

# THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, APRIL 23, 1903.

NO. 9.

## J. P. Sharp & Co.

### General Merchandise

If you want to save money,  
we are the people to hunt up.  
Don't forget this, please.

#### WHERE, OH WHERE?

The Whenceness and the Henceness of the Then and the Now.

WHERE: Where is the thrifty old woman of the happy usedto who kept an ash hopper and scorned boughtened soaps? Where is the grizzled farmer of the ancient regime who regarded his home acres with paternal affection and coaxed them to yield him support in bounteous plentitude? Where is the dignified attorney of yesterhence who depended much on the justness of the law and little on the thimbling of witnesses and jury hypnotism? Where is ye antiquated medical practitioner who rolled his own pills and killed or cured at one visit? Where is the muscular schoolmaster of the fadeful past who taught and fought ten hours a day and graduated scholars who could spell? Where is the forceful journalist of the long-gone who took sides on every question, whose adjectives wore bark, and who carried a chip on his shoulder every day of his life? Where, a thousand times where, is the pre-now preacher who answered the right call and who believed all of the Bible all of the time, who preached the book as he understood it, who had the nerve to preach that the gospel was free, who recognized no authority between him and the Lord, and who talked of money matters privately with his members, who kept the house of God sacred to Christian services, who knew little of the ways of the world and who never drummed for a publishing house? Gone.

Even so. Things are different now and—we daresay—better. The ash hopper has fallen into decay because the grocery store is so convenient. The self-sustaining farmer was good, but the broad-acre man of today can buy more in a minute than the old man can pay for in a year. The old lawyer with his high

brow and his courtly manner was very entertaining, but there's no use spending hours and hours poring over books and getting up an address to the jury when a few words with the principal witness will settle the case and save the ourt's valuable time. The wisdomatic pill roller of the dawn days served his time and did his duty, but goodness knows he wasted a power of physic in dosing every ill that human flesh was suspected of. The limb-swinging school teacher who thought the fondation of education must be laid in the primary branches would feel silly were he brought into a modern school room and shown little children learning to read without knowing the alphabet and big boys and girls doing stunts in geometry before they passed baker in the spelling book. The dead and gone editors who made the sparks fly every Friday thought a lot of themselves, but the up-to-now newspaper man with ten pages of live ads and two whirring job presses is doing something really worth while. And then the old preacher. The poverty-sticken old itinerant who never saw the inside of a seminary couldn't possibly have a message of interest to the modern men and women who read for themselves and have little patience with those who would bind one down to a hard and set rule of life such as their forefathers were scared into. Besides, the modern church is a great organization with many costly irons in the fire. It has to have money. The missionary can not be expected to peddle hymnbooks for a lving. He must have an establishment and command the respect of the natives, give them something to wonder at and cure their soreeyes. Then there is a lot of educating to do. The universities must be kept going with a full head of steam or the supply of preachers will run out and the heathens will have to hustle for their own souls. These reflections are cal-

culated to make the modern, twentieth century man feel comfortable and pridedied. They make him swell with contentment and complacency.—Clarksville Times.

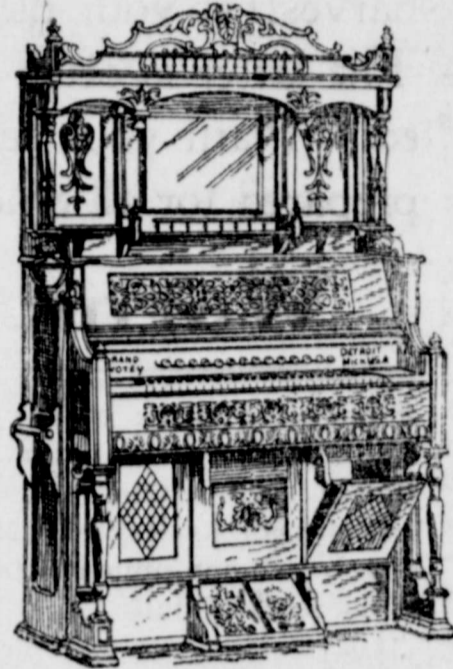
#### Reflections on Marriage.

And therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.—Gen. 2:24.

The marriage relation is of divine origin and is the most sacred of all divine institutions, for upon its sanctity depends the home, the church and the state. Many enter upon it thoughtlessly, almost flippantly and in the experience of the after years this flippancy ripens into sorrow. There are very few boys or girls under 21 years who have reached the stage of life where sober reason and mature reflection control their flighty fancies, and they are incapable of making a choice of a lifetime. Again, no marriage should occur until the contracting parties have known each other intimately for at least a year; until there has been ample opportunity to test the congeniality of the two in disposition and general character. No young lady should agree to marry a man who is objectionable to her parents, no matter how strong her infatuation, for it should be remembered that the father and mother are better capable of judging than she and are only interested in promoting her happiness. The tendency of the average novel is to fill the young mind with notions of romantic elopements that are fallacious of swift devotion and the granting of liberties that are prejudicial to the marriage relation and altogether hurtful. No young lady should permit a young man to touch her lips or put his arms around her waist even after engagement; it is dangerous in the first place, and in the next such familiarity will breed contempt that will spurn matrimony. Give your lover to understand that such liberties are reserved for post-nuptial seances only and if he would have them he must first have the law's consent. As a rule, no young man will marry a girl whom he can hug and kiss at will; and as a rule a girl is not worth having that will permit it. Love is a growth, not a whim; it comes from association and knowledge and not from infatuation. The real love that will stand the test of misfortune and sickness, and the trials that come like wolves into the home to rend and ruin it, is not born of a look and a nod, but grows and matures with association.—Comanche Chief.

#### The Confederate Monument at Austin.

The monument proper is executed in the celebrated Teich granite, which is quarried at Llano, Texas, and is a beautiful gray, many call it Confederate gray. It stands at the capitol grounds, not far from the entrance and almost at the head of Congress avenue. The first step is 27 feet square. It has three steps. The first base is 18 feet square and has in raised letters the words, "Erected by Surviving Comrades," with the seal of the Confederacy in the center. The die or middle, noble has a large panel on man we sides,



## MONEY!

is saved by

## BUYING THE BEST

We sell the Farrand Organs, Mason & Hamlin, and others. Also a fine line of Pianos, nice line of Violins, Guitars, Mandolins; strings of all kinds.

**Basham, Shepherd & Co.**

which are heavily moulded and projecting pilasters from the corners. The panels are of huge dimensions, being 9x5 feet.

The front panel has in large, raised letters the following inscription:

"Died for State rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The people of the South, animated by the spirit of 1776, to preserve their rights, withdrew from the Federal compact in 1861. The North resorted to coercion. The South, against overwhelming numbers and resources, fought until exhausted. During the war there were 2,257 engagements. In 1,882 of these at least one regiment took part. Number of men enlisted: Confederate army, 600,000; Federal armies, 2,853,132. Losses from all causes: Confederate, 477,232; Federal, 482,700.

The other three panels give the dates of the most important land and naval battles. Above the cornice are four separate pedestals which are surmounted by highly and artistically executed figures, representing the four arms of the service, in bronze. One is infantry, cavalry, navy and artillery. In the center the monument rises higher and forms a large pedestal for the statue of Jefferson Davis, which is also made of bronze. On this pedestal are four panels giving the names of States and dates when they seceded from the Union.

The total cost of the monument is about \$23,000.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

A reporter dropped into the Watson & Bacon store yesterday and found all hands as busy as bees. Among the satisfied customers who were going out laden with goods we noticed one of Hylton's prosperous farmers, a peep at his bill showing us that he had deposited \$60 with the firm for dry goods alone, and from the pleased expression on his face we judged that he was well pleased with his purchases.

This popular firm has been in business here only a few months, but each consecutive month's business shows an increase over that of the preceding month. The secret of their success lies in the fact that they do not run a Nineteenth century store and ask the patronage of Twentieth century people, but are right up to the minute in methods and prices. Theirs is a strictly spot cash house, and by both buying and selling for cash they are enabled to make very close prices.

Everything seasonable that the markets can supply may be found in their store. Better still, they are courteous, vigorous, pushing business men—a firm of long years standing, progressive in their methods and scrupulously fair in all their dealings. Long years of experience has taught them that the only strictly fair business methods—fair alike to themselves and their customers—is to sell to all alike—one price, spot cash. Therefore they long since adopted this plan, and by shaving the profits to a mere frazzle of what credit houses are compelled to demand, the people realize that they are investing in a savings bank when they do their trading at this busy mart. Maximum Quality and Minimum Price is the motto of this store. Progressive methods is the keynote. Absolute fairness is vouchsafed each individual customer. And the people have come to realize that it is well named—"the peoples' popular trading place."

This firm has a Special Bargain Sale in full blast for a few days, and they are making some very attractive prices on new and seasonable merchandise, and the trade must be finding it out from the amount of packages we see going from the store. One thing we noted especially about this house was that they handle a good quality of goods and always do just what they advertise.

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



# 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.

The merchant who advertises not only helps the newspaper, but he helps himself, he helps his customers and he helps the town. So the profit from advertising is everybody's profit, besides the advertiser's especial profit.

A certain young man not a thousand miles from Cornell who wrote a young lady asking her hand in marriage, was surprised not to receive an answer by return mail, and a second letter to his adored one brought back the pertinent reply that he did not enclose stamp for a reply, and business is business.—Ex.

## League Program for April 26.

Leader—Will Campbell.

Subject—Our Cities for Christ.

Lesson—Luke 19:41-44.

References—Matt. 11:23-24; Acts 16:9-15; Luke 13:33-35, &c.

Importance of the City—Eva Williams.

Perils of the City—Arthur Rose

How to Save the City—Ollie Martin.

## Church Sociality.

[Written by Mrs. C. E. Evans for the Ladies' Missionary Society of the Baptist church, and published by request.]

We do not place a proper value upon church sociality. "No one liveth to himself; no one dieth to himself." Our words, our actions, our meeting with others will have potent influence upon some—possibly upon many. We will have influence, we will bear fruit, and how necessary that it be good.

Much can be added to our usefulness and our power as Christians if we will be social, kind and pleasant in our dealings with all people.

We thus get better acquainted; know each other's faults, follies and weaknesses, desires and aversions, and are not so likely to wound the feelings of others, or suffer our feelings to be wounded by them. Many false impressions as to others are corrected, and we feel a personal and friendly interest in all our associates. Understanding the motives and feelings of friends and acquaintances, knowing each other more nearly as we are known, we become more sympathetic, and can appreciate the full meaning of the commandment, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Can we love our neighbors as ourselves if we never speak to them when we meet them; never have pleasant conversations with them; never inquire as to their temporal and spiritual welfare?

We must have a personal and special feeling and interest in Christians if we love the Cause of the Master as Christians should.

Christians should be social for the reason that they can the better lead souls to Christ. How many sinners have been led from sin and vice through the kind words of some friend? Kind words can never—no never—die, and many times they make lasting impressions for good.

Too often at church Christians leave the church just as soon as the services are over, never

# A DOZEN PLANTINGS. TWO HARVESTS.

There are a dozen months in which deposits may be planted. There are two seasons of harvest (at your pleasure and when need calls) The latter is often the most highly appreciated. Plant your seed with this bank and be prepared for all emergencies.

## Warnick's Bank.

stopping to speak to any one. By so doing we are not making church surroundings as bright and pleasant as they should be; and we can not influence friends in the paths of duty.

Let us cease to be careless, thoughtless and indifferent in our associations with others and learn to be social, friendly and pleasant—especially at church.

## "Farmer Tom" on the School Tax.

Editor Merkel Mail:

Merkel did herself proud by wisely voting a tax to maintain and extend her school. Children will advance more in one ten months school than in two four months schools because the short term will be in the nature of a review.

Let's educate if a part of the farm must go.

Parents who rear up their family intelligently, morally and religiously, though they have nothing left of this world's goods, have done well and blessed the world more by far than if they amass a fortune and neglect the intellectual advancement of their posterity. Education prepares the mind to direct our course through the social and business relations of life just as the eyesight enables us to see our way. For we live in the brain age of the world and competition is so sharp on all lines that an intelligent, educated mind is absolutely indispensable to success in all the walks of life. So by educating we practically arm our children for life's battle. And just as long as we adhere to the fundamental principles of life—education, morals and religion—we will prosper. It is these mighty factors of civilization which has placed the two great English speaking people (England and America) in the front ranks of the nations of the earth and practically enables them to today hold the balance of power on the globe.

Yours for good schools, and success to The Mail.

FARMER TOM.

Will Leeman is at Fort Worth visiting his sister, Miss Lucy.

Finishing touches are being made to the Hutcheson building this week.

Tuesday as San Jacinto day was observed by the banks.

T. J. Coggin is in Fort Worth on business.

## Public Speaking.

Elder L. A. Dale of Abilene will lecture at Ferrier Hall next Wednesday night, at which time it is hoped to organize a Prohibition League, the object and benefits of which will be fully explained.

The people of the town and surrounding country are earnestly requested to be on hand and help out in the organization of the club.

## A Pretty Home Wedding.

One of the prettiest home weddings of the season was that of Mr. J. P. C. Hunt and Miss Mattie Comegys which took place at the home of the bride's parents in this city last night. No invitations were issued, and only the near relatives and a few special friends of the family were present.

Promptly at the given hour, and in perfect time to the strains of the wedding march, skillfully executed by Miss Lillian Julian, the young couple entered the spacious parlor where the guests were assembled, and were met by Elder L. A. Dale who, in a few well chosen words, pronounced the beautiful ceremony which united "two hearts that beat as one."

Congratulations were showered upon the newly wedded pair, after which all sat down to partake of the wedding supper.

The bride was simply though artistically gowned in a soft, clinging garment of white which hung in graceful folds and lent an added charm to the outward beauty of face and form. The groom was attired in black.

Miss Mattie is the lovely and highly accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Comegys and possesses all the charms of the divine woman. By her ladylike bearing and the exercise of those virtues upon which God has stamped His approval she won her way into all hearts.

Mr. Hunt is comparatively a stranger here, but is said by those who know him to be a young man of exemplary habits. He is prominent in business circles at Comanche, I. T.

The happy young couple will leave on tomorrow morning's train for the home which the groom has builded, and with them will go the hearty congratulations and sincere wishes of a host of friends. The Mail hopes that the gift of each dear heart has divine sanction and that the future has in store for them only the choicest and richest blessings, with not a cloud or a shadow to mar the beauty of their united lives.

## Unfair to Providence.

Why is it that Lodges, conventions, societies, and even legislatures, when adopting resolutions concerning the death of a member or somebody whose memory is to be honored, always begins by "whereas"ing that the Almighty, in his wisdom, has removed the deceased? Is God choking people to death with bad colds, killing them with rheumatism, la grippe, consumption, smallpox and other diseases? If so, is it at all religions or sensible to call in a doctor to prevent the Almighty's will being accomplished? Is a just and loving God punishing men with whiskey, or poisoning them with vices and

sins?

Does he run trains over one, a street car over another, and a frightened horse over another? Does he let the baby take the croup, and then keep the doctor from curing it, that he may work out an all wise providence? When an assassin kills or a murderer slays, are we to hang the bloody handed criminal and then take comfort in the thought that the victim was "removed" by an all wise providence?

Where do people get such ideas? Surely not from the Bible for that good book teaches no such nonsense, certainly not from science, for science tells us how death is superinduced. Certainly not from reason, for reason cannot accept such a theory—it is just a common error; a deep rooted superstition; a long-cherished, foolish delusion. It has no foundation in fact, in revolution or in reason. It is unfair to providence, unjust to the Bible and cruel to the conscience and faith of the bereaved.

God does not kill! Neither by the flashing lightning, the whirling wind, the soaring water, or the relentless storm. God does not kill with poison, pestilence, plague, famine or flame; God does not kill with disease or disorder, with heart-ache, with vice or with venom. God does not kill anybody, anywhere, or at any time!

The doctrine that God takes away a child to punish or afflict a parent; takes away a husband to humble a wife, or the wife to humble the husband; that God comes into a family, like a besom of destruction, to kill and afflict and sadden; that God ever draws a tear or forces a sigh; that God bankrupts or burdens any one, good or bad—the doctrine of providential affliction and distress and sorrow—this unloving, godless and pitiless doctrine, has its place in the thought of today only because it has had the sanction of hoary ages. Not because it is true, or reasonable, or good, or acceptable, or helpful, or hopeful. Not because the Bible, or philosophy, or history or science would have us believe it. But simply because we have been taught it, and have not had the courage to deny it.

God pities and helps, and guides and leads, and teaches, and hopes for us, but does not destroy us, or hurt us, or hinder us. The theologian may have to teach us opposite thought to harmonize his system of so-called truth, but we know better; and in all justice and fairness let us quit accusing providence of inspiring crime and promoting disease, and encouraging death. If a friend or brother dies let us look to God for pity and help in our bereavement. Let us not accuse him of killing the loved one—of "removing" from our midst, a dear brother," we know how the dear brother was removed, and if it was done by a train we are ready to sue the railroad for helping providence to remove. If a friend is killed we bow in submission to the wisdom of providence and go gunning for the man who killed him. We do not believe in such an irreconcilable, unfair providence, and in fairness to our children, and our neighbors, and our fellow men, and to the Christianity which we cherish, let us quit this foolishness.

Mrs. Parten (nee Miss Nina Long) is visiting her sister, Mrs. I. S. Allen.

Overton Anderson left last night for Wichita Falls.

Our goods are positively all NEW goods, and after studying 2 weeks in the best western market can assure our customers they are strictly up-to-date. Being an exclusive millinery house, we appreciate the patronage of the people of the town and country.

Mrs. HOOPLE,

M. J. PATE,

Tonsorial Artist and Cranium Manipulator

First class barber work guaranteed. Give me a trial.

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

**Dr. King's  
New Discovery**

For CONSUMPTION, COUGHS and COLDS. Price 50c & \$1.00

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

## Compere Chips.

Mr. Alec Sears and Miss Annie Estes were married at Abilene the 9th inst. They were heartily welcomed back with bells and plow points by the young folks.

The Easter services held at this place Sunday afternoon were very much enjoyed. It was a nice affair and was largely attended. The program consisted of music, recitations and talks, which were all good and nicely rendered.

Compere has a 'phone line now with the central at W. J. Shannon's residence.

Bro. Bishop filled his regular appointment Sunday.

Rev. Kerr will fill his appointment next Sunday.

The people of this community would not kick against a shower of rain.

Cotton planting is the order of the day.

One of the large lamps for our school house has arrived.

There was a singing at T. S. Moore's Sunday night.

A party at R. R. Spurgin's is booked for tonight. Tec.

## New Train Service.

The double daily passenger service went into effect Tuesday and the first train passed up at 4:55 p. m.

## SCHEDULE:

Eastbound arrives at 8:25, a. m. Westbound arrives at 4:55, p. m. Night train, eastbound, arrives at 12:12 and westbound at 4:15.

Wednesday morning's train puffed in with only one passenger, a lady, whose destination was Merkel, and the conductor had the company of three Merkel people to Abilene. The towns west of us will have to beat this if they want the day trains to become a permanent fixture.

Ed Green came in from Weatherford and spent Sunday with his parents.

Miss Nora Bruton of Brownwood is visiting her sister, Mrs. Senter.



**A SET OF DISHES, or as many as you can carry away**

**FREE!**

We take pleasure in announcing to our many friends and customers that we have just closed a contract with one of the largest potteries in the United States to furnish us with Decorated China, which we are giving away **ABSOLUTELY FREE OF COST.**

As we are always on the lookout for new trade, as well as being desirous of pleasing our old customers, we have decided that the best way of showing our appreciation of both is by giving away a complete set of Chinaware to each of our cash customers.

We will guarantee to sell all goods as cheap, if not cheaper, than ever before, and with each cash purchase will issue coupons representing amount of your purchase. When your coupons reach specified amounts, you are entitled to different dishes, such as dinner plates, pie plates, handsomely decorated cups and saucers, exquisite designs in covered dishes, bakers, orange bowls, sauce dishes, water jugs, tea pots, and in fact, everything that goes to constitute a complete set of dishes.

We have guaranteed to use an immense quantity of these goods, thereby enabling us to purchase them at a price whereby we can make this liberal offer.

We cordially request you to call at our store and inspect these goods and we will explain the offer to you in detail.

Very respectfully,

# THE STAR STORE

Merkel Mercantile Co., Props.

**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.

**PATE & ROLLINS,**  
**BARBERS**  
NORTH FRONT STREET.

**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.

**R. B. USTICK**  
DEALER IN  
Watches, Clocks, Jew-  
elry, Etc.  
Repairing a Specialty

**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

**HELPFUL READING** Some newspapers print 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. It has helped many. It is not the theory of THE FARMERS' DEPARTMENT, farming written by college professors and others up north on conditions that don't fit Texas. It is the actual experience of farmers here at home who have turned over the soil. If you are not taking THE SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL you should be. OFFER. It is helpful to the best interests 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.

**SHEPPARD & McDONALD**  
Beef, Pork, Mutton, Sausage.  
Everything Nice and clean; an up-to-date market. We would appreciate your patronage.

**Best Passenger Service**  
...IN...  
**TEXAS**  
THE TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY  
"No Trouble to Answer Questions."  
**DINING CARS**  
BETWEEN  
**FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS**  
E. P. TURNER, GEN. PASS. AGT., DALLAS, TEXAS.  
The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

**When Betty Bakes the Cakes.**

When Betty bakes the buckwheat cakes  
My bosom swells with pride;  
I then forget my life's mistakes  
And smile, well satisfied.  
The chilling wind outside the pane  
To discord vainly wakes,  
It cannot move me to complain  
When Betty bakes the cakes.  
Now, some there be whose brooding  
Is ladylike and fine;  
And some most daintily do sing  
Or write in phrases fine.  
But, though my admiration stirs,  
My loyalty ne'er shakes,  
Their cleverness is naught to hers  
When Betty bakes the cakes.  
The syrup in a golden line  
Sets forth to trace her name;  
The coffee steam, an incense fine,  
Arises to her fame.  
And though the sunshine for a while  
The wintry morn forsakes,  
I ask no radiance save her smile,  
When Betty bakes the cakes.

**How a Woman Found Her Hero**

"Are you quite sure that you are really happy, dear—very happy?" And he leaned over the table deus and touched her fingers behind the friendly setter of the roses. Forgetful of the ubiquitous waiter, of everything but the earnest-faced man, she stretched out both hands to him and said with shining eyes:  
"So happy, dear, happier than I ever hoped to be—and to think that at last the dream of my life is going to be realized—I shall go home, home to dear England again. I was very little when mamma and Grace and I left the old home after papa's death. But America has never seemed so beautiful to me as our dear home in Surrey." A look of sadness crept into the glowing eyes and she did not notice that the man moved uneasily in his chair and that a gloomy, worried expression overshadowed the bright hopefulness of a moment before.  
"We shall go back just as soon as we are married, shall we not, Dick? Dear old Dick, I am so glad that you and not any one else are to give me my dearest wish. Aren't you glad—you don't look uproariously happy—what is it, dear?"  
"May, would you mind so awfully if we—well, if we didn't go back to England, after all?"  
"Would I mind? Dick are you crazy? Oh, you know I have hoped and waited for that all my life. It used to seem as if it would never come true—till I met you and you told me you loved me. And since then I have thought of it, waited for it day and night."  
Dick looked at her questioningly for a moment and then said, a little bitterly: "Do you know, little girl, that at times I have been tempted to think that you loved the thought of

going back home better than you did me."  
Her face crimsoned painfully, and his heart smote him.  
"There, there, little one; that wasn't fair. I was a beast to say it to you—more of a beast because you are going to be put to the test."  
"Why, Dick, what do you mean?"  
"Just this, Maysie, girlie; we cannot go back to England—at least I cannot."  
"You cannot go back, Dick? Surely surely you have not committed some crime which prevents you from going back. It isn't that? Say it isn't!"  
"Well, I'm not exactly a criminal, little girl, but I might just as well be," he said bitterly. I should be treated like one if I went back, and every one believes me to be the most despicable wretch on the face of the green earth."  
A nameless fear grew in the girl's eyes.  
"For heaven's sake, Dick, tell me what you mean."  
"I mean just this: If I went back to England to-morrow my own relatives would in all possibility cut me dead. The fellows at the clubs—in the park—on the street, would pass me with a cold nod; if I offered them my hand not a mother's son of them but would quietly and coldly ignore



"Are you quite sure that you are really happy, dear—very happy?"  
"My God, child, you don't know what it meant to me. I went through it once, but not even for you could I go through that hell a second time."  
"But, why, Dick; tell me why—what have you done?"  
"It's not good hearing for innocent ears like yours, little sweetheart; but it is your right to know. I have told you that when I came into my money at eighteen I kicked over all restraints and went the pace till—well, till I came the worst kind of a cropper. You see, Margrave and two or three others of the Oxford set came into their money at the same time, and, like a lot of hot-headed fools, we turned London upside down

nunting for some new devilment in which to make ducks and drakes of it all. I was the hottest-headed fool of them all and soon found that I had not only established an unenviable reputation for wildness, but that I had run dangerously near the end of my tether—things had arrived at a stage where I could no longer hold my own with the fellows—so I made up my mind to pull up stakes and go to one of the colonies with the remainder."  
He sat gloomily silent for a moment, apparently lost in a retrospect anything but pleasant. An impatient "Oh, go on, Dick, please go on," from the girl brought him back to the present again.  
"Just before I sailed for Australia—the day before, I think it was—Margrave came to me and said: 'See here, old chap, I'm in a devil of a hole; I need two thousand pounds the worst sort of a way and not another sou can I raise on the estate. I've got to have it, or there'll be a scandal that will break the mater's heart; help me out, for God's sake.'  
"Margrave's mother had been awfully good to me when I was a lonely little chap at Eton—used to have me down for the holidays, and all that,



"See here, old chap, I'm in a devil of a hole."  
you know—so the upshot of it all was that I promised to let him have the two thou.—and it was just half of what I had left—and further, he got me to promise to take the check to the party he was rowing with. I took it, got a receipt for it and sailed the next day.  
"For eight years in Australia I got no word from the home folks, but thought that the letters had gone astray, as I was far up country, and finally I went back to England with a nice little pile and a big longing for the society of my own kind again. God, what a home-coming it was. Not a welcome; black looks, veiled insinuations everywhere. One day I asked a chap who had refused my hand, what it all meant. He told me Margrave's trouble had been the worst sort—low-down, dishonorable treatment of a woman we all knew—conduct no gentleman could

ever forgive. I had paid the money with my own check—I had left the country the next day—and he—cad that he is—let me bear the shame of it all—so I came out to New York and met you. I love you, darling, and you shall judge. Shall we go back to England and straighten things out? It shall be as you say, little woman."  
"But, Dick, think what it would mean to that other woman and those children—Oh, I couldn't, dear—and yet, when I think of how you have suffered, I could do anything; dear, dear Dick—"  
She buried her face in her hands for a moment, and the man watched her eagerly, anxiously.  
"Dick, there is just one thing in the world I have always wanted more even than to go home; and that is to marry a hero. We'll stay here, dear, and you shall forget the pain and the hurt in my love."—Vivian Clare Howard in Chicago Examiner.  
**A Religious Dream.**  
The sermon had been deplorably long, there could be no disputing this, and little girls are not supposed to understand what is being said, anyway. Even "grown-ups" fidgeted in their pews and the funny little man with the white side whiskers was seen to yawn behind his hand.  
Little Miss Sunshine, in her crushing Sunday hat and her long cloak, had finally given up—the heat and the music and the never-ending sermon as too much for her; entirely unknown to any one she had leaned against her mother's arm and fallen off to sleep.  
"Ora, wake up, aren't you ashamed?" said her mother, who discovered the child, and Little Sunshine was rudely disturbed from slumber.  
She straightened up, blinked her eyes two or three times and whispered so that all the people in the pews around could hear her: "It was a religious dream, mamma," she sobbed in the darkness; "I thought a crowd of angels came to our house from the sewing society and you sent Nan down to say that you were out."  
**Her Thoughtfulness.**  
Dinah, the colored cook, was going to be married and her mistress, who had brought her from Virginia, manifested much interest in the preparations for the important event. Dinah proudly submitted the invitations which she had written herself for her mistress' inspection:  
"Why, Dinah!" exclaimed the lady, sipping an envelope deeply bordered with black, "you are not in mourning?"  
"No, ma'am," replied Dinah, "but dey is in mo'nin' what I'm sendin' de invitation to, an' it's up to me to let 'em see I knows it."  
**J. M. Hays** was in Monday soliciting subscriptions to buy an organ for the Salt Branch church.



# 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.....\$1.50  
Two inch space.....2.00  
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 place 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.

## TAYLOR COUNTY'S OFFICERS.

The officers of Taylor county are men of broad and liberal views—men who count duty above every other consideration, and as guardians of the peace have no superiors.

Since the local option law went into effect many conjectures have been indulged in and many comparisons made as to the intentions of the officers regarding the enforcement of the law, and in a majority of cases these criticisms have been uncalled for and unjust. We should always wait until the evidence is all in; for unjust criticisms do not conduce to the moral welfare of a citizenship.

A few days ago Sheriff Cunningham was heard to say that he would brook no violations of the law in any manner whatever, and that he proposed to do his full duty regardless of consequences. He further stated that he apprehended no trouble from those who had heretofore been engaged in the saloon business, but in any event he will exercise his most watchful care and especially as to the transient strain of this tribe. Sheriff Cunningham is one of the best peace officers in the State and when he says a thing you can bet your last cent it is the truth.

Wethers of our officers are efficient and painstaking in the performance of their respective duties. The fact that all are pledged the earnest support and hearty co-operation of the people will cause them to double their efforts and act as a further incentive to perform the functions of the offices with which they were entrusted. Recent legislation has clothed the officers with increased power in ferreting out violators, so that now the blame can be easily placed.

But the local option law will be strictly enforced in this county. The first blind tiger that shows himself will regret the day that he was born. Here's to the officers of Taylor county.

## LYNCHINGS AND LYNCHINGS.

The lynching of the supposed negro murderer at Joplin, Mo., has not so far called forth any strenuous objections on the part of President Roosevelt. Perhaps the location of the outrage may have conduced to his extreme silence on the subject. Anyway, the attention of the President is called to this dispatch from the seat of trouble:

"The lynching of the negro served only to temporarily satisfy the indignation of the mob, and later tonight hundreds of men assembled and rioted through the negro district, burning houses, stoning negroes and finally driving every negro from Joplin."

The attention of the President is further called to the fact that no such outrages take place in the south, notwithstanding that the crimes which have promoted lynchings here are a thousand times more heinous than the one perpetrated at Joplin. Had this occurred further south, neither "distance from rapid communication" nor "the pleasurable pursuit of wild animals" would have prevented the President from giving utterance to some rabid expression anent the outrage. Lynchings are bad enough God knows, but to some people they are worse in the south than in the effete east or north.

Southern people are the negroes' best friends, but they leave it to the Bostonians to wine and dine and try to outshine Mrs. Booker T. Washington; for southern people are not built that way.

Says the Dallas News: "The Merkel Mail is pleased with the election law, and this is recorded simply because there are some other papers dissatisfied with it. Absolute fairness requires that both sides and their satisfaction and dissatisfaction shall be set forth. The Mail is in error in speaking of the author of the bill as 'ex-Gov. Terrell.' The gentleman was never Governor, but he has been a distinguished man in the State for many years, and won renown as Minister to Turkey especially. Now some of the fellows who are dissatisfied with the law will say that if The Mail does not know who Judge Terrell is and has been, it is not qualified to pass on the election law." The author of the bill is of secondary importance, for every school boy in Texas knows his record by heart. The question now is, is the law a good law or a bad law? The Mail has voted aye; how does the News vote?

Recent events have satisfactorily demonstrated the need of an organization to handle all questions of importance to the town and community at large, and to further the town's interest in every way possible. There is not a town of Merkel's size in all this country but has some such organization. The influx of home hunters and home builders, the scramble for trade, the fight for the location of such enterprises as will conduce to the general welfare and prosperity of the town—these are questions of vital importance, and the good of the town demands concerted and unity of action on the part of its citizens. Let's organize a commercial club and get down to work. We cannot afford to be laggards.

"Men," said Gen. Grant in his speech to veterans of the Grand Army, "have the incentive of battle, are spurred on by the excitement of conflict and are crowned with the glory of victory, but the women—it is to them that the laurel wreath should be awarded. They endure in silence the most trying ordeal that warfare offers, and that is waiting. Every bullet that lays a warrior low pierces the heart of a woman who is waiting."

A discussion of the Roosevelt-Washington episode between the Sons of Ham at Brownwood a few days ago precipitated a free for all fight, in which three of the principals were laid out for repairs. This is but one of the many instances of similar character which illustrates the ill effects of the President's negro policy. And the end is not yet.

## WITH THE PRESS GANG.

What makes people love to repeat scandal?—Garland News.

"You kin search me."

To Abilene on our East, and Tintown on our West—you have our sympathy.—Sweetwater Review.

This is a sample of the many paragraphs of similar meaning which the Review contained last week. We would gently remind our esteemed contemporary that there is plenty of room for other towns on the map, and that courting the enmity of other towns does not conduce to our own progress and development.

A skunk ranch is to be established near Abilene and 160 acres has been purchased for that purpose. It is said that in California there are several of such ranches and they pay. Well, you can have our share.—Wills Point Chronicle.

Has the Chronicle gone back on the diversification theory? For the sake of the new source of revenue which the establishment of a skunk ranch will open up, the Chronicle ought to be willing to favor this kind of diversification, even if should have to hold its nose while handling the subject. At any rate, if there is anything in it—besides the scent—we want it.

Our present road working system somewhat resembles a custom in ye olden times when the people put a rock in one end of the grain sack to make it balance on the horse when they went to mill.—Riesel Rustler.

The people have learned "how to go to mill," but they haven't learned how to build roads. Fact is, they ought to make petty criminals build 'em.

Shell out the nickles and dig up the dimes, turn 'em loose and whistle and we'll have better times; there will be fewer patches on the bosom of our pants, and we'll make a better paper if you give us half a chance. Don't give us that old story, that has long gone to seed, 'bout taking now more papers than the family want to read, but help to feed the printer and he'll help the town to grow; and thus escape the sulphur in the regions down below.—Gatesville Messenger.

It is now up to the subscriber, and he should hasten with all possible speed to the relief of that editor before he breaks out in a new place.

When I am elected to the legislature I shall introduce a measure requiring unincorporated Texas towns of 300 inhabitants and over to clean their streets, sidewalks, back alleys, et cetera, at least once every thousand years.—Hamilton Rustler.

And if you would introduce a bill making it lawful to squirt "high life" on mossbacks, we'd move to Hamilton county in time to vote for you.—Riesel Rustler.

We would insist that that you go at once, "My Dear Gaston." And you, too, "My Dear Alphonso."

It is to be greatly regretted that the uniform textbook bill failed to become a law and died on the calendar. The present law has saved the people of Texas at least \$1,000,000 and now to let it lapse and turn the people over to the rapacity of the book trust will simply be an outrage.—Panola Watchman.

That million dollar saving to the people is largely in the imagination. However, the law is a good one, and as uniform-text book bills have been introduced

in both branches of the legislature it is safe to say that the law will not lapse.

A wagon started out Monday morning delivering artesian water from the ice plant well at 2½¢ per bucketful. The water is delivered at residences and stores and many are buying because of its healthfulness. Many cisterns were almost spoiled during the long wet spell by surface water.—Clarksville Times.

A few years ago the water vendor was a conspicuous person in many West Texas towns, but that day has passed and the man who hasn't an ample supply of water is very improvident. A "down easterner" peddling water with the wheels of his wagon bogged up to the hubs in mud must indeed be a ludicrous sight. A few weeks ago the Times was "dog tired and disgusted" over the wet weather.

The Baird Star is strictly "agin" the new election law, from Alpha to Omega. The legislature "hadn't order done it."

The senate appropriation bill carries a total appropriation for the various State departments, institutions, etc., of \$7,023,607 for the two years. Retrenchment is the cry, however, and the bill may be trimmed down a few notches. The house bill is \$150,000 less, notwithstanding the appropriation for Confederate pensions is \$250,000 more. This is a great big State of ours and it takes a big sum of money to keep it in running order.

Grover Cleveland's recent speech on the negro question was broad and charitable, and when he gave utterance to the words, "I believe the days of Uncle Tom's Cabin are past," a greater truth was never uttered. The negro is an "unknown quantity" in this country. If he would live on and enjoy the liberty and freedom which are now vouchsafed him, he will let the race problem severely alone, now and in the future.

The new law against betting on horse racing or selling pools in Texas is to be attacked in the courts by the Western Union Telegraph company, and they hope for and expect a decision that will hold the law unconstitutional.

If there is a technicality in the law—a comma left out, an i that is not dotted, or a t that that is not crossed—they will find and make use of it. There are many ways of beating a law.

It is said that the Railroad Commission is considering the earnings of Texas railroads with a view to increasing freight rates. Some people will now be ready to say that if the freight rates are raised the railroad companies had just as well confiscate the goods in order to collect railroad charges.

The Goebel murderer has at last been named and through the confession of Youtsey. Howard, as all along suspected, is the villain who fired the fatal shot, but ex-Gov. Taylor was morally responsible for the villainous work. Howard will go to the gallows; Taylor will go scot free. Watch the prediction.

Spindle Top is still manifesting a spirit of unrest and the bowels of its wrath have again belched forth death and destruction. Old Nick is evidently very much in evidence in those diggins.

We simply MUST have that commercial club—no "ifs" and "ands" about it.

It is characteristic of Merkel that it generally gets what it goes after.

Now for another turn of the wheel of progress.

## A Case of Leprosy.

Only a few miles from Houston there is a case of leprosy.

The patient is a "Cojun," or a native of Louisiana of Arcadian descent.

State Health Officer Tabor has known of the existence of this case for the past six months and has now taken steps looking to the proper isolation of the case and the building of a lazaretto or home for the patient. He estimates that it will cost \$8000 a year to properly protect the state against this loathsome and incurable malady, and asks the legislature to appropriate that amount for the purpose.

The patient is at present in charge of the county health authorities of Liberty county.—Houston Chronicle.

No line of Vehicles for West Texas like the

# RACINE

DURABLE  
COMFORTABLE  
MEDIUM PRICED

Made and guaranteed by the largest vehicle factory in the world. Have been sold in this section for 9 years. Get a RACINE vehicle and feel satisfied that you have something good. Thousands of them in use in West Texas.

## ED S. HUGHES & CO.

ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.



### Robbed The Grave.

A startling incident is narrated by John Oliver of Philadelphia, as follows: "I was in an awful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite, growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50c, guaranteed, at Rust & Pittard's drug store.

There is nothing that fits a man like his skin, next to that Warren's underwear. Best lot of 50c garments ever shown.

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

Mrs. Joplin and daughter, of Detroit, Texas, are here for a month's visit. Mrs. Joplin is a sister of Mrs. J. S. Hutson, and we are sure she will enjoy every hour of her visit.

We handle a full supply of machine needles and attachments, belts, oil cans, etc. Best oil made.

W. P. Browning & Co.

To The Public.

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

If you pay less elsewhere you get less. Trade with Warren.

### Calf for Sale.

The editor of The Mail has a male calf for sale, or will trade for feed or forage. Come quick if you want him.

Our collection of \$5.00 trousers may interest you. It costs nothing to see them.

J. T. Warren.

### Notice!

The City Meat Market keeps nice, fresh beef, pork and sausage on hand all the time.

Beginning Monday, April 13, we will make ice deliveries between the hours of 9 and 12 a. m. and after 4 p. m. each day, except Sunday, when ice and meat will be delivered from 7 to 9 a. m. Please make your order accordingly, as we will not vary from this rule.

4t J. W. & L. M. Watkins.

### Early Spring Meeting.

The Methodist protracted meeting is to begin the first Sunday in May and will continue a week or ten days. Services will be held at the E. church. The pastor announces that able preachers from elsewhere will assist in the meeting, and has invited the cooperation of all to the end that great good may be accomplished.

From the early date on which this meeting will be held, it is assumed that the Methodists will hold two protracted meetings during the year.

We make our business pay us by making it pay you.

J. T. Warren.

The Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone company has purchased the telephone line of the Northwestern which extends from Weatherford to Abilene. The purchase, it is said, also includes the Northwestern local exchange at Abilene. This practically means that the line will at an early date be extended through to El Paso.

Warren sells everything you wear from the ground up.

# SPRINGTIME'S HERE!

## OR IT'S TIME IT SHOULD BE.

Our New Spring Clothing is here for sure, and our invitation to come in and look it over is a most cordial one.



It is time you were looking out for that new Easter Suit. We have them in all the shades, styles and fabrics. Careful selection and close buying enables us to show a stock for the spring season combining all of the qualities that the most fastidious buyer may look for. We have varieties enough to please everybody, and grades to suit all purses. Would be pleased to have prospective buyers come

in and look around. They will find our best argument right before them, piled up in heaps on our clothing counters.

We don't think our clothing is any better than lots of others, but we are certain it is just as good as any made. Our men's suits at \$5 are as good as suits that are sold in other places at \$6.50 or \$7. Our \$8.50 are regular \$10 suits in some stores. Our \$10 suits in all the new cuts and shades are the kind others ask \$12.50 and even more for. Our \$13.50, \$15 and \$16.50 suits sell in larger towns for \$18 and \$20.

Mothers, where is that boy of yours going for his new outfit? We have remembered him and his needs. He wants a spring suit and he must have a good, reliable one. We have that kind; it is the Mrs. Jane Hopkins make. The garments are stylish and so strongly sewed they'll not rip. When you've looked them over you will acknowledge that the prices are lower than you expected. We have them ranging in price from



75c to \$5.00.

# J. T. Warren.

### A Thoughtful Man.

M. M. Austin of Winchester, Ind. knew what to do in the hour of need. His wife had such an unusual case of stomach and liver trouble, physicians could not help her. He thought of and tried Dr. King's New Life Pills and she got relief at once and was finally cured. Only 25c, at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

You can't blame a pretty girl for putting on frills when she has Warren's stock of laces and embroideries to select from.

The flour is the basis of the good things you bake, have that right and you're almost sure of results.

Peace-Maker at Warren's is all right.

The News says that three of the buildings heretofore occupied by saloons are now occupied by other business concerns and that Abilene is a "dry town" in every sense of the word. Baird caught two of the saloon men and the others are shaping up to leave.

### For Sale.

Second-hand buggy and phaeton. Will trade for horses and cattle. Apply to  
2t The Star Store.

### School Tax Carries.

The special school tax election passed off quietly and smoothly last Saturday and with comparative unanimity for the tax, the vote standing 106 to 30—an easy two-thirds. In school affairs Merkel people are enterprising and progressive and never turn down a proposition which seeks to benefit the educational interests of the town.

This is another feather in the town's cap in the matter of progress. Now for the next step in this progressive movement, and let none lag, for in unity there is strength. In neighboring towns we have rivals worthy of our metal, and it behooves us to be up and doing if we would stay in sight of the band wagon.

### Makes A Clean Sweep.

There's nothing like doing a thing thoroughly. Of all the Salves you ever heard of, Bucklen's Arnica Salve is the best. It sweeps away and cures Burns, Sores, Bruises, Cuts, Boils, Ulcers, Skin Eruptions and Piles. It's only 25c, and guaranteed to give satisfaction by Rust & Pittard, Druggist.

W. P. Browning & Co. have the best line of window shades in town. All the new patterns.

### Fire at Trent.

Saturday night between 8 and 9 o'clock Trent was visited by a destructive fire which destroyed the store and residence of J. P. Cyphers. The origin of the fire is not known as it was in flames when discovered, the family being at church. Very little of the contents of the store and dwelling—which was a combination affair—was saved. Mr. Cyphers carried \$1,500 insurance and this, it is thought, will cover about two-thirds of the loss.

Heroic efforts on the part of the citizens saved the business portion of the town from complete destruction, and as a result very little other damage was done by the flames.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wilson of Caps visited the family of Geo. S. Berry Saturday.

Judge W. C. Lasley was seen on the streets last Wednesday evening with a very broad smile on his countenance. When leaned the cause of his happiness, there had been a female visitor at his home, weighing eight pounds. Mother and visitor doing well. Allow us to congratulate you. Judge.—Eastland Chronicle.

Mr. Lasley is a former citizen of this town, having taught in the public school here, and later practiced law at Abilene. He is now in the banking business at Eastland.

Try reading The Mail.

### Herbine Cures.

Fever and Ague. A dose will usually stop a chill, a continuance always cures. Mrs. Wm. M. Stroud, Midlothian, Texas, May 31, 1899, writes: We have used Herbine in our family for eight years, and found it the best medicine we have ever used for la grippe, bilious fever, and malaria." 50c at Burroughs & Mann.

### Of Interest to Teachers.

Under the new law teachers' examinations will be held on the first Friday and Saturday in May, September and December of each year. Third grade certificates are valid for one year on 70 per cent average. Second grade certificates valid for three years on average of 75 per cent, or for five years on average of 85 per cent. First grade certificates valid for four years on average of 75 per cent, or for six years on average of 85 per cent. Summer normal certificates, either second or first, valid for four years, but if average of 85 per cent is made on examination, they shall be valid for six years. Certificates issued by the State normal institutes will be valid for three years if second grade, and for six years if first grade. This law will be in force about the first of July, and will be in time for those who attend the summer normals to be benefited, as a premium is placed on second grade summer normal certificates.

Geo. S. Berry spent a part of the week at Dallas and other Texas points in a business way.

Elder Pike of the Christian church will preach at the Presbyterian church Sunday.

Miss Annie King came in from Dora and spent Sunday with home folks.

Isaac Taylor was up from Abilene Sunday.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

### Beauty And Strength.

Are desirable. You are strong and vigorous, when your blood is pure. Many—nay, most—women, fail to properly digest their food, and so become pale, sallow, thin and weak, while the brightness, freshness and beauty of the skin and complexion, depart. Remedy this unpleasant evil, by eating nourishing food, and taking a small dose of Herbine after each meal, to digest what you have eaten. 50c at Burroughs & Mann.

Chicago, Ill., Apr. 11.—A dispatch to the Record-Herald from Jackson, Ky., says: Bruce Marcum has been sold into servitude for six months under the vagrancy law. Marcum had such a reputation for idleness and horror of work that the highest bid for him was only \$6.50. The bid was made by Wm. Griffith, who must provide for him for the time he is in servitude. Marcum is 27 years old and a member of a well-known family. United States Court Commissioner James B. Marcum is his uncle. The young man was tried at the last term of court and the jury decided he should be sold into servitude.

### Here is Texas:

Rice fields whose area equals that of Connecticut, cane patches as big as New Hampshire, corn fields bigger than Maine, watermelon patches bigger than Rhode Island, cotton fields greater in combined area than that of the whole area of the New England states. Here's where we have snow covered plains in the northern part of the State while we eat vegetables at Christmas tide in south Texas, where the hum of the sawmill in the east vies with the lowing of fat cattle in the west 600 miles away, and where peace, plenty and prosperity gently slumber beneath the sod awaiting the plowshare of enterprise, energy and push.—Lockhart Post.



# Men of Oak

Timbers of oak keep the old homestead standing through the years. It pays to use the right stuff.

"Men of oak" are men in rugged health, men whose bodies are made of the soundest materials.

Childhood is the time to lay the foundation for a sturdy constitution that will last for years.

Scott's Emulsion is the right stuff.

Scott's Emulsion stimulates the growing powers of children, helps them build a firm foundation for a sturdy constitution.

Send for free sample.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists,  
100-110 Pearl Street, New York.  
50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

## Notice to Physicians of Taylor Co.

Please call or send to my office for blanks upon which to make reports under the late law establishing a State Bureau of Vital Statistics. This law is now in force and a penalty of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars for each failure to make such report is prescribed by said law. Blanks will be furnished free of charge.

S. H. GARRISON,  
County Clerk, Taylor County.

Hughes & Co's float team took a spin and created pandemonium for a few moments on Front Street Tuesday evening. Starting in at Warren's corner they paralleled the railroad for about 300 yards, striking on the route and slightly demolishing a buggy, a wagon, a horse and one of the trees in front of Warren's. One of the horses became tangled in the harness and fell, or they would have no doubt been going yet.

Sterling Miller, who returned to Dallas a few days ago, has secured a position in a shoe store, which will be good news to his young friends.

## A WORD TO FARM TOILERS.

### PAIN'S CELERY COMPOUND

The Home Friend of the Farmer and His Family.

After the labors and toils of the summer time, and harvesting of crops in the early autumn, many of our farmers, their wives, daughters, and sons, find themselves in a condition of health demanding careful attention if suffering is to be avoided later on. Many experience kidney trouble in some form; with some the liver is torpid; there is biliousness, nausea, and vomiting, with loss of appetite and depression of spirits. Thousands who have been exposed to cold, damp winds and rains while toiling in the harvest fields, now feel the twinges of terrible rheumatism; others run down by worry, overwork, and irregular dieting, are tormented with the pangs of dyspepsia.

To the thousands of run down, sickly, and half dead men and women in farm homes we recommend with all honesty and confidence the worker's friend, Paine's Celery Compound, the only medicine that can quickly and fully restore strength to the weak body and vigor to the muscles. Paine's Celery Compound tones the stomach; it removes poisonous acids from the blood which cause rheumatism; it feeds the weak and diseased nerves and banishes neuralgic tortures; it purifies the blood and gives true vitality and life. The use of Paine's Celery Compound in autumn means the establishing of a perfect physical vigor to withstand the rigors of a severe winter.

**DIAMOND DYES**  
for children's clothes are most serviceable. They color jackets, coats, capes, ribbons, stockings, as well as dresses. No other dyes equal Diamond Dyes in variety of uses; they never disappoint.  
We have a special department of advice, and will answer free any questions about dyeing. Send sample of goods when possible.  
Direction book and 45 dyed samples free.  
DIAMOND DYES, Burlington, Vt.

## 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.

Brown, E J  
Haflick, S A  
Knott, H W (2)  
James, D  
James, Henry  
Norwood, Miss Mattie  
Lane, D  
Owen, Mrs Ibbie  
Pippin, A B  
Slayton, C M  
Sheppard, Harrison  
Sharp, A C  
Tunnell, J B  
Young, S D  
Sanches, Tsidro (2)

## Of Interest to Physicians.

Elsewhere in this issue is a card to physicians calling attention to the new law creating a board of health and vital statistics. For the benefit of those not acquainted with the law we print it below in full, as follows:

Section 2. All physicians, surgeons or accoucheurs who may attend at the birth of a child, or in the absence of such attendance, either parent of the child shall report the fact to the Clerk of the County Court, together with the race to which the child belongs, and whether legitimate or otherwise, of foreign or native parents, after said birth occurs, under penalty of five dollars for each failure to do so; to be collected as other fines for misdemeanors are.

All physicians, surgeons, accoucheurs and coroners cognizant of a death, shall report the same, together with the race, nativity, sex, age, residence, whether alien or citizen, and the cause of death, to the Clerk of the County Court, within ten days after the occurrence, under a penalty of not less than five dollars, nor more than fifty dollars for each failure to do so; this data to be recorded as a part of the vital statistics of the county and State, and the Clerk of the County Court shall be paid by the county twenty-five cents for each birth or death so recorded, and he shall report all these data to the department of public health and vital statistics. In default of so reporting he shall be fined not less than fifty dollars for each offense.

The fact that there is no provision for or system of preserving the vital statistics of the State creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended and that this act take effect and be enforced from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

## Merkel School Tax Wins.

At an election held Saturday in the Merkel independent school district, a special school tax of 25 cents was voted by a large majority, nearly four to one. This, with the \$8,000 school building, demonstrates the educational sentiments of Merkel.

Merkel is moving and no better evidence of her advancement is needed than the result of this election.—Daily Reporter.

The Mail has received a copy of the song "The Flag With the Single Star," composed "in memory of the heroes of San Jacinto," by Mrs. Nettie P. Houston Bringham, the youngest daughter of Gen. Sam Houston. Compliments of Thos. Goggan & Bros.

## A Great Sensation.

There was a big sensation in Leesville, Ind. when W. H. Brown of that place, who was expected to die, had his life saved by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. He writes: "I endured insufferable agonies from Asthma but your New Discovery gave me immediate relief and soon thereafter effected a complete cure. Similar cures of Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Grip are numerous. It's the peerless remedy for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50c. and \$1.00. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, Druggist. Trial bottles free.

## OLD DARKEY WAS PUZZLED.

But He Knew It Must Have Been a Political Speech.

Congressman Moon of Tennessee, has a fine farm in North Georgia, which he utilizes as a summer home. The Republicans of the section once invited a Tennessee speaker to address them. That kind of a speech was an innovation in the neighborhood, and the colored section in particular was mystified by the spell-binder's remarks.

The next day a negro who was working for Judge Moon said to him: "Judge, does you know Mistuh Blank, whut lives up ter Chattanooga?"

"Oh, yes," answered the Judge. "I know him mighty well. Why? What about him?"

"Nuffin, suh, 'ceptin' he made a big speech oveh at Flintstone las' night."

"Is that so? What was he speakin' about?"

"I doan' hardly know, suh, des whut he was a-speakin' erbout."

"Well, was it a lecture, a political speech, or what?"

"I doan' know des 'xactly, suh; but I reckon it mus' a be'n a perlittical speech, kase he 'bused de white folks a right smaht."

## Not So Pressing.

"Mehitabel," said Archibald, "now that we are engaged we should have no secrets from each other, should we, dear?"

"No," replied Mehitabel, after she had assured herself that her moher was not listening in the next room.

"Well, then," he said, "do please tell me just how old you are."

"With pleasure," said Mehitabel. "But first, Archibald, please tell me just how much you get a week."

Archibald pondered. His mind ran ahead into the future.

"Forgive me, Mehitabel," he responded, "it was none of my business to ask."

## Chinese Trade No Good.

Compared with our vast trade with Europe that with China will never be more than a drop in the bucket. The Chinese trade is not now a dollar per capita, and it is safe to say that it will never reach the double of that majority. The fact is that the people are very poor. They raise barely enough of the necessities of life to live on. They dwell in hovels. They have little live stock, and man is the ordinary beast of burden, says ex-Minister Denby.

## English Women Who Smoke.

Shakespeare's plays were produced originally in theaters filled with smoke from countless pipes. So general was the passion for smoking that boys at that time made a living by lighting the pipes of smokers with burning coals. In the playhouse the smoker lit his pipe at the footlights or handed matches round on the point of his rapier—the only use, said Ben Jonson, to which the gallants of that day dare put their swords. Ladies smoked in theaters without fear or shame, a phase of social manners which seems to be reviving. "A titled lady of high degree whose name would make this story seem incredible," says a London newspaper, "smokes cigarettes after lunch in a restaurant in Bond street, and another lady of title, who caused astonishment by asking for a smoking compartment at Waterloo, explained by informing the stationmaster that she was going to smoke."

## Homes Near at Hand.

We will cut up and place on the market in quantities to suit homeseekers the entire Herndon Ranch consisting of about 12,000 acres near Eskota, and will sell at reasonable prices and on good terms.

Sales will begin about the 1st of July. Watch and make your selection in time. For particulars call on or address

Beall & Beall, Agts.,  
Sweetwater, Texas.

## ITCHERINE, 50c., Cures Itch

OR YOUR MONEY BACK.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Bass Bros. Drug Co.,  
Abilene, Texas.

## 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.

**WORMS!** WHITE'S CREAM VERMIFUGE!  
Most in Quantity. — Best in Quality.  
For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies. EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED.  
Prepared by JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN,

Merkel, Tex.

## \$10,000 TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

St. Louis Republic Offers Fourteen Splendid Rewards to Subscribers.

An interesting announcement appears in that great metropolitan newspaper, The St. Louis Republic, in the form of a profit-sharing offer to any one now a subscriber or willing to become a subscriber of the Republic. A big sum of \$10,000 is to be paid in rewards for good judgement and skill. It is possible to earn all the way from \$10 up to \$5,000.

The Republic's subscribers are invited to estimate upon the number of admissions to the World's Fair grounds upon the occasion of the grand dedicatory ceremonies, April 30, 1903, of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The subscriber whose estimate comes nearest the official record will receive \$5,000; the next one will get \$2,500, and an additional sum of \$2,500 will be divided in rewards ranging from \$1,000 down to \$10 among those whose estimates most nearly approximate the official record of admissions. A payment of \$7.80 will provide for the delivery of the Daily and Sunday Republic for not less than one year, or \$5 will pay for six annual subscriptions to the Twice-a-week Republic, and if the remittance is received on or before 4 p. m. of April 29, 1903, the person sending it can make six estimates. More estimates may be made by extending a subscription beyond a year, or by organizing a club and inducing others to subscribe.

Complete information as to the conditions of this contest, together with blanks will be found in the Daily, Sunday and Twice-a-week editions of The Republic from April 2 until April 29, 1903, or will be mailed to any one upon application. All communications and estimates should be addressed to The Republic Profit-Sharing Bureau, Call Box 201, St. Louis, Mo.

Special Train and Music for the U. C. V.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company will run a special train which will be accompanied by the Harris Juvenile Band (25 in number) who will furnish music en route. This special train will leave Fort Worth Sunday, May 17th at 11:15 a. m. and Dallas at 12:30 p. m., arriving at New Orleans next morning for breakfast.

Reduced round trip rates will be in effect to New Orleans. For particulars address any agent or E. P. Turner, general passenger agent, Dallas, H. P. Hughes, traveling passenger agent, Fort Worth.

## Save The Loved Ones.

Mrs. Mary A. Vliet, Newcastle, Colo., writes: "I believe Ballard's Horehound Syrup is superior to any other cough medicine, and will do all that is claimed for it, and is so pleasant to take. My little girl wants to take it when she has no need for it." Ballard's Horehound Syrup is the great cure for all pulmonary ailments. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.





Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., meets Saturday night on or before the full moon in each month.  
J. A. Leeman, W. M.  
S. M. Sewell, Sec.

**Photos.**

We are still making photos at old stand for 1c each and up, and open every day (except Sunday). We work as cheap as anyone regardless of prices.

Barnhill & wife.

There is a vast amount of genuine comfort in the vicinity of Burroughs & Mann's soda fount.

For Sale—Full blooded Silver Lace Wyandott eggs, \$1.15 per 13 delivered at Merkel.  
4t E. C. Powell,

We mix and make all the latest and best drinks. Come and see.  
Burroughs & Mann.

**Trustee Election.**

On the first Saturday in May is the time for the election of school trustees, and notices have been posted to that effect. J. T. Warren, I. S. Allen, J. C. Calvert and T. J. Coggin are the present trustees whose terms expire. The Mail believes that these men can be persuaded to accept another term on the board and it moves that they be unanimously chosen to succeed themselves. As a rule no set of men can give perfect satisfaction in school matters, but these men are broad and liberal in their views and have an eye single to the good of the school.

Let all pull together henceforth to the end that the school may grow and prosper as never before.

Let Burroughs & Mann sell you your fishing tackle, poles, etc. A nice line.

**Too Great a Risk.**

A reliable remedy for bowel complaints should always be kept at hand. The risk is too great for anyone to take. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy never fails and when reduced with water is pleasant to take. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Now's the time to kill the dogs and we have the carbon to do it with.  
Burroughs & Mann.

**THE FORD'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. The Ford'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 The Ford'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 The Ford'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 The Ford'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.

**Notice.**

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

**Walks Without Crutches.**

I was much afflicted with sciatica, writes Ed. C. Nud, Iowa-ville, Sedgwick Co., Kan., "going about on crutches and suffering a deal of pain. I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment, which relieved me. I used three 50c bottles. It is the greatest liniment I ever used; have recommended it to a number of persons, all express themselves as being benefitted by it. I now walk without crutches, able to perform a great deal of light labor on the farm." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

**Roosevelt The Dictator.**

It is evident that President Roosevelt regards himself as "the biggest proposition" there is in the government or the whole country. The New York World calls attention to the fact that he, with the assistance of the United States army, has closed the Yellowstone National Park for his own personal and private use for a period of sixteen days, and during that time no American citizens or tourist will be allowed within its confines. The day after the president's arrival at the park a newspaper correspondent accompanied by a faithful dog attempted to enter it, but was promptly arrested and his dog who was utterly ignorant of the fact that he was in any sense a trespasser, was shot. It would have been less cruel, perhaps, had the park authorities shot the correspondent and arrested the dog, because the former was guilty of less majesty in entering the park after notice had been served upon the whole world that Theodore the Great would monopolize it for sixteen days and put in the time shooting the wild mountain lions that roam and roar through its canyons. Some doubt has been expressed as to the right of the president to set apart a national park for his exclusive use for any period of time, but this is a matter that does not give the mighty Theodore the least concern. When he desires to have his family enjoy a sea trip the secretary of the navy is ordered to place a gunboat at their disposal and the expenses are paid out of the navel appropriation. During his stay in the Yellowstone National Park he will, of course, see the great geyser and we are quite sure that as he gazes upon it sadly he will exclaim: "There is the only thing on this earth that can beat me spouting."—New Orleans States.

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.**

**A Prominent Minister Recommends Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.**

Rev. Francis J. Davidson, pastor of the St. Matthew Baptist church and president of the Third District Baptist Association, 2731 Second St., New Orleans, writes as follows: "I have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for cramps and pains in the stomach and found it excellent. It is in fact the best cramp and colic remedy I have ever used. Also several of my parishioners have used it with equally satisfactory results." For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

We have bought the old school building and will sell the lumber cheap in any amount wanted.  
J. H. Hughes & Co.

Cool off if you can; if you can't, try a whiff of Burroughs & Mann's fount. All late drinks.

It will soon be time to employ teachers for the fall terms of school and we admonish trustees to give all the law allows. The poorest paid class of workers on this earth today is the school teachers, and we favor a law giving them a better salary, even if trimming has to be done some where else. The majority of the people do not seem to realize the important part the teacher has to play in the forming of character in their children, the necessity of having teachers not only with the right kind of literary attainments but moral as well. The labor, the expense of keeping abreast of the times, and the uncertainty of holding a school makes teaching one of the most undesirable occupations we know of and the low salary is driving many of the best teachers out of the profession—and we cannot see how it can help from doing otherwise.—Wills Point Chronicle.

**Dave Was All Right.**

Baird Star.  
'Twas a shrewd old farmer spake the other day while he combed from beard and hair the seedlets of the hay: "Our Freddie is a business man, and making piles in soap; Ezekiel is a doctor an' feeds the people dope. Our Mary Ann is pretty an' full of education. She bagged a dude from town who's rich as all creation; Henry's a preacher an' runs a gospel shop; Pete's a politician, an' climbin' to the top. Willum is industrious—he stays with marm—an' me an' him an' her get livin' from the farm. But, Dave! It really seems Dave never had no sense. He couldn't take a hammer an' pound nails in the fence. But marm, she's not despairin'; or if she is she don't show it. She says: 'You

**Implements...**

**FOR THE FARM:**

Plows,  
Cultivators,  
Planters,  
Hoes,  
Rakes,  
Plow Points,  
Etc., etc.

**FOR THE HOME:**

Queensware,  
Glassware,  
Stoves, Ranges,  
Lamps, Cutlery,  
Etc., etc.

Nothing but Dependable Goods

**W. H. Dickson**

leave that Dave alone; he's fixin' to be a poet!"

**Odd Fellows' Picnic.**

The Odd Fellows will hold their anniversary picnic at Borders Chappel Saturday, and the following program has been arranged:

Our 84th Anniversary, or a tribute to the founders of the order, by T. A. Bledsoe, of Abilene.

Odd Fellowship, its principles and its objects, by, L. A. Dale, Abilene.

"Only a badge," by Miss Emma E. Totten, of Abilene.

The future of the order in the light of history, by Prof. W. H. White of Buffalo Gap.

A short talk by B. J. Riney, of Nubia.

Music will be furnished by a band under the leadership of Prof. Freeman.

Ice cream, lemonade, soda water, good well water, and plenty of shade.

Everybody invited to come and bring dinner. Committee.

Try reading The Mail.

**A Demonstration of What Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy Can Do.**

"One of our customers, a highly respected citizen of this place, had been for ten years a sufferer from chronic diarrhoea," writes Walden & Martin, druggists, of Enterprise, Ala. "He had used various patent preparations and been treated by physicians without any permanent benefit. A few months ago he commenced taking Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and in a short time was entirely cured. Many citizens of Enterprise who know the gentleman will testify to the truthfulness of this statement." For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

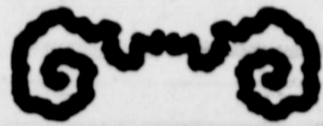
We notice that a young lady by the name of Miss Merkel and a Mr. Smith were recently married at Terrell. That fellow certainly has a peach.

Mrs. Woodrum, who is a sister of G. W. Boyce, arrived this week from Missouri and will make this her home. She has an interesting family, and the young ladies should receive hearty welcome.



# Come and Look.

The loudest voices can be heard at the greatest distance, but it is the soundest argument that creates the BEST IMPRESSION.



We do our talking by our merit. We want you to listen and profit thereby. There's as much in it for you as there is for us. Our audience of customers is growing each day. Come join the ranks. We now have our full spring stock open for your inspection and can say it is the LARGEST and BEST we have ever shown, and it will pay you to take a look through the store.

Anything in DRY GOODS and GROCERIES.

## J. O. HAMILTON

### The Farmer's Column.

#### Interesting Items Pertaining to the Farm and Farm Life, From Our Exchanges.

The best is always the cheapest everywhere and nowhere more than on the farm. Aim to keep the best horses, the best cattle, the best sheep, the best hogs, the best poultry, the neat-est and most commodious buildings—in fact the best of all things obtainable.

Do things regularly. Have a regular time to feed, a regular time to milk, a regular time to plant, sow and reap. System is everything, on the farm or elsewhere.

You will not be prosperous as long as you sell hay, grain and straw off the farm, instead of turning it into meat, cheese and butter and increasing the supply of manure.

Show us a farm where white-wash and the paint brush are never used and we will show you a place where everything, including the owner, is "run down at the heels."

If you don't take pleasure in your work it will lag and become a burden to you, you will find no enjoyment in life, no prosperity, no happiness and become a dead weight to yourself as well as others.

Hogs sold at Fort Worth last week at \$7.60 per 100 pounds. At ten per cent less than this how can a farmer afford to raise no hogs for sale?

If you breed from scrubs you will have only scrubs on your place. Get the best, even if costs considerable, and by degrees bring your herd up to the point where they will command the best prices.

It requires but comparatively little capital to stock a farm with hogs, and it takes them but a short time to convert the crop into money. For this reason hog-raising is a profitable occupation for the man of limited means. The porker can be pastured a good part of the spring and summer and marketed in October, after passing through the fattening process.

A good garden will supply

more food for the farmer's table than five times the same area planted to any of the ordinary farm crops. A half-acre of good land carefully planted to garden and well cultivated will produce an abundant supply of fresh vegetables for a family of five persons from the time the first early radishes are ready for use till the frost kills the tomato vines in the fall. The question of quality of the vegetables should be considered before their productiveness. There is plenty of room for a garden on any farm, and its location should be considered before that of any of the farm crops.

#### The Culture of Cotton.

The best methods of cultivating cotton are dealt with in a lengthy bulletin recently issued by the Georgia Experiment Station. It discusses the proper selection of varieties, of seed and fertilizers and the distance between the rows and hills. In the selection of varieties, farmers are recommended to stick to a kind which averages well year after year for their main crop and to try the promising new varieties on a moderate scale only. In the selection of seed much may be done by the individual farmer, just as in any other crop. The best of the best plants should be selected in the field. The main product of the best stalks should be used to plant a seed patch and the seeds from the few selected first choice bolls to plant the next breeding patch.

Perhaps the most interesting experiments tried at the station are with mixed seed. The plan is to mix the seeds of two varieties, one early and the other late, both of which usually do well, in order to lengthen the season and utilize the full capacity of the soil. This experiment has been tried with various different varieties for several years, and nearly always with marked success. The method followed is to plant five rows of each variety separately and then five of the mixture of the two and repeat this process until an acre is planted, thus giving a good basis for the judgement of their value. The resulting yield has nearly always been greatly in favor of the mixture, the only

exception being last year when the season did not agree with one of the varieties planted. Of course a separate breeding patch of each should be planted every year, as the mixture should be planted for seed.

#### Apply Business Principles on Farm.

It has been the custom of farmers in all ages to give nearly all of their thought and labor to the production of crops, and rarely trouble their minds about disposing of the wealth they produce. The result has always been, that although farmers produce most of the wealth of the country, those who handle their products make more profit out of them than those who produce them. It is only recently that farmers have been brought to see this fact and to realize that they must not only be farmers, but business men as well; that business methods and business principles must be combined with industry and agricultural skill, for otherwise their fate will be worse than before the business methods of business men had developed so much shrewdness and ability, as is now demonstrated in every trade center. These conditions must be remedied. The farmers cannot look to others for assistance, for these others want present conditions to continue, for these conditions exactly suits their ideas of fairness. They will not even aid him by advice that might not be financially profitable to themselves. Farmers must apply the same business principles to their business that business men apply to theirs. They must in this process invoke thought, business qualification and organization. They must not, as heretofore, permit others to do their financial thinking for them, because the plan has not worked well.—Farm & Ranch.

Girls, do you know, or did you ever stop to think, that more than half the young fellows who try to make a mash on you would rather help you to go to hell than to assist you to rise in the world and become a virtuous woman? It's a fact, brutal as it is, and though it may be hard to say. The young man who approaches you with respect may not be as flip as the other fellow, but you may be sure his intentions are good and that he would rather help you be a good girl than lead you to be a bad one. The young man whose motives are honest will not make cracks at you on the streets nor use language in your presence that would cause a really modest lady to blush. The young man

who works, hustles, pays his debts and acts like a gentleman is the man for you. The young man who never works—except when he works somebody for a loan—but always looks nice, spends his days in idle josh and his nights over a game he can never learn to play, makes cracks at you in public and gabs about how you are stuck on him to his associates, is a good fellow to keep away from. If you don't think this advice worth anything, wait a few days and maybe you'll change your mind.—Manson Democrat.

#### Teach Your Child to do Something.

Every child, no matter what its financial prospects may be, should be brought up to some useful business pursuit, in which the surplus animal energies may be profitably and regularly expended. This seems absolutely imperative, not only to insure the safety of the child, itself, but for

the protection of society as well. The neglect of this duty has caused many sons of well-to-do parents to turn out anything but a credit to their family. The teaching of the manual arts, in connection with school studies, will in many instances, help to decide the future work of the student, as thus will the "bent" of his genius be developed, and his life work be indicated. The hand and head should be trained together.—Ex.

"I am not much of a mathematician," said the cigarette, "but I can add to a man's nervous troubles, I can subtract from his physical energy, I can multiply his aches and pains, I can divide his mental powers, I can take interest from his work and discount his chances for success."—Exchange.

Farmers complain that it is just a little bit too dry for cotton planting.

## 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.