







# THE FREE PRESS.

POOLE & MARTIN, Editors.

Entered at the Post Office at Haskell, Texas, as Second-Class Matter.

**SUBSCRIPTION:**  
One Year \$1.00 (Six Months .50c)

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING

HASKELL, TEXAS, Dec. 24, 1904.

## WORTH THINKING ABOUT.

How many farmers read and thought over the item printed in the news columns of the Free Press and numerous other papers last week which stated that B. F. Haywood, a negro living in Arkansas, produced the cotton which won the gold medal at the St. Louis World's Fair?

Any person who read the item must have noticed that it was by no mere chance that he presented the best bale of cotton, for it was stated that five years ago he began going over his cotton field and picking the finest bolls, those showing the finest staple and longest lint, and planting the seeds from these, then each succeeding year repeating the process, until he had bred up a distinct variety of cotton which gave a uniformly fine fiber and a staple nearly two inches in length, for which he got 18 cents per pound last year while the ordinary cotton around him sold for 12 cents.

Improvement can be produced in the vegetable world just as certainly as in the animal world by careful selection and breeding. All of the best varieties of farm products, of vegetables and fruits, and many new and valuable crosses or hybrids have been produced by just such intelligent handling. Yet in the face of these well known facts the great majority of men plod along year after year for a life time without improving themselves or anything around them. They plant the first and easiest seeds to get hold of and breed the same old animals without a thought, apparently, of anything better, and they often allow things to degenerate instead of trying to improve them.

Such people need to pry themselves out of the old ruts and come alive to possibilities in nature which surround them and need only the hand of brain of intelligence to develop them.

## AN ARMLESS WONDER.

The famous "Armless Wonder" appeared in Haskell county, carry express.

I have carefully destroyed the powers of the ruler and comfortless daughters of the people.

Just after the election there was a hopeful revival of the talk about the president getting after the beef trust and we thought maybe he would, just to show that he was not weighed down by the big campaign fund, as he said he was not when Judge Parker got after him, but what has become of it?

The last Scientific American answering some questions about deep ocean soundings stated that the greatest depth yet found is 30,950 feet, near the Fiji Islands. The next deepest point is near Japan and is 27,600 and the third deepest place 27,350 feet, near the island of Porto Rico.

Every man who beautifies his home is a benefactor to his town. You cannot do better than to plant a few trees. They will reward you and your family and become a source of pleasure to your neighbors and even the passing stranger.—Abilene Reporter.

There is not a single man that there is an equally remarkable "armless wonder" residing in Haskell county. She is a young lady of sixteen or eighteen years of age, residing with her parent. She is entirely devoid of arms, but does many surprising things with her toes and feet, such as writing, painting, knitting, sewing, embroidering, etc. It is almost unbelievable that she can do these things as perfectly as she does them.

**WHY FOLKS ARE MOVING SOUTH.**

The cotton crop in the last five year has exceeded in value the five preceding crops by a billion dollars, and the cotton of the South is now bringing about \$150,000,000 a year. Even in 1890 the total value of all Southern agricultural products was only \$973,000,000, this year it will exceed \$1,700,000,000. Add to these the manufactured products and the output of the mines, and the total value is now increased to \$3,500,000,000, as against only \$1,100,000,000 in 1880, though meanwhile the population has increased only about 60 per cent.

The South is no longer dependent on the West for its corn, but is raising its own supply with the consequence that the enormous sum which it obtains from its cotton will hereafter remain in the South.

That is, the South is now rich and it will grow steadily richer.—New York Sun.

The South will be yet more independent and prosperous when she turns her attention and surplus capital to manufacturing her cotton and selling the finished product, instead of selling the raw cotton to manufacturers located from one thousand to four or four thousand miles away

## Texas Central Railway Company

**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.**  
Arranging Sale of Holiday Excursion Tickets To the Southeast. Season 1904-05.

Territory to which Tickets will be Sold.

To the territory east of the Mississippi river, on and south of an imaginary line drawn from Memphis via the Illinois Central Railroad (C. & O. S. W. Division) to Central City, Ky., thence to Glasgow, Ky., Somerset, Ky., Bristol, Tenn., and thence along the northern state line of North Carolina to the Atlantic Ocean.

Rate: One fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip.

Dates of sale: December 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 1904. Final return limit of ticket will be thirty days from date of sale. W. F. McMILLIN, General Passenger Agent.

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

Many of San Angelo's citizens are setting out trees now. This is one thing that cannot be over done. The trees which were set out several years ago and are growing so nicely now are living evidences of the beauty and benefits derived from shade trees. Lots of fruit trees are also being planted.—San Angelo Press.

## For Christmas!

### WILLIAMS!

THE GROCER!

Is Offering a Large and Varied Line of Good Things for Christmas.

### SOCIAL TEAS!

### Atlantic Mix!

And all the other Fancy Cakes and Nic-Nacs.

### Finest Candies

You ever saw in Haskell.

### Everything for Your Fruit Cake.

In fact, you will find in my Store full stock of fresh and choice

### STAPLE and FANCY GROCERIES

To be sold at a small profit—not at cost!

"Tell the Truth"

...WILLIAMS...

## J. C. BELL,

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN

### Saddles and Harness.

Full Stock on Hand. Work Promptly Executed.

Repairing done neatly and substantially. Prices reasonable and satisfaction with goods and work guaranteed.

YOUR TRADE SOLICITED.

## HASKELL SALOON

WILLIAMS & POGUE, Proprietors.

WILL SELL THE BEST BRANDS OF

### Liquors, Wines and Brandies

AT POPULAR AND REASONABLE PRICES.

Double Stamped Sour Mash is a favorite brand of liquor. It is served over the bar every day.

## TO MY FRIENDS, CUSTOMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

I am receiving large shipments of General Merchandise, consisting of full lines of

**STAPLE DRY GOODS!**

**NOTIONS OF ALL KINDS!**

**BOOTS, SHOES AND HATS!**

### Gents' Furnishing Goods and Suits!

**MILLINERY! Ladies' Skirts!**

**MEN'S OVERCOATS! TRUNKS! VALISES, ETC.**

— AND A BIG LINE OF —

### Rubber and Duck Goods!

Which are just the things for the cotton picking season and heavy work generally.

NOW AS TO MY

## CROCERY DEPARTMENT!

I have to say that I intend to keep one of the best and freshest stocks that will be found in Haskell. In the matter of prices

## LOOK OUT FOR TROUBLE

For I will GUARANTEE ANY PRICES you can get ANY PLACE—including Stamford. In other words, will say that I intend to

### CUT AND SLASH PRICES ALL TO PIECES!

So do not go to Stamford and say you bought there because they were cheaper than Haskell until you get MY PRICES. I run my own teams, haul my own goods, have no city taxes, rents, or anything of this kind to pay. SEE!

LOOK OUT FOR TROUBLE! Yours for business.

## T. G. CARNEY.

## S. L. ROBERTSON.

We are right in the procession of

### Low Prices!

And don't intend to be the tail end, but will sell you any and all goods in our very complete stock of new and seasonable

### Dry Goods!

CLOTHING!

### Boots, Shoes, Hats, Etc.

As cheap as you can get them anywhere. This is a straight proposition, and you will know that we are standing up to it when you get our prices.....

## S. L. ROBERTSON, Haskell.

## FLOTSAM AND JETSAM

A merry Christmas to you all.

For a good, cheap sewing machine go to McCollum & Cason. They will sell you a New Conover for only \$16.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Clay Park entertained a party of young people Monday night.

We might save you money on that lumber bill. Have you tried us? Better come around before buying.

Burton-Lingo Co.,  
Stamford, Tex.

You are invited to the Christian church Sunday night, Dec. 25. A drama will be enacted, "The Call of Rebekah," followed by an Xmas cantata, "The Prince of David." No charge will be made, but a freewill offering will be appreciated.

Don't you want one of those nice Chase buggy rugs at McCollum & Cason's?

Mr. John L. Robertson has gone to Tennessee to spend Christmas and bring home his wife, who preceded him by two or three weeks. And Mr. W. H. Day, also of the West Texas Development Co., has gone to Sweet-home for the same purpose.

We buy vendor's lien notes, Sander & Wilson.

There will be Christmas trees at the Methodist and Baptist churches to-night.

Fresh oysters are served at the Arctic at all hours, day or night.

Messrs. Sherrell Bros. & Co. are having a building erected west of the public square, where they will put in a plant for the manufacturing of artificial building stone.

I have one good work mule and several young, broke horses for sale, on time if desired. G. J. Miller.

Mrs. L. T. Cunningham entertained a large party Thursday night. It is said that the "frying size," the "grown girls" and the old maids and bachelors were there.

See the elegant line of silver novelties at Terrells.

Miss Laura Garren will spend Xmas with Haskell friends.

For some choice holiday spirits that will make you feel good and rich go to Williams and Pogue.

The pastor of the M. E. church will preach a sermon designed especially for the members on the first Sunday in January. His theme will be "The talents."

Wait and see Collier's holiday goods and you will not need to order your presents.

Misses Annie Ellis and Vernon Cunningham and Messrs. Bob Williams, Hardy Grissom, Frank and Press Baldwin will be home from school to spend the Xmas holidays.

The old stand is good enough. You will find me there again this year. At the northeast corner drug store, Santa Claus.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Fields and Miss Eva Fields left Friday for Willis Point, where they will take Christmas with relatives.

See Burton-Lingo Co., Stamford, for anything in the lumber line, that's all.

Mr. J. F. Jones has returned from a visit to relatives and friends at Farmersville, her old home.

You haven't seen it all until you see what is at the Racket Store.

Mr. W. J. Hagins called in yesterday and favored us with a subscription for himself and a friend in South Carolina. This is Mr. Hagins' first year in Haskell county and he expressed himself as well satisfied with his farming operations and gives it as his judgment that this is a fine country. He owns a fine farm about four miles north of town.

Mr. C. D. Grissom while out hunting a few days since made a pretty good record. He says he fired twenty-two shots and brought down nineteen quail, one hawk and two doves.

Elgin a Waltham watches at cost—see them at Terrells.

Mrs. Yates and children and sister-in-law of Lampass arrived Wednesday evening to spend Christmas with the family of Mr. J. C. McWhirter.

You can get dressed turkeys for Christmas at the city meat market, Ellis & English.

Mr. R. Fortenberry was in town Thursday getting Christmas presents for the little folks.

Lots of toys and nice things for Christmas presents at the Racket Store.

Celebrate Christmas and have a good time. Some people seem to think they can't do that without getting boozey, but they can and, best of all, they will preserve their self respect and the respect of others.

A choice line of Christmas candies, fruits, nuts and cigars at Jones.

Mr. S. W. Scott explains that his unsteady gait is not the result of pulling the badger, but was caused by a horse's foot coming in contact with his knee—of course we accept his explanation, even in the face of the fact that it is Christmas times.

Holiday goods at the Racket Store.

Judge McConnell mounted a stove the other day to adjust the pipe and the next thing he knew he and the stove and pipe were in a general mix-up on the floor. That's how he explains that limp you have seen him going around with the last few days.

Call in and settle your accounts at Terrells Drug Store. Don't pay every one else before you pay Terrell.

Mr. Theo. Bowman was in the city Thursday and was among those who set their subscription dates forward.

Fire works for sale at the Arctic.

Begin the new year right by subscribing for the Free Press. We want to send the paper into every home in the county.

Fresh and finest chocolate candy kept on hand at the Arctic.

Mr. S. W. Scott has gone to take his Christmas dinner with friends in Austin. On his return he will meet Mrs. Scott, who has been visiting for some time with her parents in Oklahoma, at Fort Worth and they will return home.

You will be delighted with the fine display of Holiday Goods at Terrells.

We want some one to send us the local news from each neighborhood in the county. A good correspondent can do his neighborhood much good by mentioning it advantages occasionally.

Fresh cake of all kinds at the Arctic.

Mr. J. J. Martin and family of Graham are visiting the family of Mr. Claude Mooneyham at this place.

Yes, K. Jones has them—red hot tamales.

The schools were dismissed for the holidays at the close of last week and the youngsters have been enjoying themselves this week.

Several fine violins at cost—see them at Terrells.

Quite a large crowd of the young folks enjoyed themselves at a party at Mr. J. S. Boone's Thursday night.

Santa Claus has for his assistants at Terrells, Mrs. A. E. Brookman and Miss Docia Winn and Cora Lemmons, who will take pleasure in assisting you in looking through the stock and selecting appropriate presents.

The young folks had an enjoyable party at Mr. G. J. Miller's Tuesday night.

Call at the Arctic for fresh fruits of all kinds.

Mr. Z. M. Marcy who has been down looking after his interests in this county has returned home to Lynn county.

Fire works at K. Jones.

Mr. D. W. Fields of the Marcy neighborhood was in the county capital Thursday. He said cotton picking is about done in that locality.

Our fine display of Holiday Goods is open and ready for purchasers. The newest novelties, the most appropriate presents for one and all—at fairest prices, at Terrells.

The little people had an old time candy pulling at Mr. S. S. Cummings' Thursday night and enjoyed it immensely.

There is a holdup on the work on the school building on account of a disagreement between the trustees and contractor in regard to some of the work. It is the purpose of the trustees to get the matter settled and start the work again as soon as possible. The people are anxious for the completion of the building and the starting of the public school. We think the trustees appreciate the situation and will do all in their power to hasten the matter.

The county clerk's records show the following marriage licenses issued this week: J. E. Pounds and Miss Annie B. Lane, R. L. Wyatt and Miss Emma Price, J. K. Worley and Miss Dora Greenwade, B. N. Green and Miss Bessie Willoughby.

It may be of interest to persons who have not paid their poll taxes this year to know that Art. 4783 of the Revised Statutes of Texas provides that persons who fail to pay their poll tax shall be liable to three days extra road duty. This law makes it the duty of the road superintendent to procure the tax collector's report of delinquent poll tax payers and require them to do three days extra work on the public roads. It will be cheaper to call at the tax collector's office and pay the \$1.75 tax.

Mr. Leo Medford of Comanche county, who bought a tract of land on Paint creek a year or so ago, is up on a visit to his relatives, Messrs. John Howard and Jack Medford and is, meantime, having a house built and other improvements made on his land.

# ...Alexander Mercantile Company...

# Here Goes!

Being in full sympathy with our customers, and especially those who have held their cotton back and have to face the decline in price, we have decided to throw down the bars as to prices on.....

## DRY GOODS ..CLOTHING..

### Boots, Shoes, Hats, Etc

From this date until Christmas Day!

We are going to make you such low prices on good, honest goods that you can't afford to pass them by without purchasing your winter's supply.

Those who know us know that we are not just making a little pretense in order to get people into our house with the hope of pulling them for something. But they know that when we offer to do a thing, we do it. The goods and prices will talk....

— WE ARE NOW —  
**OFFERING YOU LOW PRICES**  
— AND WILL —  
**GIVE YOU LOW PRICES!**

Our house has enjoyed the largest trade this year of any year in its history, and we wish to make it known that we appreciate the confidence and friendship of the people which has brought this prosperity to us. A very practical way to do this is to give them a run of.....

## EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES

By this means we can greatly benefit them and not injure ourselves, as we will get the cash for some goods that might otherwise remain in stock until next winter, and we can put this cash into our Spring stock.

Bear in mind that we are not making a pretense of a wholesale cost sale. But we do assure you that when you see the goods and hear the cut in the prices you will know that you are getting genuine bargains.

# ..Alexander Mercantile Company..

Street rumor says that boys about town are getting into drinking whiskey. It is not charged that the saloon men are selling it to them, but the supposition is that some of their older friends (?) are getting it for them.

We heard no particular boy's name called as being guilty of drinking. But whomsoever they are they are starting on a rocky road, lined with pitfalls into which they must eventually fall if they continue to travel it. And whoever is to blame for their drinking, one thing is certain, and that is that their parents cannot escape a large share of responsibility for it, and the time will come when they will pay for it in heart aches, if not otherwise.

When boys from five or six years of age are allowed to grow up on the streets without their parents half the time knowing where they are, with whom they are associating or what they are doing, the wonder is that the boys are not worse. Mothers do you know that your boys, not appreciating at the time the harm that there is in it, naturally think that the smutty stories told by the older boys and some men, and the swearing, drinking etc. done by these boys and men are funny and smart and that it will be equally funny and smart for them to do it? Such is the fact, and it learns rapidly!

The matter presents a difficult proposition, we know, but it should be met in some way. Perhaps the boys can not be snatched up or kept at home all the time, but by getting them interested in some congenial employment and providing wholesome amusement for them away from corrupting associations something will be accomplished toward making respectable men of them.

It is a matter that should engage the best thought of parents. On the boy of today will rest tomorrow the religious, social and political fabric of our country. Of what complexion shall it be?

### MARRIED.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 18, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Neal, residing near Pinkerton, Mr. Jarrett Bell and Miss Kate Neal were united in marriage, Rev. I. L. Mills officiating.

Quite a large party of friends witnessed the happy event and after partaking of refreshments the entire party, accompanied by the bride and groom, attended church services.

This young couple are the sons and daughters of one of our best families and are themselves highly esteemed by a large circle of acquaintances and friends for their personal good qualities.

A friend of the parties sent us a lengthy write-up of the wedding, but, as our space was limited this week, we had to condense it. We will quote some of the commendatory remarks; she says: "The bride is a beautiful and accomplished young lady, and one of Pinkerton's most popular young people. She is beautiful in heart as well as face. May she always reign queen of her husband's heart and home." Of the groom it is said: "Mr. Bell is a noble young man, who has the good will and best wishes of all who know him. The solicitude and care with which he has looked after his widowed mother is proof of his worthiness."

Mr. W. L. Cox, a substantial farmer of the Paint creek neighborhood, was in town Wednesday and called around and put his subscription figures ahead.

In answer to some questions asked by our inquisitive man Mr. Cox said that cotton picking was drawing to a close in his section. He said that he would finish this week gathering his thirty-second bale, which is his last. The 32 bales were made on about eighty acres by the labor of himself and family, the yield ranging from one-third to one-half bale per acre. He said that he also made plenty of millet, sorghum and kaffir corn of fine quality. He has been farming in Haskell county four years and is very well satisfied with results. We are also indebted to Mr. Cox for several other items of neighborhood news.

Mr. T. L. Atehison of the eastern part of the county dropped in the other day and renewed for two copies of the paper he is sending to friends out of the county. Mr. Atehison says he has found a good country and he likes to have the Free Press go and tell other people about it so that they may come and enjoy its advantages. Mr. Atehison won several premiums on farm produce, vegetables and live stock at the Street fair in October and says that he is counting on having some good fruit to exhibit in another year or two as the orchard of peaches, apples, pears, plums and cherries he planted last year made a fine growth this year.

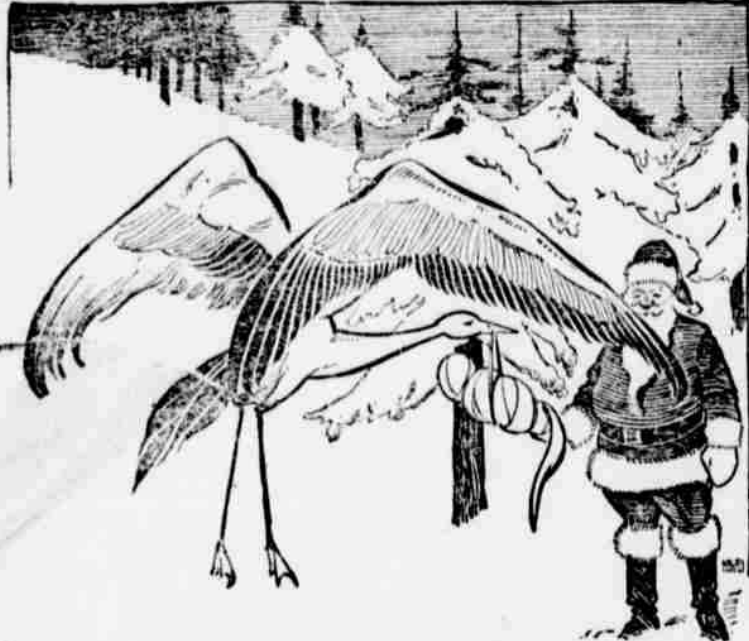
Judge Oates has appointed Mr. W. L. Cox trustee for the Howard school on Paint creek, to fill the vacancy occurring on account of the incorporation of the Haskell independent district out of a part of the territory comprising the original district.

# THE PA... CHRISTMAS DOLL STORY

By EUGENE O. MAYFIELD, (Rex M.)

For many cycles after old Kris Kringle began to carry gifts, at yuletide, to little boys and girls, he pondered, and pondered, on Christmas morn, as to why the little girls sighed; then, laughed and said: "Perhaps it will be different next year." And when he told Dame Kringle that the little girls sighed, she smiled, in that dear motherly way of hers, and told old Kris the reason—that he had failed to gladden their wee mother-hearts.

and when I saw the little deers, I would hurry back to the old workshop and model from my choicest wares, one like they—a model for other dollies, to be carried, next year, to the little girls who sighed." "Well said, good dame," replied old Kris, "and ere I sleep again the storks and I shall meet."



Came a stork carrying a tiny bundle.

"For a man never seems to know, and I will tell you the secret. The little girls sigh for a dolly—not the kind I used to play with, away up here at the north pole; but the kind the girls resembled when the stork took them to the land of sunshine. And that recalls," continued the dame, "that only yesterday I saw an old stork out in the fir, where he had paused to rest, and with him one of the dearest little dollies imaginable, such as little girls like. He told me that other storks, other babies, would soon pass away. Now, Kris, were I you, and at to please the little maids who I would watch, there in the fir,

Then out among the firs, garbed in their green and snow, old Kris Kringle waited. "Hark! What noise is that?" exclaimed the good old man. "It's like the flutter of wings." And down came through the frost-laden boughs a stork, carrying a tiny bundle. Just

## NEW YEAR'S DAY IN GREECE.

Gifts, Frolics and General Rejoicing.

With members of the Greek Church, Christmas is a holy day but not a holiday, and therefore New Year's day takes its place as a time of gifts, frolics, family gatherings and general rejoicing. The women generally give presents of beautiful embroidery, often their own work, but the father of the family, however poor, must give his wife and each child a present of money. The children's money is placed in a little earthen jar and kept so when the child grows up there is a snug little sum for his start in life. The gentlemen of the wealthier classes call on their fair friends and must always take a present. The caller is offered sweetmeats, a glass of water, a cup of Turkish coffee, but no wine or liquor. When he leaves he finds the servants drawn up in a row, and he presents them each with a piece of money. This is repeated in every house he visits, and he must visit all his friends on New Year's day or be forever deprived of their friendship.

He must also give his own servants presents of money. The children have few cheap toys, candies and dried fruit. "Watch service is held, and on returning from church the head of the family breaks a pomegranate on the floor to insure good fortune and health. They then have a feast of all kinds of nuts, candied fruits, raisins, figs and dates. Some nutshells are thrown into the four corners of the room to blind the evil one. At night they have an immense cake in which are two coins. It is set upon the table and each person receives a piece. The ones having the coins are elected king and queen of the feast and are crowned with much ceremony. The young girls bite off a piece of their cake, wrap it in blue paper, and place it under their pillow to dream on; the man they dream of is their future husband.

## Xmas Fare 500 Years Ago.

In the old days the standard Christmas dishes were the peacock and the bear's head. Each of these dishes was served up with every circumstance of pompous ceremony, preceded by trumpets and followed by a numerous train of ladies, knights and squires. The bear's head was brought into the hall by a servant, sometimes mounted on a horse, who sang a carol as he placed the dish upon the table. The peacock, "the food of lovers" and "the meat of lords," was usually served in all its natural splendor of plumage, and this was doubtless the masterpiece of the chef de cuisine. The royal bird was "eten roysch zygere," and no expense was spared over him. According to Massinger in his "City Madams," they used the carcasses of three wethers, bruised for gravy, to make sauce for a single peacock. The bear's head was served by a man, but the ceremony of distributing the peacock was usually reserved for the noblest lady present at the feast.

## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREES.

Long a Central Figure of Festivals the World Over.

Most of us know that the Christ-book with that strange reticence that mas tree comes to us direct from Germany; and we know that the tree worship of the Druids which obtained into England and France, and which probably had some influence on the later use of the tree in the Christmas festival. But we do not all know that a similar festival, with the tree as a crowning feature, is observed among many heathen nations. Our tree, with its small candles, its gilded nicknacks and toys for the children, is a direct descendant of this old festival which was held in honor of the sun.

## A Russian Christmas.

In Russia the boys are the chief celebrators of Christmas eve, and they disguise themselves in the forms of animals—wolves, bears, ostriches, tigers and camelpopards, and roam the streets until the small hours. To enter a dwelling at their pleasure and sit at the family table is no breach of decorum at such a time, and often the children of a home are startled to see a wolf or a bear enter, take a seat at the supper table, and eat as a wolf or bear only can eat.

## The Mexican Christmas Jar.

Novel is the method of distributing the Christmas presents at the Mexican embassy. Following the custom which prevails in the land to the south of us, there is suspended from the ceiling a huge open-mouth jar in which have been placed all the presents, each neatly tied and addressed to the intended recipient. The children and grown people of the party are armed with long, slender canes, and with these first one and then another makes a dash for the swinging jar, striking it or at it as they pass. Of course it is only a matter of time until the frail treasure house is demolished, and then ensues a grand scramble for the gifts.—Washington Times.

# The Tragedy of BANOCBROOK

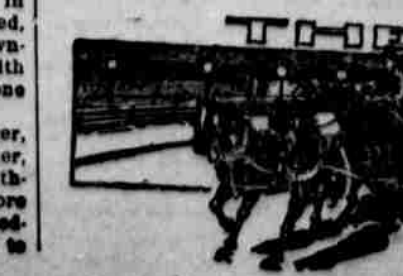


Away to the west in the Valley of Ingraham, where the amethystine sky droops in a sapphire protectorate over the undulating sub-valleys and the sloping hill-sides; away to the west, where the winter, yielding to spring, bursts like an emerald lily unfolding its petals, where the summer is dreamy as hashish, and where the glorious golden Autumn is a panorama of prism-kissed grandeur, there stands amid luxuriant elms on a southern slope, a Hildreth Home for Orphan Boys. Maintained in a limited degree of security and comfort by the fitful appropriations of state, and the philanthropic donations of the charitably rich, it drones along through changing years, a peaceful haven for the infant outcasts on a stormy sea.

Here among the zephyr-fanned surroundings, with the flitting birds that pipe their songs of gladness and their witterings of grief, dwelt Thomas Fitzmack and Frederiek Schaub, two adolescent particles of human debris gathered from the wreck-strewn waters of Fate. Of their parents they knew nothing except a fragmentary recital by a kindly and imaginative preceptress inured to satisfying blood-longing by building upon the merest fragments of known knowledge, snatches of strange, almost inconceivable family history. This, instead of satisfying the childish yearning for a mother or a father, but fed the fire of longing, inspiring the two boyish hearts to reach out their tendrils of affection for tangible support. And each, finding nothing on which to fasten, turned from pure sympathy to the other, twining and intertwining his love about a common comradeship.

Then into the Valley of Ingraham, where the amethystine sky, there came a story-book—and a little girl with curls like the gold-bronzed leaves on the side-hills in October, with eyes like the azure skies in Indian Summer, with a laugh like the ripple upon the rosy pebbles at the ford—and she gave them the book from beyond the garden wall of the Home, where she stood like a great, brick house that stood like a castle within the maples upon the hill.

She proffered it as they stood open-mouthed, awe-stricken, gazing across the ledge. As the boys lingered, spell-bound, she fed her squirrels and chattered with the chipmunks in chorus. Thomas and Frederiek accepted the book with that strange reticence that mas tree comes to us direct from Germany; and we know that the tree worship of the Druids which obtained into England and France, and which probably had some influence on the later use of the tree in the Christmas festival. But we do not all know that a similar festival, with the tree as a crowning feature, is observed among many heathen nations. Our tree, with its small candles, its gilded nicknacks and toys for the children, is a direct descendant of this old festival which was held in honor of the sun.



"Arise," she whispered in accents sweet as whispering winds. "Arise, for thou hast won me!"

With a great joy in his heart, Thomas left his room, avoided Frederiek, and slipped slyly away toward the brick house on the hill. Long he watched and waited! At last, she came, more beautiful, more fairy-like than ever! Calling boldly, Thomas rudely thrust the book into her hands and scampered away into the bushes.

Then—somehow, neither seemed to know how, or why, or when—there crept into their rendezvous that hideous, insatiate monster, Jealousy; a suspicion that each was making of himself the hero, each seeking in turn to lead nearer to a great, grim wall of towering stone behind which in a castle of igneous boulders dwelt a woman who, to call her queenly fair, would be to flatter queens!

"Have a regular old time."

Having accomplished this end, defeating his adversary and carrying his banner to the uttermost peak of success, repentance overtook him at the summit!

After all, what did the book matter? It was only a "play" book at best! And for this he had beaten and humiliated Frederiek, his dearest and only friend! Because he was the stronger he had been tyrannous, and had used his brute strength as became a tyrant!

Weeping at last, he sought his comrade to implore forgiveness, to say that they would write another and a better book, and he, Frederiek, might be the hero all the time, might marry the queen of the castle and "be happy ever afterward"—but Frederiek was not to be found!

Diligent search was made by the school authorities, and, on holidays for weeks, the sorrowing, lonely Thomas made long pilgrimages into the countryside in quest of his former playmate, but to no avail!

A year later, inconsolable, forsaken and alone, Thomas, too, left the Home, upon the stern mission of making his own career.

The day was drawing to a close in the great city as Frederiek Schaub, editor of the International Journal, closed his desk preparatory to going out for dinner. His great coat was half on, as a presumptuous caller, determined in his persistence, crowded past the protesting office boy and stood before him.

The visitor was tall and slender, with the look of care in his eyes. That he was a writer was evident from his dress and mannerisms. Rapidly, as though fearing the refusal of an audience, he spoke, telling his mission, the bringing of a manuscript. Would the International give it sympathetic consideration? He needed—yes, he would be frank, his wife and himself were driven to dire straits! He had been ill, had been unfortunate, his position was gone, he—

Stopping suddenly, the struggling writer peered intensely into the impatient face before him. Over his cheek, there swept a striking pallor, but averting his eyes and tightening his muscles, as if in protest at his weakness, he ended his appeal in a plea for an early reading.

"We do not usually consider manuscripts so inopportune," replied the editor, proceeding with his coat, "but I will make an exception in your case. You seem justly anxious. Call to-morrow at 2. You will excuse me



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RECTOR OF ST. LUKE.

Ashburnham, Ontario, Testifies to Good Qualities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Ashburnham, Ont., April 18, 1904.—I think it is only right that I should tell you what a wonderful effect Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has produced. The day before Easter I was so distressed with a cold and cough that I did not think to be able to take any duties the next day, as my voice was almost choked by the cough. The same day I received an order from you for a bottle of your Cough Remedy. I at once produced a sample bottle, and took about three doses of the medicine. To my great relief the cough and cold had completely disappeared and I was able to preach three times on Easter day. I know that this rapid and effective cure was due to your Cough Remedy. I make this testimonial without solicitation, being thankful to have found such a God-sent remedy.

Respectfully yours, E. A. LANGFELDT, M. A., Rector of St. Luke's Church, To Chamberlain Medicine Co. This remedy is for sale by C. E. Terrell.

Do you know my price for coal oil? If you do, don't you think it is a "Jim Dandy?" Come figure with me. I am in for trouble. T. G. Carney.

Revolution Imminent.

A sure sign of approaching revolt and serious trouble in your system is nervousness, sleeplessness, or stomach upsets. Electric Bitters will quickly dismember the troublesome causes. It never fails to tone the stomach, regulate the Kidneys and Bowels, stimulate the Liver, and clarify the blood. Run down systems benefit particularly and all the usual attending aches vanish under its searching and thorough effectiveness. Electric Bitters is only 50c, and that is returned if it don't give perfect satisfaction. Guaranteed by all Druggists.

Travelers Attention.

If you are going to Haskell, Pinkerton, Marcy, Mid. Carney, Knox City, Cliff or any intermediate point in the western or northern portion of Haskell county, you can save money and time by taking my hack at Stamford, where it meets all passenger trains. I also run a daily hack line to and from Haskell to Munday in Knox county, carrying passengers, mail and express.

I have careful drivers, good teams and comfortable hacks, and always make connections.

I also hire rigs for special trips to any point in the surrounding country. I have been in the business for twenty years and understand what is required in all these matters.

Office at the Iron Stable, Haskell, Texas. J. L. BALDWIN.

Bilious Colic Prevented.

Take a double dose of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy as soon as the first indication of the disease appears and a threatened attack may be warded off. Hundreds of people use the remedy in this way with perfect success. For sale by C. E. Terrell.

Read This If You Owe Me.

Since selling out my drug store, it is very important that I close up my accounts, so look me up at once, and pay me or make satisfactory arrangements, not later than December 15. Gentlemen, this is a business proposition, so come up and do business. Jno. E. ROBERTSON.

Be Quick.

Not a minute should be lost when a child shows symptoms of croup. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy given as soon as the child becomes hoarse, or even after the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. It never fails, and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by C. E. Terrell.

NOTICE.

I have sold half interest in my butchery business to Mr. Booth Engle and it is necessary to close up all previous accounts. All parties owing me will please come forward and settle by the first of next month. This is no idle talk, it is business and must be attended to, so please don't put me to the trouble of having to hunt you up. Treat me as well as I have treated you by coming up with the pay when it is needed. J. N. ELLIS.

Head About to Burst From Severe Bilious Attack.

"I had a severe bilious attack and felt like my head was about to burst when I got hold of a free sample of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. I took a dose of them after supper and the next day felt like a new man and have been feeling happy ever since," says Mr. J. W. Smith of Julliff, Texas. For biliousness, stomach troubles and constipation these Tablets have no equal. Price 25 cents. For sale by C. E. Terrell.

Heart Fluttering.

Undigested food and gas in the stomach, located just below the heart, presses against it and causes heart palpitation. When your heart troubles you in that way take Herbine for a few days. You will soon be all right. 50c. Sold by I. P. Collier.

When you want a pleasant purgative try Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They are easy to take and produce no nausea, griping or other disagreeable effect. For sale by C. E. Terrell.

Fight Will Be Bitter.

Those who will persist in closing their ears against the continual recommendation of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, will have a long and bitter fight with their troubles, if not ended earlier by fatal termination. Read what T. R. Beall, Beall, Miss., says: "Last fall my wife had every symptom of consumption. She took Dr. King's New Discovery after everything else had failed. Improvement came at once and four bottles entirely cured her. Guaranteed by all Druggists. Price 50c, and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

Coughing Spell Caused Death.

"Harry Duckwell, aged 25 years, choked to death early yesterday morning at his home, in the presence of his wife and child. He contracted a slight cold a few days ago and paid but little attention to it. Yesterday morning he was seized with a fit of coughing which continued for some time. His wife sent for a physician but before he could arrive, another coughing spell came on and Duckwell died from suffocation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Dec. 1, 1901." Ballard's Horehound Syrup would have saved him. 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sold by I. P. Collier.

Say boys—what do you think of the price on barbed wire today, ain't it a dandy. Stay with me. Look out for trouble. T. G. Carney.

Cured Paralysis.

W. S. Baily, P. O. True, Texas, writes: "My wife had been suffering five years with paralysis in her arm, when I was persuaded to use Ballard's Snow Liniment, which cured her all right. I have also used it for old sores, frostbites and skin eruptions. It does the work." 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold by I. P. Collier.

New Stock of Furniture!

We have just put in a car load of good, substantial furniture—the kind made for service. As the season is somewhat advanced we have determined to put prices down and move it out.



Wilson Heaters!

If you need a heating stove, try a Wilson Heater. The dampers so regulate the draft as to make them give a more uniform heat than any other, and they are guaranteed to burn less wood than any other stove. Ask for the Wilson.

We also have various other styles of heating stoves, and a complete line of COOK STOVES.

Advertisement for KEEN KUTTER AXE, featuring an illustration of the axe and text: "THE BEST AXE IN THE WORLD. ASK FOR IT & TAKE NO OTHER. KEEN KUTTER AXES, BUTCHER KNIVES, SHILARS & SCISSORS. A FURTHER KEEN KUTTER AXE."

We have a very complete stock of Hardware and Implements, including the "Mr. Bill" planter and other Avary goods. Let us figure with you when you want anything in our line.

McCollum & Cason.

Advertisement for HASKELL NATIONAL BANK, HASKELL, TEXAS. Includes text: "With correspondent Bank in the leading commercial cities of Texas and the East, we are prepared to issue exchange for the convenient transaction of business in all parts of the country." Lists officers: M. S. PIERSON, President; G. R. COUCH, Cashier; LEE PIERSON, Vice-President; M. PIERSON, Ass't. Cashier. Directors: M. S. PIERSON, G. R. COUCH, MARSHALL PIERSON, T. E. BALLARD, F. M. ... S. W. SCOTT, LEE PIERSON.



Here I go!

HASKELL RACKET STORE

Where I have left oodles and oodles of the prettiest toys and dolls for the boys and girls and a great many pretty and useful things for the young ladies and young gentlemen and some for the older people, too.

Yours truly, SANTA CLAUS.

If you failed to get around in time for Christmas, you can make good with a New Year's Present.

We have sold a great many things, but still have numerous Pretty and Useful articles that will come in nicely for New Year's presents.

Prices are Down. Come and see what we have and what we will do for you at the HASKELL RACKET STORE.

Advertisement for FOSTER & JONES, Law, Land and Live Stock, HASKELL, TEXAS. Includes text: "WILD HORSE PRAIRIE LANDS! Also a large quantity of other very fine farming and ranch lands, and town property. We have a COMPLETE ABSTRACT OF LAND TITLES and give special attention to land litigation. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED. Write us for any information desired about land and live stock."

Advertisement for ROSS HEMPHILL, Blacksmith and Woodwork. Includes text: "SOLICITS A LIBERAL SHARE OF YOUR BLACKSMITH and Woodwork. Prices reasonable, work promptly done for cash on the spot. REAR OF SHERRILL BROTHERS STORE."

Advertisement for CITY MEAT MARKET, ELLIS & ENGLISH, Proprietors. Includes text: "West Side of the Square. Your Patronage Solicited. We Keep all kinds of Fresh Meats Obtainable in Season."

Fragmentary text on the left side of the page, including "The Wallace, chief engineer of the Panama canal commission, has given to the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce the benefit of his investigations so far as made regarding the engineering tasks to be performed in the construction of the Panama canal." and "Blunders are sometimes very expensive. Occasionally life itself is the price of a mistake, but you'll never be wrong if you take Dr. King's New Life Pills for Dyspepsia, Dizziness, Headache, Liver or Bowel troubles. They are gentle yet thorough. 25c, at all drug stores."