Saturday was a red letter day so far as a crowd is concerned, and thousands of dollars worth of new goods was distributed to the various homes.

"Women insure against being old maids in Denmark," says an exchange. Well, what are they paid in? It seems to us that money can not still the desire for a man which wells up in every woman's breast.

"These crisp mornings have a tendency to make a fellow's thoughts revert to the departure of his summer's wages," gasps the Clifton Record. The Mail can part with its summer wages without casting a sigh of regret. We like wages with money attachments.

A boy with a pain in the vicinity of his stomach, caused by getting on the outside of too many green apples, was approached by a Christian Scientist who tried to make him believe that his trouble was imaginary. "It's all right for you to talk that way, mister," said the boy, who was the son of a politician, "but the fact is I've got inside information about this thing and you haven't." The moral of this, says an exchange, is that actual experience beats theory as bad as a flush beats a pair. Make the application.

Potatoes are about 20c a bushel now against \$1 a year ago. Republican prosperity with a vengeance.

Judge John H. Reagan, Texas' best loved, celebrated his 84th birthday last week.

Any man who has not enough patriotism to pay his poll tax ought to be denied the right of voting. The object of the amendment to be voted upon is, first, to add to State revenues by an increased amount of poll tax collections; and second, to prevent illegal voting, as the receipt will be stamped when the holder deposits his ballot, and cannot be used again. Vote for the constitutional amendment Nov. 4.

# A LIVE OFFER!

To New Subscribers in  
The Merkel Country

## The Merkel Mail

Will be Sent From Now  
Until Jan. 1, 1904, For

### ONLY ONE DOLLAR!

# SUBSCRIBE N-O-W-!

This Offer Expires  
NOVEMBER 1st.



## Fontella.

BY ADRIENNE ROUCOLLE.  
 Light, 1902, by Daily Story Pub. Co.)  
 had often noticed him in the  
 as with smiling lips he waited  
 the furious attacks of the mad-  
 ened bull. At first his courage in  
 the face of danger, his proud defiance,  
 dark, handsome face and graceful  
 carriage won her admiration, and later  
 this admiration, aided by a romantic  
 disposition, ripened into love. As to  
 him, though he admired her magical  
 beauty and her daintiness of form, he  
 was not blinded to the distance which  
 separated him, Jose Narvezzo, the  
 matador, and she Fontella Adverso,  
 the governor's daughter. Still, when  
 she knew that her dark eyes rested  
 upon him, his form straightened, his  
 lips curled in that disdainful smile of  
 bravery which made him the favorite  
 of the ring, and his sword would bury  
 itself with unerring aim into the bull's  
 flesh.

When a woman of Fontella's type  
 loves it is with a passion which nothing  
 can quench and no obstacle can  
 stop. How she managed to meet him  
 for the first time, how she drew him  
 on to her until his admiration of the  
 first days became the conquering pas-  
 sion of his life, will never be known;  
 sufficient to say that before many  
 weeks Jose had forgotten the distance  
 which separated their two destinies  
 and he has asked Fontella to become  
 his wife.

She remained silent for some time  
 after he had spoken that avowal of  
 love for which she had waited, and  
 with her dark eyes fixed upon him  
 in a searching gaze she seemed to try  
 to penetrate the very depths of his  
 soul. After awhile she said:  
 "Are you sure it is me you love, not  
 my wealth, not my social position, not  
 the fact that I am Fontella, the gov-  
 ernor's daughter?"

A flash of anger glittered for an in-  
 stant in the matador's eyes, but this  
 soon softened by an expression  
 as he sadly replied:

"I have the right to express that  
 doubt, Fontella, for what am I when  
 compared with you? What have I be-  
 sides my courage to offer you? I was  
 mad, pardon my folly, for a passion  
 stronger than my reason forced me to  
 speak. Nothing I could say could  
 prove the sincerity of my sentiments,  
 and rather than to have them doubted  
 I prefer to leave you."

He moved a step away as though to  
 leave her, but she extended her hand  
 and he softening in her haughty

"Believe you."

to her, his eyes burning  
 seized her hands and  
 he was almost cruel

sentiments, but do  
 them? Do you love me as  
 you?"

"I do."  
 "Then you shall be mine, Fontella;  
 the social barriers which separate us  
 can surely be surmounted. Love will  
 find the way."

"Love is powerful, but the governor  
 of this province is more so," she re-  
 marked, "and my father will never  
 consent to our union. Still I have a  
 plan; I can force my father's con-  
 sent. When will you have the next  
 fight?"

Next Wednesday. I am to fight  
 Aieto, the terrible black bull from  
 Mexico. He has killed seven mata-  
 dors during the season."

shivered; that record fright-  
 her, but, overcoming this mo-  
 mentary emotion, she said:

"You shall conquer. Love will give  
 you strength and as reward I promise  
 that you shall have me as your  
 de. Farewell!"

"But your plan—what is it? How  
 can you win your father's consent?  
 Tell me what you intend to do?"

"You shall know Wednesday. Until  
 then live in hopes, and above all,  
 conquer your foe." And she was gone.

The Plaza de Toros was crowded,  
 for to-day the attraction was doubled;

The sport promised to be bloody, yet  
 women and young girls were there  
 in holiday attire, casting from behind  
 their fans coquettish glances to the  
 men, laughing, smiling, happy as  
 though they were here at an ordinary  
 entertainment, not a spectacle in  
 which blood would flow and perhaps  
 where human life would be destroyed.  
 They would in an instant be as ready  
 to cheer the victorious bull as the  
 matador, who would remain their  
 favorite as long as he remained un-  
 conquered.

The blaring of trumpets announced  
 that the spectacle would soon begin,  
 the picadors and banderilleros in their  
 resplendent costumes on those proud  
 horses which, before long, would lie  
 dead on the sand of the arena, and  
 the matador, more handsome, more  
 calm than ever, made their appearance  
 and paraded around the arena. The  
 show had begun.

Jose looked eagerly toward the gov-  
 ernor's seat. He was there, but alone.  
 Fontella was not with him. A feel-  
 ing of disappointment came to him.  
 This was followed by a doubt which  
 paled his cheek. Had she duped him,  
 had she played a comedy for the sake  
 of having him, the unconquered, at  
 her feet? But this thought, instead of  
 weakening his courage, caused him to  
 straighten his tall form; he would  
 show her that he was a man who  
 could be victorious in spite of all.  
 Those who watched his face at that  
 moment murmured:

"Narvezzo will conquer; such a look  
 of resolution never courts failure."

When the bull entered it was easy to  
 see that the stories told of his vicious  
 temper had not been overestimated.  
 He was a beautiful animal, jet black  
 in color, with long, sharp horns and  
 eyes that burned like coals, his heav-  
 ing flanks, switching tail and the



The animal gave one howl of rage  
 then fell rolling to the ground.

manner in which he scattered the sand  
 with his paw showed that he was used  
 to this display and that he was only  
 too ready to do his part.

It did not last long; in a few in-  
 stants four horses lay bleeding on the  
 sand, torn open by those terrible  
 horns. One picador was dead; blood  
 was everywhere. Still the fans in  
 women's hands went backward and  
 forward in lazy indolence, while eyes  
 which seemed to have been made only  
 for tenderness gazed with evident sat-  
 isfaction upon the gory scene.

At last the matador entered. Jose  
 Narvezzo never appeared so calm, so  
 proudly indifferent as to-day. In his  
 right hand he held the sword, with  
 which he was to slay the now mad-  
 dened bull. For an instant they stood  
 face to face, the man and the beast.  
 Then, with a bellow of rage, the ani-  
 mal charged his new enemy. Jose  
 did not move, his sword was ready;  
 just as the bull came up to him he  
 raised the weapon, but it fell on one  
 of the horns and broke itself in two.  
 "He has lost, the bull has won!"  
 rose on every side.

But no, he had not lost! In one  
 leap he had jumped to one side, the  
 bull charged on, burying his horns in  
 the sand a little distance away. This  
 gave Jose time to take a sword which  
 one of the men handed him, and  
 when once more the baffled bull turned  
 upon him with renewed fury he was  
 ready, sword in hand, a smile of de-  
 fiance on his lips, a strange expres-  
 sion in the eyes. This time the sword  
 did its work, for as the bull rushed  
 upon him the second time he plunged  
 it to the hilt into the quivering flesh.  
 The animal gave one howl of rage and  
 pain, then fell rolling to the ground.  
 The man had conquered the beast;  
 the spectacle of blood was at an end.

The crowd, mad with enthusiasm,  
 cheered the conqueror; women cried  
 as they cast their rings or jewels into  
 the ring; men threw money. The  
 matador was reaping his golden har-  
 vest. Suddenly a deep hush followed  
 the clamor. All eyes turned in one  
 direction toward the door which ad-  
 mitted the performers into the ring.  
 Jose, surprised by the silence, turned  
 also, and could scarcely retain an ex-  
 clamation as he saw Fontella coming  
 toward him, picking her way amid the  
 dead horses.

When she got up to him she paused  
 and in tones which rang clear and loud

### 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 spe-  
 cially edited, that's why. Brains and not  
 hap-hazard 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  
 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 expira-  
 tion of time paid for. Subscribe now.

In the silence said:

"Jose Narvezzo, you have conquered  
 to-day the fiercest bull in Spain.  
 Others have cast their tributes of gold  
 at your feet; I bring you mine. Here  
 is my hand; take it if you want it.  
 I am yours for life."

The scandal was great. The gov-  
 ernor was furious, but Fontella had  
 won. After that scene at the bull fight  
 it was impossible for him to refuse his  
 consent, so some two months later  
 Narvezzo, having left the ring, became  
 Fontella's husband, once more prov-  
 ing the saying that when there is a  
 will there is a way.

### It Might Have Been Worse.

"My gracious, Lucile, what's the  
 matter?" asked an Arkansas father as  
 his daughter with streaming hair,  
 dashed into the library. "Oh, that  
 heaven will bestow its comfort!" sup-  
 plicated the girl, sinking to the floor.  
 "For the Lord's sake, tell me what's  
 the matter, girl!" lifting his daughter.  
 "George, my betrothed, is dead."  
 "Why, don't take on so," said the old  
 gentleman, allowing her to sink to  
 the floor again; "don't give way to  
 your feelings in this unreasonable  
 way. You take it as hard as though  
 the prohibitionists had carried every  
 ward in the city."—Arkansas Trav-  
 eler.

### Compere Pick-ups.

We are having some cool  
 weather.

Several of our young people  
 attended the oyster supper at  
 Truby Saturday night.

Dr. King and wife of Merkel  
 visited our Sunday school Sun-  
 day.

Rev. Baker of Merkel will  
 preach here Sunday.

The young people enjoyed a  
 party at W. J. Shannon's Tues-  
 day night.

Geo. Moore and Sam Stockton  
 went to Shiloh Sunday.

Henry Lee is building a new  
 barn.

T. E. C.

Advertising is the secret of  
 success in every business.

### Cautious Elephants.

Captain Owen Wheeler, a British  
 officer, writes of service in India:  
 "I once had to pass a number of  
 elephants over a river across which  
 there had been constructed a strong  
 bridge of boats quite capable of  
 bearing the biggest elephant. Very  
 nearly the biggest in Asia happened  
 to be then in my charge and this  
 particular monster tested the bridge  
 and went over without any fuss,  
 and so did forty-five others out of  
 forty-eight. But three would not  
 walk on the bridge at any price  
 and had to be swum over, one of  
 them getting so angry at being asked  
 to walk where bigger elephants  
 than he had gone over quite hap-  
 pily that he rushed violently into  
 the water and tried to drown his  
 mahout."

### "Gail Hamilton."

"Gail Hamilton," if she keeps an  
 eye on the affairs of earth, would  
 certainly be pleased at the victory of  
 her namesake, the bay filly, that won  
 the Futurity race and \$50,000 at  
 Hartford recently. Miss Mary Abi-  
 gail Dodge had a brilliant outlook  
 on the world and was virtually in-  
 terested in pretty nearly everything  
 human. That the breeder and own-  
 er of the racer, Gail Hamilton, is  
 James L. Dodge of Paris, Ky., sug-  
 gests a family admiration which  
 would account for the name of this  
 surprising filly.



## WHEN YOU WANT

A Wagon that will not "fall down" when you need it the most,  
 get an "OLD RELIABLE MITCHELL." It is the Strongest,  
 Most Durable, Best Finished, Best Proportioned and Lightest  
 Running Wagon on the Market.

ONE QUALITY ONLY—THAT THE BEST.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,  
 ABILENE, TEXAS

## Groceries, Furnishings, Notions

WE have moved into the building next door to War-  
 nick's Bank. Our stock embraces Groceries, Fur-  
 nishing Goods and Notions, and we flatter our-  
 selves that you will not find a better, nicer or neater stock  
 in the town. We are making very low prices, quality of  
 goods considered. A trial order is all we ask and we are  
 sure you will always be our customer.

Remember, our stock is fresh and new; we have no  
 shop-worn stuff to work off.

HILL & MARTIN.

## 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.....

## REMOVAL NOTICE.

We have moved into the big corner  
 building formerly occupied by the Globe,  
 where we should be pleased to have you  
 call on us when in Abilene. We will  
 make it to your interest to do so.

ROLLINS & YOUNG.

### An Ancient Banking House.

Dr. A. T. Clay formerly a pupil  
 and now assistant of Prof. Herman  
 V. Wright, the world's leading  
 authority on Babylonian antiquities,  
 has been at work several months  
 deciphering and arranging the rec-  
 ords of the banking firm of Mur-  
 rashi Sons, which was the leading  
 banking house of the city of Nip-  
 pur, in Babylonia several hundred  
 years before Christ. Mortgages,  
 worded in a form very similar to  
 that in use in the present day; wills,  
 deeds of sale or rent, merchants'  
 guarantees of goods sold in the  
 market and other business dealings  
 of almost every conceivable kind  
 are included in the collection.

### How He Could Help.

Henry Labouchere never had a  
 great deal of admiration for his  
 uncle, Lord Taunton, who, on the  
 other hand, took considerable inter-  
 est in his promising nephew at the  
 outset of the latter's career. When  
 Labouchere first stood for parlia-  
 ment Lord Taunton wrote him an  
 encouraging letter and asked if  
 there was anything he could do to  
 further youthful ambition.

"If you would put on your peer's  
 robes and coronet and walk down  
 the main street of the borough arm  
 in arm with me, it might do some  
 good," replied the young man.  
 "Otherwise I do not believe you  
 could be of any use to me."



sure it is me that you love,  
 my wealth and social  
 position?  
 favorite matador, Jose  
 Narvezzo, who had already  
 killed many horses.



# A New Business

## An Old Firm

### WE HAVE MOVED

We have purchased the Horner stock of drugs, thrown the two stocks together and moved to the building next door to the First National Bank, where we should be glad to see our friends. We are overstocked on many lines and are making prices that will move things in a hurry.

### WE ARE TOO BUSY

We are too busy now to designate the different lines which we want to close out, but come to see us and we are sure you will see something in the drug or sundry line which you have long needed. Our stock is large and varied, and the prices are VERY LOW. Watch our advertisements for bargains.

# BURROUGHS & MANN,

THE DRUGGISTS :: NEXT DOOR TO FIRST NATIONAL BANK

# THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

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

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.

YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

## Tamer Number Two.

BY PAUL PERELL.

(Copyright, 1902, by Daily Story Pub. Co.)

"There are various ways to tame them," said the girl with the big pompadour, "the best of which might be classed under the general head of 'humiliation.'"

"Yes," said the cute girl, curled gracefully in the wicker chair, "puncture a man's conceit, make him ridiculous and you have him on the road to regeneration."

The youngest girl sat on the veranda steps with her hands clasped over her knees and gazing dreamily across the lawn. "I wish—" she began, then stopped and sighed gently.

"What is it, innocence?" asked the pompadour girl. "Why, you're blushing! Have the monsters been troubling you, too? Aren't even the children safe?"

"I'm eighteen," replied the girl on the steps, unclasping her hands and sitting up very straight, "and I come out next winter."

"But you're fearfully youthful, just the same; and if any man or boy has been mean to you it is the duty of old campaigners like us to stop it. Come, now, what is it?"

"Oh, he hasn't been mean or anything like that," answered the youngest with bashful reluctance; "only he is so—so kind and so superior. I'm sure he classes me with his small sister. They say he's scarcely thirty, yet the very first time we met he called me 'Bessie' as though I were in short dresses. Come to think of it, I was playing golf with my hair in a braid, but that was no reason why he should have kept it up after he saw me in that lovely white evening gown. He might as well have patted me on the head."

"I suppose you mean Wilford English," said the cute girl, patiently.

"Why, yes—didn't I say so?"

"No, you simpleton. Now that's just why he behaves as he does. He can't help seeing that you consider him too splendid for anything; and that would make a saint put on airs."

"Hush, Alice, somebody might hear you."

"But everybody knows it already. I tell you, if you ever hope to get him—whispers of 'Oh, Alice!'—if you really think he's worth while, that is, you must make him see that you consider him quite beneath your notice. You might make him do anything silly or ridiculous and then laugh at him. He'd probably go off in a huff, to return before long and fawn at your feet. Isn't that so, Marjorie?"

"I think," said the one thus appealed to, in thoughtful tones, "I think that 'Tamer Number Two' would suit his case admirably."

"'Tamer Number Two'?"

"We had several 'tamers' at school, but this was the best. Alice and I worked it beautifully last summer on that conceited West Point cadet."

"Oh, Mr. English isn't conceited. But do tell me about it."

"It's very simple. All you need is an obliging small boy—preferably about ten years old—and a sofa—preferably one with a high back. You

place the boy behind the sofa and then after making yourself, oh, terribly agreeable to the young man, invite him to come and sit beside you. Then you ask him if he wouldn't like to learn a new game that is all the rage in London or Paris or any other place you happen to think of. He says yes, of course, whereupon you take a big handkerchief or scarf and blindfold him tight. When you're sure he can't see you say: 'Are you ready?' He replies, 'Yes,' which is the signal for the boy behind or under the sofa, who immediately steals around in front and throws his arms around your conceited young man's neck and kisses him."

Elizabeth's blue eyes had grown wider and wider as the recital progressed. "Oh, Marjorie!" she cried,



The youngest girl sat on the veranda steps with her hands clasped over her knees.

"how could you do such a thing? He'd think it was you!"

"Certainly he would—and what do you suppose he would do?"

"I don't know," said Elizabeth, examining the tip of her shoe.

"Yes, you do; the man doesn't exist who, under such provocation, won't return the kisses with interest, until he discovers that his attentions are being wasted on a small boy, by which time you have disappeared, with a mocking laugh trailing behind you."

"As the boys say," put in Alice, "you depart, giving him the merry 'ha-ha.' If you can have a select gallery concealed somewhere about the premises so much the better. You have no idea how sheepish the man looks when he gets his blindfold off."

"But, Alice, are you sure it would do any good—in my case, I mean?"

"Assuredly. Humble a man and you have him at your mercy."

The conversation was brought to a sudden close by the appearance of a broad-shouldered youth, who stalked up the path and said, with a self-confident air, "Come on, take a sail, Bessie; there's a darling breeze."

The youngest girl cast a glance at her companions that seemed to say, "There, you see?" although she rose with alacrity and replied, "Thanks, Mr. English; I'd love to go. Good-

bye, girls," and the couple departed toward the lake.

It was late afternoon of the second day after the preceding conversation and Marjorie and Alice had just descended in their prettiest dinner frocks, when the youngest girl came flying down the long veranda to fling herself into the arms of first one and then the other.

"You dear things!" she cried, all out of breath. "It's all on account of you! It just happened, and I could hardly wait to tell you!"

"Did you actually try 'Tamer Number Two'?"

"And did it work beautifully, just as we said it would?"

"Oh, it worked exquisitely, but not



I wound a great big napkin around his head.

exactly as you promised—a great deal better—a thousand times better than you led me to expect."

"Tell us quick, you tantalizing thing."

"It was this very afternoon, about half an hour ago," began Elizabeth, perching herself on the arm of the nearest chair. "I asked Willie Brighton to enact the role of the small boy and the little rogue was only too delighted. So he hid behind the sofa in the library, into which I lured Wilf—Mr. English—to look at a new book of engravings. Pretty soon we finished with the book and I asked him if he didn't want to learn my new game, just as you told me. He looked rather puzzled—all the more so probably because I was trembling with excitement—but agreed to the proposition. So I wound a great big napkin about his head—he didn't appear to think it funny that a napkin was lying about the library—and at the signal Willie tip-toed around and kissed him twice so loud that I was afraid the whole house would hear."

"And then I suppose Mr. English hugged and kissed the tender Willie in return," said the delighted audience.

"No-o; I guess Mr. English is different from the men you experimented with. He sat perfectly still at first, only giving a queer, inarticulate kind of a cry that must have frightened Willie; for he unlocked his arms and jumped out of the way. Then Mr. English took a long breath and said, 'Why, Bessie, you needn't have taken all that trouble just to kiss an old fellow like me.' And in some way he

got my hand and held it tight.

"But it wasn't me," I stammered. 'It was Willie.' I was never more mortified in my life and I believe I began to cry, for I remember that the shoulder of his coat was quite damp."

"His coat?"

"Yes; when he got the blindfold off and saw how badly I felt he tried to console me, and I don't know how, but I must have put my face down on his shoulder. I was terribly ashamed and had to hide my face somewhere. I don't remember exactly what happened next; but he smoothed my hair and soothed me as though I were ten years old—acted exactly as he always does—and—well, we're engaged, which is the chief thing I wanted to tell you."

"Now I call that a remarkable success," declared the pompadour girl.

"Success—yes," replied the cute girl; "but what I don't understand is why you let him catch you. The plan was, as soon as the small boy began his work to get up and out of the way. Didn't you remember?"

"Yes, I remembered," said the youngest girl. "I did start to run away just as you directed, but when I tried to rise I found that I couldn't. That young rascal Willie had tied the ends of my belt ribbon to the back of the sofa."

### Ye Editor Salutes Ye Public.

This is the salutatory of an Arkansas editor: "Our aim—Tell the truth, though the heavens take a tumble. Our paper—of the people, for the people and paid for by the people. Our religion—orthodox, with a firm belief in hell for delinquent subscribers. Our motto—Take all in sight and rustle for more. Our policy—To love our friends and brimstone our enemies. If thine enemy smite thee on the cheek swipe him with haste and dexterity at the butt of his most convenient ear. What we advocate—One country, one flag, and one wife—at a time. Our object—To live in pomp and splendor."—Unidentified

### The "Two Hat" Men.

The heads of the "two hat" men are said to be the next roll off at the hands of Mr. Shaw, secretary of the treasury.

The "two hat" clerks go into their offices in the morning wearing an ordinary street hat, which they carefully hang up in a conspicuous place. In their pockets is another hat of the soft variety and small in shape. When the "nip" time arrives they leave their street hat on the peg as a sentinel to notify the chief that they have merely stepped into the corridor and the second hat is slipped from the inside pocket and worn during the operation of getting the drink. The secretary is said to have several of the "two hat" men spotted and is about to issue a circular to the effect that it will be better for the employees to spend their money for other things than an abundant supply of hats in which to conceal their shortcomings.

## THE DRAUGHT'S BLACK-DRAUGHT THE ORIGINAL LIVER MEDICINE

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

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

# BONE FOOD

Soft and crooked bones mean bad feeding. Call the disease rickets if you want to. The growing child must eat the right food for growth. Bones must have bone food, blood must have blood food and so on through the list.

Scott's Emulsion is the right treatment for soft bones in children. Little doses every day give the stiffness and shape that healthy bones should have.

Bow legs become straighter, loose joints grow stronger and firmness comes to the soft heads.

Wrong food caused the trouble. Right food will cure it.

In thousands of cases Scott's Emulsion has proven to be the right food for soft bones in childhood.

Send for free sample.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists,  
409-415 Pearl Street, New York.  
5c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

### Jay Gould's Teacher.

The death of James Oliver, at Burlingame, Kas., removes a good citizen and one who was prominent in the public eye a few years ago.

In young manhood Mr. Oliver was a school teacher in New York, and two of his pupils were the late Jay Gould and John Burroughs, the naturalist. It will be remembered shortly after the death of Jay Gould an adventuress laid claim to his fortune on the plea that she had been married to him when he was a young surveyor working in upper New York. For years after leaving school, Gould corresponded with his old teacher. These letters were preserved by Mr. Oliver and they proved beyond a doubt that Gould was not at the places where he was alleged to have been at the time by the woman. When on trial, Mr. Oliver

York and testified.

was so important that it led to a confession of attempted blackmail on the part of the adventuress, and, naturally, the younger Goulds felt very grateful to the man from Kansas. Miss Helen particularly became much interested in him, and many were the remembrances which came from her to Mr. Oliver up to the time of his death. Mr. Oliver was a merchant of Burlingame and was liked by all. Though more than three score and ten, he kept up his studious habits until death claimed him, and he was probably the best informed man in Osage county.

### Six-Foot Women Are Scarce.

The Professional Woman's League of New York has brought out some curious facts regarding the physical proportions of women. The league has advertised for fifty young women six feet tall to act as "policemen" at the woman's exhibition in Madison Square garden next October. Most of the women who applied fell fully six inches below the required standard, and not a single one has so far qualified. One applicant stood six feet high, but she was built so much like a tape measure that the secretary declined to furnish her with a medal.

Another came forward with the argument that, while she was only five feet tall, her lateral proportions were vast enough to make her the object of terror to wrongdoers at the exhibition. Of the other applicants the secretary said: "Most of them are thin as shad and shaped like hop-poles—awkward, ungainly, sour-faced. It does not seem to agree with most women to be six feet tall. They get nervous from being stared at so much."



#### His Life in Peril.

"I just seemed to have gone to pieces," writes Alfred Bee, El Paso, Texas, "biliousness and a lame back had made life a garden. I couldn't eat or sleep and felt too worn out to work when I began to use Electric Bitters, but they worked wonders. Now I sleep like a top, can eat anything, have gained in strength and enjoy hard work." They give vigorous health and new life to weak, sickly, run-down people. Try them. Only 50c at Rust & Pittard's

Lots of new goods to show you. If you want Watches, Rings, Charms, all kinds of Buttons, Silverware, etc., see Ustick.

#### Out of Death's Jaws.

"When death seemed very near from a severe stomach and liver trouble that I had suffered with for years," writes P. Muse, Durham, N. C., "Dr. King's New Life Pills saved my life and gave perfect health." Best pills on earth, and only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Notice is hereby given that I have posted my pasture on Mulberry against hunting and fishing. All parties please bear this in mind.

4t

W. C. Calvert.

Austin Fitts last week sold his stock of dry goods to Bacon & Watson of Troy, Texas, and the gentlemen, who are successful and enterprising business men, have taken charge of the business. The Mail regrets to lose Mr. Fitts from the business circles. He came to us a year ago a stranger, but by straightforward business methods and the very liberal use of printer's ink has built up a fine trade. However, he will remain with the new firm for some time and, at present, he has no idea of leaving Merkel. Messrs. Bacon & Watson come to us very highly recommended and we bespeak for them a liberal share of the patronage of Mail readers.

Dr. King returned last week the Plains. He left this on his return trip and will the country over probably going out a suitable location his rounds.

W. R. Bigham shipped a couple of cars of fat cattle to New Orleans Monday.

Austin Fitts made a business trip to Fort Worth last week, returning this week.

#### District Court.

The following business, in addition to the Pettis and Lloyd murder trials, was disposed of in District Court last week:

Jim Harrell pleaded guilty to theft of a horse and was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

C. N. Foster, charged with theft of a horse, was convicted and given two years in the penitentiary.

J. P. Bateman, charged with murder in Eastland county, applied for habeas corpus, but the application was denied and the defendant was remanded to jail without bail.

Joe Fox, charged with murder in Eastland county, was granted a reduction of bond, the amount being fixed at \$1,000.

Will Robertson, charged with theft, was found not guilty.

W. B. Craig, charged with embezzlement, was found guilty and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

Mrs. Dr. Leeman left Sunday night for Waco to attend the grand chapter of the Eastern Star.

#### America's Famous Beauties

Look with horror on skin eruptions, blotches, sores, pimples. They don't have them, nor will any one, who uses Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It glorifies the face. Eczema or salt rheum vanish before it. It cures sore lips, chapped hands, chilblains. Infallible for piles. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

If you need a hat see those at Hamilton's. They can't be turned down. He sells the celebrated Rothschild Bros. brand. The largest hat dealers in America.

#### Federal Court.

Federal court convened Monday, Judge Meek presiding, and adjourned Tuesday evening. Only two cases of any material consequence came to trial at this term. In the case of I. L. Ellwood vs. J. A. Shaw judgement was rendered in favor of Ellwood. This was a land suit.

In the case of W. H. Porter vs. the Texas and Pacific railroad, the jury returned a verdict of \$10,000 in favor of Porter, but this was set aside by the court on the grounds that the evidence did not warrant the judgment found. This was a suit wherein Porter was run over by a Texas and Pacific passenger train near Loraine last year and as a result of which the plaintiff lost a leg.

In the cases of Leopold Beyer vs. Herman Rooks, from Fisher county, and Ward vs. Stephenson, from Haskell county—land suits—judgments were rendered by agreement.

The two cases of John B. Slaughter, vs. T. & P. railway, et al., damage suits, were remanded to the state courts.—News.

#### Hymeneal.

At the Methodist church on Thursday at eleven o'clock Rev. James Kilgore officiating, Miss Judith Vinson of Cameron was married to Mr. Stephens Smith of Merkel, Texas. Quite a crowd of friends were present to witness the impressive ceremony that made those two lives ones.

The church was tastefully decorated for the occasion.

Mr. Smith is a prosperous farmer and ranchman in that part of the country known sometimes as the Eden of the middle West, Merkel being exactly half way between El Paso and Texas, and happy is the farmer and stockman who has a home there. Miss Vinson is well known in and near Cameron and has many friends who wish her much happiness in the beautiful country to which she goes as the wife of Mr. Smith.—Cameron Inquirer.

The Mail adds its hearty congratulations to the above, and wishes for the couple a full measure of happiness and prosperity. Mr. Smith is one of our very best citizens.

Attorney Harry Tom King of Abilene was here on professional business Saturday.

Two Roscoe young men, both of whom were very much the worse for booze, engaged in a fistcuff on the east bound train Saturday night just after it left Merkel. Not much blood was spilt, however.

Mrs. Ed J. Leeman and Miss Laura Herring visited their brother and sisters at Abilene Saturday.

LOST—Between Merkel and Abilene, one child's cushion buggy seat. Return to T. J. Coggin at Merkel.

# Your Shoe Bill



Where will you make it? We handle Hamilton & Brown shoes, and our stock is complete.

We have this shoe in both Plain Toe Congress and Cap Toe Bal, sizes 5 to 9, \$2.50

We carry the Watch Us in

Imperial Toe Polish \$1.75

Royal Toe Vest Top 1.75

Imperial Toe Im. Welt 1.75



Here is a school shoe that will give you satisfaction. We have them in spring heel, lace and button: 5 to 8, 1. 8 to 12, 1.25. 12 to 2, 1.50.

These are just a few of the many good numbers to be found in our stock of shoes. See us for good shoes

## J. T. WARREN...

#### Goes Like Hot Cakes.

"The fastest selling article I have in my store," writes druggist C. T. Smith, of Davis, Ky., "is Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, coughs and colds, because it always cures. In my six years of sales it has never failed. I have known it to save sufferers from throat and lung diseases, who could get no help from doctors or any other remedy." Mothers rely on it, best physicians prescribe it, and Rust & Pittard guarantee satisfaction or refund price. Trial bottles free. Regular sizes, 50c and \$1.

A second-hand Studebaker wagon for sale, cheap for case or good note.

J. T. Warren.

A swell line of neckwear at J. O. Hamilton's.

#### Cut Half in Two.

During the next few days, in order to reduce stock, I will sell all Bracelets at exactly HALF Price. Every one a rare bargain.

Ustick.

We have suits for boys ranging in price from 75c to \$6.00 each. They are beauties. Also full line of youths clothing, boys knee pants, etc.

J. O. Hamilton.

Rust & Pittard pay cash for their jewelry, thus getting the benefit of the cash discounts. They have a varied assortment, and the prices are right. Every piece guaranteed.

W. P. Browning & Co. will give you a bargain in Sideboards and Folding Beds.

J. T. Warren is receiving his new fall goods. He says he has over-bought and will make some good prices to unload rather than have to move them when his new house is finished.

See the new styles in Thoroughbred Hats at Warren's.

We are looking for a large shipment of Seth Thomas Clocks, and ask you to await their arrival. They will be sold cheaper than you can buy them elsewhere.

Rust & Pittard.

You won't want to kick yourself when you buy Hamilton-Brown Shoes.

J. T. Warren.

Photos—All kinds, from stamps up, at Barnhill's Gallery.

#### Notice.

On and after the 15th of this month we will sell meat at the following prices:

Hind quarter steak 10c,  
Fore quarter steak 8c,  
Barbecue 12½c.

It takes cash to buy fat cattle, and that is the kind we intend to keep.

When we sell meat at the above prices we expect cash on the first and must have it.

Watkins & Son.

A. C. Bennett has the only knee pad manufactory in Merkel. Price only 40c.

Mrs. Westbrook of Eastland, whose husband was formerly section foreman here, but is now with the Southern Pacific, spent last week as the guest of Mrs. W. H. McCord, returning to her home Saturday.

Oscar Wilson was here from Caps Saturday.

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

G. E. Comegys, C. C.

John Elliott, Clerk.

Wanted—Every mother in town to inspect our boy's clothing. We know that you can tell when they are made right. Turn them inside out.

J. T. Warren.

10, 15 and 20 cent silver heart bangles only 5 cents at Ustick's.

Wood and feed taken in exchange for photos at Barnhill's.

The largest stock of shoes ever shown in Merkel at Hamilton's.

W. E. Woodard of Roscoe spent Sunday here with his son, J. A. Woodard, being en route home from a visit to another son in Coleman county. The Merkel Country lost one of its very best citizens when Mr. Woodard moved away. He settled here in 1882, before there was a house in the town, and is a pioneer citizen of West Texas. J. V. White accompanied him on the trip, but did not stop over on his return.

Dr. Warnick has set a commendable example by having the premises about his residence cleared of weeds and trash. Nothing is a greater preventive of sickness, to say nothing of the enhanced value and general appearance of the home, than to rid it of these breeders of malarial germs.

R. B. Ustick left Saturday night for Dallas on business.

Isaac N. Taylor was here from Abilene Saturday.



**JUST WHAT YOU NEED.**

**Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets,**

When you feel dull after eating.  
When you have no appetite.  
When you have a bad taste in your mouth.  
When your liver is torpid.  
When your bowels are constipated.  
When you have a headache.  
When you feel bilious.  
They will improve your appetite, cleanse and invigorate, and regulate your bowels. Price 25c per box. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

**To The Merchants:**

It is our intention to place the paper, during the balance of the year at least, in every home in this country. If you are not now carrying an advertisement in The Mail, or if your present space is not large enough, we should be glad to figure with you. We make a specialty of writing advertisements; the cost is small. Tell us what you want and we'll do the rest.

If you want to confer a favor on the printers, hand in your copy for advertisements on Fridays or Saturdays.

If you want calendars for next year, see us quick.

Phone your wants to 31.

Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat specialist of Weatherford, will be in Merkel October 23rd. 2t

**A Floral Game.**

An interesting game for an evening party may be managed by preparing slips, one for each guest, upon which appears the following—excepting, of course, the answers. Prizes may be offered for the best answers turned in to the hostess. It adds to the fun if a certain time is set for the answers—say twenty minutes:

1. The maiden's name and the color of her hair. Marigold.
2. His favorite sport in winter. Snow-balls.
3. His favorite musical instrument. Trumpet vine.
4. The early hour in which he awakened his father by playing upon it. Four-o'clocks.
5. What his father gave him in punishment. Golden-rod.
6. What this made the boy do. Hop. (Robin-run-away.)
7. What office in the Presbyterian church. Elder.
8. Which of the United States did he determine to seek. Fluer de lis (Florida) or the matrimony vine.
9. What candies did he take to his sweetheart. Candi tufts.
10. What he being single often lost. Bachelor buttons.
11. What did he do when he popped the question. Aster.
12. What rather ghastly trophy did he offer her. Bleeding hearts.
13. What did she say as John knelt before her. Johnny jump up.
14. What flowers did he give her. Tulips.
15. What flowers bloomed on her cheeks. Roses.
16. What flowers did he try to cultivate. Hearts-ease.
17. To whom did she refer him. Poppy.
18. What minister married them. Jack in the pulpit.
19. What did Mary wear on her head at the wedding. Bridal wreath.
20. What John said when obliged to leave her for a time. Forget-me-not.
21. What was she during his absence. Mourning-bride.

**Advertised Letters.**

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Adkisson, G. B.
- Adkisson, Gid
- Barrett, Oris Glenn
- Besales, A. W.
- Cordill, W. T.
- Ennis, M.
- Kuyrkendall, R. W.
- Jaco, Lige
- Lucas, John
- Moback, Charley
- Mayo, Mrs. May
- Nowell, L. S.
- Paris Julian
- Rollings, Ben
- Rutherford, W. F.
- Strange, Mrs. A. G.

**Heaven Help Us**

In our troubles, but use Hunt's cure for itch, tetter, ringworm, itching piles and eczema. Guaranteed.

**Beautiful Complexions**

Are spoiled by using any kind of preparation that fills the pores of the skin. The best way to secure a clear complexion, free from sallowness, pimples, blotches, etc, is to keep the liver in good order. An occasional dose of Herbine will cleanse the bowels, regulate the liver, and so establish a clear, healthy complexion. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

**NOTICE.**

Having been asked by many to put in platform scales for the benefit of the public, I have made arrangements to do all such weighing as desired at the East gin, where receipts will be furnished.

4t

Yours truly,  
T. F. Compton,  
per Sam Hunt.

**Card of Thanks.**

We desire through the medium of this paper to thank our many friends and neighbors who have been so kind to us in our sore bereavement. Surely no one ever had better or truer friends, and we pray the God of Mercy to ever keep and protect them from the trials of this world. Kind friends we know and feel that you have done all you could to cheer us in our sad hour and put our darling boy away with tender and loving hands, for which accept the deep gratitude and thanks of our hearts.

J. S. and A. I. Bickley.

**Another New Kind of Powder.**

Ever since A. D. 1567, when the first mention of it was made, powder has been a dangerous thing to have lying around loose, and the thought of dynamite innocently reposing in the vicinity of our homes, as it does along the extensive subways being made through this city, is enough to bring a bugabo chill to any thoughtful person, it is pleasant to learn that a Mr. Masury comes to the front with his hands full of a safety powder, which will explode only with combined heat and concussion. It took him two years to perfect it. In storing this powerful servant the only precaution necessary is to keep the detonators at a distance from the powder. It was the discoverer's intention to produce a blameless explosive to use in coal mines. He succeeded in his endeavors, and experimenting still farther, has made a powder that is in all respects safe to handle. In appearance it resembles corn-meal. The only

# Your Cotton Money

Will last the longest and go the furthest at this store than anywhere else. Dollars do double duty when invested with J. P. SHARP & COMPANY....  
A trial will convince you.

## Fall Announcement.

Our stock of Fall and Winter Goods will be the largest and most complete in every particular that we have ever handled, and great taste has been employed in its selection. We want to impress upon you the wisdom of giving us a chance to bid on your fall and winter bill of goods, and to tell you that we are always underselling, but never undersold. We handle Dry Goods, Groceries, Shoes, Feed, etc. Come and let's get acquainted for mutual good.

Yours for Fall Trade,

# J. P. Sharp & Co.

**Swapping Lids**

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

**A Bonaparte Recipe.**

Jerome Bonaparte knew a mint julep as well as any man in America, having acquired the taste by inheritance from the riginal William Patterson, his grandfather. "Billy" Patterson, who was struck, willed to his aughter, "Betsy" Patterson, Madame Bonaparte, his recipe for concocting a julep, and "Betsy" handed it down to her son, Jerome Napoleon. The latter gave it to Lorenzo Delmonico, who in turn passed it on to our old friend Fred Eberlin Sr. Fred has it today. A julep made according to it has a princely flavor and is an authority. Mint julep was Pluto's favorite drink, owing perhaps to the fact that his sweetheart, Minthe, was metamorphosed by his wife, Proserpine, out of jealousy, into the herb called after her name. Mint is capital medicine.

**Owens Percy's Bedchamber Set.**

Horace Day of New Haven, Conn., owns the complete bedchamber set that belonged to Lord Percy, who commanded the reinforcements of the British troops at Lexington, on April 19, 1775. The furniture came to him from a long line of New England ancestors.

**Repatee of Balzac and Dumas.**

Balzac and Dumas once met at a party. Not a word was exchanged till Balzac, on departing, said as he passed Dumas: "When I can do nothing else, I shall take to writing plays." "Begin at once, then," was the prompt reply.

**We Can't Tell A Lie**

When we say there is no shaking of bottles, no licking of spoons, no wry faces when Cheatha Laxative Chill Tablets are 25c. No cure—no pay.

**Murdered a Whole Village**

A Russian who is now a por a hotel in Vladivostok served ou sentence of twenty years' imprisonment in Siberia for murdering th inhabitants of a whole village in c der to avenge the insult that w offered by the marriage of his annee to another man. Accord to his ideas and those of the cl to which he was born he could hardly have acted otherwise without becoming an object of general contempt. His last statement at the court is sufficient to prove that he considered that he had acted justly. The president having asked him if he had anything to say in his own defense, "It is a pity," he replied, "that two men saould have survived."

**Of Missouri Origin.**

Missouri is to be credited with having originated the Snyder blackberry, the best known variety for the market. It was found growing along a bluff near Grand Pass, in Saline county, nearly fifty years ago. A renting farmer name Snyder placed it under cultivation and met with good sales for all he could produce. A demand for the plants sprang up in the neighborhood, and now cultivators throughout the country recognize the Snyder as the best commercial blackberry. It is a vigorous grower, steady bearer, and well suited to shipment. For the Concord grape, also, the world is indebted to a farmer who transferred a wild vine to his garden.

danger that can be apprehended is, that some one may mistake the powder for the corn-product, and eat some, and that impact and combined heat of the next "square" meal the victim may "go off" and forget to come back to support his wife and six children.—Ex.

**Ran a Ten Penny Nail Through His Hand.**

While opening a box, J. C. Mount, of Three Mile Bay, N. Y., ran a ten penny nail through the fleshy part of his hand. "I thought at once of all the pain and soreness this would cause me," he says, "and immediately applied Chamberlain's Pain Balm and occasionally afterwards. To my surprise it removed all pain and soreness and the injured parts were soon healed." For sale by Rust & Pittard.

**onomical Chinese.**

The Chinese are a very economical people. In North China the people will eat horse, mule, donkey or any animal, and they will eat all the animal, even when it has died of disease. The smallest children are sent out to gather fuel. One may see boys up in trees beating off leaves as if they were fruit and not a straw is allowed to allow to lie idle on the ground. In ordinary houses a dim light which costs almost nothing will be placed in a hole in a dividing wall so as to light two apartments. An old woman who was hobbling along pain-going to the home of a relative so fully was asked where she was going. She explained that she was as to die in a place near the family graveyard and thus avoid the expense of coffinbearers for a long distance.



**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.

**He Learned a Great Truth.**

It is said of John Wesley that he once said to Mrs. Wesley: "Why do you tell that child the same thing over and over again?" John Wesley, because once telling is not enough." It is for this same reason that you are told again and again that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy cures colds and grip; that it counteracts any tendency of these diseases to result in pneumonia, and that it is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Try a pair of "Our Family", line Star Brand Box Calf shoes for men, women, boys and girls. For sale only by  
The Star Store.

**The Pension Octopus.**

Congress has been running a race with death, and Congress has won. The civil war pensioners are now dying at a rapid rate, and yet the pension list is increasing. Thirty-seven years after the close of the war there are more pensioners than ever before.

The number lacks only 864 of being a round million. There was an increase of 7,927 since 1889. The experts say it is the highwater mark, and from now on the increasing death rate will decrease the pension list. This has been predicted each year for the past twenty years, but each time Congress has rallied to the rescue of the list and added more names than death can take off. —Baltimore Sun

are prepared to fill your fall bill of groceries and provisions, and at prices excelled by no one.

Chenault & Hand.

Miss Ella Tippet visited her sister, Mrs. Harkrider, here Sunday.

H. Berry of Trent has just received a car load of apples, which he bought while in Arkansas recently, and they are now on the sidetrack at Abilene. The obbers have contracted for most of them.

An exchange says: "A Tennessee girl punched out both eyes of a tramp recently for trying to hug her. Tennessee girls, like other American girls, like to be hum-bugged, but they draw the line when it comes to being bum-hugged."

We make a specialty of handling only the best groceries, fresh from the markets, and they are not old or musty when you get them. Give us a trial.

Chenault & Hand.

Try reading The Mail.

# ...THE BEST DRAWING CARD...

The Best Goods at the Lowest Prices.

Implements  
Wagons  
Buggies  
Barbed Wire  
Nails, Stoves  
Tools  
Etc. Etc.

We claim that we handle the best line of Hardware Implements, etc., on the market. We have handled 'em long enough to know this. They are the cheapest because they last the longest. Come and take a look at our mammoth stock.

Hardware  
Queensware  
Glassware  
Tinware  
Graniteware  
Crockeryware  
Etc. Etc.

MERKEL,  
TEXAS.

## W. H. DICKSON.

**Caesar Conquered Britain**

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

W. P. Browning & Co. sell the best Sewing Machine on the market at \$18 and \$20.

**A Tripple Hanging**

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

We have some odd lots in youth's and boy's clothing. We are offering at less than manufactures cost. Ask to see them.

The Star Store.

A fine girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Patterson, south of town, Sunday.

For nice, fresh groceries cheap see

Chenault & Hand,

It is by no means the worst thing in the world to be called a crank. I find as I prowl up and down through the earth that wherever I meet a man with sufficient individuality to stand against impurity and shams of every kind, too honest to get rich by underhand methods, and too brave to be a cowardly conformist, he is called a crank. Wherever a woman is found who thinks more of the brain than the hat that surmounts it she is called a crank. Wherever a man is found who honestly believes life holds better things for him than to become a dancing popinjay, and a social success by fine clothing and society manners he is a crank. Wherever a young girl is found who laughs at fashion and wears a gown to please herself rather than conform to a passing style, who stands by a friend at the risk of becoming unpopular, and who is law unto herself by the dictates of her own pure, sweet, womanly heart, she is a crank. Discoverers and poets are cranks. Philanthropists and poets are cranks. Christopher Columbus was a crank, and yet Chicago, after 400 years, turned itself head over heels to do his honor. Ah, well, when you count on your fingers the world's most famous cranks, and note the outcome of their crankiness, who would not choose but go down upon that despised list?—Ex.

New shipment of late style belts just received at the Star Store.

District Court adjourned at Abilene Saturday.

Geo. S. Berry was in Abilene Tuesday.

**Shall We Meet Again?**

Men seldom think of the shadow that falls across their path, hiding forever from their eyes the traces of the loved ones, whose smiles were the sunlight of their existence. Death is the greatest antagonist of life, and the cold thought of the tomb is the skeleton of all feasts. We do not want to go through the dark valley although its passage may lead to paradise; and, with Charles Lamb, we do not want to lie down in the muddy grave even with kings and princes as our bed fellows. But the flat of nature is inexorable. There is no appeal of relief from the great law which dooms us to dust. We flourish and we fade as the leaves of the forest, and the flowers that bloom and withers in a day has not frailer hold upon life than the mightiest monarch that ever shook earth with his footsteps. Generations of men appear and vanish as the grass, and the countless multitude that throngs the world today will tomorrow disappear as the footsteps on the shore.

"In the beautiful drama of Illion the instinct of immortality so eloquently uttered by the death devoted Greek, find a response in every thoughtful soul. When about to give her young existence a sacrifice to fate, his beloved Clemanthe asks if they shall meet again, to which he replies: "I have asked that dreadful question of the hills that look eternal, of the streams that flow forever, of the stars among those fields of azures my raised spirit has walked in glory, all were dumb, but, while I gaze upon thy face, I feel that there is something in the love that mantles through its beauty that cannot perish. We shall meet again, Clemanthe."—Geo. D. Predtice.

W. W. Wheeler returned yesterday from Brown county. He reports the country in pretty bad shape, not near so prosperous as this, and feed crops are also short.

Nice line of men's pants just received at

The Star Store.

Now's the time to advertise.

**Aunt Lucindy**

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

Mrs. Latrobe Vaughan left Saturday for her home at Jimulco, Mexico, after a pleasant visit to her father, T. B. Garoutte. She was accompanied by Miss Butman who will spend the winter with her.

C. E. Brown was in from his place, northwest of town, Saturday night, to meet his wife on her return from a visit to Roswell, N. M. She had been absent a month.

**"It Goes Right to the Spot"**

When pain or irritation exists on any part of the body, the application of Ballard's Snow Liniment will give prompt relief. "It goes right to the spot," said an old man who was rubbing it in, to cure rheumatism. C. R. Smith, Propr. Smith House, Tenaha, Texas, writes: "I have used Ballard's Snow Liniment in my family for several years, and have found it to be a fine remedy, for all aches and pains, and I recommend it for pains in the throat and chest." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

**Those Who Love Us.**

Under this head will be given, each week, a list of subscribers who have paid their subscriptions to The Mail. It will answer as a receipt:

- J. R. Griffith, Munday, \$2.00
- Will Higgins, Merkel, 1.00
- Miss Nettie Hawkins, Decker, .50
- Terrell Winter, Merkel, 1.00
- J. C. Copeland, Merkel, .25
- W. J. Dulin, Merkel, 1.50.

Get your name on this list.

I have gone into partnership with Dr. J. H. C. King for the practice of medicine and wish to close up my old books. Therefore, all who are indebted to me for professional service will be expected to come forward promptly and make settlement. Don't delay. Thanking all for past patronage and soliciting a continuance of same for the new firm, I am

Very truly

J. A. Leeman, M. D.

W. W. Cypert of Hico is in the city.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

## Thirty

Days Was My Life's Limit.

Agony From Inherited Heart Disease.

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure Cured Me.

One person in every four has a weak heart. Unless promptly treated a weak heart will easily become a diseased heart. A little extra strain from any cause is sufficient to bring on this deadly malady, the most common cause of sudden death. Dr. Miles' Heart Cure will tone up the heart's action, enrich the blood and improve the circulation.

"My trouble began with catarrh and I have always supposed it caused the trouble I have experienced with my heart. I had the usual symptoms of sleeplessness, lost appetite, constipation, palpitation of the heart, shortness of breath and pain around the heart and under left arm. My mother suffered in the same way and I suppose mine was an inherited tendency. At one time I was in agony. I suffered so severely and became so weak that my doctors said I could not live thirty days. At this time I had not slept over two hours a night on account of nervousness. The least exercise, such as walking about, would bring on palpitation and fluttering of the heart so severe that I would have to give up everything and rest. Nerve and Liver Pills cured me of constipation and heart symptoms disappeared under the influence of Dr. Miles' New Heart Cure. I am in better health than I have been in twelve years and I thank Dr. Miles' Remedies for it. I think they are the grandest remedies on earth and I am constantly recommending them to my friends."—Mrs. L. J. CANTRELL, Waxahachie, Tex.

All druggists sell and guarantee first bottle Dr. Miles' Remedies. Send for free book on Nervous and Heart Diseases. Address Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

**BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.**

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*Handwritten signatures and notes:*  
No Strateck  
to our best line  
See a point

P. TURNER,  
GENL. PASS. AND TICKET AGENT,  
DALLAS, TEXAS.



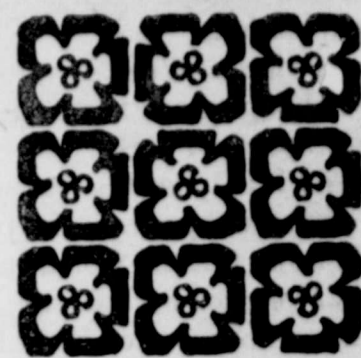
# We Are Now Ready

To meet your wants for anything in Dry Goods or Groceries. Just received the largest and most complete stock of Dry Goods, Hats, Gloves, Shoes, &c, that we have ever shown.

Notwithstanding the shortage in crops, OUR BUSINESS has INCREASED MORE THAN 50 PER CENT. Nothing has done this except fair, square, business-like dealing, and more good goods for the same MONEY than other firms.

We want you to call and inspect our stock. You will not regret it....

## J. O. HAMILTON



The Highest Grade of Goods to Sell at the Lowest Possible Popular Prices, is our Motto.

### EASON & ROLLINS, BARBERS

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 acknowledgements, pay taxes on land, furnish abstracts of title and transact all other business entrusted to him.

### I. O. O. F. LODGE

No. 355 meets every Tuesday night. Visiting brethren cordially 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

### G. H. RICHARDSON

#### Physician and Surgeon.

Residence, West Merkel.

### DR. J. W. LITTLE, Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN FERRIER BUILDING.

### LEEMAN & KING,

#### Physicians & Surgeons

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

### MORE LIVES ARE SAVED

...BY USING...

### Dr. King's New Discovery

...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 Bottles Free.

### DR. E. B. GILBERT

— SPECIALIST —

PRACTICE LIMITED TO THE EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

Permanently located at Abilene; will be in Merkel every Monday.

### W. W. WHEELER,

#### Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tornado Insurance Agent, Notary Public.

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

#### A New Word Wanted.

A verbal question of interest is raised by the Chicago Tribune, which objects to the assertion that Senator Hanna will "stump" Ohio. Stumping, as it points out, is a word descriptive of political work under conditions long ago extinct. The call for a new word to describe the modern method of campaigning is therefore interesting.

It is pertinent to note in seeking a new term based on modern methods that it may illustrate the discriminations of the day. To "rear platform" or "palace car" the country would be charged with an element of demagoguery. But while none of these terms is terse enough to displace "stumping," the discrimination is likely to disappear. The old word itself originally conveyed a reproach. It applied to the method of campaigning so urgent that it sought the very stumps to solicit the votes of the backwoodsmen.

It is to be remembered, too, that when Andrew Johnson took a railroad journey to disseminate his rather hazy views of public policy "swinging around the circle" became a political sarcasm. While the term has become effete, the operation itself has developed far beyond Johnson's practice. So that the new word which inclusively describes the peripatetic methods of our statesmen must have a wide significance. Who will invent it?

#### Moving Boats on the Elbe.

A curious means of moving boats is employed on the river Elbe. A chain 290 miles long at the bottom of the stream, which is too swift to navigate in the usual way. The boats are 180 feet long and provided with 200-horse power steam engines, which turn a drum fastened on the deck. The chain comes in over the bow, passing along in rollers to the drum, around which it is wound three times. The chain is then carried to the stern, where it drops back into the water. The steamers tow five barges, containing 1500 tons.

#### Large for a Queen.

A story is told of an English private soldier who was brought before the commanding officer charged with selling part of his kit. Said the colonel:

"Now, private, why did you sell your boots?"

"I worn them for two years, sir, an' I thought be that time they was me own property."

"Nothing of the sort, man! Those boots belong to the queen."

"To the quane, it is. Sure, thin, I didn't know the lady took twilves!"

#### Light Your Pipe.

A gentleman writes to the London Spectator to tell of an experience which certainly ought to be very widely known. "One of the most extraordinary cases of fire-lighting by the sun's rays through glass," he says, is the following: "A few years ago my wife and I were driving in a victoria near Canterbury. It was about 3 o'clock on an October afternoon. The horse was slowly walking up a hill between two pine woods, the sun as directly facing us, when, simultaneously, both lamps were ignited. I called the coachman's attention to the fact, and he simply laughed, thinking we were making fun of him. It was, however, a fact that the rays of the sun through the circular lamp glasses had actually lighted the candles."

#### Woman's Courage and Wit.

A noteworthy instance of combined courage and ready wit has just earned the high commendation of the Newcastle watch committee. The Newcastle Chronicle says that a policeman was being brutally maltreated by a gang of hooligans, and was in danger of his life, while nobody dared to interfere, until a young woman darted among the assailants, rapidly blew the policeman's whistle and darted away again. Her act brought prompt rescue to the officer. She herself was a policeman's daughter.

#### Oppose Tariff on Works of Art.

J. Pierpont Morgan, Charles T. Yerkes and other wealthy men have formed an association the object of which is to secure a repeal of the tariff duty on paintings and works of art imported into this country. An appeal is to be made to President Roosevelt, and individual members of congress will be asked to use their influence to have the law changed. Mr. Morgan has more than a million dollars' worth of paintings stored in London, Paris and Berlin. Yerkes has left paintings to the value of \$250,000 in his London apartments, and says he will not bring them here until the duty is taken off.

#### A Curious Clock.

One of the most curious clocks in the world is perhaps that which tells the time to the inhabitants of a little backwoods town and which was constructed some time ago. The machinery, which is nothing but a face, hands and lever, is connected with a geyser, which shoots out an immense column of hot water every thirty-eight seconds. This suopting never varies to the tenth of a second. Every time the water suopts up it strikes the lever and moves the hands forward thirty-eight seconds.

## A Mint of Money



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

### STUDEBAKER WAGON . . .

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

JOHN DEERE BUGGIES,  
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Hardware, Farm Machinery.

If you buy it here, it's RIGHT!

## GEO. L. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.

#### Mothers

Who would keep their children in good health, should watch for the first symptoms of worms, and remove them with White's Cream Vermifuge. It is the children's best tonic. It gets digestion to work so that their food does them good, and they grow up healthy and strong. 25c, Rust & Pittard.

#### Couldn't Ship the "Subject."

In the great variety of human experiences that of Charles Emerson, of Lowell, is a novelty. He consented to be hypnotized for exhibition purposes in a Boston museum. He was boxed and turned over to an express company for shipment. As the rules of the express company do not allow for the transportation of persons in a hypnotic state, the agent at Lowell refused to ship Mr. Emerson. The hypnotist's friends then started for Boston in a wagon with Mr. Emerson, who "came to" en route, thus spoiling the scheme.

#### Typewriter on the King's Yacht.

Probably for the first time in history typewriters have been used aboard the king's yacht during his majesty's recent sojourn on the water. Throughout the latter years of the last reign it was always a matter for surprise that every reply, no matter how brief or how formal, received from the queen's secretary was indited in ink and written by hand. The advent of King Edward has also meant the advent of the typewriter in the palace.

#### Failed.

A coroner's jury in Ireland delivered the following verdict on the sudden death of a merchant who had recently failed in business: "We, the jury, find from the new-doctor's statement that the deceased came to his death from heart failure, superinduced by business failure, which was caused by speculation failure, which was the result of failure to see far enough ahead."