



The Grapeland Messenger

VOL. 12

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NO. 40.

Albert H. Luker, Editor and Publisher.

One Dollar Per Year, Payable in Advance.





All hail, Spirit of Christmas. Fill our hearts with freshness, joyousness and hope.

Open our eyes to a world filled with new and interesting things.

Attune our ears to the general song of good cheer and make our hearts and voices responsive to its message.

Let us know in its full measure the blessedness of the privilege both of giving and of receiving, the interchange of the Christmas message of love and remembrance.

Help us to put aside the fear, the worry and the petty strife of yesterday, and to face tomorrow with the radiant face of those who have seen the star in the east and who have heard the angels' message "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Christmas Carol

By Phillips Brooks

The earth has grown old with its burden of care,
But at Christmas it always is young,
The heart of the jewel burns lustreous and fair,
And its soul full of music bursts forth on the air,
When the song of the angels is sung.

It is coming, Old Earth, it is coming tonight!
On the snow-flakes which cover thy sod
The feet of the Christ-child fall gentle and white,
And the voice of the Christ-child tells out with delight
That mankind are the children of God.

On the sad and the lonely, the wretched and poor,
The voice of the Christ-child shall fall;
And to every blind wanderer open the door
Of hope that he dared not to dream of before,
With a sunshine of welcome for all.

The feet of the humblest may walk in the field
Where the feet of the holiest trod,
This, then, is the marvel to mortals revealed
When the silvery trumpets of Christmas have pealed,
That mankind are the children of God.



THE ROAD TO CHRISTMAS

In Retrospect Grandfather Pictures Yuletide Journeys of Many Years Ago.

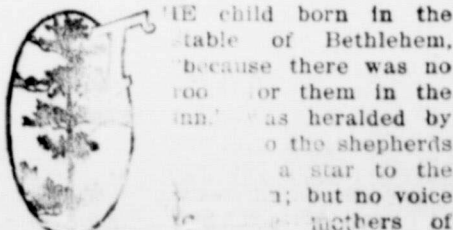
All the year long we have been traveling toward Christmas—I and my old wife, our children and our grand-children—not all by the same road, not all with the same expectations, but all looking out alike for the first glimpse of its smoke rising above the wintry landscape of the year. Now we can almost fancy that we hear the chiming of the famous bells—all Christmas towns are famous for their bells—and we know that we shall soon be at our inn.

If life be a journey, and each year a stage upon the road, I do not know where else a sensible man would stop for the recruiting of his health than the fine old Christmas towns. There, if anywhere, men are to be found living together merrily; the inns are warm, the cheer is good, the amusements are of the heartiest, and the society is of the best. I have been through many a Christmas town—for I have traveled far—and have rested thoroughly in each. I never found two of them alike. Of late they have been much grayer and quieter than they used formerly to be; but I do not think that I have been less happy of the quiet towns at which I have of late years resided. Let me confess so much. As for these about me who declare them to be not quiet by any means, but perfectly uproarious with jollity, I do not interfere with their opinion. Children so easily deceive themselves; it is enough for me that I am old enough to see things as they are.

NO STAR TO GUIDE

THE POSSIBILITY THAT ESCAPED THE WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM.

Some Name Might Have Rang Through All Ages Had She But Known the Spirit of Christmas Hospitality.



"The child born in the stable of Bethlehem, because there was no room for them in the inn," was heralded by the shepherds with a star to the manger; but no voice of the mothers of Bethlehem of that night was happening in that town that night.

Suppose some good woman had met Joseph and Mary on that Wonderful Day as they entered the town, and had said to them: "Our streets are full of homeless strangers. Come you and bide with me!" By that simple act of hospitality, her name would have been written high, high among the names of earth's happiest folk. "Blessed is she," we should have cried, "to whose home the Christmas joy first came!" But the women of the Judean town did not know to throw wide their doors and bring in the world's gratitude and love, says the Youth's Companion. So the Child was laid in a manger, and oblivion holds the names of all the women in Bethlehem who slept that night beneath the wings of wandering angels. Had they but known!

Year by year, for 19 centuries the story of the night at Bethlehem has been told and retold. To-day no household in Christendom, in town or village or on distant prairie can plead the ignorance in which Bethlehem then lay. If the door is shut on the Christ-child to-day, it is not from lack of knowledge, but from churlishness or indifference.

The Christmas spirit speaks in many voices. The sprig of holly or the plum pudding, the tree laden with gifts or the cheer for the lonely—these are all the world's way of saying to the Mother and the Holy Child, "Abide with us!"

Barred out alike from cottage and palace and inn in Palestine, the Hope of the World renews his appeal each Christmas-tide to our modern Christian world. By the very pathos of the first Christmas, the heart is softened and prepared to give him welcome. To-day there is no heralding angel or guiding star.

No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

Yule Cake.

On Christmas night, if a maiden place a piece of the Yule-cake under her pillow she will dream of her future husband. Also a portion of the cake should be kept for the next year, as it brings luck in the house. The plum pudding must always be kept and again partaken of on New Year's day if one would have a successful year.

Burning the Yule Log.

The ancient Saxons burnt the yule log as a symbol of the turning of the sun toward spring.

CHRISTMAS COMING

HOW THE HOLIDAY IS REGARDED BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

It Depends Entirely on One's View-point as to What the Day Brings to Each—The Child and Pater Differ.



"CHRISTMAS is coming!" shouts the schoolboy, flinging his cap in the air. "Turkey and pudding! Mince pie, jolly pantomimes, and parties! Hurrah for Christmas!"

"Christmas is coming," says the draper. "Turn one of our showrooms into a toy bazar and get out the list of tickets required for the New Year's sale. What a good job Christmas has not followed in the steps of other old institutions. Thank goodness for Christmas!"

"Christmas is coming," murmurs the employe of the latter. "Hours of extra unpaid labor; bullying, sweating, hurry scurry to catch the train, then heigho! for home and holidays. If it only came quicker and stayed longer we should say 'Welcome Christmas!'"

"Christmas is coming," says busy mother. "There's the pudding, cakes and mince-meat to make. And the shopping there is to do! Presents for the little ones' stockings, not forgetting something warm for father to wear, and some new curtains to make the house look gay. Christmas is coming—the busiest time of all the year—and the happiest!"

"Christmas is coming," muses the child, gazing dreamily into the fire. "I wonder what Santa Claus will bring me this year? Let's see, I've written out 'doll,' 'perambulator,' and 'picture book,' and all three pieces of paper went up the chimney all right—though I'm not quite sure whether I spelt 'perambulator' just right. Still, Santa Claus will understand. Oh! I do hope he'll be quick and come. Dear old Father Christmas!"

"Dear, indeed!" echoes Pater. "Thank goodness he does only come once a year, for I should soon find myself in the bankruptcy court were he a frequent visitor. No wonder the abbreviation of the word 'Christmas' starts with 'X,' for it is the period of the 'ex's.' The young folk may hang their stockings, but I say hang Christmas!"

"Christmas is coming," reflects the errand boy as he fixes the sprig of mistletoe to his cap. "I must be on my best behavior for the next few days, no loitering on my errands, no back-answers when I'm grumbled at, then great shall be the number of my Christmas boxes."

"Christmas is coming," sneers the dyspeptic. "The time for over-feeding and drunkenness, cheap sentiment and evergreens. Turkey and mince-meat! Ugh! the combination makes me shudder. How thankful I shall be when Christmas is gone!"

Christmas is coming," she murmurs the word as she stoops reverently over a tiny pair of shoes, a little white frock and blue sash, lying in a sacred corner of the drawer. Many Christmases ago these shoes pattered lightly hither and thither under a pair of eager, restless feet, that ribbon encircled a fairy form that danced in and out helping and hindering in a thousand ways the numerous preparations for Yule-tide. A film of tears suddenly spreads over mother's eyes as she shuts the drawer and turns sharply away. Cruel Christmas! when you bring such memories as this for your gift.

Christmas Crackers.

Do "plants" for making pretty gifts grow up to Christmas trees? And are "the sea-sons' greetings" sent by salt sons of the seas?

Are Yule-logs cut from snowdriftwood by Yule-tide washed ashore? And could you stub a mistletoe against a parlor door?

If Eve had tried from holly-twigs a party-gown to weave, Do you suppose that Adam would have called her "Christmas Eve?"

Saint Nicholas in autosleigh denies police and laws. Do regulations as to spread contain a Santa clause? —Lippincott's.



The Angels' Song

O little babe, O gentle babe,
That in a manger lies,
A-listening to the choral sweet
Which floats a-down the skies;
We, through the year, who only hear
The world's harsh thundering,
Listen that we, dear babe, with thee,
May hear the angels' song.

O little babe, O gentle babe,
Who lookest toward the star,
And seest when they bear their gifts,
Those wise men from afar;
From wandering wide, back to thy side,
Weary and worn we flee;
But hearts that bleed and hands that need,
Are all we have for thee.

O little babe, O gentle babe,
Our hearts were hard and cold;
The star we loved, the star of fame,
The song, the song of gold,
At the manger's side this Christmastide,
We listen and we long
To see that star shine from afar
And hear the angels' song.

—Richard F. Souter.

BERLIN'S CHRISTMAS

THE DAY NOT LIKE IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

The Old Customs of the Burghers Have Been Forgotten by the Newer Generation in the Modern Hub of Empire.



AMERICAN and English newspapers at Christmas time often have picturesque accounts of the German Christmas, which conjure up a clear frosty atmosphere and recede the song of the skates on the frozen lakes. For the Anglo-Saxon notion of the German Christmas is drawn from those childhood hours spent over Hans Andersen and Grimm, and the sight of a Christmas tree brings to mind the wood-cutter tramping home through the snow laden forest, trailing behind him the fir tree for his family Christmas celebration, while, in the towns, the black quadrangle of the venerable market place is picked out in lights blazing on the trees in the windows of the gabled houses.

Fifty years ago, before the young German giant had awakened from the sleep of centuries, this idea of the peaceful German Christmas was correct, the Berlin correspondent of the New York Evening Post says. But if one of the burghers of old Berlin, returning from making his Christmas purchases on Christmas eve, were to be transplanted into the roaring hub of empire which his hauptstadt has become in the year of grace, 1909, the good man would probably expire on the spot.

Fifty years ago, when Berlin was a dirty, unpretentious, provincial town, with ill-lighted, ill-paved streets, with a population renowned even in those days for its surly manners and uncouthness, and with the iron hand of militarism unchecked over it all, the Christmas festival was the tranquil celebration of which one has read. In the Lustgarten, before the castle, a Christmas fair was annually established, which the king and royal family used to visit to buy jumping jacks and gingerbread for the palace Christmas trees, like any other German family. The Lustgarten fair has passed away, the king of Prussia has become German emperor, Berlin has developed into a fair and beautiful city, and all that remains of the Christmas of once upon a time is the spirit—indeed, a precious inheritance, that still holds the branches of the myriads of Christmas trees which rich and poor alike set up in their houses on the eve of the feast.

The First Christmas Tree.

"It's the Germans who brought the Christmas tree to America," the German said. "Didn't you know that? The duke of Hesse sold a regiment, called 'The Hessians,' after him, to fight the Americans. They got so drunk over their first Christmas tree here away from home that Washington captured them, and that started the fashion of Christmas trees in America. It's history."

Christmas Night

By Charlotte Garrison

Sometimes I think that Christmas night's the best,
Before the nursery fire, when we're undressed;
And all the toys are put away, except
Perhaps my engine and the baby's bear,
Then Mother comes away from all the rest
Downstairs to tell our Christmas story the best.

She takes the baby on her lap and we sit 'round her on the hearth-rug so we see
The pictures in the fire, and then she tells
About how Shepherds watched their flocks by night
And what the angels said, and how the three
Wise Kings came riding—and the big star's light.

And then she tells us how it showed the way
To just a stable where the oxen stay,
And there they found Him in His Mother's arms,
A little baby Christ-child—and he smiled;
And that (she says) is what made Christmas day
For you and me and every little child.

Before the nursery fire when we're undressed
Sometimes I think that Christmas night's the best.



XMAS BEFORE THE MAST

How a Crew Celebrated Merrily Off the Coast of California in the Early Days.

A good many of you may have read Richard H. Dana's interesting story of sea life, "Two Years Before the Mast." Dana's vessel was collecting hides on the coast of California, when that coast was in a semi-civilized condition. He thus describes Christmas among the crew:

"As there were no hides to take in, and nothing especial to do, the captain gave us a holiday, the first we had had except Sundays since leaving Boston; and we had a plum-duff for dinner.

"The crew of the Russian brig, lying alongside us, following the 'old style,' had celebrated their Christmas 11 days before, when they had a grand 'blow-out,' and (as our men said) 'had drunk in the fore-castle a keg of gin, ate up a bag of tallow and made a soup of the skin!'"

Certain it is that Christmas is the one universal festival the round world over; and every resident of a Christian land carries Christmas in his heart wherever he may go.

Thoughtful.
Ella—I'm going to hang up my stockings on Christmas.
Stella—What for?
"By special request of papa and mamma. You know they believe in Santa Claus."—Life.

Grapeland Messenger

ALBERT H. LUKER, EDITOR.

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AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

Dear Readers:

Ere another issue of the Messenger greets you the editor will have discarded the single harness he has been wearing so patiently the past twenty-four years and will launch out upon the yet untried sea of matrimony. We are a strong believer in the Biblical injunction that "it is not good for man to live alone," and the persistent efforts we have put forth in this direction the past few years certainly deserve unstinted success. Therefore, on the afternoon of Sunday, December 26th, we will take un-

to ourself a wife. The young lady who has so kindly consented to cut loose from a happy home surrounded by every comfort and take this terrible risk, possesses one quality which we know you will admire—that is nerve. But that's not all. She is endowed with every lovable trait God ever bestowed upon the gentler sex. She is a supremely beautiful girl, and possesses those peculiar charms which might be defined as coming from above. To be in her company is to bask in the sunlight of heaven. In short, "she is a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

Miss Callie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Spence. She was reared in this community and enjoys a wide circle of loyal and true friends, who, we know, will sympathize with her in this trying hour.

Just how this double harness is going to work we will not attempt to say, but feeling as we do now about it, "life will be one glad song."

It is useless to say there will be no issue of the Messenger next week. We are more anxious than ever to observe our old custom of suspending during the holidays.

In conclusion, we wish that you may spend a very pleasant Christmas and enjoy all the blessings the All Wise Father may see fit to bestow during the coming year.

Just as a reminder that the cost of living is rapidly advancing, a Christmas turkey which four or five years ago cost a dollar now costs two dollars.

The offices of general manager and assistant general manager of the State railroad have been abolished and hereafter the railroad will be managed from Huntsville under the supervision of the penitentiary board.

We can't help but join Editor Ellis of the Rusk Press-Journal, in asking some questions about the state iron furnace, or industry, located there. How in the world is it that Pennsylvania people can buy the raw material, ship to their furnaces; convert it into iron and then sell it at a profit,—when the state of Texas, with convict labor,—much cheaper,—can't mine it and mold it at home,—saving freight,—without losing money? It is a matter that concerns the masses.—Nacogdoches Sentinel.

The Messenger is closing the most successful year of its existence under the present management. To everyone who has contributed to its success we thank you and extend the season's greetings.

The prosperity of our country depends so largely on the prosperity of our farmers, that everything possible should be done to render life in the rural districts agreeable as well as profitable, and nothing could conduce more to the comfort and happiness of our people than the improvement of roads.

Undoubtedly both the 13-year old boys who tried to rob a bank in St. Louis have been encouraged to believe that there is something heroic and admirable in the bandit business. Who is responsible for their pitiful mis-education? Who sold them their literature? Who taught them that they were too young for punishment?—Galveston News.

It is a bad thing for young boys to be allowed to read yellow journals or the criminal acts of desperadoes. No doubt the youngsters got their inspiration from Diamond Dick or Tip Top Weekly. There's a lot of that rot being read by the young boys in this very town. It's not a good sign.

Postmaster B. F. Hill handed us the following for publication. Patrons of rural routes should read it very carefully:

"From a recent count made by rural carriers in one of the counties in the state of New York of coins deposited by patrons in their boxes for the purchase of stamp supplies, it was found that each carrier in the county was collecting an average of 115 one-cent coins each week. This average applied to all the routes in operation throughout the country would give the enormous total of about 300,000,000 one-cent coins.

As most of these coins are deposited loose in boxes, it is desirable that you and the rural carriers, in a tactful and polite way, put forth your best efforts to induce patrons to provide themselves with stamp supplies in advance of their needs, and to equip their boxes with suitable coin-holding receptacles. It should be explained to patrons that the picking of loose coins from boxes not only results in needless hardship and suffering to carriers in winter weather, delays the delivery and collection of the mails, but frequently results in actual money loss to the carriers, for if, in collecting coins from boxes, they drop them into the snow or on the ground without recovery, they are required to replace the amount out of their own funds."

A new sewing machine would be a nice present for your wife or married daughter. Darsey has them at all prices down to \$13.50 for best guaranteed sewing machines sold in Texas for the money.

HOGS WANTED.

I will begin shipping hogs about the first of January, and will be in the market for some. If you have any to sell see me for prices. Geo. Calhoun.

A sack of Oriole flour for wife's Christmas cooking will be appreciated. It is the best flour sold in Grapeland, and your money back if not entirely satisfactory. Sold by Geo. E. Darsey.

WILL PUBLISH FIGURES

Candidates in The Contest Will Know How They Stand.

The Messenger's Free Voting Contest is growing more interesting every day. In the next issue, which will be January 6th, 1910, the votes of all candidates will be published. This will relieve the anxiety of those who desire to know the standing of their favorite. It will be a relief to the girls to know how they rank with the other candidates. Good work is being done and the first publication of the votes will be a surprise to everybody. The count will be made on Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, January 4, 1910, by a committee of three disinterested parties.

If you have not heretofore taken an interest in this contest you had better do so now and help out your favorite in the matter of this special prize. As has already been announced the girl having the greatest number of votes, when the first count is made, will receive a prize of \$10.00 in gold. Votes must reach this office not later than four o'clock p. m., Tuesday, January 4, 1910, to be counted in this special prize offer.

Now is the time to hustle. The Messenger gives full value received for all money paid and in addition you get to vote for the girls and help them win the premiums. It costs you absolutely nothing to vote.

Contestants should tell all their friends to be sure and call for their coupons at the stores and watch every chance to get votes.

Oak Grove News.

Dec. 21.—As winter time is here and the ground is covered with snow and we are all enjoying hard times and very good health, will write a few lines.

Christmas will soon be here and there will be a great many glad hearts among the little folk, and a great many sad ones before the holidays are over.

Our school doing well under the management of Miss Etta Lively. She will close the school Wednesday until after the holidays.

Mrs. Baxley, who is at present with her brother, R. D. Parker, happened to a bad accident last Monday night. She fell from the gallery floor and came very near breaking her foot and almost dislocated one of her shoulders. She is improving some but very slowly.

We read Albert Tyer's letters with much interest and hope he will write often.

Wonder what has become of our friend Rex? Guess he is out after cotton futures as cotton has advanced to a living price. I hope if he isn't too busy with the future business he will give the news from his town.

Wishing the editor a merry Christmas and a successful new year, I will ring off.

Old Timer.

I have just received a lot of up-to-date rugs. They will make excellent Christmas presents. Call and see them before they are picked over. W. R. Wherry.

Mack Herod and family of Merkel came in Monday night to visit relatives during Christmas. Mack is engaged in the ice and coal business in Merkel and says he is doing a very nice business.

Augusta News.

Augusta, Dec. 10.—The weather for the past week has been cold and may say fine for hog killing. Last night capped the climax with more snow and sleet than we have had for several years past. When we looked from our castle door this morning and saw old mother earth wrapped in a white robe we could hardly realize this was the sunny south. It really had more the appearance of the snow capped mountains of the far away north than it did of the balmy climate of grand old Texas. No one has a kick coming on account of the snow, for we have had ideal weather during the fall to harvest our crops, and further, it will tend to put the land in better plight for another season. The cold will destroy a great many insects and we surmise that Mr. Boll Weevil will have to hide close or he must pay the penalty.

Our town has been moving along nicely and quietly until last Thursday when everyone was shocked at two serious accidents that happened to the family of W. H. Holcomb. First, Miss Mae Belle Holcomb, who is conducting the school at Glover's school house, was returning home and by some means her horse became unmanageable and she was thrown, sustaining serious injuries. The prompt attention of Dr. Blair relieved the young lady of her intense suffering and reports her doing fairly well under the circumstances. During the excitement Mrs. Holcomb fell and badly sprained her foot. We are glad to state she is much relieved and we hope both she and Miss Mae Belle will soon be well again.

There have been a great many hogs killed in and around town the past week. Jake Sheridan, we suppose, will take the ribbon, having the largest hog killed in this section. It tipped the beam at 450. Beat that and take the cake.

Our social circle is preparing for Christmas. We anticipate a fine time at our Christmas tree, and again extend a cordial invitation to all to be present. Mr. Editor we are expecting you and hope you will be on hand.

Before we write again 1909 will be numbered with the past and we very kindly wish you and all the readers of the Messenger a happy Christmas and prosperous new year. Old Gray.

Ratcliff News.

Dec. 17.—The health is very good with the exception of croup. We hear some few complaining about their children having croup.

We have had all sorts of weather for the last few days. Part of the time it has been freezing, and part of the time summer heat.

There has been a great many hogs killed in the last few days. Pork has been selling most all the fall for 12 1-2 cents per pound. It seems to me at this price for pork, people could make something raising hogs.

The saw mill at the La. & Tex. Lumber Co. at this place shut down Thursday night Dec. 16th, until the first of the year for repairs. The planing mill will run a few days longer in order to keep fuel. There will be several hundred hands idle for a few days. There will be a great many hands working here, who will farm another year. We see where they are taking the right step. Just think of a man work-

ing for \$1.35 per day and giving \$1.00 per bushel for sweet potatoes, twelve and one-half cents for pork, forty cents per dozen for eggs, paying house rent, buying wood and probably working twenty days per month. How in the world can he make a living? The very reason that every thing is so high now is because so many people have quit farming and gone to public work, and the cities, when our fathers are fairly making a living from the old farm. Farming is an occupation, that if well followed will bring good results, but on the other hand if a farm is poorly managed the proprietor can only look for disaster from the start. We have often seen young men start out and both with equal chances, and have often been asked the question, why it was that one proved a success, while on the other hand his neighbor was a complete failure. Our answer then was as it is now, that the success of any occupation depends upon the good judgement of the manager. We say to one and all to seek relief from a different source and the remedy is more apt to effect a cure.

Mr. John Boykin and son of Weches have moved to Ratcliff to reside. Mr. Boykin and wife are both eighty-two years old. They are the father and mother of ten children, five dead and five living. They have sixty grand-children and ninety great grand-children. He also has a mule thirty-two years old that he raised.

We noticed in Albert Tyer's last communication where he said he supposed I was a member of the Woodmen of the World. Well, Mr. Albert you are a good guesser, and I am proud you are a member also. We have a good Lodge at this place with a membership of about eighty. The Woodmen at this place are going to have a Christmas tree and everybody is invited to be present and feel at home.

John I. Moore and Joe Sallas of Crockett are here to night and will make a talk on Fraternity at the Hall.

We want to say to Albert Tyer to come more often with his good letters. Also A. W. Cain and Old Gray.

Shorty Frazier is all smiles this week. You will know all about it when I tell you it is a ten pound boy at his house. Smile on Shorty you have our best wishes.

Mr. L. D. Lydle, who has been engineer at the planing mill here, has been transferred to Girard, Kansas where he will run a coal washing outfit for the same Company. J. A. Strickland has been transferred from Girard to this place and will take Mr. Lydle's place.

G. W. Black of Ledbetter has opened up a general merchandise store here and will no doubt share a good portion of the trade.

Dr. J. P. Hunter of Lufkin has been here this week doing dental work.

Miss May Trammel, who has been off teaching school, came home yesterday to spend the holidays with homefolk.

Success to the Messenger.

W. O. W.

How shall we celebrate Xmas? Not through jugs and bottles, as some do, but by doing some service for those about us, in making sunshine and happiness for others and not imbibing too much for ourselves. Try it S. E. Howard.

SOME IDEAS FOR DECORATIONS

How to Make the Home Look Bright and Cheerful for the Holidays.

In massing holly for use on the Christmas table it repays one to wipe off the leaves with a cloth dipped in a very little olive oil, says the Housekeeper. Tall candles should light the feast and the holly leaves reflect the twinkling lights in a beautiful manner. If a chandelier hangs over the dining table a feature which will delight the children is to have a nosegay of artificial flowers suspended from the chandelier to within a foot of the table by means of a red ribbon. This bouquet should have the paper puff of the old-time fashion, and the bouquet itself will be found to be a shower bouquet, one small nosegay for each person, in the depths of which some trifling gift is hidden.

Snowballs of cotton, tightly wound with white ribbon, also conceal gifts most attractively, while the cheap but pretty little Santa Claus candy boxes, for sale at favor shops, are effective upon the Christmas table, and will hold quite a good-sized package, or, of course, may be used to hold the bonbons for which they are intended. For a luncheon or high tea during Christmas week, a beautiful table may be set by employing the use of green linen runners embroidered in white. A holly bell or a bunch of red carnations in a cut-glass vase will touch the center of the table to brilliancy and soft garlands of southern moss may lightly edge the linen runners, or dollies if they be used instead.

The colonial glass candlesticks are still in favor, and nothing is more attractive in a country house. With tall green or red tapers, a group of these candlesticks placed in a mass of holly as a centerpiece is both appropriate and beautiful.

A quaint little Christmas tree may be used as a centerpiece by procuring at the florist's a little "pepper plant," which has lovely green leaves and red berries. Wound with glittering tinsel and tied with candied fruits held in place with wee baby ribbons, or hung with little favors of French jewelry or articles of trifling worth, the little tree makes a centerpiece of charm.

"THE PRINCE OF PEACE"

His Wonderful Influence Continues and Widens Through the World.

All the old troublesome questions of the origin and destination of the Galilee Carpenter have passed, notes a writer in Collier's. All the mediaeval worryment in discriminating between human and divine has gone, all the puzzled inquiry into the miraculous. No longer is mankind stirred over the non-essential. Theories of him fade away, dogmas of his nature lose their charm. His gentleness has conquered. His influence continues and widens. Slowly brightening, the gleam that touched him spreads through the world. His spirit moves on the face of civilization, and makes it kinder every generation. The touch of his hand is on the grief-stricken. Nurse, physician, and nun are the messengers of his teaching. The vestal fires burned out, but never the fires of his spirit, which answer each other from mountain-top to mountain-top across the continents. And deep in the heart of the people they make family life sweeter and ease the bitterness of failure and ignorance and all life's incompleteness. That wonder-working personality was never so potent as today—so insistent and tenderly sure. Under a thousand forms, creeds and names, men serve him. And however far we go in the conquest of nature, identifying the north pole, climbing the sky, prying open electrical forces, mapping out the subliminal, diminishing sin, disease, war, poverty, ignorance—always in the advance will be that gracious figure of the Sinless One, who showed Love as the rule of life. One Perfect Man—ardent and gentle—the race will never tire of him.

BY SIZES



Some people expect so much more than others.—Life.

A Way We Have at Christmas.
"I looked at the little man archly. 'Hobby,' she said, 'do you know you are beginning to grow rather handsome?'"
"It's a way I have," he answered, "as Christmas draws near."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Santa Claus Abroad.

It is strange to contemplate the great variety of forms the Santa Claus custom assumes in different countries. In Belgium the little ones fill their shoes with carrots and oats and hay for the white horse St. Nicholas is supposed to drive. Very early in the morning they run to the room in which their shoes have been left and find that the provender has gone and in its place candies and presents are found.

Among the Carpathian mountains it is St. Peter, who, dressed as a bishop, and accompanied by the dreadful Ruprecht, is expected by the children on Christmas eve. The visitor first delivers a short sermon, lays on the table a rod whitened with chalk, and takes his departure with his tinkling bells, while Ruprecht follows close behind. The children now hasten to pull off their shoes, polish them and tie them together; and, as soon as the last notes of Niklo's bells have become lost in the distance they run into the garden and secrete their shoes beneath a bush. They spend the time until 10 o'clock in relating stories, then go to their shoes, to find them filled with apples, nuts and goodies.

Christmas Cheer.

"Old man," wrote the Billville citizen, "it was my intendin' to give you a fine present fer Christmas, but I come short this year by the sheriff leyin' on my cotton an' the government on my corn; so I kin only send you a gallon jug of the last named, which ain't much as my ambitions is fer you; but I'll say this, old boy: There's enough in that jug to make you have the jolliest time o' yer life fer a day or two; ef you can't buy a circus ticket, there's a whole circus in six drams, an' a eternal movin' pictur' show in 20; so make the most of it!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Origin of Gift-Giving.

It is believed by many that our custom of giving gifts at Christmas comes from an old custom of priests putting on board of all outgoing ships a box of alms. This box was opened at Christmas-time, and masses said for the giving of alms, and it was called a "Christ Mass" box. From this has come our custom of giving boxes and gifts.

The Man in the Moon.

Russian folk-lore tells that the man in the moon was one who was seeking the isle in which there is no death. At last, after traveling far, he found the longed-for haven and took up his abode in the moon. After a hundred years had passed, death called for him one Christmas eve and a fierce struggle ensued with the moon, who was victorious; and so the man stayed where he was.

Christmas Booms Trade.

"Christmas booms trades of all kinds," said a statistician of New York. "It is, on the whole, a blessing. 'Take groceries and fruit. A big grocer tells me that where ordinarily he sends out 100 tons of groceries a day at Christmas time he sends out 130 tons. And of oranges, he sells a million a week in December as against 500,000 a week at other times. 'Turkeys go from 6,000 to 14,000 in this firm's output, nutmegs from five to 18 tons, raisins from 2,000 to 9,000 boxes and cigars from 1,000 to 3,000 boxes. 'Wines and spirits, which are popular Christmas gifts, sell 50 per cent. better than in any other month. I know a man who sold \$225,000 worth of whisky last December as against an average of \$125,000 for the other months of the year.'"

NOT TO BE PUT OFF.



"If you want to marry me, you should see my father."
"I've seen him several times, but I want to marry you just the same."

PAY OF SPANISH SOLDIER.

Considering that the pay of Spanish soldiers in the field is less than one dollar a month, it is easy to understand the economic objections of the reservists to join their colors. Also it is easy to understand why militarism insists that conscription saves money.



A Merry Christmas To All

We are now closing our twenty-first year in Business here, which has been the largest and best year we have ever enjoyed, and we wish to thank every customer, small and large, for their help in making this our best year, and we ask a continuance of the same.

The New Year will find us doing business at the same place with a full line of "everything used on the farm or in the home."

Again thanking you for your many favors and wishing each a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, I am, yours very truly.

George E. Darsey.

CHILDREN

Who have worms, who are sickly, restless or irritable; those who eat too much sweet stuff, who suffer from colic or irregular bowel movements, will grow strong, rosy and cheerful under the cleansing and invigorating influence of

PRICKLY ASH BITTERS

As a corrective for disorders in the stomach or bowels, for clearing the complexion and promoting appetite, sound sleep and cheerful spirits, it is unequalled. Good for either sex and all ages from five years upwards.

Get the Genuine with the Figure "3" in Red on Front Label.

Sold by Druggists. Price \$1.00 per bottle.

A. S. PORTER, Special Agent.

THE OWL'S HEAD.

I have noticed, writes a correspondent, that if you walk around an owl while it has possession of a mouse or vole it seems to be able to follow you round with its eyes, its head apparently moving continuously in one direction as if pivoted at the neck. I do not pretend to be able to explain this, but I should like to know whether it is really the case that the head moves round, pivoted on the body, so to speak, or whether it is merely an optical deception caused by an extraordinarily quick motion of the head.

THERE'S THE RUB.

"Died in poverty!" cried the philosopher, scornfully. "Died in poverty, did he? What is there in dying in poverty? I've got to live in it."—Sporting Times.

GROWTH OF CITY POPULATION.

In 1780 only one-thirtieth of the people of the United States lived in cities of 8,000 inhabitants and over; in 1800, one-twenty-fifth; in 1830, one-sixteenth; in 1840, one-twelfth; in 1850, one eighth; in 1860, one-sixth; in 1870, one fifth; in 1880, one-fourth. It is safe to say that to-day more than one-third of the people of the nation live in cities and towns, with the tendency steadily growing. If the present pace continues, by the middle of the present century the rural population will have become extinct.

PROOF.

Knicker—Think they had football in ancient Greece?
Bocker—Yes, indeed; look at the mutilated conditions the statues portray.

OMNISCIENCE.

Young Woman (adoringly)—It must be awfully nice to be wise and know—oh—everything!
Yale Senior—It is.
HELP! HELP!
"Maud's hair is what you would call Titian, isn't it?"
"Well, Titian or imi-Titian."—Boston Transcript.

AT A SEMINARY DANCE.

Marie—Isn't Gwendolyn simply stunning to-night?
Daphne—Yes, she's awfully clever; why, she's got on Frances' new rats and Irene's pads—poor Irene has tonsillitis—and I declare if she hasn't stolen my open-work stockings, the mix!—Puck.

\$500.00 IN PRIZES!

The Messenger's Big Piano Contest is Growing like a Snowball. The people of Grapeland and surrounding Communities are just realizing that the Contest is the Biggest thing in its line that ever Happened.

During the next week Contestants should procure every vote possible in order to have as large a number as they can when the first count is made, Tuesday, January 4, 1910.

FIRST SPECIAL PRIZE

\$10 - IN GOLD - \$10

Will be given FREE to the young lady having the largest number of Votes to her credit when the first count is made at 4 p. m.

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1910.

Remember the Hustler Wins

How to Get Votes:

New Subscriptions.....	500 votes for \$1.00
Renewal Subscriptions.....	500 votes for 1.00
Back Subscriptions.....	500 votes for 1.00
General Advertising.....	200 votes for 1.00
Job Printing.....	200 votes for 1.00
5-year Subscriptions.....	5,000 votes for 5.00

Popular Voting Contest

.....19.....

I hereby nominate or suggest the name of

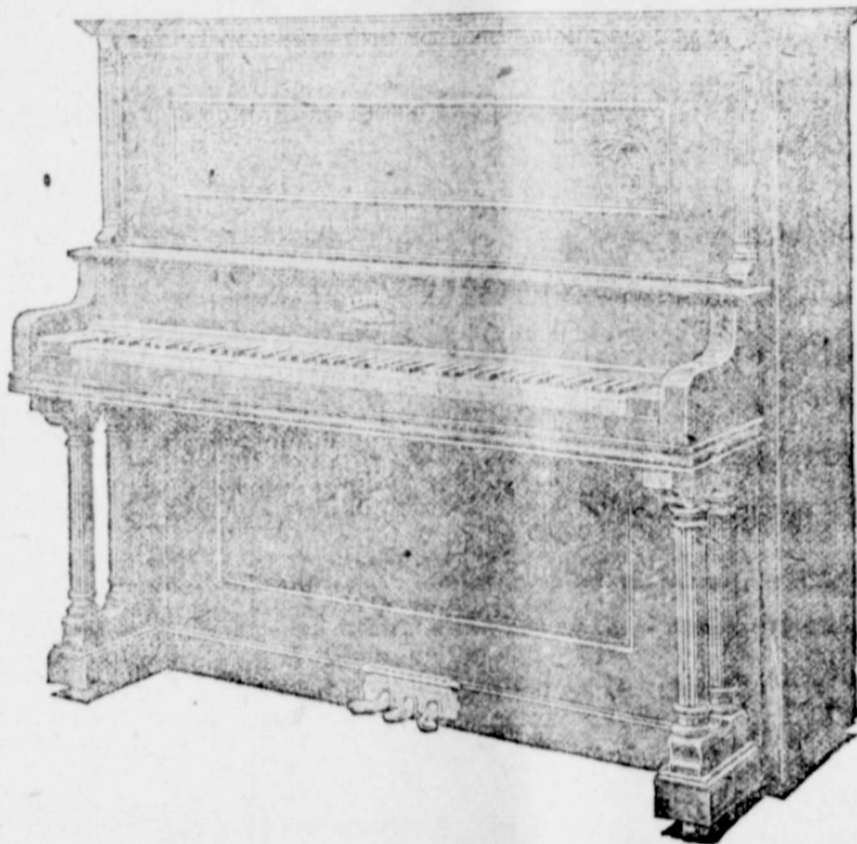
Address

As a lady worthy to become a candidate in your Popular Voting Contest. I present this name with the distinct understanding and agreement that the editor shall not divulge my name. This does not obligate me in any way whatsoever.

Signed.....

Address

Be the first to nominate the winner of the Prize Piano and receive \$5.00 in cash.



THE PRIZES:

D. H. Baldwin & Co's.

\$400 HAMILTON PIANO

Furnished by THE MESSENGER

- \$18.00 Ladies Genuine Cut Glass Water Set, given by A. S. Porter, Druggist.
- \$12.50 F. A. Faris, General Merchant, will give a \$7.50 gold Bracelet and a \$5.00 gold necklace.
- \$12.50 Kennedy Bros. will a dress pattern of the winner's selection and a pair of American Lady Shoes.
- \$12.50 D. N. Leaverton, Druggist, will give a Manicure Set and a cut glass puff box, total value \$12.50.
- 10.00 Mark Anthony, proprietor of the Bon Ton, will give a box of fine candy, valued at 10.00

Giving Them Away

The above merchants in Grapeland are giving FREE 25 votes with each \$1.00 cash purchase at their stores. Ask for them and then cast the votes for some girl on the list. You are not doing the square thing by your own or your neighbor's daughter if you do not get the merchants' coupons to which you are entitled, and present them to her, or cast them yourself at our office. Help the girls.

A. S. Porter, Prescription Druggist

DEALER IN

Pure Drugs, Patent Medicines, Sundries, Perfumes, School Books and Supplies, etc.

We give 25 votes with each dollar purchase for cash.

Trade With F. A. FARIS, Dealer in

Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats and Farm Supplies. Cash prices paid for Cotton and Country Products. Ask for Voting Coupons

KENNEDY BROTHERS

FOR BARGAINS IN EVERYTHING

Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Ladies' and Gents' Furnishing Goods, Groceries, etc. We give voting coupons Ask for them

D. N. Leaverton, Druggist

Dealer in Drugs, Patent Medicines, Sundries, Sick Room Supplies, etc. Prescriptions carefully compounded. We give 25 votes with each cash purchase of \$1.00. Ask for coupons.

Rules of the Contest.

- 1 Announcement—This Piano and Popular Voting Contest will be conducted on strictly honest business principals, with perfect justice and fairness to all concerned.
- 2 Prizes—The first Prize shall be a firstclass piano of a leading make, valued at \$400. Many other valuable and useful prizes will be given.
- 3 Candidates—Any young lady, married or single, in this and adjoining counties, is eligible to a place in this contest. The most popular lady is the one who shall receive the most votes: to her shall be awarded the beautiful upright Piano. Other candidates to receive their choice of prizes in order, according to their standing of votes.
- 4 Tie in Votes—In case of a tie, the value of the prizes will be equally divided, or a like prize granted to those tying.
- 5 Classes of Votes—The votes are issued in coupons of the following denominations:
New subscriptions 500 votes for \$1.00
Renewal Subscriptions..... 500 votes for 1.00
Back Subscriptions..... 500 votes for 1.00
Job Ptg. or Advertising..... 200 votes for 1.00
5-year Subscriptions..... 5,000 votes for 5.00
Right is reserved to add additional classes of votes, and other publications, also to change or modify these rules and regulations as necessity demands.

6 General Instructions.—Names of Contestants will be printed in order according to standing and the amount of their votes published regularly after first count is made.

During first 60 days no candidates will be permitted to cast over 5,000 subscription votes during any one week. Advertising, Job Printing, Merchants' or Free Paper Voting Coupon Votes can be voted in any quantity at any time.

Votes will not be allowed on subscriptions at less than regular price of the paper.

Votes once deposited in ballot box cannot be transferred to another.

Postmasters' and Agents' commissions are suspended during contest.

No Contestant will be allowed to take more than one of the Extra Special Prizes that we may offer from time to time.

The publisher is not to tell whom anyone votes for, except in case of alleged error or irregularity.

Each Contestant is requested to send us a cabinet size photograph for publication as soon as convenient.

Make up your mind who you want to vote for before coming to the office, as the editor will positively not decide for you.

Contestants should keep a list of their votes turned in each week, and see that publishers' figures verify it.

All coupons should be placed in envelopes with name of contestants written plainly thereon.

Free 20 Vote Coupons will be published in this paper during the first 60 days of contest and can be voted without cost for any contestant.

An Awarding Committee of three good business men are to be appointed to make final count and distribution of prizes.

Contest to run not less than 90 days; date of closing will be announced about 30 days in advance.

The Contest shall close at 4 o'clock on the on the date to be announced later. Two weeks previous to date of closing, the judges are to take the ballot box, carefully locked or sealed, to the bank, where it will be kept on a table in front window during business hours, and in the vault at night, until close of contest, when the awarding committee takes charge and makes final count.

During last two weeks all voting must be done in the locked box at the bank. If secrecy in voting is desired, place your cash subscriptions together with other votes and coupons, in sealed envelopes with name of Contestant on same, and deposit in ballot box. Envelops and subscription blanks for this purpose will be furnished. The strict compliance with these rules guarantees a fair and square deal to all concerned.

20 Votes | Grapeland, Texas, Nov. 26, 1909

The Messenger's Free Coupon

Good for 20 Votes in our
PIANO AND POPULAR GIRL VOTING CONTEST

This Coupon is voted for

These Free Votes must reach our office on or before January 26, 1910, in order to be accepted and counted. No money is required with these votes. Every reader of the Messenger should support their favorite candidate and help her to be a winner. The Prizes offered to the Girls entered \$500 in this Contest amount to about.....

20 Votes | Free Newspaper Coupons not voted by Jan. 26, 1910, are void

The Bon Ton Cream Parlor,

NATHAN GUICE, Proprietor

Will give 25 votes with each cash purchase of one dollar. See us for fruits, candy, nuts, etc.

Photographs

I am at my office in Grapeland four days in the week, and am better prepared to do PICTURE WORK now than I have ever been.

I also do all kinds of clock and watch repairing. Call on me for anything in this line. Office at rear of Messenger office.

I. N. Whitaker

The Worth of a Medicine is the Cures it can Effect. Every one who has used

BALLARD'S SNOW LINIMENT

Knows that it will Cure RHEUMATISM, SPRAINS, CUTS, WOUNDS, BURNS, STIFF JOINTS, CORNS, BUNIONS, ETC.,

Price, 25c, 50c and \$1.00

BALLARD SNOW LINIMENT CO. ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Sold and Recommended by A. S. PORTER

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY

CURES Coughs, Colds, CROUP, Whooping Cough

This remedy can always be depended upon and is pleasant to take. It contains no opium or other harmful drug and may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult. Price 25 cents, large size 50 cents.

Sold by D. N. LEAVERTON

VERBINE

QUICKLY CURES BRUISES, CONSTITUTION, DYSPEPSIA, MALARIA, CHILLS AND FEVER AND ALL LIVER COMPLAINTS.

REV. W. N. WARLICK, D.D., writes:—I take pleasure in recommending your Verbine, for it did so much for me. I had a sick headache, foul breath, bad taste in my mouth and could not rest well at night. I used one bottle and was cured. I am never without Verbine. I heartily recommend it to all my friends.

Price 50 Cents per Bottle.

Bellard Snow Liniment Co., ST. LOUIS, MO.

Sold and Recommended by A. S. PORTER

More Danville Proof.

Jacob Schrahl, 432, South St., Danville, Ill., writes: "For over eighteen months I was a sufferer from kidney and bladder trouble. During the whole time was treated by several doctors and tried several different kidney pills. Seven weeks ago I commenced taking Foley's Kidney Pills, and am feeling better every day and will be glad to tell anyone interested, just what Foley's Kidney Pills did for me." Sold by A. S. Porter.

Ladies' fascinators make excellent Xmas. gifts. Buy them from W. H. Lively.

List of Nominees.

- Miss Mollie Vinsen, Crockett
- " Yola Kennedy, "
- " Myrtle Gossett, "
- " Mae Gregg, Weches.
- " Willie Belle Neel, Elkhart
- " Pauline Langham, "
- " Lucy Stubblefield, "
- " Linnie Ford, Latexo
- " Bula Bolton, Augusta
- " Sadie Story, "
- " Ciny Wall, "
- " Mary Bell Holcomb "
- " Adelle Davis, Grapeland
- " Lura Taylor, "
- " Inez Haltom "
- " Mada Murchison "
- " Loraine Hanson "
- " Lovie Spence "
- " Sallie Mae Kent, Grapeland, R F D No 4.
- Miss Stella Whitaker, Grapeland, R F D No. 2.
- Miss Jewel Luce, Crockett, R F D No 1
- Miss May Trammel, Ratcliff

Foley's Honey and Tar is the best and safest cough remedy for children. At the first symptoms of a cold, give as directed, and ward off danger of croup, bronchitis, sore throat, cold in the head, and stuffy breathing. It brings comfort and ease to the little ones. Contains no opiates or other harmful drugs. Keep always on hand, and refuse substitutes. Sold by A. S. Porter.

Alvin Cunningham and wife came in Saturday to spend the holidays with relatives near town.

After exposure and when you feel a cold coming on, take Foley's Honey and Tar, the great throat and lung remedy. It stops the cough, relieves the congestion, and expels the cold from your system. Is mildly laxative. Sold by A. S. Porter.

There is nothing more appropriate than a nice set of China ware that will make a home present. Geo. E. Darsey has a full assortment and you can buy a full set, or just what you want. Don't fail to see Darsey's line of china ware before making your Christmas purchase.

SHINGLES FOR SALE—If you want the best on the market, get the Goodnight shingles; \$1.50 per 1000 at the mill 11-2 miles east of Grapeland.

Rev. W. N. Warlick will preach at the Christian church in Grapeland, on Saturday night before the first Sunday and at 11 o'clock next day, 1st, Sunday in January 1910.

Let Clewis clean and press your clothes for Christmas and save the expense of buying new ones.

Arthur Owens, who holds a position in one of the banks at St. Jo, is home to spend the holidays with parents.

Esq. Davis arrested Boots Ellis, a negro boy, Monday morning for stealing a five dollar bill from a negro woman.

Mr. W. E. Gilbert and family of Oakhurst spent a few days in Grapeland with relatives, leaving Sunday for Hearne to spend the holidays. They will go to Oklahoma to make their home.

Grapeland experienced some real winter weather last week. Sleet and snow fell Saturday night and Sunday until the ground was white.

The LAST CALL FOR 1909

We wish to thank you most heartily for your most liberal patronage for this year, and we wish you a happy Christmas. In the meantime we will give you most extra ordinary bargains in the best line of merchandise to be found in Grapeland.

All of our 15.00 Men's suits going this week for 10.00. All our 10.00 suits for 6.90. 5.00 Stetson Hats for 4.00. We can not list all of our goods, space is too small. If you want the best goods for the least money in the County come to our store.

We have everything in groceries, dry goods, boots, shoes and hats, also the prettiest line of Christmas goods in the city, come and see. Apples, oranges, candies, fire crackers, nuts, raisins and cake flavoring.

Fresh car flour, best on earth. Buy your goods from us and be happy, for which we will thank you

Wishing you much happiness and success, we are,

Yours Respectfully,

F. A. FARIS.

PROBABLE TRUTH.

Sir Robert Paston's belief that every man has a certain quantity of drink foreordained to him, after consuming which he must die, implies in one sense that everybody must drink himself to death. The old-time Cumberland "statesmen" (small land owners), according to a favorite story of the late Sir Wilfred Lawson, held that doctrine in another sense. He had remarked to a neighbor who told him of the death of one of them: "Well, I suppose he died of drinking." "Yes," was the reply; "leastwise I never heard anything to the contrary."—London Chronicle.

OLDEST INNS IN ENGLAND.

The Fighting Cocks inn, on the River Ver, St. Albans, said to be "over 1,100 years old," claims to be the oldest inhabited house in the United Kingdom; but the Saracen's Head, Newark, memorable in the history of Jeannie Deans, can actually, it seems, show title deeds dating back to 1341. The oldest tavern bill extant is that of Richard de Insula, bishop of Durham, at the Angel inn, Blyth, Nottinghamshire, anno 1274.

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER.

"I tell you," cried Mrs. Vote-hunter, "we will never stop until we have a woman president." "If you would only stop there," said her husband, "we would be satisfied, but you won't. Some of you will want to be speaker of the house and that will necessitate a cigar in the corner of your mouth."—Boston Herald.

COTTON'S BRIGHT DAYS.

"Every dog has his day." Cotton was a long, long time in getting its—in coming into its own. But its "day" has already dawned; and it is doubtful if it can ever get set back again into the darkness—surely not to black-night period of six cents a pound.—New York Commercial.

Palestine School of Business

A School Where Business is Taught Under the Management of an Expert Accountant of Twenty-eight Years Experience

OUR SALIENT POINTS: Individual Instruction, Accuracy, Thoroughness. We use our own text-books, and it is a compilation of Facts, Forms and Figures taken from actual business during the business experience of the Author.

We make no Patent Medicine Claims of having the Biggest and Best School in the World, nor can we teach you more in 3 weeks than others can in 3 months but we can teach you in a reasonable length of time to keep a set of books in an accurate, neat manner, or hold a position as Stenographer in an up-to-date business office. . . . Write to-day for a Credit Coupon, which gives you a discount of \$10.00 on tuition, if accepted before January 10, 1910. Address—

PALESTINE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Spring Term Opens Jan. 3, 1910.

OFFICIAL PERQUISITES.



The New Member (confidentially)—Excuse me, that tall man in black just asked me to lend him 20 marks—he's the president of the club, isn't he?

"No, I'm the president—let me have the money!"—Meggendorfer Blaetter.

AN ASYLUM.

"Pa, what is a libretto?" "A libretto, Aurelius, is a home for old jokes."—Detroit Saturday Night.

WHITE'S Cream Vermifuge

THE GUARANTEED WORM REMEDY

THE CHILDREN'S FAVORITE TONIC. BEWARE OF IMITATIONS. THE GENUINE PREPARED ONLY BY Ballard-Snow Liniment Co. ST. LOUIS, MO.

—FOR SALE BY— A. S. PORTER, The Druggist

Foley's Orino Laxative

For Stomach Trouble, Sluggish Liver and Habitual Constipation.

It cures by aiding all of the digestive organs—gently stimulates the liver and regulates the bowels—the only way that chronic constipation can be cured. Especially recommended for women and children. Clears blotched complexions. Pleasant to take. Refuse substitutes.

A. S. PORTER.

LOCAL NEWS.

Trade with W. H. Lively.
 White Wave flour still \$1.50 a sack at Darsey's.
 See Wherry's display of Christmas goods before you buy.
 Eggs are still 25c at Kennedy Bros.
 Balis Dailey is home from Austin to spend the holidays.
 Ladies' hand bags and belts at Darsey's.
 Buy your Christmas fruit from K. C. Alsup.
 Buy your Christmas flour from W. H. Lively.
 Darsey has plenty of brick and lime.
 F. A. Faris is the shoe man, buy your shoes from him.
 Pretty line of Misses' boy's and children's caps at Darsey's.
 See Alsup for your Xmas fruits.
 Darsey has underwear that will suit you.
 Chinaware and enamelware at W. H. Lively's.
 Buy ladies' and men's coat sweaters at Darsey's D. G. store.
 Miss Geneva Saddle visited relatives in Grapeland last week.
 Buy comforts and blankets from Darsey.
 'I am still paying 25c cash for your eggs K. C. Alsup.
 Car of Happy Day flour arrived at Wherry's. It's the stuff for Xmas cooking.
 The Racket store has the Xmas goods. See our 5, 10 and 25c counters.
 Buy your entire bill from Faris, stock complete, house filled to overflowing with bargains.
 Grated cocoanut, seeded raisens, extracts and nutmegs for Christmas cooking at Darsey's.
 The town is full of Christmas buyers and everyone has the Christmas spirit.
 Dolls and toys for the little folk and suitable presents for grown folk at Wherry's.
 At the rate we are selling, we will not have much left after Xmas. S. E. Howard.
 A big stock of rocking chairs, dressers, bureaus, bedsteads, bed springs and mattresses at Darsey's.
 Will sell you this week our \$25.00 sewing machine for \$19.50. Our \$20.00 machine for \$17.00. F. A. Faris.
 Buy your flour from W. H. Lively and save money. Get it now for Christmas. We deliver goods to your door. Phone 14.
 We have just received a nice lot of men's and children's suits, all wool, and will close out at a sacrifice. F. A. Faris.
 Nuts, candies and fresh groceries for Christmas cooking at W. H. Lively's. Phone for a sack of flour. We deliver it to your kitchen.
SHINGLES FOR SALE.
 Plenty of good shingles for sale at my mill 5 miles southeast of Grapeland.
 George W. Shaver.
 A new stock of plain and fancy lamps suitable for a nice and useful Christmas present at Darsey's.

Fire crackers at Wherry's.
 Eggs 30c this week at Faris'.
 See Darsey for loaded shells.
 Fruits and candies at Wherry's.
KENNEDY BROS. *Kantbebeat*
 Get your rubber shoes at Darsey's.
 Clewis buys hides and furs and pays cash.
 Buy your wagon harness—heavy leather at Kennedy Bros.
 Darsey is showing some pretty tailored skirts for ladies.
 All the latest buttons at Kennedy Bros.
 Pure ribbon cane syrup, 50c the gallon at F. A. Faris'.
 Wherry keeps fresh groceries. Your trade is appreciated.
 The best shoe made for the money. Sold at F. A. Faris.
 Have no long faces Xmas, and if you can't smile wear a smiling Dough face. S. E. Howard.
 Best bucket coffe for 90c. F. A. Faris.
 Ladies' sweaters at Kennedy Bros.
 If you want good shoes buy them at Faris'.
 If it is a nice dress shoe you want, get the Packard shoes at Kennedy Bros.
 You can get the best shoes made for the money at F. A. Faris'.
 Buy your Christmas fruit, candy, nuts and groceries from W. H. Lively.
 Fresh car flour, chops, meal and bran at F. A. Faris' this week.
 Shoes make appropriate Xmas presents and we have them for the whole family. Darsey.
 The Kelley axe is the best made. You can buy them at F. A. Faris'.
 Special cut prices on boy's Iron wagons at Darsey's until Christmas.
 See those \$15.00 men's suits at Faris' for only \$10.00 this week.
 See our line of back and side combs, barrets, bandaus, hair rolls and switches before you buy, at Darsey's D. G. store.
 Those wanting oysters for Christmas will please place their order with me by next Tuesday night. K. C. Alsup.
 Our harvest flour is the best High Patent flour made. Fresh at Faris'.
 A beautiful line of framed pictures at special prices for Christmas at Darsey's.
 Remember you get the best for the least money at Alsup's restaurant.
 The Baptist ladies will serve oysters Friday night, Dec. 31st, at Dr. Woodard's residence.

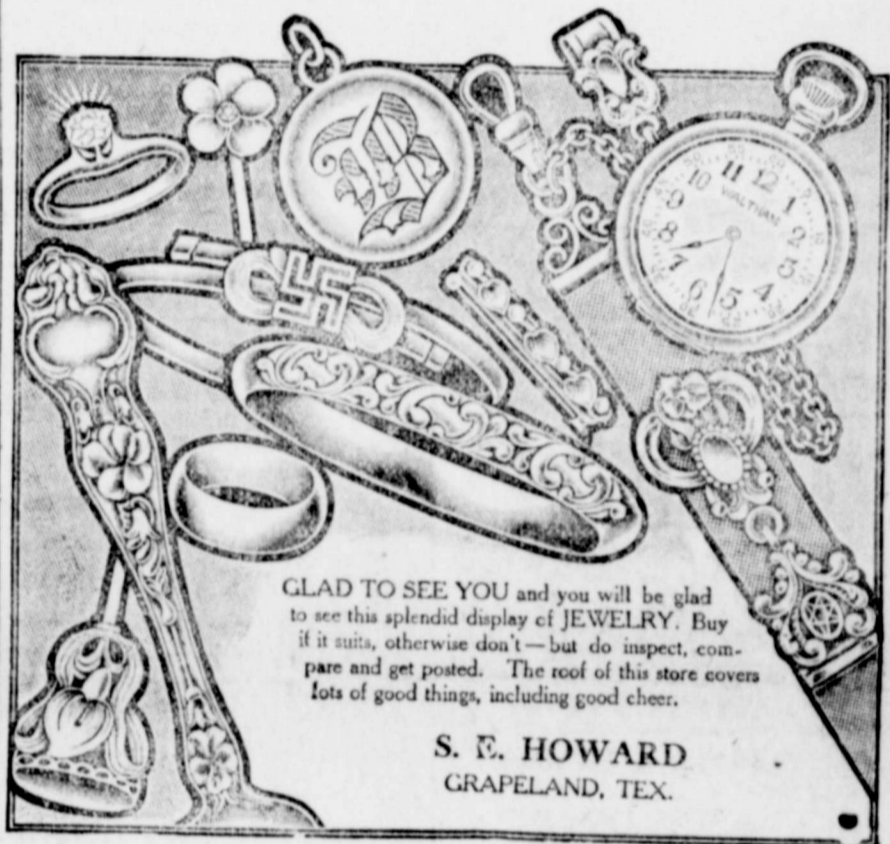
Notice to Tax Payers.
 I will be in Grapeland on Wednesday, January 5th, 1910 for the purpose of collecting 1909 taxes.
 A. L. Goolsby,
 Tax Collector
 Houston Co.

B. Y. P. U. Institute
 A partial program of a Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Institute to be held at Lovelady at the Baptist church January 7-9, by the Neches River Association:
 Thursday, 7 p. m., sermon.
 Friday 11 a. m., sermon by Bro. Reagan. 2 p. m., devotional, L. F. Jeffus. 2:15 Lecture on Brazil by Missionary Z. C. Taylor. 3:15, The education board, by Walter T. Davis, evangelist. 6:30, song service. 7:00, the graded Sunday School, by Harry P. Beauchamp, field secretary.
 Saturday 10:00 a. m., devotional. 10:15, Some phases of Sunday School, by H. P. Beauchamp. 11:15, Round table. 2:00 p. m., devotional. 2:15, the real purpose of the B. Y. P. U., by E. E. Lee, Cor. Sec'y. B. Y. P. U. of Texas. 3:15, Sunday School Work, by H. P. Beauchamp. 7:00, Work of committee in B. Y. P. U.
 Sunday, 9:45 a. m., Sunday School directed by H. P. Beauchamp. 11:00, The young people and the Church, E. E. Lee. 2:00 p. m., devotional. 2:15, Sunday School Work, by H. P. Beauchamp. 3:15, The devotional meeting of the B. Y. P. U., E. E. Lee. 7:00, Sunday school work, by H. P. Beauchamp.
 Note—The list of Bro. Beauchamp's subjects has not been secured and the program is subject to some alterations, but will stand in the main. All Sunday schools and B. Y. P. Us. are asked to send delegates. Entertainment free.
 T. N. Mainer, Cor. Sec'y.
 Oyster Supper Friday night, Dec. 31st, at Dr. F. C. Woodard's residence for the benefit of the Baptist church.
 Mr. and Mrs. Spike Dockery of Shreveport are here to spend the holidays with relatives.

MONEY TO LOAN
 We Handle Real Estate.
 If you want to buy or sell a farm or borrow money on it, call on us. We buy Vendors Lien Notes.
WARFIELD BROS.
 Office North Side Public Square
 CROCKETT, TEXAS

FOR SALE We have a life time scholarship in the famous Tyler Commercial College which we will sell at a reasonable discount. If you ever intend going to an up-to-date Business College, now is the time. Prepare yourself to lay away something for a rainy day. Address—
THE GRAPELAND MESSENGER,
 GRAPELAND, TEXAS

Holiday Jewelry
 LARGEST STOCK TO SELECT FROM.



GLAD TO SEE YOU and you will be glad to see this splendid display of JEWELRY. Buy if it suits, otherwise don't—but do inspect, compare and get posted. The roof of this store covers lots of good things, including good cheer.

S. E. HOWARD
 GRAPELAND, TEX.

Holiday Bargains
 AT
Leaverton's Drug Store.
 For the Holidays we have made a careful selection of pretty and useful things. Every article is new, all selected with the thought of usefulness and pleasure in giving.

Toilet Sets \$1.00 to.....	\$5.00	Dolls of every description.
Manicure Sets \$1.00 to.....	5.00	In fact, Christmas gifts for every member of the family. Have a nice line of TOYS and others presents for children too numerous to mention.
Post Card Albums 10c to.....	1.00	Dining Room Pictures in plain and panel effects. Mission finish frames.
Some real nice ones from 25c to.....	1.50	Be sure to visit our store and look through our stock.
Cigar Jars 50c to.....	1.00	
Stationery in pretty Xmas boxes per box from 25c to.....	1.00	
Perfumes in pretty packages from 10c to.....	1.00	

D. N. Leaverton.

HERBINE
What Is It?
 A Positive Cure For
 BILIOUSNESS, CONSTIPATION,
 DYSPEPSIA, MALARIA, CHILLS
 AND FEVER AND ALL LIVER
 COMPLAINTS.
 Dr. Charles F. Snow, Registered Pharmacist, Jewett,
 Mo., writes: "I recommended Herbine for
 a child that had chills and a general debilitated
 system, and who had tried nearly
 everything except Herbine. It quickly cured
 the child and she has been healthy ever since."
 "I believe it is the best substitute for calomel
 I know of."
 Price 50 Cents per Bottle.
BALLARD SNOW LINIMENT CO.
 ST. LOUIS, MO.
 Sold and Recommended by
A. S. PORTER.

COTTON SEED.
 I am in the market
 for your
COTTON SEED
 and as usual will pay
 the highest market
 price. I am with the
MAGNOLIA OIL MILL
 of Houston. I want to
 serve my old friends
 and customers, and
 make new friends.

Uncle Polk

Buy The Best
BALLARD'S
SNOW
LINIMENT
 Always makes a hit when
 used for
**RHEUMATISM, SPRAINS,
 CUTS, WOUNDS, BURNS,
 STIFF JOINTS, CORNS,
 BUNIONS, ETC.,**
 Price, 25c, 50c and \$1.00
BALLARD SNOW LINIMENT CO.
 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
 Sold and Recommended by
A. S. PORTER

—THE—
SEMI-WEEKLY
FARM NEWS
 A. H. Belo & Co., Publishers
 Galveston and Dallas, Tex.
 The best newspaper and agricultural
 journal in the South. Contains
 more state, national and foreign
 news than any similar publication,
 the latest market reports, a
 strong editorial page and enjoys a
 reputation throughout the nation
 for fairness in all matters.
 Specially edited departments for
 the farmer, the woman and the
 children.
The Farmers' Forum
 The special agricultural feature of
 The News, consists chiefly of con-
 tributions of subscribers, whose
 letters in a practical way voice the
 sentiment and experiences of its
 readers concerning matters of the
 farm, home, legislation, etc.
The Century Page
 Published once a week, is a mag-
 nitude of ideas of the hour, every
 one the contribution of a woman
 reader of The News about farm
 life and matters of general inter-
 est to the female portion of the
 family.
The Children's Page
 Is published once a week and is
 filled with letters from the boys
 and girls.
Rates of Subscription
 One year, \$1.00; six months, 50c;
 three months, 25c, payable invariably
 in advance. Remit by postal
 or express money order, bank check
 or registered letter.
SAMPLE COPIES FREE.
A. H. BELO & CO., Pubs.,
 Galveston or Dallas, Tex.

FIRE AND TORNADO
INSURANCE
 Written in strong companies
 at such a low rate that no prop-
 erty owner can afford to be with-
 out it. Call at once on
Murchison & Darsey
 Resident Agents

**ONE SMITH
 AS GOOD AS
 ANOTHER**

"Now wasn't that a measly trick
 for the governor to play on his
 only son!" I groaned in disap-
 pointment, for I am the said only
 son and had just read, perhaps for
 the twentieth time, the sententious
 codicil which my whimsical father
 had added to his last will and testa-
 ment and which seemed most ef-
 fectually to bar me from the con-
 tinued privilege of living on the in-
 terest of his money.

"The foregoing bequest of all my
 possessions, real and personal, to my
 son, Herbert Franklin Vincent, is
 hereby conditioned on his marriage
 within two years after my death to
 Miss Mary Louise Smith. In the
 event such marriage is not made the
 said property shall be devoted to
 charitable purposes under the direc-
 tion of my friend and executor,
 Charles J. Barton."

I had been absent two years and,
 I now thought with regret, griev-
 ing my father by doing nothing
 worth while in the world. Out of
 respect to him and also prompted
 by natural curiosity, I had called
 on Miss Smith a few days after my
 arrival home and to my chagrin
 found that she was absolutely im-
 possible as a prospective wife.

She was not "fat and 40," worse,
 she was lean and 45—ten years my
 senior and a confirmed spinster. I
 was very much mystified, too, to
 find that she did not know my fa-



ther except by reputation and that
 she was unaware of the fact that
 her name was mentioned in his
 will. I did not enlighten her.

"Surely father did not want me
 to marry the sort of woman this
 Miss Smith appears to be," I said
 to Barton. "Is it possible that we
 have found the wrong Miss Smith?"
 "She is the only person of that
 name in the city. Your father told
 me so at the time the codicil was
 written in the will, not four weeks
 ago."

"The only one in the city," I was
 repeating, and suddenly I had an
 inspiration. I saw what seemed to
 be a feasible plan by which to es-
 cape the ridiculous requirement of
 the will.

My father had thoughtfully made
 ample financial provisions for the
 two years of grace allowed in his
 will and my first step in the scheme
 to secure the estate was to spend a
 good, round sum in ordering the
 following "want ad." inserted in
 most of the daily newspapers in
 every city in the United States of
 over 25,000 population:

"Wanted—To correspond with
 Miss Mary Louise Smith. Strictly
 confidential. Address H. F. V.,
 Box 254, Richmond, Va."

I had not long to wait. I had
 expected a number of replies cer-
 tainly, but I was not prepared for
 the perfect deluge that came pour-
 ing in from every section of the
 country.

There were several score signed
 Miss Mary Louise Smith, and many
 hundred written by Miss Smiths
 who had either "Marv" or "Louise"

FOLEY'S ORINO LAXATIVE
 for all stomach troubles—indigestion, dyspepsia, heartburn, gas in the stomach, bad
 breath, sick headache, torpid liver, biliousness and habitual constipation. Pleasant to take.
 Sold by A. S. PORTER, Prescription Druggist.

in their names, but who had not
 both, and who wondered if the
 name given would not do! And
 there were Martha Smiths and Lou
 Smiths and other Smiths until I
 was fairly swamped with Smiths.

I found it necessary to employ a
 secretary, and for a few weeks I led
 the strenuous life, doing more real
 work than I had ever been accused
 of before, and having a bully time
 of it besides.

The weeks that followed were ex-
 citing, absorbing. I sat for my
 photograph and had it reproduced,
 not in dozen, but in hundred lots.
 Every week the list grew smaller as
 the intelligibles were eliminated, but
 finally there were left 28 in as many
 cities and towns with whom I had
 arranged for a personal acquaint-
 ance. My secretary and I spent
 many days endeavoring to perfect
 an itinerary, and at length my
 unique courting tour began.

I need not give a particular ac-
 count of my travels, though every
 day was packed with interest and
 excitement. I went south, as the
 most promising letters were from
 that land of warm-hearted and (it
 seemed to me) matrimonially in-
 clined maidens. But I got no farther
 than New Orleans.

Three months later I walked into
 Barton's office and introduced my
 bride. He grinned, as if it were a
 good joke which he enjoyed that I
 had abandoned hope of securing the
 paternal estate and married for
 love.

But the grin quickly vanished
 from his countenance and was re-
 placed by one of wide-eyed aston-
 ishment when I led him into his
 private office and showed him the
 newspaper accounts of my recent
 marriage to the charming and
 wealthy Miss Mary Louise Smith of
 New Orleans.

Without a word he took my fa-
 ther's will from the safe and spent
 what I thought was an unconscion-
 ably long time studying it. I knew
 he was looking only at the codicil,
 every word of which I knew by
 heart, and was not surprised, of
 course, when he wrung my hand in
 a second effort at congratulation.

As my bride and I were leaving
 the office he called to me:

"Here's a letter your father said
 you were to have immediately upon
 your marriage."

I append it hereto, as I found it
 not uninteresting:

"If you have married the only
 Mary Louise Smith I have been able
 to find in this city my money has
 fallen into the hands of a fool. If,
 however, you have found a loving
 wife from among the many Mary
 Louise Smiths who live in this big
 land of ours you have vindicated
 the confidence I had in you when I
 wrote the codicil which doubtless
 put you to thinking for one time in
 your hitherto thoughtless career. In
 the latter event please accept my
 congratulations and let Barton
 know; he never believed you had
 any sense.—Boston Globe.

FOND OF SNAKE FLESH.

Many African tribes count snake
 flesh among the delicacies and John
 Ward says that with the Australian
 natives "a dish of snakes is a much-
 esteemed luxury." Many kinds of
 birds eat snakes. Pigs are particu-
 larly fond of them, as also are some
 deer; but in the old days it was un-
 derstood that deer only ate snakes
 in summer, for which reason their
 venison was at that time poisonous,
 a sagacious fiction which it was
 doubtless well to make widely
 known in times when there was
 abundant temptation to deer steal-
 ing and regulations concerning
 close seasons would have been treat-
 ed with indifferent respect.

**You owe it
 to yourself, and
 your pocket book**
 to have your Cleaning and pressing done by me.
 Your clothes ready when you want
 them Satisfaction guaranteed
M. L. Clewis

**J. W. CASKEY,
 ..BARBER..**
 GRAPELAND, TEXAS
 Agent for Hartin's Steam Laundry
 Palestine, Texas
 Your Business will be Appreciated
 Shop on Front St.

MONEY LOANED
 ON REAL ESTATE
 Long Time. Easy Payments.
 Reliable Representatives Wanted.
The Jackson Loan and Trust Co.,
 Fort Worth, Texas and Jackson, Miss.

**Monuments and
 Tombstones.**
 I have received my new
 design book and marble
 samples from the Humbolt
 Marble Works—the best
 concern of its kind in the
 south. Let me figure with
 you when you need any-
 thing in this line.
L. Q. Browning,
 Grapeland, Texas

DESPOILED SACRED IMAGE.

A daring robbery was committed
 at Czenstochowa, Poland, the other
 day, when a gang of thieves en-
 tered the chapel of the Pauline
 convent and despoiled the much
 venerated image of the Virgin of
 the robe with its pearls, diamond
 studded crown and many votive of-
 ferings of jewels, of an intrinsic
 value of several millions roubles.
 The image was not injured. The
 chapel, which had been closed upon
 the discovery of the robbery, was
 surrounded by a great crowd of
 weeping and praying men and wo-
 men. The convent of Czenstochowa
 is famous for its representation of
 the Virgin and attracts probably
 250,000 pilgrims annually.

FELT AT HOME.

"How did you like the dinner
 party last evening?"
 "Immense. Everybody there
 seemed to be just as ill at ease as
 I was."—Detroit Free Press.

A MODEL.

"What's the finest after-dinner
 speech you ever heard?"
 "Thanky, sir."

ART WORK STAYS IN ROME.

"The Girl of Anzio," a superb
 statue, supposed to be the work of
 Lysippus or Praxiteles, has been
 brought to Rome and placed tem-
 porarily in the "Terme" museum.
 A great storm in 1878 washed it
 out of the ruins of Nero's palace at
 Anzio, on property belonging to
 Prince Aldobrandini. An American
 collector looked it over and offered
 more than \$100,000. The agree-
 ment for the purchase of the statue
 was sealed and signed when Sig-
 Bistolfi, a sculptor himself and in-
 spector of works of art in Italy,
 vetoed the sale. This was three or
 four years ago. Since then haggling
 has been going on. The Italian
 government offered \$50,000. The
 Aldobrandinis demanded more. Re-
 cently the government offered \$80,-
 000 and that sum was accepted.

CHILDREN LEARN TO DANCE.

Miss Eleanor Davidson of Den-
 ver, Col., believes that children do
 better work if they learn how to
 dance, the exercise and the rhythm
 helping in the quickening of their
 minds. The only dance step used is
 the running hop of the old-fash-
 ioned polka, which, she says, comes
 as naturally to children as skipping.

The Bon Ton Cream Parlor

Is the best Place to Buy your Christmas

Fruits, Nuts, Candies, Cigars, Fire-works, Chewing Gum, Perfumes, etc.

Because we have the largest stock and a greater variety to select from

Big Reduction in Candy

We are overstocked on Bon Bons and make the following Special Christmas Prices to move them:

\$3.50 boxes at 3,15; 2.50 boxes at 2.20; 2.00 boxes at 1.85; 1.75 boxes at 1.60; 1.50 boxes at 1.35; 1.00 boxes at 90c; 75c boxes at 60c; 50c boxes at 40c. Call on us for anything in the Confectionery line.

May a Merry Xmas be Yours!

Nathan Guice, Proprietor

Letter from Albert Tyer.

Ottawa, Ill., Dec. 14—Editor Messenger: Snow! Snow! Snow! every where. We are used to having snow come and go in Texas, but here it comes and stays. The first snow came here one week ago and there has been more or less snow falling nearly all the time since, and the result is the ground is now covered to a depth of about eight inches all over, and no signs of a let up. The rivers here are now frozen over so thick one could almost walk across on the ice.

Ottawa, Ill., is a town of about 12,000 population, and is at the junction of the Fax and Illinois rivers. It is here they have a great tile factory, plate glass mill and various other manufacturing plants.

In a park here is the place the great Lincoln-Douglass debate of 1858 was held. This town is nearly as old as Chicago, but the entire wealth of the village would not be sufficient to buy one of the great department stores at Chicago.

The merchants in this country are now preparing for Xmas. Some of them have their stores gaily decorated and the Xmas spirit is in evidence on every hand. Strange as it may seem they do not make use of fire works here during the Xmas holidays at all, they say no one thinks of shooting a gun or a fire cracker, but they sure use them on the 4th of July. I have not seen any fire works on display at any place, but the windows are full of toys.

"For every loss there is a gain." As I am handling machinery and

belting, this is again thoroughly demonstrated to me. The belts I sell are made of cotton and the price has advanced about 20 per cent, so the farmer who got a good price for his cotton had a gain. The men who use cotton belting for running machinery are sustaining a loss in prices over what they had to pay some time ago, but I am glad to see it, and now as the price of cotton is good, if the farmers of the south will act prudently they can maintain that good price. If each farmer would decrease his cotton crop and increase his corn and hog crop for 1910, the good price would remain. As a closing remark I will tell you what a man here of 45 or 50 years of age asked me. He asked if cotton grew on trees such as cotton wood trees of Illinois? He said he thought it did only in such quantities that it blew off on the ground and people went out with rakes and raked it up, and put it in sacks and shipped it to mills to be made into cloth.

Success to the Messenger and its many readers.

Albert Tyer.

Happiness is but another name for perfect health. Use Prickly Ash Bitters and be happy. It keeps the vital organs healthy and well regulated. Sold by A. S. Porter.

New, clean, up-to-date Dental Parlor over Crockett State Bank. Instruments kept steril. Will be glad for my friends to call on me in my new quarters.

Dr. Chas. C. Starling,
Crockett, Texas.

The kidneys ache when they are overworked and the trouble gets serious unless promptly removed. Prickly Ash Bitters is a reliable kidney tonic and bowel regulator. Sold by A. S. Porter.

Interstate Holiday Excursion Rates.

The I. & G. N. R. R. will sell holiday excursion tickets to St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, Memphis and all points in Southeast, also Mexico, Dec. 18th, 19th, and 20th. Limit Jan. 16th.

For rates and other information see,

Ticket Agent I. & G. N. R. R.

Choked to Death

is commonly said of babies who have died of the croup. How unnecessary this is. No child ever had the croup without having a cold or cough at the start. If you will stop the first symptom of the cough with Ballard's Horehound Syrup there is no danger whatever of croup. Sold by A. S. Porter.

Holiday Excursion Rates.

The I. & G. N. R. R. will sell excursion tickets to all points in Texas, Dec. 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 30th, 31st and Jan. 1st, limit Jan. 5th, at one and one-third fare. For further information see,

Ticket Agent I. & G. N. R. R.

We take subscriptions for the Galveston News or Houston Post with the Messenger 1 year for \$1.75; separately \$1.00 each. Bring your subscriptions to us.

A popular social affair among the newspaper boys is a "subscription shower." It is a good deal like the linen and china showers given in honor of prospective brides. A number of subscribers whose subscriptions are due get together and induce all their neighbors who are not subscribers to join them. They go in a body to the newspaper office, where each one planks down a dollar and takes credit for a year's subscription. If the editor's face is wreathed in smiles the affair is a success. If he looks glum and grouchy, the affair is a failure and not worth trying again. Try it once and see if it isn't a success.—Blackburn (Okla.) News.

Hexamethylenetetramine.

The above is the name of a German chemical, which is one of the many valuable ingredients of Foley's Kidney Remedy. Hexamethylenetetramine is recognized by medical text books and authorities as a uric acid solvent and antiseptic for the urine. Take Foley's Kidney Remedy as soon as you notice any irregularities and avoid a serious malady. Sold by A. S. Porter.

Ladies' trimmed hats at reduced prices at Darsey's D. G. store.

Don't Be Hopeless

about yourself when you're crippled with rheumatism or stiff joints—of course you've tried lots of things and they failed. Try Ballard's Snow Liniment—it will drive away all aches and pains and stiffness and leave you as well as you ever were.

This is Worth Remembering.

Whenever you have a cough or cold, just remember that Foley's Honey and Tar will cure it. Remember the name, Foley's Honey and Tar, and refuse substitutes. Sold by A. S. Porter.

A new saddle, bridle, blanket or set of harness would be nice. Darsey has them. Don't fail to see Darsey for what you want for Christmas.

Mrs. J. Joyce, Claremont, N. H., writes: "About a year ago I bought two bottles of Foley's Kidney Remedy. It cured me of a severe case of kidney trouble of several years standing. It certainly is a grand, good medicine, and I heartily recommend it." Sold by A. S. Porter.

Keep the bowels active if you would preserve your health. A dose of Prickly Ash Bitters now and then does this to perfection. Sold by A. S. Porter.

Ballard's Horehound Syrup Compound.

CURES COUGHS, COLDS, CRUP, SORE THROAT, WHOOPING COUGH AND ALL PULMONARY DISEASES.

FINDS IT TO BE A SPLENDID REMEDY. Mr. J. E. Ryan, Editor Berwick Register, Berwick, Pa., writes:—I have used Ballard's Horehound Syrup Compound in my family for several years, and find it to be a splendid remedy. I heartily recommend it to those suffering from coughs and colds.

I also recommend it as a safe cure for children when suffering from croup or whooping cough.

Three Sizes, 25c, 50c and \$1.00
BALLARD SNOW LINIMENT CO.,
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

Sole and Recommended by
A. S. PORTER

KENNEDY BROTHERS!

Extend to everyone greetings of the season.

We are closing our first year's business in Grape-land; it has been a very successful one, for which we are duly thankful.

We will be at the same stand in 1910, and solicit a continuance of your favors.

Remember We Want Your Cotton!

Letters to Santa Claus.

Dear old Santa Claus: Here comes a little boy five years old. Please bring me a little automobile, train, a small watch and all kind of fruits and candies.

I have a little sister this year. Please bring her something nice to play with. I will divide my fruits and candy with her.

Derother Guice.

Dear old Santa: Please bring me a bracelet, a doll carriage, some Flinch cards, fire crackers, and fruits and nuts of all kind.

Yours truly,

Rena Ross Richards.

Augusta, Texas, Dec. 16.—Dear Santa Claus: I will tell you what I want for Christmas. I want a big doll and a buggy to roll my doll in. I want a little piano, a little stove, a bracelet, a nice ring. I am going to school and in the third reader. I am

ten years old. I want my doll dressed nice when I get it. I want a set of dishes. Bring my little sister, Ethel a little piano, a bracelet, a ring, a doll, a stove and doll buggy. I want the doll dressed nice too. Also bring me a necklace, a little chair and some nuts of all kind. Love to Santa Claus. Grace Bengé.

Dear Santa Claus: Will you please bring me a great big doll, as I have never had a big doll. I have been real smart washing dishes for mamma and sweeping the floors. I want a little tea set, a little bead stand and lots of fruit. Also bring my little sister, Welmer a big doll for she will want to play with my doll. Bring her everything you bring me, and please bring baby Jesse a little train, and a little wagon. Milburn and Earl want

a gun. Mamma wants a new coffee pot.

As ever,
Bessie Jones.

Dear Santa Claus: Christmas is coming. I want you to please bring me a set of doll dishes, a doll bed, some raisens, apples, oranges, bananas and candy. I want you to bring Boyce some apples, candy and a knife.

Yours truly,
Lucile Kolb.

Dear Santa Claus: Please put it into the hearts of about one hundred men to come in and pay their subscription before January. And, Dear Santa, if it is not asking too much, have all those who borrow their neighbor's paper to form a resolution not to do so any longer, but come in and subscribe for it.

Yours truly,
The Editor.

Dear Santa Claus: I wish you would bring me a Christmas tree, a doll, a harp, a rocking chair, a music roll, a nice game and all kinds of fruits and nuts.

Please bring little brother a bugle, a train, an automobile and some fruits and nuts.

Mable Boykin.

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a little doll, a little doll bed and lots of nuts, candy and apples.

Zelma Lee Finch.

P. S. Please bring my little sister, Lura D. some nice things.

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a bugle, a little dog, a cow and other nice toys. And bring me something nice to eat, nuts, candy, apples and raisens.

Love to Santa,
Floyd Bridges.

Dear Santa Claus: My home is at Rice Texas, but have come to

spend Christmas with Grandma Bridges.

Please bring me a few toys, a little dog or something like that. I want a little set of farm tools, (hoe, rake and spade.) If you come by my home, please leave me something there, for papa will be there. Guy Newman.

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a 16 Ga. shot gun and a few boxes of shells, some sky-rockets and other fire works.

You need not bring me a little wagon this Christmas, as I won one of the little Studebaker Jr. wagons in the contest at Geo. E. Darsey's. Bring me some nuts.

Lesly Bridges.

Dear Santa: Please bring me a doll bed, a doll buggy, a little trunk, and something nice that I can keep. If I am not asking for too much, bring me a little piano, some oranges and nuts.

Bessie Bridges.

Christmas Tree Committees.

Following is a list of the committees on the Christmas tree, which will be at the New Baptist church Friday night.

To dress tree: Mrs. Jno. A. Davis, Miss Eulalia Lively, Miss Anabel Davis, A. H. Luker.

To receive presents at tree: Misses Ori Sue Howard, Carnie Murchison, Thursie Capps.

To call off presents at tree: Nat Davis, Olan Davis, Misses Luna Taylor, Eva Lou Faris.

To deliver presents over the house: Josie White, Arline Howard, Esther Davis, Smith Dalley, Geo. E. Darsey, Jr.

The tree is for everybody and a cordial invitation is extended to all to be present and help make it a success.

ABSTRACTS

You cannot sell your land without an abstract showing perfect title. Why not have your lands abstracted and your titles perfected? We have the only complete, up-to-date abstract of the land titles of Houston county.

ADAMS & YOUNG
Crockett, Texas

A Word to Contestants.

Just at this particular time "hustle" should be the watchword of every contestant who is in to win. There will be no issue of the Messenger next week, but this will in no wise hinder you from getting votes. The first count will be published in the first issue in January and you should leave nothing undone to win the special prize of \$10.00 in gold. Go out among your friends Christmas week and get them interested. There will be someone at the office every day to receive your votes. Get busy, and keep everlastingly at it!

Here's for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody. W. H. Lively.

I clean and press clothes and do it right. Also have a nice line of samples for ordering tailor made clothing. A fit guaranteed. M. L. Clewis.

Christmas is here with peace and good will to you and wishing you a happy, merry Xmas, and Xmas greeting to one and all.

S. E. Howard.

To whom it may concern: You are notified to get your hogs off my premises by January 10, 1910.

Geo. Chaffin.

COTTON SEED WANTED!

Patronize home Industry by selling your Cotton Seed at the top price to

J. W. Howard,

Representing
Houston Co. Oil Mill

Meal and Hulls For Sale

At Reasonable Prices.

Josiah Caskey

Painter, Paper Hanger and Decorator

I handle the Western Wall Paper Co's. paper, and it is the best to be had. Let me figure with you on your job.

JOSIAH CASKEY.

FURS AND HIDES.
I buy all kinds of hides and furs—o'possum, mink,coon, etc.—and pay the highest price in cash. See me before you sell.
M. L. Clewis.

Porter Says so

Porter Says so



...OLD SANTA CLAUS...

Has Established Headquarters at

**Porter's
: Drug Store :**

Drop in and See the Goods.

To Everybody Everywhere: We wish
You a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.

A S PORTER, The Druggist

Porter Says so

Porter Says so

The Farmers & Merchants State Bank

Invites Your Attention to the Following Comparative
Statements of our Condition at the Close of
Business Dec. 15, 1907, Dec. 15, 1908,
and Dec. 15, 1909:

DECEMBER 15, '07:

Loans and Discounts.....	\$23,859.73	Capital Stock.....	\$15,000.00
Overdrafts.....	1,386.81	Surplus.....	000.00
Real Estate (Banking House).....	3,041.17	Undivided Net Profit.....	512.48
Furniture and Fixtures.....	1,693.40	Individual Deposits.....	15,531.40
Cash and Exchange.....	23,366.63	Due County.....	22,303.86
Total.....	53,347.74	Total.....	53,347.74

DECEMBER 15, '08:

Loans and Discounts.....	\$25,362.14	Capital Stock.....	\$15,000.00
Overdraft.....	1,895.67	Surplus.....	1,500.00
Real Estate (Banking House).....	2,983.03	Undivided Net Profit.....	1,307.71
Furniture and Fixtures.....	1,684.40	Individual Deposits.....	27,981.42
Cash and Exchange.....	37,739.06	Due County.....	23,875.17
Total.....	69,664.30	Total.....	69,664.30

DECEMBER 15, '09:

Loans and Discounts.....	\$36,231.00	Capital Stock.....	\$15,000.00
Overdraft.....	770.54	Surplus.....	2,250.00
Real Estate (Banking House).....	2,983.03	Undivided Net Profit.....	2,220.58
Furniture and Fixtures.....	1,684.40	Individual Deposits.....	64,646.87
Cash and Exchange.....	56,515.58	Due to other Banks.....	14,000.00
Total.....	98,214.55	Cashiers Checks.....	97.10
		Total.....	98,214.55

For this steady and substantial growth in our business we wish to cordially thank our friends and patrons. To those who have not done business with us heretofore we extend a hearty invitation to come in and talk over the matter of becoming one of our customers.

OUR BUSINESS WITH YOU WILL BE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Our Bank has already been approved by the State Banking Board and on January 1st, 1910, all unsecured and non-interest bearing deposits will be protected by the State Guarantee Fund.

To our friends and patrons, active and prospective, we wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

The Farmers & Merchants State Bank

GRAPELAND, TEXAS