

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MARCH 5, 1903.

NO. 2.

The Star Store

MERKEL,
TEXAS.

Dry Goods,
Notions,
Clothing,
Shoes
and Hats.

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

LEADERS OF LOW PRICES!

A Wide-Spread Evil.

Gambling, or rather the police protection of gambling, is an evil against which the district attorney in New York City has directed his heaviest batteries ever since he took the oath of office. Strangely enough, his efforts have excited but a lukewarm interest in quarters from which enthusiastic support would be expected. Indeed, it would hardly be unjust to say that a great many well-meaning people regard gambling as a minor evil, difficult if not impossible to suppress in a great city, and on the whole confined to those whose financial standing is such that they do not suffer much by it. "Gamblers are usually men who can afford to lose. They do not deserve much sympathy," is a common view of the matter.

If District-Attorney Jerome had wised to open the eyes of people to the facts he could not have asked for anything more typical or more impressive than the pathetic scene which took place on a recent Sunday morning. A woman riding on a street-car asked the conductor if he knew where So-and-So's gambling resort was. He pointed it out to her. She went up the steps and called for her husband. When he appeared she charged him with having stolen and gambled away one hundred and thirty dollars which she had saved for the household expenses and the children. Then she drew a horse whip from under her cloak, and used it so vigorously that the man's associates had to drag him in again.

Not a pretty picture, certainly, but an instructive one, because it shows better than a thousand sermons how gambling saps the fiber and makes its victim oblivious to the calls of honor or duty. The man whom the mania has seized will stop at nothing, and in his own downfall he drags with him those who, although innocent, must suffer for his fault.

Young people sometimes think the ban against all games of chance is unjust and unreasonable; the too strict view of church-members only. Those who are most familiar with the dark side of life in the great cities and those who, like Mr. Jerome, have done something to lighten that side, know that the attitude of opposition to every kind of gambling is the only safe one.—Youth's Companion.

K. of P. Organization.

The Abilene Knights, seventeen strong, officiated at the institution of the K. of P. lodge here Friday. They were groomed for the occasion, and there was nothing to mar the beautiful services of the order. Every little detail was impressive. Every step in the routine work was marked with decision. Every word spoken was one of wisdom. And every gesture carried with it a superb lesson. Friendship, charity and benevolence form the corner stone of this order, and with these virtues as a foundation the formation of the structure is made grand and imposing.

The institution services as carried out under the direction of Sir Knight Thomas, who is one of the leading members of the order in the west, were very beautiful, and the day was one long to be

remembered. The work was begun at 2 p. m. Friday evening, continuing with only a brief recess for supper until midnight, when the visiting knights took the train for home. Those in attendance were: J. A. Thomas, F. W. Chatfield, Geo. Brown, Max R. Andrews, A. S. Hardwicke, E. G. Batjer, C. M. Compton, Dr. Grizzard, John and Will Neill, Geo. L. Paxton, D. D. Dellis, J. J. Clinton, J. W. Christopher and others.

The following officers were installed after the institution of the lodge:

Geo. S. Berry, C. C.
C. W. Bacon, P. C.
G. E. Comegys, P.
W. P. Thurmond, M. of A.
Ed J. Leeman, M. of F.
S. L. Bacon, M. of E.
W. B. Alsbrook, M. of W.
T. A. Johnson, K. of S. & R.
W. B. Leeman, } Sentries.
A. C. Browning, }

Only eleven members were initiated into the order, which starts off with a membership of 25. The lodge will meet every first and third Friday night.

Why We Differ.

We forget when we pass our judgment on others that people are not all alike and that it takes all kinds of people to make a world. Suppose, for instance, that all were alike, with the same tastes, the same desires, the same virtues, the same vices, the same creed, the same hopes, the same plans and the same opinions. What would the world be like? With whom would one compare himself to see his own shortcomings? What would be the plane of morality? Who would govern and who would teach? Like a herd of cattle we would drift, caring not whither. By contrast we observe the beauties of the landscape, and by contrast we discover the difference between right and wrong, between virtue and vice, between squallor and cleanliness, between strength and weakness, between sickness and health and between pity and sacrifice. Variety is the spice of life. Monotony kills as quickly as disease, almost. Perhaps your greatest strength may, to your neighbor, appear a weakness. The beauty of the country lass has no charms to the city-bred youth, and the sturdy country boy sees little to admire in the fashionably attired city belle. Likewise in the choice of avocations, one man prefers this, another man some different means of gaining a livelihood, so in the end we are tolerably well pleased and the old world keeps evenly balanced. Let us respect every man's taste and choice.

Are You a Lover of Music?

If so call at our store and we will take pleasure in showing you our line of

Pianos, Organs and
Small Goods.

We have just put in a full supply of

Guitars,
Mandolins,
Violins,
Strings, etc.

PHONOGRAPHS & RECORDS.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

He is entitled to them.—Ex.

Road Snow-Blocked.

The Rock Island road is blocked with snow between Amarillo and El Paso, and three Rock Island trains passed today, two going west and one east. The latter passed at noon with a big load of passengers.

Hereford reported a 10 inch snow a few days ago which with high winds would fill all cuts and practically stop travel.

In the mountains between El Paso and Roswell it is said the snow is six feet deep.

It was snowing up there all the time rain fell here.

The passengers are carried on the T. P. to Fort Worth, thence to their destinations on the various lines of the Rock Island.—Reporter.

Bad Roads.

It has rained every week for the past four months and the roads, as a consequence, are just simply impassible. It is causing a great deal of inconvenience to everyone. It is impossible to haul fuel and feed on a wagon and almost an impossibility to get along the roads on horseback. Business in all lines has been seriously affected. We are just as anxious now to see an ending of this protracted wet weather as we were to see the ending of the long drouth last summer.—Italy News-

Herald.

Weevil Remedy—We are informed on good authority that if boll weevils are crossed with tumblebugs the species will back out of the state. We would have experimented before giving the news to our readers, but were afraid some other newspaper would scoop us on the item. We urge that the legislature take this matter in hand, secure cowboys to rope tumblebugs, and establish incubating stations at once.—Wills Point Chronicle.

My friend, has it ever occurred to you what a commentary upon civilization are lost women? A little child strays from the home enclosure and the whole community is on the alert to find the wanderer and restore it to its mother's arms. What rejoicings when it is found, what heartiness of congratulation! There are no harsh comments upon the poor, tired feet, be they ever so mirey, no reprimand for the soiled and torn garments, no lack of kisses for the tear-stained face! But let the child be grown to womanhood, let her be led from the enclosure of morality by the voice of affection or driven from it by the scourge of want—what happens then? Do Christian men and women go in quest of her? Do they provide all possible help for her return, or, if she returns of her own notion, do they receive her with such kindness and delicacy as will secure her against wandering again? Far from it. At the first false step she is denounced as lost. Lost, echo of friends—we disown you; don't ever come near us to disgrace us. Lost' says society, indifferently. How bad these girls are. And lost—irretrievably lost—is the prompt verdict of conventional morality, while one and all unite in bolting every door between her and respectability.—Ex.

Ballinger has a lady candidate for city secretary.

The Mail gives all the news.

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

We represent a \$5,000,000 company, and can make any kind of a loan on land, from \$300 up. Our inspector has just been in this district, and will be back in two or three weeks; so come quick if you need some money. If you have vendor lien notes on good security see us. Our main offices are in London and New York, but we have a branch office at Dallas, and loans of \$5,000 and less are made from that office, thus preventing delay. We make a five year loan at 8 per cent, and if your abstract is all right, we can get your loan in a few days. If you can not come, write us.

BYNUM, MUIR & SELLERS,

LAND AND LOAN AGENTS, - - - ABILENE, TEXAS.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

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

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

FARM AND RANCH.

Through Simple Agencies.

Making the farmer's home beautiful to please the eye and delight the heart is another object now sought. The farm mansion and its conveniences and appointments, are undergoing changes for the better. The immediate surroundings of the home are being made more attractive with grass, flowers, shrubs and tree. Innate love for the beautiful is being developed through these simple and inexpensive but effective agencies.

The children who grow up with pleasant homes and attractive objects about them will have less desire to leave the farm for town life, and will retain happy memories, when away from the old play ground, of their younger days. Nature and art, when combined to instruct and please, have an elevating influence upon us that banishes care and raises us above ourselves to the Architect who has planned so much for our good; and these influences come most forcibly in the early years of life, and these stay with us while life lasts.

Whoever makes a spot of earth attractive gives something to every one who sees it. It may help the passing observer only to a happy hour or a happy day, but that day or hour may be potent for good far beyond the brief period of first acquaintance.

The farmer's life is exacting but pleasant. He cannot afford to own fine paintings or statuary, but no artist can hope to place on canvas more than a faint likeness of what the farmer sees every day, or aspire to chisel from stone more than a resemblance of nature's groupings such as he beholds at every turn.

The price of hogs at the great markets, should stimulate pork production, for pork is now our most profitable farm product. Hogs and hog feed should receive more attention than ever before. But why mention this matter so often? Our farmers know the facts and will do the right thing at the right time. With normal

FACTS

About -:- Millinery

I do not employ a regular trimmer, and this enables me to sell goods cheaper than those who do.

My goods are brand new. All who have seen them say the entire line is up-to-now and the prettiest ever brought to the town.

The stock is not yet complete, but new goods are coming in all the time; they will show up with any in the country.

Come and price whether you wish to buy or not. I have Street Hats from 50c to \$2.00.

**Mrs. HOOPLE,
THE MILLINER.**

crops this year hogs will be as thick on North Texas farms as fiddlers in any old place.—Farm and Ranch.

The egg and chicken business has passed the day of small things and side issues. Milk and butter, eggs and chickens, were not many years ago considered the work of the farmer's wives and daughters to provide pin money. But it has passed to the stage of meeting the grocery bill, then the store bills generally; and now men have taken hold of it as the most profitable part of the farm, in many localities. It does not require the greatest number of acres now to make a profitable farm.—Brenham Banner.

As farming lands become more costly a better system of farming must be adopted. To do two-bit farming on \$25 land will always bring a farmer out by way of the small end of the thing.—Farm and Ranch.

R. F. Williams of this city shipped thirty-four fat hogs to Fort Worth Friday. Mr. Williams has already killed seventeen hogs for home consumption this season, and the lard and meat he will sell from the seventeen, over and above what is needed for home use, will pay all the expense of fattening the thirty-four shipped, making them all profit so far as expense of feeding is concerned. The hogs shipped averaged about 250 pounds each.—Wills Point Chronicle.

This original provision of the house committee on agriculture for the expenditure of \$30,000 on experiments looking to the discovery of an effective method of coping with boll weevil pest in Texas, was included in the agricultural appropriation bill agreed to by the senate on Tuesday, February 24. This means that there will be no further difficulty in the matter and the appropriation will be available within a few days.—So. Pac. Literary Bureau.

Every farmer should be a manufacturer and sell as little raw material off the farm as possible. By manufacturing beef, pork, mutton, butter, cheese, milk and many other products, he can make two profits—for instance, that of the cattle raiser, and the cattle feeder. There is no economy in raising the cattle and growing and harvesting the feed, and then selling both the cattle and feed to some one else to furnish the beef product. Why should not the farmer feed his own crops to his own cattle and market his own hives, thus saving all the cost of buying each separately, bringing them together and combining them? Farmers can feed their own live stock at less cost than anybody else.—Farm and Ranch.

Transferred Again.

After ten years as a St. Louis policeman Hugh McMahon tired of life in a great city has gone back to the country. Like Clarence the Cop, he has been "transferred again," but this time at his own wish.

He has gone back from the force to the farm; from politics to potatoes; from courts to carrots; from station to stable; from clubs to clods; from "plug-uglies" to plows; from "pinches" to parsnips; from mud to meadow; from garbage to garden; from blood to blossom.

He has gone back from writs to roses; from arrests to rest; from poolrooms to cool rooms; from sunstrokes to sunflowers and sunsets; from violence to violets; from helmets to hollyhocks; from dens to daisies; from running crooks to running brooks; from murderers to meditation; from quick thieves to quiet thoughts; and from "green goods" men to the green things of Nature herself.

Who shall say that he has not chosen the better part of life? "God made the country and man made the town" and at the very best, it sometimes seems, man made a bad job of it.—Lt. Louis Post-Dispatch.

An observant Texan arises to remark: "I know Texas weather and Texas soils. The prospects for the most prosperous crops in Texas history were never so favorable as now. The ground has not been so thoroughly wet in twenty years and there is just bound to be an abundant harvest for several years to come. Another thing that I have noticed is the fact that boll weevil eggs and the eggs of all other pests are absolutely dead. The long, heavy rains have washed the glucose off all the eggs and, when unprotected in this way, an ordinary frost will kill them. There need be no fear of boll weevils this year. There will not be enough of them in the state to destroy an acre of cotton."

Two Opinions On The Negro Question.

"There will be a race war, representing the most terrible conflict this world has ever seen," said Rev. Thomas Dixon, the lecturer and author of "Leopard Spots," in an interview.

"Nothing that can be done by humanity can prevent this. It will come just as certain as the sun continues to rise and set. On one side will be the Anglo-Saxon race and on the other side the negro people. With 3000 years of civilization in their favor there can be but one result. The Anglo-Saxon people will sweep the negro people off the face of the continent.

"There are 50,000 negroes in Chicago and a proportionately large number in Philadelphia. Sooner or later there are bound to be local disturbances in these cities between the two races. It is north here where the trouble will start."

Continuing his talk on condition in the South Dr. Dixon said:

"President Roosevelt has made himself impossible as a candidate for re-election. South of the Mason and Dixon line he will have solid opposition of democrats and republicans alike.

"Senator Hanna is considered by the people of the South as the rightful successor to McKinley and would receive their support."

Booker T. Washington addressed a large and appreciative audience at the Academy of music, Brooklyn. The audience was composed principally of whites, though there were a good many of his own race present.

The negro problem which is now agitating a great many people in the United States can only be solved if it is approached coolly and deliberately, as are all other great questions of the day. All anger must be put aside, prejudices must be forgotten, and after calm deliberation, what will result in the greatest good to both white and blacks

ELLIOTT & MILLER

DEALERS IN

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

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

Burton-Lingo Co.,

Lumber Dealers,

Merkel, Texas.

WE'LL TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

Whenever you are inclined to open an account here. We want business of the right sort; this does not refer to size—solidity is the point. All depositors "look a like to us;" their business is fully appreciated, and receive careful attention at our hands. Facilities here keep pace with demands. We want to make "all roads down hill" to this bank.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.

will be agreed upon.

He warned his race that they should not feel discouraged because their cause had not advanced as rapidly during the last twenty-five years as they had hoped it would, but that they must wait patiently and justice would be done to all concerned. Continuing he said:

"If any of the leading thinkers had been told when the negro was first brought to this country that he would ever be granted the franchise he would have laughed. And if it had been suggested that a negro would ever be a class speaker at Yale and Harvard, they would have thought it the vagary of a disordered mind, yet such things have come to pass."

In closing he urged that a convention be called to meet at any early date, which should be composed of the leading men of both races, North and South, and decide what was best to be done in the premises.

Have A Plan And Stick to It.

Mand a man fails in life, not because he lacks ability or enthusiasm or a general desire to get on in the world, but because he lacks steadfastness of purpose. To change one's place frequently, to be in doubt about one's career, to shift from one thing to another, or to raise and lower one's standards or ideals with every changing mood, is to court failure and to weaken self-confidence and the confidence of others.

Apart from the moral stamina which inflexibility of purpose and steady adherence to a chosen

career, despite hardship and discouragement, impart to the young man's character, he can have no more powerful aid to success than the reputation which this stick-to-it-ive-ness will learn him. It inspires others with confidence in his ability to succeed in whatever he undertakes, and it will steadily strengthen and enlarge his powers for achievement. Just as a building is erected by adhering to the original plan of the architect, instead of branching off in various directions according to the whim of the builder, so are formed the character and life structure of the young man who carefully plans and patiently works along the lines decided upon, strong and complete, rich and perfect, in accord with the ideals of his choice.—Modernograph.

READ IT THROUGH.

Twould Spoil This Story to Tell It in the Headlines.

To use an eighteenth century phrase, this is an "o'er true tale." Having happened in a small Virginia town in the winter of 1892, it is a story very much of the present. Up to a short time ago Mrs. John E. Harmon, of Melfa Station, Va., had no personal knowledge of the rare curative properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "Last January," she says, "my baby took a dreadful cold and at one time I feared she would have pneumonia, but one of my neighbors told me how this remedy had cured her little boy and I began giving it to my baby at once and it soon cured her. I heartily thank the manufacturers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for placing so great a cure within my reach. I cannot recommend it too highly or say too much in its favor. I hope all who read this will try it and be convinced as I was." For sale by Burroughs and Mann.

Notice.

We have moved into the rock building, next door west of our old stand, and still carry a nice line of staple and fancy groceries, confectioneries, etc.; also farming implements and harvesting machinery. We expect to handle the best goods at the lowest prices possible. Call and see us. Thanks for past favors.

DENNIS BROS.

Dr. Hutcheson of Arlidgton was here this week on a visit to his brother, our fellowtownsman D. C. Hutcheson. The doctor was a pleasant caller at The Mail office yesterday.

Look here next issue

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT

The population of Mexico now is about 13,000,000; about 1,000,000 are pure Caucasians, about 4,000,000 are Mestizo or a mixed race and the balance are Indians.

After the conquest, for 200 years the Spaniards held the natives in almost slavery, and the subjugation of the people was complete. Men without any pride of ancestry, who were peasants in Spain, and whose fathers were still laborers and "goose herds" soon found themselves rich, and had for servants the sons and daughters of kings and princes whose ancestry antedated the expulsion of the Moors from Spain, or the Spanish monarchy.

The language and religion of the people were changed to those of the Conqueror, and as "Knickerbocker" says, "the Indian was forced to give up his lands and riches—perishable things of this world, for the promise of a better country and imperishable riches in the world to come."

During the time of the viceroys religious toleration was unknown and the dreaded "Inquisition" held sway over the lives and consciences of the people. The wealth of the country was poured

into the coffers of Spain, and little effort made to improve the country or people. But the spirit of liberty still existed, the Inquisition was suppressed, and reforms were demanded, only to be refused. On Sept. 16, 1810, Miguel Hidalgo, a patriotic priest raised the standard of revolt, but the odds were too great against him, and on May 21, 1811, he with Allende, Aldama, and Jimenez were captured and on the following July 26, were executed at Chihuahua. The head of Hidalgo was sent to Guanajuato and exposed on the walls of the city; the other heads were sent to different cities to be exposed as a warning to all who would lift their hands against Spain. But the revolution would not down, and General Iturbide joining the patriots in 1814 gave them new life and finally accomplished the independence of Mexico. Iturbide was crowned Emperor July 21, 1822, but this first empire was not as long lived as the second empire, for it only lasted a few months, while the second lasted nearly three years.

Hidalgo, though a priest, was a true patriot, to their credit be it said that many of the staunchest supporters of Mexican liberty

have been among the Mexican clergy.

The Republic inaugurated by General Santa Ana, Dec. 6, 1822, was for many years like other Spanish-American Republics—a series of revolutions, until General Porfirio Diaz took the helm of the ship of state. Since then it has been sailing with very little trouble, on the political sea.

The first assault on the power of the church was made by President Comonfort on Sept. 16, 1856, who discovered that the Franciscan Order was plotting a revolution, and arrested the entire community of the Franciscan monks, and opened a new street across the monastery grounds from east to west. This is called the Independencia. For a short time this monastery was restored, but on July 12, 1859, Juarez by one blow destroyed all of the religious orders and much of the church's temporal power.

The immense tracts of land in different parts of the Republic, known as church lands, were confiscated; but it remained for President Diaz to put the Republic on a firm basis and secure religious liberty to all the people.

The descendants of the Spaniards still hold a high place in Mexican society, many of them being engaged in mercantile pursuits or owners of large ranches. They retain much of the courtly manners of old Spain, are excellent hosts, and I have found them good neighbors.

The "Mertizo" or mixed race are the best type of Mexicans. Of fine physique, and intelligent, with more go-ahead in their make-up, they have been a power in the building of Modern Mexico. Some of the greatest warriors and statesmen have been of this race, and they also rank high in literary and commercial pursuits. President Diaz is of this race.

The lower class Mexicans are descendants of the Aztec, Toltec, and other smaller tribes that inhabited the country at the time of the conquest and are mostly known as "peons" or laborers. They are the "hewers of wood and drawers of water." This is the class that is mostly found in West Texas and other border states, and many people think they are true representatives of the Mexican people, which is far from being the case. But this class is also advancing and have many names enrolled in the "Temple of Fame." The grand old warrior and liberator, Benito Juarez, was a full blood Indian. There are several tribes of Indians that yet live in the most primitive manner. The Yaquis of Sonora and the Mayas of Yucatan have been noted for stub-

born resistance to the Mexican government; while most of the Yaquis have been killed or moved to other parts, there are many farmers and ranchmen in Sonora that are of this descent. West of Chihuahua about 100 miles there lives a peculiar tribe called Terrahumaris. They frequently passed Diaz with loads of medicinal roots and herbs which they would sell; they would then buy corn and cheap calico, and start on their long tramp toward their home in the mountains. The women wear calico dresses but "a la mother hubbard," but with the exception of a loin cloth the men go entirely naked, and summer or winter no change is made. I have seen them tramping along in freezing weather in single file, looking like animated bronze statues. Upon questioning them as to how and where they lived, they told me that they lived in caves and cultivated small patches in the valleys, but spent most of their time gathering roots and herbs to sell on their periodical excursions to civilization. They are a remnant of the "Cave Dwellers." Their weapons are bows and arrows, and they do not seem to know anything about firearms.

In talking with a gentleman of Spanish descent, the question of the Indian was brought up, when he remarked: "Well, we civilized our Indians and made citizens and Christians of them; you Americans killed yours."

J. L. VAUGHAN.

The Incident Closed.

By reference to our advertising columns this week it will be seen that the advertisement which has caused considerable comment, and no little censure, has disappeared. The proposition made by The Mail to sell the space to a home man was called by one of our wide-awake merchants. We have a few words to say in explanation and the incident is closed so far as we are concerned.

There are too sides to this question. The merchant claims that advertising for such a firm hurts the town. Granted, but would he turn down an order from a citizen of Trent when he knew that in filling it he would injure a Trent merchant? There is as much argument, and sense, in one as in the other. Over one-third of The Mail's living comes from foreign concerns. We didn't think there could be any wrong in a straightforward, honorable business transaction, but we yield the point. One merchant claims that eight articles handled by him were shipped in to different parties last week, not to mention various other articles. This same merchant would ad-

vertise if "you will take it out in trade." Oh no, advertising won't pay! But it takes such things to arouse some merchants from their slumbers.

Let the business men remember that a newspaper is a business institution, and that it is worthy of its hire. If the size of the paper is cut down to fit its rations we are reminded by our subscribers that there are other county papers, and that if we are to retain their patronage we must keep the paper up to the standard; the merchants then say its columns must be turned over to them at starvation prices. Is not this a pretty pickle?

This is all, now and in the future. Our hand has been called, and we gracefully submit.

THE SCHOOL TAX.

The special tax which was voted in this district several years ago for the maintenance of the public school, expired with the first of the year; that is, the incorporation of this independent district killed the tax, and it must be voted on again. The Mail does not believe there is a tax payer in the district who will oppose the levying of the tax. A majority of them should be in favor of increasing the tax. If we let the tax lapse it will cut down the school term to about five months, and this would be disastrous to school interests. On the other hand, by increasing the tax from 20 to 25 cents the term would be lengthened, and we would then be in a position to compete with neighboring towns, nearly all of which have longer terms than we have. Sweetwater voted a 35c special tax; Abilene voted 50, but only levied 25; and others are even more than this.

Of course we've got to vote back that tax; but The Mail is inclined to favor an increase. A six months term is not long enough. We must keep pace with other towns.

The columns of The Mail are open for communications and enlightenment on the subject. Don't hesitate to express your opinion.

The public school is the pride of Merkel. That tax must not lapse and should be increased. What think you?

Paine's Celery Compound CURES RHEUMATISM.

Rheumatism, which does its terrible work in the muscles, joints, and tissues, is caused by uric acid which gathers in the blood. To get rid of this poisonous acid which produces the irritations, pains, agonies, inflammations, and swellings peculiar to rheumatism, Paine's Celery Compound should be used without delay. No other medicine gives such prompt, cheering, and happy results. It is the only medicine that prevents a return of the dreaded disease. Paine's Celery Compound braces the nerves, the blood is quickly cleared of all irritating poisons, tissue and muscle are built up, and the digestive organs perfectly toned. Do not treat with indifference the slightest rheumatic symptoms; the early use of Paine's Celery Compound will save you weeks and months of suffering. Mr. S. D. Conway, St. Louis, Mo., was permanently cured by Paine's Celery Compound after repeated failures with other medicines and physicians; he says:—

"I am 64 years of age, and have lived in St. Louis 27 years, and all this time with the exception of three years, I have served in the Engineers' Department as Inspector. Last winter I contracted rheumatism and was laid up. I tried all remedies and doctors, but all failed until I struck Paine's Celery Compound, which has made a permanent cure in my case. I have recommended it to many, and they have used it with the same result."

FOR HOME USE AND ECONOMY

Diamond Dyes

Make Old Clothes Look New
Direction book and 45 dyed samples free.
DIAMOND DYES,
Burlington, Vt.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.

Let us figure with you on your implements before you buy. You cannot afford to miss seeing the Texas Case Cultivator and King B Jr. Combination Corn and Cotton Planter. The satisfaction Case implements have given in this section has been all we could ask, the purchaser could ask. J I Case implements are the best ever offered for sale in the West.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,
ABILENE, TEXAS
Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

HILL & MARTIN,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

Dealers In.....

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

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

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

Everything in Garden and Field Seeds.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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

Subscription Rates.
One year..... \$3.00
Six months..... 1.50
Three months..... .75
Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES per month
One inch space..... \$ 5.00
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 of the plume under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

TO SUBSCRIBERS:

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

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

A recent dispatch from Saint Louis says:

Startling disclosures of a system of traffic in young women under police protection are to be made by the Grand Jury, as a result of a raid on resorts which began today under the direction of Circuit Attorney Folk. There are said to be many agents in country towns about St. Louis who daily send recruits to St. Louis, tearing them from home with promises of lucrative employment.

There is food for thought in the above paragraph. Wickedness and depravity have a firm foothold in this old world, but it is doubtful if the crime of robbing lovely womanhood of her dearest and most precious possession—her virtue—can be equalled in disastrous results. Woman at best is a frail creature and easily frightened. Poor girls, especially those who have known nothing but ceaseless toil during their lives, are suscepti-

ble to flattery and easily led astray by luring promises which hold out ease and comfort, a new life and new scenes. Girls who are thrown on their own resources and are compelled to do menial labor in order to eke out a half-way, miserable existence are eager to better their condition and readily succumb to the seductive influences which are brought to bear against them in promises and offers of more lucrative employment, generally by one of their own sex. In the city they are brought to their senses. The glamour of the future has faded before their vision. Life holds out no promises, but looms up black and dismal before their excited vision. Is it any wonder, then, that they soon fall a victim to their surroundings, into which they were led as unsuspecting victims—a trap, a pitfall? Under similar circumstances few escape from the web woven around them. Some lecherous scoundrel, possibly one of the "400," is responsible for her downfall, and the descent after that is rapid and degrading. Much of this is carried on under police protection, and wealth and power is behind it all.

The picture is dark and gloomy and is enough to disgust all humanity. But it is ten thousand times worse than drawn. Woman in her purity and virtue is to man a beacon light that leads to higher and nobler things; in her degradation she is repulsive. Few of us are charitable enough to forgive a fallen woman; we extend a helping hand to the instigator of her downfall. Of the two man is the most degraded, the lowest, the vilest. In all the category of crimes that of robbing womanhood of its virtue is the most hellish, for it saps at the very vitals of home, the foundation of civilization. Traffic in young girls! God forbid that the unholy and damnable traffic should continue. Rob us of every worldly possession, but keep intact the virtue of woman and let it shine resplendent throughout all the ages.

IN THE EFFETE EAST.

A dispatch from New Haven, Conn., says that the Rev. H. L. Hutchins, who has been making a tour of this state in the interests of the Connecticut Bible Society, read a paper Monday at a meeting of pastors of this city, in which he presented the result of his observations in certain parts

of Connecticut in a way that startled his hearers. Mr. Hutchins said that polygamy is practiced in certain towns in the eastern part of Connecticut. The degeneracy of the inhabitants of the towns referred to, Mr. Hutchins said, is productive of murder and other crimes.

He added that another feature of life in that section, and in the northwestern part of the state, is the existence of a class of illiterates, whom he called "poor whites." These live in shacks and are an ignorant set. The speaker said that the inefficiency of the country schools is responsible in a large measure for such conditions, and he believed also that the church is not holding its own in these districts.

And yet this is in the effete east, a sister to the state in which mass meetings have been recently held for the purpose of passing resolutions and making out plans looking to a crusade against illiteracy in the south. It is a sister to the state whose "elect" have abnormally developed ideas on social equality, and who have oftentimes contrasted the southern negroes and to the detriment of the former. Imagine, if you can, a place where people live together like sheep in a pen and you will have but a faint idea of the scene described above. It is galling to the effete east, but "chickens will come home to roost." There are counties in Texas almost as large as the State of Connecticut, but no such illiteracy nor degeneracy is found here, even among the negroes.

PARTISAN POLITICS.

The action of Congress in unseating Butler, the Democratic nominee from Missouri, in favor of his Republican opponent, is without a parallel. Butler was elected over his opponent, Wagoner, by a plurality in 1900 of 3,500. Wagoner contested and Congress declared the seat vacant. Butler again became a candidate for the vacant seat and defeated Wagoner on the face of the returns by 6,200. Last year he again defeated Wagoner by 7,000 votes. The House, however, ignored his large plurality, and declared his opponent elected.

This is a display of party rule never before equalled. Not even the rabid administrationists can applaud the deed. Democratic congressmen have given out that they will wipe out the insult by defeating pending pet measures of the opposition, and have laid down in obedience to this declaration. Now for a scrimmage of the cat and dog variety, and to the victor belongs the spoils.

Home patriotism, which is nothing more than home pride, supporting home institutions and upholding home enterprises and home people, is a commendable virtue in any man. Never send off for anything that can be secured at home.

You cannot have too much sunshine in your life—absorb all that you can today; tomorrow clouds may gather over your horizon.

Prohibition is a very live issue in the Mississippi state campaign and much feeling and strife has already been engendered. The state is nearly all under the control of the local option law. Statuary prohibition will prove a delusion and kill the good effects of the present law.

WITH THE PRESS GANG.

Large, dark-brown thirsts were distinctly fashionable this morning among the sportively inclined.—Galveston Tribune.

This is a new kind of thirst, but tastes of that species are not uncommon. The salty sea air must have had a bad effect on the legislative body.

It has always been a mystery to us why county officials continue to send the money of the county out of it and out of the state, oftentimes, when the home men can do it as well.—Wills Point Chronicle.

A bank cashier, some time ago, told the writer that with a shipment of printed stationery from one of these big concerns two bills were enclosed. One of them enumerated the articles at quoted prices; in the other the various articles were given at an advance of 25 per cent over the quoted prices, and at the bottom of this bill were these words, stamped in red ink: "You are at liberty to file this bill." The bills were enclosed in an envelope addressed to the cashier and marked "private." This is merely a suggestion and not an implication. The reader can draw his own conclusions.

When principle is involved we don't sit on the fence nor straddle issues—if you don't believe we are loaded, hit us.—Albany News.

Loaded with what? Wind? In that event it would be unwise to call the brother's hand, for an explosion is always dangerous. Evidently somebody's been talking about the News man.

There is little room to doubt that there was fraud in the drawing for terms in the State Senate.—Breckinridge Democrat.

That's the truth, but how are you to locate the blame? In this case the plaintiffs were in a hopeless minority and—the soup. Politics and fraud are bed fellows.

Texans have been oscillating lately between showers of rain and furies of snow.—Dallas News.

Oscillating, is it? Well that's a new name. Most people would designate it is a sweat or a stew.

Among some fifty exchanges received at this office we do not find but one that advocates a continuance of the saloon and nearly all do not hesitate to, and freely denounce the evil of the liquor traffic. The press of Texas is decidedly against the saloon.—Lancaster Herald.

Some of the brightest minds in the State may be found on the Texas press—men lofty in thought and of high ideals, and who always have an eye to the future welfare and prosperity of the country. The good of the country demands the eradication of the saloon evil; the press will bring about this happy result.

If it be true that the man who squeezes a dollar never squeezes his wife, then there are women in this town besides the widows and old maids who long in vain for some little demonstration of affection.—Joshua News.

The same may be said of almost every town, and Merkel is no exception to the rule. Love of the dollar is greater, with some men, than love of home, and it is an evil that is playing havoc with our social fabric.

A dollar sent off for goods will

never reach your pocket again; but this same dollar, if spent with your home merchant, will travel around and finally get back to you. This alone should be argument enough to stop the practice of sending off for stuff.—Gatesville Messenger.

A dollar is capable of liquidating several debts if spent at home, but when sent off it never returns. Home pride is a virtue that should be cultivated.

THE NEW VERSION.

The boy stood on the burning deck
Because he was afraid;
He couldn't swim to save his neck,
And that is why he stayed.
—Unknown Exchange.

The boy stood on the burning deck,
A calm unsettled passenger;
He lit his pipe with calm delight,
And read the Evening Messenger.
—Fort Dodge Messenger.

The boy stood on the burning deck,
To quit his post he did refuse;
The flames lit up the battle wreck,
But still he read the Garland News.
—Garland News.

The boy stood on the burning deck,
Little thinking of the smoke and fire;
'Till, alas, the flames burnt on,
And swept from his hands the old Empire.
—Stephenville Empire.

The boy stood on the burning deck,
While all about him were in a stew;
And in answer to his unruffled beck
He was brought a copy of the Review.
—Hico Review.

The boy stood on the burning deck,
Watching the burning sail;
He had no manner or means of escape
'Till he found a copy of The Mail.

Thousands May Die.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 28.—Cattlemen report that the havoc wrought among stock on the ranges northeast of this place and in the Panhandle by the recent blizzard was tremendous. The cattlemen in that locality do not put up feed for the winter, and the cattle were not in good condition to withstand such severe weather. Unless warm weather comes soon and grass starts, it is probable that thousands of head of cattle will die for want of feed.

A Strange Case.

Twin sisters in St. Joseph, Mo., caused physicians and their families no end of alarm. The sisters were Mrs. Emma Smith and Mrs. Bertha Foreman. They were reared together and it was difficult for members of the family to distinguish one from the other. Their dispositions were alike and it was often said that they were as one person. During their early childhood when one of them suffered from any ailment the other suffered likewise, although she may not have been afflicted with it. One of them became ill a few weeks ago and her physicians decided an operation would be necessary. The other one, though not present at the operation, suffered intense pain. It was feared she would die, too, in case her sister did not survive, and medical aid was called in. And not without good grounds, for Mrs. Foreman began to sink when her sister died. At the moment that Mrs. Smith died, the operation having proved unavailing, all the pain left Mrs. Foreman, but she was so near death that her life was saved with difficulty.—San Antonio Light.

An exchange very truthfully says: "The man who owns his little home, who is making a living and able to lay aside a few dollars each month, one of the best fixed men on earth, if he only knew it. With health and strength to perform his daily labor, with a good stomach, good appetite and sound refreshing sleep, and above all a clear conscience, he is the peer of the great J. P. Morgan every day in the week."

Gregg county joins the list of prohibition counties.

Tragedy Averted.

"Just in the nick of time our little boy was saved" writes Mrs. W. Watkins of Pleasant City, Ohio. "Pneumonia had played sad havoc with him and a terrible cough set in besides. Doctors treated him, but he grew worse every day. At length we tried Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and our darling our darling was saved. He's now sound, and well." Everybody ought to know, it's the only sure cure for Coughs, Colds and all Lung diseases. Guaranteed by Rust and Pittard Druggist. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

Another Blizzard.

Sunday witnessed a big drop in the temperature, and a Kansas blizzard with whiskers on it struck us a side-long glance. Flurries of sleet and snow were meted out at intervals during the morning, and in the evening fully a half inch of snow fell.

The blizzard was short lived, a mere whiff of Old Borea's breath. Old Sol dissipated his presence on Monday, and a slight moisture is the only reminder left us.

G. T. Beach dropped in on his annual visit, Monday, and gladdened the hearts of the force in his usual liberal manner. Mr. Beach has rented the Hamilton farm and will remain with us another year, we are glad to learn. The cold snap has drawn his stock considerably, he says.

Fruit has been given a set back by the recent freezes, and the indications are now that the crop will be immense.

Mrs. Nobles has The Mail's thanks for substantial favors. The Mail has several lady subscribers who are among its very best patrons, and we realize that without their support and encouragement the paper would be a small persimmon. All women read advertisements and advertisements are meat and bread to a newspaper.

I represent the Aetna, the strongest company in the world, in accident and health insurance.

It pays all just claims. Ask T. J. Coggin and I. S. Allen.
2t H. C. Williams, Agt.

Secret of a Long Life.

You sometimes see a woman whose old age is exquisite as was the perfect bloom of her youth. You wonder how this has come about. You wonder how it is her life has been a long and happy one. Here are some of the reasons:

She knew how to forget disagreeable things.

She kept her nerves well in hand, and inflicted them on no one.

She mastered the art of saying pleasant things.

She did not expect too much from her friends.

She made whatever work came to her congenial.

She retained her illusions, and did not believe all the world wicked and unkind.

She relieved the miserable, and sympathized with the sorrowful. She never forgot that kind words and a smile cost nothing, but are priceless treasures to the discouraged.

She did unto others as she would be done by, and now that old age has come to her, and there is a halo of white hair about her head, she is loved and considered. This is the secret of a long life, and a happy one.—Selected.

Try reading The Mail.

Well Again.

The many friends of John Blount will be pleased to learn that he has entirely recovered from his attack of rheumatism. Chamberlains Pain Balm cured him after the best doctors in the town (Monon, Ind.) had failed to give relief. The prompt relief from pain which this liniment affords is alone worth many times its cost. For sale by Burroughs and Mann.

Music.

I will take music pupils at \$3.00 per month.
2t Miss Eva Williams.

District court has called many Merkel people to Abilene this week. The docket is much heavier than usual and this term of the court will be a very busy one.

The month of February, just passed, is remarkable for the fact that it contained exactly four weeks, each beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday. It is said that it will be 15 years before the same condition occurs again.

R. H. Collins arrived Saturday with his second carload of hogs from Red River county. Many farmers of this and adjoining counties were here waiting for the arrival of the car and, like the others, they went like hot cakes. These two cars have filled a long felt want in this immediate section. Mr. Collins deserves great credit for his efforts in this direction, for he has proved a public benefactor indeed.

Your Dirty Clothes!

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

Will Leeman, Agt.

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

T. J. Randol was down from Trent Saturday and shoved up his subscription. Mr. Randol will leave during the month for Texico, N. M., near which place he has filled on a half section of land. He is going to a new and undeveloped country, but says he is aware of the hardships to be encountered and seems hopeful of the future. The best wishes of The Mail go with him, and we hope he will strike it rich.

Mrs. E. W. T. Compton, who has been quite sick the past two weeks, is reported improving, we are glad to chronicle.

Cotton reached the highest point during this month than it has for two years before, but as usual the rise did not occur until the staple was out of the hands of the producer. It is now around the 10c mark.

J. T. Warren fills a larger space in The Mail this week than usual. He is carrying a larger stock than ever before, and of course it will take more rustling. Advertising is the best way to sell goods.

J. T. Warren is among the grand jurors at Abilene this week.

The oldest settlers say they have never known so much rain to fall in February as has fallen this year, and they take it as an indication of a good crop year.

Spring : Announcement!

It is our new goods we want you to know about. They are here in great quantities, and still they are coming in. We've just returned from the east, where we went prepared to BUY. Now, we are delighted with our purchases, and we want you to see the many NEW things in our store. We bought better goods this season than ever before, because our trade calls for THE BEST; we have a reputation for handling good goods, and we're proud of it. They cost you but little more, but you get a great deal more for your money. You are invited to come in and see. Our new Dress Goods Department is one of great beauty; it is filled with all the latest things out for this season's wear; goods that were never so pretty before. Our stock is far above previous efforts in Selection, Novelty and variety, and we've spared neither time nor money in selecting it; and we are going to make this store one of great attraction. Keeping in touch with our business methods and and the character of goods handled you are assured of the best for the least money. No matter how insignificant the article, the quality remains the same. Our goods are dependable. We want to show you this beautiful stock of goods, and we invite you to pay us a visit. It will certainly pay you well.

J. T. WARREN.

Everything in Dry Goods & Groceries

Children's Coughs and Colds.

Mrs. Joe McGrath, 327 E. 1st St., Hutchinson, Kan., writes: "I have given Ballard's Horehound Syrup to my children for coughs and colds for the past four years, and find it the best medicine I ever used." Unlike many cough syrups, it contains no opium, but will soothe and heal any disease of the throat or lungs quicker than any other remedy. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs and Mann's.

\$50 Reward.

The above reward will be paid for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties who have been cutting the poles and wires of the Texas and Pacific Telephone Co., or in any other way tampering with same in a way to interfere with the transmission of messages. Address Texas & Pacific Tel. Co., 4t Colorado, Texas.

W. H. McCord and wife returned Sunday from a month's visit east, during which time they took in the Mardi Gras at New Orleans. We are glad to see them back again.

Mrs. D. C. Hntcheson is reported improving, we are glad to note.

Cures Sciatic Rheumatism.

Mrs. A. E. Simpson, 509 Craig st., Knoxville, Tenn., writes, June 10th, 1899: "I have been trying the baths of Hot Springs, Ark., for sciatic rheumatism, but I get more relief from Ballard's Snow Liniment than any medicine or anything I have tried. Enclosed find postoffice order for \$1.00. Send me a large bottle by Southern Express." Sold by Burroughs and Mann.

The two banks have kept The Mail's job press pretty busy for the past two weeks. Of course the profits on bank work are small, as we have to compete with the large concerns, but we are glad to get the work, and appreciate all such favors.

Our merchants are already receiving their new spring goods and the sidewalks are lined with goods boxes. From the quantity already received, it is easy to guess that they intend to stock up heavier than usual in anticipation of a large spring trade.

J. T. Warren, W. L. Harkrider, Mrs. Hoople and Mrs. Daniel returned Friday from St. Louis.

J. H. Campbell Jr. starts off to house-keeping by subscribing for The Mail. As a household necessity it is indispensable.

To The Public.

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

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

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

Pate & Rollins.

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

J. T. Warren.

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

Will Leeman.

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

J. T. Warren.

"Take Your Clothes and Go"

To Will Leeman, and have him get the Weatherford Steam Laundry to clean them.

Come and see our spring matting.—W. P. Browning and Co.

Warren will sell you Hamilton-Brown shoes and give you a key to the red box with every \$2.00 pair.

PROVERBS

"When the butter won't come put a penny in the churn," is an old time dairy proverb. It often seems to work though no one has ever told why.

When mothers are worried because the children do not gain strength and flesh we say give them Scott's Emulsion.

It is like the penny in the milk because it works and because there is something astonishing about it.

Scott's Emulsion is simply a milk of pure cod liver oil with some hypophosphites especially prepared for delicate stomachs.

Children take to it naturally because they like the taste and the remedy takes just as naturally to the children because it is so perfectly adapted to their wants.

For all weak and pale and thin children Scott's Emulsion is the most satisfactory treatment.



We will send you the penny, i. e., a sample free.

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

SCOTT & BOWNE,
Chemists,
409 Pearl St., N. Y.
50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

So Sweet and Pleasing in Taste!

Mrs. C. Peterson, 625 Lake St., Kan., speaking of Ballard's Horebound Syrup, says: "It has never failed to give entire satisfaction, and of all cough remedies, it is my favorite, and I must confess to my many friends that it will do, and has done, what is claimed for it—to speedily cure a cough or a cold; and it is so sweet and so pleasing in taste." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs and Mann.

Another Wreck.

A head-end collision, two large freight engines going together with much force, occurred on the Texas and Pacific two miles east of Weatherford Monday morning. No one was hurt and the wreck was cleared away that evening.

Mr. Rowland, of Hamilton county, has been here prospecting this week, with a view to putting in a large gin plant. He has not fully decided in the premises, but it is possible that he will locate with us. This country is in much better shape than the country further east, he says.

Read the advertisements first.

SHEPPARD & McDONALD

Beef,
Pork,
Mutton,
Sausage.

Everything Nice and clean; an up-to-date market. We would appreciate your patronage.

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 Apr. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Case, Miss Effie (2)
Emerson, Chas (3)
Harris, N A
Martin, Miss M
Martin, Mrs Lenie
Martin, Mrs Lula
Milam, Mrs Francis
Moore, Mrs Ana
Johns, Mrs J C
Self, J H
Wallace, S A

What Many May Have Yet to Learn.

Learn to smile, it is often better than medicine.

Learn to attend to your own business.

Learn to tell a good story, it is a sunbeam in sadness.

Learn to say encouraging words, especially to the young.

Learn to avoid ill-natured remarks and everything that can create friction.

Learn to keep your troubles to yourself.

Learn to hide your aches and pains under a pleasant smile. No one cares to know what ails you.

Learn to greet your friends and acquaintances with a smile. They carry too many frowns in their own hearts to be bothered with any of yours.

Learn to keep secrets and not to extract any from others.—Ex.

Deputy Sheriff Lon Cunningham is in the city.

A Rude Awakening.

As men grow older and pass through the various vicissitudes of life, one of the sad convictions that is forced upon them is the rarity of disinterested friendship. The sweet illusions of childhood and early youth gradually disappear, and after a while the painful fact is apparent that the pretended friendship of many people are only masks for the accomplishment of some selfish purpose. There are only too many people in this world who, when they find they cannot use you or make you subservient to their purpose, often improper ones at that, are ready to deliberately wound you in your character or in your business. The awakening, whether it comes early or late, is one of the severe tests of one's own character. There are plenty of good and true people in the world, and here and there they will throw a ray of sunshine across the stony way.—Willingham.

The Epworth League.

Mr. W. C. Sharon of Chattanooga, Tenn., Pres. of Joyce Chapter Epworth League, says: "The entertainment given by the Schubert Symphony Club and Lady Quartette at the First M. E. Church last night was a splendid success and highly satisfactory to the local committee in charge." Our readers are looking forward with much pleasure to the appearance of this favorite organization in our city on March 17 at the Opera House.

NOTICE.

One milk cow, fresh in milk, for sale.

2t T. J. Parton.

Dennis Bros., Bass Bros., and Ed S. Hughes & Co., have new advertisements in this issue; read them.

N. J. Rawlings was down from Fisher county yesterday.

CHEAP JOHN?

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

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

Come to us for Good Goods and Little Prices.

Yours for a Prosperous Year,

J. P. Sharp & Co.

Dora Dots.

It has been a long time since Kat Klaw wrote, but will try and send in a few items this week.

J. M. Bryson went to Merkel Friday.

The mail carrier, S. A. D. Ground, had to carry the mail horseback Friday on account of the bad roads.

Miss Annie King, who has been visiting her parents at Merkel, returned home Saturday.

Burl Wheeler of Merkel was on the Divide Sunday.

Our community mourns the loss of another good soul, Mrs. S. P. Jackson, wife of S. P. Jackson. Mrs. Jackson was sick only a short while with pneumonia. The remains were laid to rest in the Dora community.

Rev. J. L. Elliott of Sweetwater made a short talk at the grave, after which the remains were lowered to their last resting place.

She was taken sick Wednesday and died about 4 o'clock Sunday morning, March 1st. She leaves a husband and six children, besides a host of friends, to mourn her death.

She was a member of the C. P. Church.

Kat Klaw.

The attention of the ladies is especially called to Mrs. Hoople's advertisement.

Sam Jones says: "A Texan in a good humor and in good spirits cares less for money and will spend it quicker and care less what he spends it for than any fellow I know, but when he is blue and downcast, he keeps what he has and grumbles while he keeps it."

The I. O. O. F.

Concerning the Schubert's, which appear here on March 17, Grafton (W. Va.) Lodge No. 31, I. O. O. F., says:

"Every number presented was a gem and the performers were applauded to the echo. The entertainment appealed to the good taste of the large and appreciative audience and was a success in every particular."

J. E. Burdette, N. G.
D. M. Roach, R. Sec.

Tobacco tags are worth 1/2c each at Maxwell & Sons. 2t

J. P. Sharp will leave this week for the Kansas City markets to lay in his spring stock.

It Saved His Leg.

P. A. Danforth of LaGrange, Ga., suffered for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg; but writes that Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured it in five days. For Ulcers, Wounds, Piles, it's the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25cts. Sold by Rust and Pittard, druggist.

Miss Lillard of Sweetwater is visiting her sister, Mrs. Thurmond.

Miss Nora Crim of Abilene is the guest of Mrs. Dr. Leeman.

R. A. Miller has secured the contract for the Hutcheson building and will begin work as soon as the weather clears. Mr. Miller has the distinction of having built twelve of the fourteen rock and brick buildings in Merkel.

Lost, a small black pig with white feet, quite young. Report to

R. H. Collins.

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

Sam Myrick courted in Abilene this week.

Will Provine came in Tuesday from Hall county, where he has his cattle on pasture.

Calendars for 1904.

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

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

Sunday Morning Reflections.

Be a little blind to the faults of others. Remember that no man is perfect, and that the best he can do is to approach as nearly as possible the perfection of Jesus Christ. The golden rule is, in these circumstances, a guiding light. Let us live up to the spirit expressed in that.

God has spoken to us in a hundred ways through all the ages of history; but when He would speak His last message He wrapped Himself in human flesh and folded us to his divinely human heart. He crept beneath our heaviest burdens. He gave Himself to our uttermost need.

When we can teach men the infinite worth of the golden rule and bring them to cherish an enlightened conscience, the rich will not oppress the poor, nor will the poor envy the rich; but the rich and poor will meet together, recognizing that the Lord is the Maker of them all.

It is the charity of Christ that should be infused into the human soul from the earliest dawn of reason. It is the love of God and neighbor that should be inculcated with the three R's that alone can bring about a union that shall reflect the true spirit of Jesus Christ and a genuine charity.

Anxiety or corroding care on the part of a Christian must be a great sin. And it must be a sin very deep in the heart. So large a part of the sermon on the Mount would never have been directed against anxiety, nor so many arguments heaped up against it, if the sin were not very large and its grasp very rude. "Fret not" is Christ's constant caution.

Try reading The Mail.



Mrs. Laura S. Webb,
Vice-President Woman's Democratic Club of Northern Ohio.

"I dreaded the change of life which was fast approaching. I noticed Wine of Cardui, and decided to try a bottle. I experienced some relief the first month, so I kept on taking it for three months and now I menstruate with no pain and I shall take it off and on now until I have passed the climax."

Female weakness, disordered menses, falling of the womb and ovarian troubles do not wear off. They follow a woman to the change of life. Do not wait but take Wine of Cardui now and avoid the trouble. Wine of Cardui never fails to benefit a suffering woman of any age. Wine of Cardui relieved Mrs. Webb when she was in danger. When you come to the change of life Mrs. Webb's letter will mean more to you than it does now. But you may now avoid the suffering she endured. Druggists sell \$1 bottles of Wine of Cardui.

WINE OF CARDUI

Notice.

Drs. Leeman & King's office in Burroughs & Mann's drug store. Calls answered day and night, both in town and in the country.

Catarrah made a specialty. Hemorrhoids (piles) cured without the ordinary danger of the knife, no loss of time, no blood.

The ALCOHOL or WHISKEY HABITS, Opium, Morphine, Cocaine, Chloral; in fact, all drug habits cured, and you at your own homes and at your usual vocation. No loss of time; no railroad fare; no hotel expenses.

Call and see us; it will cost you nothing.

We will furnish you a trial treatment absolute free at your request, provided you will promise to follow directions.

Leeman & King.

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

Colds are Dangerous.

How often you hear it remarked: "It's only a cold," and a few days later learn that the man is on his back with pneumonia. This is of such common occurrence that a cold, however slight, should not be disregarded. Chamberlains Cough Remedy counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia. It always cures and is pleasant to take. Sold by Rust and Pittard.

There is nothing in the world but what is bound to grow bigger or smaller. Kittens grow to cats or they die; little trees grow to big trees or they get cut down; the little stores of today are the grand emporiums of tomorrow or they go out of business; the small towns are the big cities of the future or the people move away. Everything has got to keep on the move one way or the other.—Brenham Banner.

Wasn't Particular.

A colored brother, writing to the bishop to send a preacher said: "Send us a bishop to preach Sunday. If you can't send a bishop, send sliding elder; if you can't spar him, send a stationary preacher; if you can't spar him, send us a locus preacher; if you can't do no better, send us an exhauster."

Four Old Maids.

To hear the Schubert Lady Quartette sing their "Old Maid Song" (especially written for them) will make a rise in the matrimonial market anywhere. This is one of their most fetching encores; and as the ladies are many years removed from being old maids themselves, they can enjoy singing of the trials besetting the four maidens of their song.

School Building Accepted.

The Board of Trustees accepted the public school building from Contractor Miller, Monday, and the various departments moved into the building the following day. There was some misunderstanding over minor details of the construction work, but this was amicably settled.

The teachers and pupils were glad to get into the new building, and moving day was observed as a partial holiday, all expressing great delight at being transferred to more comfortable quarters. Let the pupils renew their efforts and double their energy, for there could be no better way to express their appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the patrons of the school in providing such commodious and comfortable quarters.

A "BARE" HUNT.

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

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

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

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

W. H. DICKSON.

J. T. WARREN, PRES.

GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.

G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.

T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

MERKEL, TEXAS.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID IN	\$ 50,000.00
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITIES	50,000.00
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS	14,000.00
TOTAL	\$114,000.00

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

More Riots.

Disturbances of strikers are not nearly as grave as an individual disorder of the system. Overwork, loss of sleep, nervous tension will be followed by utter collapse, unless a reliable remedy is immediately employed. There's nothing so efficient to cure disorders of the Liver or Kidneys as Electric Bitters. It's a wonderful tonic, and effective nerve and the greatest all around medicine for run down systems. It dispels Nervousness, Rheumatism and Neuralgia and expels Malaria germs. Only 50c, and satisfaction guaranteed by Rust and Pittard, druggist.

Texas Independence Day.

Monday was Texas Independence day—a day that should live in the hearts of every Texan. Independence is a blessing which should bring out our deepest gratitude, for in the contrast of the State now with the dreary waste of a few years ago, when might was right and bayonets ruled, we can but rejoice that we are no longer under Mexican dominion.

Our independence was purchased with the blood of our father. It is a priceless heritage. Let us, then, revere deeds of those great men who were inspired to sacrifice their lives that we might enjoy the boon which they craved.

Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!

Working Overtime.

Eight hour laws are ignored by those tireless, little workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. Millions are always at work, night and day, curing Indigestion, Bilioussness, Constipation, Sick Headache and all Stomach, Liver and Bowel troubles. Easy pleasant, safe, sure. Only 25c at Rust and Pittard's drug store.

Lion or Lamb—Which?

"Did March come in like a lion or like a lamb?" This question has been generally discussed this week, some affirming and others denying. It has not yet been settled. The prevailing opinion is that the matter of March's ending would never be settled until the end of March, as the beginning might be construed either way.

If "March came in like a lion it will go out like a lamb," and vice versa. Later developments will settle the question.

Fireman Loses a Foot.

S. H. Hickam, a Texas and Pacific fireman, lost his left foot at Abilene Saturday night in stepping from a moving train, it being so badly crushed that amputation was necessary.

His home is at Baird, but he was taken to the hospital at Marshall the following day.

W. P. Thurmond is courting in Abilene this week.

Rev. T. C. Eason was in the city yesterday.

Best Passenger Service

TEXAS



"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS

BETWEEN FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS

E. P. TURNER, GEN. PASS. AGT. DALLAS, TEXAS.

Burroughs & Mann,

Dealers In

Patent Medicines and Druggists Sundries Fancy & Toilet Articles.

HAIR, TOOTH AND PAINT BRUSHES

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

J. P. Sharp sends The Mail to his father and father-in-law at Stephenville.

FORWARD...

**Our Business
Is Still
Marching
Forward**

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

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

J. O. HAMILTON

**PATE & ROLLINS,
BARBERS**

NORTH FRONT STREET.

I. O. O. F. LODGE

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

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

**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.

Nothing has ever equalled it.
Nothing can ever surpass it.

**Dr. King's
New Discovery**

For CONSUMPTION Price
OF THROAT and 50c & \$1.00
AND
COLD

A Perfect Cure: For All Throat and
Lung Troubles.
Money back if it fails. Trial Bottles free.

W. W. WHEELER,

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

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

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

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

HELPFUL Some newspapers print
READING matter to fill up space.

Much of this is harmful
reading. It is the aim of the SEMI-
WEEKLY NEWS to give helpful reading.
Thousands will testify to its helpfulness
to them. Ask your neighbor.

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

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

R. B. USTICK

DEALER IN

**Watches, Clocks, Jew-
elry, Etc.**

Repairing a Specialty.

See The Mail for all kinds of
job work at living prices.

Old Soldiers' Column

A Suitable Diet.

Stonewall Jackson had usually
a return rebuke for stragglers, but
on one occasion at least he was
lenient. It was in the summer of
1862, during a forced march that
he caught a private from a Geor-
gia regiment engaged in stripping
a persimmon tree of its pucky fruit.

"What do you mean by loiter-
ing this way?" demanded Jack-
son.

"Reckon you kin see what I
mean returned the staggler, who
was not aware of Jackson's rank.

"Dont you know those per-
simmons aren't ripe yet?" asked
Jackson, somewhat amused at
the man's answer.

"I'd sooner have 'em green,
boss."

"And why?"
"Cause they draw my innards
up to fit my rations."

Just Before the Battle, Mother.

Just before the battle, mother,
I am thinking most of you,
While upon the field we're watch-
ing,

With the enemy in view—
Comrades brave are round me
lying,

Filled with tho't of home and
God;

For well they know that on the
morrow,

Some will sleep beneath the sod.

Farewell, mother you may never
Press me to your heart again;

But, oh, you'll not forget me,
mother,

If I'm numbered with the slain.

Oh, I long to see you, mother,
And the loving ones at home;

But I'll never leave our banner
Till in honor I can come.

Tell the traitors all around you
That their cruel words we know,

In ev'ry battle kill our soldiers
By the help they give the foe.

Hark! I hear the bugles sounding,
'Tis the signal for the fight,

Now may God protect us, mother,
As he ever does the right.

Hear the "Battle Cry of Freedom,
Oh, yes, we'll rally round the
standard

Or we'll perish nobly there.

Just Jolly Along.

If there is any chance to boom
business boom. Don't pull a
long face, and get sour in the
stomach. Hope a bit. Get a
smile on you. Hold up your head.
Get hold with both hands. Then
pull. Bury your hatchet. Drop
your tomahawk. Hide your

J. J. MILLER,

**Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public,
Land and Collecting Agent.**

Will practice in all the courts of Texas. All
business entrusted to my care will receive
prompt attention. Will pay taxes for non-resi-
dents, also pay interest on lands for all who may
trust their business with me; will make proof
of final settlement on homestead and school land
property. I solicit your patronage. 6-1pd

little hammer. When a stanger
drups in jolly him. Tell him this
is the best town on the earth. It
is. Don't get mulish. Don't roast.
Just jolly. All men like to be
jollied always. So jolly. Get
popular. It's dead easy. Help
yourself along. Push your
friends with you. Soon you'll
have a whole procession. Be a
good fellow. No man ever help-
ed himself by knocking other
people down. No man ever got
rich trying to make others believe
he was the only good man on
earth. You can't climb the lad-
der of fame by stepping on other
people's corns. They are their
corns. Not yours. And they
are tender. Keep off the corns.
All men are not alike. Once and
a while you may find one who
is very much alike. But some
are different. You're not the
only one. If you don't like their
style let 'em alone. Don't knock;
walk right in. Make yourself
look pleasant. You'll get used
to it. There is no end of fun in
minding your own business.
And it makes other people like
you better. Better have others
stuck on you than get stuck on
yourself. Nobody gets stuck on
a knocker. Don't be one. Or
two.

In His Own Coin.

The universe pays every man
in his own coin: if you smile it
smiles upon you in return; if you
frown you will be frowned at; if
you sing you will be invited into
gay company; if you think you
will be entertained by thinkers
and if you love the world and
earnestly seek for the good that
there is therein, you will be sur-
rounded by loving friends, and
nature will pour into your lap the
treasures of the earth. Censure,
caticise and hate and you will be
censured, criticised and hated by
your fellowmen. Every seed
brings forth after its own kind.
Mistrust begets mistrust, jealousy
begets jealousy, hatred begets
hatred; confidence begets confi-
dence, kindness begets kindness
and love begets love. Resist and
you will be resisted. To meet the
aggressive assault every entity
rises up rigid and impenetrable—
while yonder mountain of granite
melts and floats away on the
bosom of the river of love.—Ex.
Now's the time to advertise.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Shakespeare said, A
rose by any other
name would smell as
sweet; but when it
comes to PLOWS



John Deere and Standard Plows

stand for all that is good in the plow
line. Better get the best Plows and
Farm Implements if you want the
best results. Their

Riding Planter

is a winner for 1903. Prices Right,
Goods right.

GEO. L. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.

A Paying Investment.

Is the kind you like to make. The money that it takes to kill
Prairie Dogs will pay 500 per cent per year. The dogs eat
more grass than the cattle. Bass' Prairie Dog Poison is the
surest, safest and easiest of all the poisons used. It has
probably killed one-half of the dogs which have been killed.
Special prices made on bulk lots. Don't Delay.

Bass Bros. Drug Co.

Our agents Burroughs & Mann and Rust & Pittard sell at our price.

A Physician Writes.

"I am desirous of knowing if
the profession can obtain Herbine
in bulk for prescribing purposes?
It has been of great use to me in
treating cases of dyspepsia
brought on by excesses or over-
work. I have never known it to
fail in restoring the organs affect-
ed, to their healthful activity."
50c bottle at Burroughs and
Mann's.

It takes a wise man to realize
that he is an ignoramus. A fool
does not know there are hundreds
and thousands and millions of
things in this world of which he
has no knowledge whatever, but
to the contrary i imagines himself
a walking encyclopedia of valua-
ble and most useful information.
We are all more or less ignorant,
but there are those who do not
believe it.—Exchange.