

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 3, 1903.

NO. 28.

SUNDAY MORNING

REFLECTIONS

What Preachers of the Various Denominations Are Talking About.

EXPANSION.

The greatness of this country, the outcome of its religious, moral, political and industrial ideas, the reflex of American character and aspiration, will naturally, gradually, inevitably evolve a greater physical expansion in this continent, and within fifty years Canada will be where nature and God intended it to be—under the waving folds of the stars and stripes.

DEATH.

The procession to the cemetery is the common place feature of the city streets. The city's heart gets colder and colder and the grip of materialism is getting faster upon our men and women of the city. Death makes no impression any longer. Everything moves along in the round of the day's business. Everything is after a measured fashion, all calculated out.

HIGH REALITIES.

The search after truth is the most necessary of all the means to the ends of life. It is hard to conceive of one as having really lived in this world who has not possessed himself of its high realities. This is what the Scriptures say to us in ceaseless iteration, and this is what men say to us who have anything to say which we care to hear.

LOOKING HEAVENWARD.

The palm tree lifts its head toward heaven, stands erect. This is a characteristic of the truly righteous man. He does not stoop to public opinion when that opinion locks arms with the wrong, but stands erect, looks toward heaven, is actuated by Holy Spirit principles, moves upward and invites men to come and go with him.

NOT BY FAITH ALONE.

Christ was eager that men should give honest, hearty assent to His claims of discipleship. He then promised potential freedom, personal liberty. But the mere exercise of faith was not enough. Christianity is something larger and finer than even the genuine exercise of faith in the person and work of Christ.

WHAT CHICAGO NEEDS.

The greatest evil in Chicago is the need of a Pauline spirit. There is a need of men and women who will stand up for their convictions. It takes courage to be a Christian. The better your life is the more it counts against Christ if you don't confess Him.

THE EARLY MORNING.

If you lose the morning you lose the best part of the twenty-four hours. Good arguments have been used for using the midnight lamp, but those who use it are helping to burn out their existence. You must seize and save the sunlight hours.

Merkel Is Bidding For Your Cotton

DICKSON IS BIDDING FOR YOUR TRADE

Onward and Upward in my efforts to please the trade—this is my motto, and the many friends won for this store show how well I have succeeded.

LANSING WAGONS OWASSO BUGGIES

In this department I can certainly interest all. They are acknowledged leaders, and having handled them many years I can recommend them as the BEST. Get others' prices then come to me. It will be money in your pockets.

I sell the famous Yellow Kid Disc Plow.

I handle the time tried Bement Farm Implements:

Plows, Cultivators, Disc Plows, Harrows, etc.

They are the best, and you can well afford to come many miles to purchase such implements. They pay in the long run.

My prices are always right, and goods the best. Come and see.

BRIDGE and BEACH STOVES and RANGES

They are decidedly the best. Find a man who is using a Bridge & Beach and you will find one who has a satisfactory article.

I have everything usually carried in an up-to-date hardware store, and sell honest goods at honest prices.

A full line of Single and Double Harness.

W. H. DICKSON FOR HARDWARE

Collars! Bridles!

We don't keep them.

We sell them at prices that keep them moving. All kinds. Cheap ones 75c; better ones \$1.25 to \$1.75. Good, none better, at \$2 to \$2.50. Bridles! Oh, just any old price.

R. L. Hudson.

Saddest Tragedy of the War.

In the fall of 1863, Samuel Davis, a slender, smooth-faced lad about 18 years old, was captured by two scouts belonging to the Second Iowa Infantry in the vicinity of Pulaski, Tennessee. He was dressed in Confederate uniform, as they were; he thought they were Confederates and frankly told them he had been inside the lines at Pulaski. Upon his person was found complete plans of the camp fortifications, etc., of the Union forces, then under the command of Gen. G. M. Dodge. He was tried by the courtmartial and found guilty on the charge of being a spy. On the trial the fact was disclosed the sketches of the camp had been furnished him by some one inside the lines, and the boy was told that if he would give the name of the person who had supplied him with the sketches and information concerning the Union camps he would be given his liberty and safe conduct to the outposts of Bragg's army near Chattanooga. He refused, and the erection of gallows was proceeded with on an elevated site on the edge of the town, and in full view of the jail in which young Davis was confined.

Meanwhile the proffered freedom was often made and as often refused. November the 27 was the date set for the execution, and the command was ordered out under arms. Several solid squares were formed about the gallows on the opposite slope of a stretch of low grounds were assembled thousands of citizens. The prisoner was brought out from the jail in an ambulance; he had a chaplain seated upon

a coffin, with guards on either side and in the rear and in front, a band playing a funeral dirge. On reaching the grounds one corner of each square fell back to permit an entrance of the party. The coffin was placed at the foot of the gallows steps and prayer was offered by the chaplain, kneeling with the lad by the coffin. The prisoner's hands were tied, and as he started up the stairs an officer touched him and spoke to him in a low tone, and what he said every man in blue within view of the scene knew, though he heard not a word. He knew that the officer had told the slender, smooth-cheeked boy, who ought at that moment to have been at home with his mother, that if he would whisper a single name—only one name—his hands would be unbound, his freedom restored and he would be taken to the outposts of the Confederate army under a flag of truce, and returned to his friends, and every man in blue there present, his heart filled with pity for the boy, hoped that the name would be revealed.

For an instant he hesitated. Around him stood thousands of those he deemed enemies of his country, and on the opposite slope thousands of citizens, but not one able to lift a hand in his behalf. The bright sky above him; and in front the rope swinging slightly; at his feet the coffin and the gallows steps; life with all the promises it gives to vigorous youth was within his grasp; death in its most disgraceful and repellent form confronted him; all that was needed for him to escape the dreadful fate impending and

be able to turn his back upon that empty coffin and that hideous noose was to whisper a single name. It was a terrible temptation, but this young hero turned it aside. He shook his head, and then mounting the steps he stood beneath the rope; the cap was drawn over his head, the noose adjusted, the trap sprung, and thus he died, this lad whose sense of honor was so keen that he was ready to surrender life rather than to betray a confidence.—Ex.

Caesar Conquered Britain

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

The Mail gives all the news.

Fined a Masher.

"I fine you \$100 and costs for annoying this young woman, and only wish I could send you to the pen. Any man who attempts to 'mash' respectable girls and women is a menace to the community. The fact of your having been drunk does not excuse you."

This was the sentence of Judge Caverly at Chicago when the case of Gustave Lynn, 40 years old on a charge of having tried to mash pretty Rose Zentek came before him. The girl thrashed and held the alleged "masher" until an officer arrested him. She charged him with being impudent to her, with following her onto a car, smiling and winking and making offensive remarks to her.



MONEY!

is saved by

BUYING THE BEST

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

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

NEW GOODS ARE TUMBLING IN

And if the old saying, "Goods bought right are half sold" is true we are evidently in the SWIM.



With the biggest stock we have ever had, bought strictly for cash, and before the big advance, we have intrenched ourselves where no competition can

SCALE OUR HEIGHTS

If you need anything for the children's school wear, it will pay you to give us a look, for we have specially provided for the youngsters.

The season's first showing of millinery, in Street Hats, etc. next week.

Spot Cash Merchants

WATSON & BACON.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office.....57
Residence.....11

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

To Be Rid of Our Enemies.

These enemies of our people that are greatest in number and that cost the most money to fight are entirely out of the reach of our navy and of our army of 65,000 men. These enemies are so small you would hardly notice them, but they attack our chief stronghold in such armies it requires \$350,000,000 yearly for our government to overcome them.

This army of enemies consists of twelve insects that come forth in millions to devour our crops. They are the chinch bug, grasshopper, Hessian fly, potato bug, San Jose scale, grain weevil, apple worm, army worm, cabbage worm, boll weevil, boll worm and cotton worm.

What generals can we call forth to meet this army of destroyers? First of all the birds—preserve the birds; let them grow in large numbers and they will devour the insects. Raise more birds and it will cost less money to fight the destructive bugs. Entomologists who are studying the insects and devising ways and means to destroy these bug pests say that plenty of birds will do more than any other agent toward cleaning out and getting rid of the devastating pests.—Boy's World.

The Mail gives all the news.

General Sam Houston

This writer was in the town of Mt. Vernon, Franklin County, the other day, the guest, or rather a caller on W. C. Parchman and his excellent family, when Mrs. Parchman remarked: "I have in my possession a trinket or souvenir that I prize very highly—something that was fashioned by the hands of Gen. Sam Houston and presented to me when I was a girl only 13 years old (Mrs. P. is now 63), and I have kept it as carefully as if it was a valuable piece of jewelry or family relic—I will show it to you." Going into another room she returned with it and handed me a little wooden heart fashioned out of a piece of soft pine with a pocket-knife. Its intrinsic value, of course, is nothing, but it is rich in patriotic sentiment and value as an historic reminiscence of the early days of Texas; for what Texan heart does not thrill with patriotic pride at the mention of Gen. Sam Houston's name, stirring, as it does, the memories of that struggle for Texas liberty, the capstone or culmination of which was the glorious victory of San Jacinto and Texas Independence! The history of this little trinket is this:

In 1850-2 Gen. Houston was canvassing Texas as a candidate for Governor, and he, with a party of six or eight friends, rode to the pioneer log-cabin home of her father, L. A. Patillo, of Cass County, who lived at Hickory Hill, a few miles northwest of Jefferson, and near the Marion and Cass County lines. Mr. Patillo was a farmer, kept a country store at Hickory Hill and owned

a tan yard. Among the party were several of Gen. Houston's political and personal friends, some of them volunteer bodyguards for the old hero, all of them on horseback and armed, for there was danger in many sections of Texas then, not only from the savage Indians, but also from white outlaws that had "left their country for their country's good" and made a new home in this rapidly growing State. Reaching Mr. Patillo's place before night, preparations for the entertainment of so illustrious a character as Gen. Sam Houston and his party of friends went forward on a more extended scale than usual, and while her mother and the servants were preparing supper, Mrs. Parchman went into the front yard and gathered poppies, and into woods for wild flowers, she decked the room and bed of the old hero with a profusion of bright hued flowers. The next morning, in return for the hospitality the family had shown him, and particularly for the distinguished honor the little girl paid him in decorating his bed and room with flowers, he took his pocket-knife and skillfully fashioned a small wooden heart from a pine box board and presented her with native knightly grace. Mrs. Parchman is now a grandmother and to her oldest daughter, Mrs. Blackstock, of Van Buren, Ark., now on a visit to Texas, she presented this much prized trinket, who says she will, on her return home, have it mounted in gold and diamond settings and that ten times its weight in gold would not pur-

chase it.

A great writer once wrote, "The sum of trifles make a life." What greater proof do we need of its truth than this incident teaches? What memories, what truths of history did a sight of this rough trinket bring up in review to the writer of this who was born a half generation later in the very shadow of the Smoky and Cumberland mountains in the same section of East Tennessee, where Sam Houston, with his Indian companions, hunted the deer, the bear, the panther, the wild-cat, the wild turkey and other game or fished in those clear mountain streams; where John H. Reagan, the sturdy farmer's boy, wielded the woodman's axe, tended the old Brabson mill and worked on the farm; where Andy Johnson worked at the tailor's bench, was taught the rudiments of an English education by his wife and afterwards was Governor of Tennessee, Senator and President of the United States; where Landon C. Haynes, congressman, editor and Senator drew inspirations of oratory with every breath of pure mountain air he breathed, and learned to love the hills and valleys and purling mountain streams, the beauties of which he so graphically painted in his incomparable word-pictures; where Jack Shelby first settled and away back in the revolutionary era, with his handfull of fearless mountain hunters, was the hero of King's Mountain; and further down the line was William T. Heiskell, one of the most eloquent orators of them all. Daniel Boone tarried there for a season; David Crockett, one of the martyrs of the Alamo, hunted in its mountains, cut bee trees in its forests and

fished in its streams. But towering among this host of giants, none occupy a higher or prouder position in the public eye, nor is there so great a tinge of romance thrown around as was around grand old Sam Houston, who first won his spurs at Horse Shoe under old Hickory Jackson, was soon elected Governor of Tennessee, wooed and won an unwilling bride (which fact being made known to him on his wedding night), he left the nuptial couch unpressed, and resigning the Governor's office of that old Volunteer Commonwealth, again buried himself in the wilderness of the West among his old Indian comrades, the Cherokees, and in his disappointment for the time, strove to forget the world and "be by the world forgot." Yet, it was not to be. When the handfull of Texas pioneers raised their Lone Star flag, the rustle of its folds and the crack of her patriots rifles reached him in his obscure retreat on the Arkansas River at Weber's Falls and Fort Gibson, and again, Jove like, he rises a gigantic figure in his country's history, taking by sheer force of his genius, first place as soldier and statesman, President of the Republic, Senator and twice Governor of Texas. A born commander of men. Sam Houston's genius made him an intellectual Saul among his brethren, and overshadowed and made venial the faults that he possessed, and while he made many enemies in the goals he strove for, his eloquent oratory and profound statesmanship tied his legions of friends to him with links of steel, and won for him the proud names of statesman and military hero.

W. T. Gass.

Merkel Pays Better Prices for Cotton Than Any Market, and The Star Store Booms the Price to the very Top Notch



We sell the best shoe on earth; try a pair and be convinced. None better than "Our Family" line for men, women and children.

CLOTHING! CLOTHING!

We carry the best selection in Merkel and our prices are always right. Our fall sample book is here. Come in and give us your order for a tailor made suit.

STAR BRAND SHOES ARE BETTER



Our fall stock is beginning to arrive, and by Sept. 1, we will have the best selected stock in the west. Be sure to see us when in the market for Groceries; we carry a well selected stock and sell at Low Prices.

And remember we are in the market for your cotton.

You will think we have it for Less



You will think we have it for Less

The Optimist.

Sometimes I get to thinkin'
'Bout what I'd like to be,
An' how mos' ever'body
Has a better time 'n me.

But then I jus' remember
That worryin' aint worth while,
An' then before I knows it,
I bursts into a smile.

I notice all the sunshine,
An' it tickles me t' see
The fellows that I meet with
Smilin' back at me.

So long's they's a bright side
Left fer me t' see
An' in' to keep a smilin',
—sir-ee.—Selected.

Self Explanatory

ansas City, Mo., Aug. 25, '03.
Geo. S. Berry, Merkel, Texas:
read with unusual interest an
account of the splendid showing
made by your bank all along the
line of endeavor in the Merkel
Mail, issue of August 20. Yours
is a live town. We realize it is
in a large measure made so by
reason of the fact that it contains
one bank manned by men of
broad horizon and up-to-date
methods. We were sufficiently
impressed with the before-refer-
red-to article to see the wisdom
of copying it. See our forth-
coming issue.

With best wishes for your con-
tinued success, believe me,
Yours very truly,
Carter Wilder,
Pub. Southwestern Banker.

Jays of the Country Editor.

Nowata Advertiser.
To run a newspaper all a fel-
low has to do is to be able to
write poems, discuss the tariff
and money questions, umpire a
baseball game, report a wedding,

Whips! Robes! Blankets!

They are the kind that give satisfaction,
and the best of it is the prices are right. Just
try them one time.

R. L. Hudson.

saw wood, describe a fire so that
the readers will shed their wraps,
make a dollar do the work of ten,
shine at a dance, measure calico,
abuse the liquor habit, test whis-
key, subscribe to charity, go
without meals, attack free silver,
defend bimetalism, sneer at snob-
bery, wear diamonds, invent ad-
vertisements, overlook scandal,
praise babies, delight pumpkin
raisers, minister to the afflicted,
heal the disgruntled, fight to a
finish, set type, mould opinions,
sweep the office, speak at prayer-
meetings, stand in with every-
body and everything.

Swapping Lies

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

C. P. Warren came up from
Abilene and went out to his
ranch yesterday.

Edgar Bozarth of Oklahoma,
O. T., and Miss Ethel Cannon
were married at Abilene Tuesday.

Lynching might be possibly too
good for W. S. Allen, of Boston,
who robbed the fund for poor and
superannuated Methodist minis-
ters of \$80,000. An ordinary
state penitentiary would be too
comfortable a place for such a
scoundrel, and besides, he would
demoralize and corrupt the other
convicts.

R. M. Wright and Miss Lela
Ivery, both of Tuscola, were
married Tuesday.

Mrs. W. A. Cozart reports a
very happy time at Muskogee,
I. T., where she recently visited.
Her father, a sister and three
brothers reside there, besides
there is quite a colony of her old
Tennessee friends. During her
absence she spent a week at
Eureka Springs, Ark., which she
enjoyed very much. Mrs. Cozart
likes the Territory and says it
has a bright future, but she came
back with a greater love for old
Texas, and particularly this part
of it. Crops are much better
here than around Muskogee,
times are better, the people are
more hospitable, and she was
glad to get back.

We can't Tell A Lie

When we say there is no shaking
of bottles. No licking of spoons,
no wry faces when Cheatham's
Laxative Chill Tablets are used.
25cts. No cure—no pay.

Rev. T. N. Lowery has just
closed a very successful revival
meeting at Truby. There were
80 conversions and a general
arousing of religious fervor,
which will leave its effects for
years to come. He was assisted by
his brother, Rev. A. P. Lowery of
Waco, who is loved and esteemed
by many of our people, being
quite well known here.

Geo. S. Berry is a member of
the grand jury at Abilene this
week.

Prof. C. L. Adair, representing
Tyler College, was in Merkel
Tuesday in the interest of that
school.

Miss Della Bell, who is with
Sweetwater Mercantile Co., stop-
ped off Tuesday while en route
home from market.

Mrs. W. H. McCord returned
from Strawn Sunday. She was
accompanied by her mother who
will spend some time here.

L. E. Martin has accepted a
position with J. P. Sharp & Co.

Hon. Stamp Ashby, who spoke
for the antis here during the last
campaign, is making prohibition
speeches in Brazos county this
week. Cyclone Davis must have
converted him.—Bowie Blade.

Stump is out for the dough,
and to wet his whistle. This
week he is in Palo Pinto county
shelling the woods for the antis.
The antis don't want Stump and
the pros won't have him.

The Texas cotton crop of 1902-3
was 2,646,215 bales, a decrease
of 61,044 bales from 1901-2.

H. C. Burroughs left for Ar-
lington Monday in response to a
telegram stating that his mother
was rapidly sinking. This will
be sad news to friends of the
family here, all of whom join
The Mail in hoping that the life
of this good woman will be pro-
longed.

Tuesday was a busy day in
Merkel and reminded one of the
busy fall days of 1900. A few
scattering bales of the fleecy
staple are dropping in, and with-
in two weeks there will be a
steady stream of cotton wagons.

There are few better sights
than a young man with good
principles and moral courage to
carry them out in every relation
in life. He may never win the
plaudits due a hero, but he is
worthy of them and that is bet-
ter. He is not too numerous and
will always have room enough
whatever his station. All honor
and opportunity and appreciation
belong to him. His worth and
uplifting impulse cannot be mea-
sured in gold or silver or bonds or
position. May his tribe increase.
—Exchange.

In Northwest Mexico the court-
ing is all done by the lady. The
young people meet at the feasts
and there the damsel who has
fixed upon a member of the op-
posite sex whom she wishes to
become her husband tries to at-
tract his attention by dancing
before him, persistently keeping
her back toward him. Eventual-
ly she may sit down near him
and pull his blanket and sing to
him in a gentle, low voice. When
she desires to bring matters to a
focus, she begins to throw peb-
bles at the chosen one. If he
throws them back at her, they
are bethrothed.—Pears on's
Weekly.

When the grasshopper ceased
to hop and the old crow quits her
bawling; when the fishes no long-
er flop and the baby quits its
squaling; when the dunners no
longer dun and the hoot owl quits
its hooting; when the river ceases
to run and the buglar stops his
looting; when the vines no long-
er twine and the lark stops its
larking; when the sun no longer
shines and the man quits his
sparking; when the heavens be-
gin to drop and old maids stop
advising; then it is time to shut
up shop and quit advertising.
But not until then.—Ex.

W. W. WHEELER,
Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tor-
nado Insurance Agent,
Notary Public.
Takes Acknowledgements, Draws up Deeds, etc.
Office in First National Bank.

J. M. PATE
THE BARBER,
NORTH FRONT STREET.

M. J. PATE,
Tonsorial Artist and
Cranium Manipulator
First class barber work guar-
anteed. Give me a trial.

DR. J. W. LITTLE,
Resident Dentist.
EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN
FERRIER BUILDING.

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

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

Repairing a Specialty

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

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

HELPFUL READING Some newspapers print
matter to fill up space.
Much of this is harmful
reading. It is the aim of the SEMI-
WEEKLY NEWS to give helpful reading.
Thousands will testify to its helpfulness
to them. Ask your neighbor.
has helped many. It
is not the theory of
DEPARTMENT. farming written by
college professors
and others up North on conditions that
don't fit Texas. It is the actual experi-
ences of farmers here at home who have
turned over the soil.
If you are not taking THE
SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL you should be
OFFER. It is helpful to the best in-
terests of your town and
county for \$1.75, cash in advance,
we will mail you The Merkel Mail and the
Galveston or the Dallas Semi-Weekly
News for 12 months. The News stops
when your time is out.

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

**Dr. King's
New Discovery**

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

A Perfect Cure: For All Throat and
Lung Troubles.

Money back if it fails. Trial Bottles free.

Merkel Lodge No. 710,
A. F. & A. M., meets
Saturday night on or
before the full moon in
each month.
C. E. Evans, W. M.
R. B. Ustick, Sec.

Best Passenger Service
...IN...
TEXAS

THE
TEXAS AND PACIFIC
RAILWAY

"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS
BETWEEN
FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS
E. P. TURNER, GEN. PASS. AGT.
DALLAS, TEXAS.

Merkel Pays Better Prices for Cotton Than Any Market, and The Star Store Booms the Price to the very Top Notch



We sell the best shoe on earth; try a pair and be convinced. None better than "Our Family" line for men, women and children.

CLOTHING! CLOTHING!

We carry the best selection in Merkel and our prices are always right. Our fall sample book is here. Come in and give us your order for a tailor made suit.

STAR BRAND SHOES ARE BETTER.



Our fall stock is beginning to arrive, and by Sept. 1, we will have the best selected stock in the west. Be sure to see us when in the market for Groceries; we carry a well selected stock and sell at Low Prices.

And remember we are in the market for your cotton.

You will think we have it for Less



You will think we have it for Less

The Optimist.

Sometimes I get to thinkin' 'Bout what I'd like to be, An' how mos' ever'body Has a better time 'n me.

But then I jus' remember That worryin' aint worth while, An' then before I knows it, I bursts into a smile.

I notice all the sunshine, An' it tickles me t' see The fellows that I meet with Smilin' back at me.

So long's they's a bright side Left fer me t' see I'm goin' to keep a smilin', Yes-sir-ee.—Selected.

Self Explanatory

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 25, '03. —Geo. S. Berry, Merkel, Texas: I read with unusual interest an account of the splendid showing made by your bank all along the line of endeavor in the Merkel Mail, issue of August 20. Yours is a live town. We realize it is in a large measure made so by reason of the fact that it contains one bank manned by men of broad horizon and up-to-date methods. We were sufficiently impressed with the before-referred-to article to see the wisdom of copying it. See our forthcoming issue.

With best wishes for your continued success, believe me,
Yours very truly,
Carter Wilder,
Pub. Southwestern Banker.

Joys of the Country Editor.

Nowata Advertiser.

To run a newspaper all a fellow has to do is to be able to write poems, discuss the tariff and money questions, umpire a baseball game, report a wedding,

Whips! Robes! Blankets!

They are the kind that give satisfaction, and the best of it is the prices are right. Just try them one time.

R. L. Hudson.

saw wood, describe a fire so that the readers will shed their wraps, make a dollar do the work of ten, shine at a dance, measure calico, abuse the liquor habit, test whiskey, subscribe to charity, go without meals, attack free silver, defend bimetalism, sneer at snobbery, wear diamonds, invent advertisements, overlook scandal, praise babies, delight pumpkin raisers, minister to the afflicted, heal the disgruntled, fight to a finish, set type, mould opinions, sweep the office, speak at prayer-meetings, stand in with everybody and everything.

Swapping Lies

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

C. P. Warren came up from Abilene and went out to his ranch yesterday.

Edgar Bozarth of Oklahoma, O. T., and Miss Ethel Cannon were married at Abilene Tuesday.

Lynching might be possibly too good for W. S. Allen, of Boston, who robbed the fund for poor and superannuated Methodist ministers of \$80,000. An ordinary state penitentiary would be too comfortable a place for such a scoundrel, and besides, he would demoralize and corrupt the other convicts.

R. M. Wright and Miss Lela Ivery, both of Tuscola, were married Tuesday.

Mrs. W. A. Cozart reports a very happy time at Muskogee, I. T., where she recently visited. Her father, a sister and three brothers reside there, besides there is quite a colony of her old Tennessee friends. During her absence she spent a week at Eureka Springs, Ark., which she enjoyed very much. Mrs. Cozart likes the Territory and says it has a bright future, but she came back with a greater love for old Texas, and particularly this part of it. Crops are much better here than around Muskogee, times are better, the people are more hospitable, and she was glad to get back.

We can't Tell A Lie

When we say there is no shaking of bottles. No licking of spoons, no wry faces when Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets are used. 25cts. No cure—no pay.

Rev. T. N. Lowery has just closed a very successful revival meeting at Truby. There were 80 conversions and a general arousing of religious fervor, which will leave its effects for years to come. He was assisted by his brother, Rev. A. P. Lowery of Waco, who is loved and esteemed by many of our people, being quite well known here.

Geo. S. Berry is a member of the grand jury at Abilene this week.

Prof. C. L. Adair, representing Tyler College, was in Merkel Tuesday in the interest of that school.

Miss Della Bell, who is with Sweetwater Mercantile Co., stopped off Tuesday while en route home from market.

Mrs. W. H. McCord returned from Strawn Sunday. She was accompanied by her mother who will spend some time here.

L. E. Martin has accepted a position with J. P. Sharp & Co.

Hon. Stamp Ashby, who spoke for the antis here during the last campaign, is making prohibition speeches in Brazos county this week. Cyclone Davis must have converted him.—Bowie Blade.

Stump is out for the dough, and to wet his whistle. This week he is in Palo Pinto county shelling the woods for the antis. The antis don't want Stump and the pros won't have him.

The Texas cotton crop of 1902-3 was 2,646,215 bales, a decrease of 61,044 bales from 1901-2.

H. C. Burroughs left for Arlington Monday in response to a telegram stating that his mother was rapidly sinking. This will be sad news to friends of the family here, all of whom join The Mail in hoping that the life of this good woman will be prolonged.

Tuesday was a busy day in Merkel and reminded one of the busy fall days of 1900. A few scattering bales of the fleecy staple are dropping in, and within two weeks there will be a steady stream of cotton wagons.

There are few better sights than a young man with good principles and moral courage to carry them out in every relation in life. He may never win the plaudits due a hero, but he is worthy of them and that is better. He is not too numerous and will always have room enough whatever his station. All honor and opportunity and appreciation belong to him. His worth and uplifting impulse cannot be measured in gold or silver or bonds or position. May his tribe increase.—Exchange.

In Northwest Mexico the courting is all done by the lady. The young people meet at the feasts and there the damsel who has fixed upon a member of the opposite sex whom she wishes to become her husband tries to attract his attention by dancing before him, persistently keeping her back toward him. Eventually she may sit down near him and pull his blanket and sing to him in a gentle, low voice. When she desires to bring matters to a focus, she begins to throw pebbles at the chosen one. If he throws them back at her, they are betrothed.—Pearson's Weekly.

When the grasshopper ceased to hop and the old crow quits her bawling; when the fishes no longer flop and the baby quits its squaling; when the dunners no longer dun and the hoot owl quits its hooting; when the river ceases to run and the buglar stops his looting; when the vines no longer twine and the lark stops its larking; when the sun no longer shines and the man quits his sparking; when the heavens begin to drop and old maids stop advising; then it is time to shut up shop and quit advertising. But not until then.—Ex.

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

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

J. M. PATE
THE BARBER,

NORTH FRONT STREET.

M. J. PATE,
Tonsorial Artist and
Cranium Manipulator

First class barber work guaranteed. Give me a trial.

DR. J. W. LITTLE,
Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN
FERRIER BUILDING.

LEEMAN & KING,
Physicians & Surgeons

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

R. B. USTICK

DEALER IN

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Etc.

Repairing a Specialty

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

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

HELPFUL READING Some newspapers print matter to fill up space. Much of this is harmful reading. It is the aim of the SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS to give helpful reading. Thousands will testify to its helpfulness to them. Ask your neighbor.

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

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

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

Dr. King's New Discovery

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

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



Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., meets Saturday night on or before the full moon in each month.

C. E. Evans, W. M.
R. B. Ustick, Sec.

Best Passenger Service

...IN...
TEXAS



"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS
BETWEEN
FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS

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

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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

Subscription Rates:

One year \$1.00
Six months50
Three months25
Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES

per month
One inch space \$.50
Two inch space 1.00
Quarter column (4-12 inches) 2.50
Half column (9 inches) 4.00
One column (18 inches) 7.50
Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts.
Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the name of the place under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Postively no deviation from this rule.

ENFORCE THE LAW.

Taylor County is after the "cold storage" fellows and with disastrous results to the latter. Let the law be enforced if every man's throat in Abilene becomes as dry as a smoke stack.—Baird Star.

It must be very hard for the Star to gulp down the fact that the law does prohibit, after fighting so valiantly to defeat this same law because it knew it wouldn't prohibit. However, the Star is right in its contentions that the law must be enforced.

When the threat was made that "the county would be sown down in cold storages" in the event the saloons were voted out, The Mail made the statement that no cold storage plant could be run with profit to its owner without violating the law. At Abilene last week, during the progress of the trials of the local option violators, The Mail's contention was proven beyond the shadow of a doubt. It developed that one cold storage received as rent for its sixteen boxes just \$16 per month, while the expenditures, including rent, clerk hire, etc., was over \$85 per month. These facts developed at the examining trial and are public property. Now listen: This cold storage was run "according to directions given by two prominent Abilene lawyers, who claimed that it would be lawful." This is the plea put up by the proprietor after pleading guilty to three or four cases; and yet fines and jail sentences are piling up thick and fast. If we mistake not Baird will soon be represented in the Taylor County jail.

The end is not yet by a jug full.

"BUTTIN' IN."

Stamford has passed Merkel in population, her school census showing 331, while Merkel's is only 286. Not so much difference, either, when you consider the difference in the amount of gas it has required to build the two towns. Merkel is not second, however, in commercial importance.—Reporter.

A left handed compliment, truly. The Reporter should remember that comparisons are odious, and that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. It has been looking for a place to butt in for some time, but the manner of its butting is obnoxious. Gas, indeed! And yet Merkel has never undertaken a thing that was a failure. There has been no gas expended on this man's town. Abilene has lots of gas and all of it is not confined in gas pipes, either; for the Reporter has a small factory of its own. Don't criticise or insinuate, brother, and if you can't say something good, keep mum. We know envy will crop out now and then in spite of us. However,

the people know your braying as far as they can hear it and are charitable enough to class it strict low middling.

TWO EXTREMISTS.

Maj. James K. Vardaman, the Democratic nominee for governor of Mississippi, is an extremist of the deepest hue. "If I were the sheriff of Holmes County," said he during his canvass, "and one of these scoundrels (negro rapist) were to fall into my hands, I would speedily run him away, if possible, before the avengers could gather to attend to his case. If I were governor of Mississippi and the sheriff of any county should appeal to me for troops to protect such a scoundrel in his custody, I would order the troops sent by the quickest route, and in numbers sufficient to do the work. If I were neither sheriff nor governor, I would head the crowd to hang the infernal black devil before the troops could get there. This is my position in a nut shell." The opponent of Vardaman was what might be called an extremist in the other direction. He had the backing of the Republican element. Between the two men there is very little room for a choice from principle.

Thomas Jefferson, in speaking of the intermingling of whites and blacks, said: "The two races, equally free, can not live in the same government." Recent events go to show that Jefferson was gifted with remarkable foresight. He penetrated the vista of the future with his mind's eye and saw the situation as it now stands revealed to the world. The negro problem is to the front, and it is destined to be an issue in the next campaign. That serious complications will arise, is a foregone conclusion, but a solution of the vexed problem is, at this time, a remote possibility.

The Abilene papers are "puffed up" and "swelled out" because their town raised \$150 in premiums for the first three bales of cotton marketed there. Abilene is five or six times as large as Merkel, and yet she raised only a third more premium money. And Merkel had subscribed her premiums a month before Abilene thought of doing such a thing—in fact, Merkel's enterprise forced Abilene to do the copying act. Merkel was the first town in this country to raise first bale premiums. Merkel sets the pace and other towns have to follow or be left in the rear.

People may have all sorts of faith, but if they lack charity they are as "sounding brass and tinkling cymbol." And those who blow about their own perfections and with the very next breath shy a word of censure toward their neighbor, are short on gray matter, to say the least. "Judge not lest ye be judged," is a Biblical injunction, and a good one, too. Heed it.

"Knowledge," said Daniel Webster, "does not comprise all which is contained in the large term of education. The feelings are to be disciplined; the passions are to be restrained; true and worthy motives are to be inspired; a profound religious feeling is to be instilled and pure morality inculcated under all circumstances, all this is comprised in education."

"Guilty and the punishment of death," was the verdict of the jury in the case of Caleb Powers,

charged with the assassination of Gov. Goebel of Kentucky. This is the third sentence for Powers, the other two being for life imprisonment. He has been in the penitentiary three years. The execution has been set for November, but notice of appeal has been given.

The conviction of Jett and White is considered a decisive victory for Kentucky and marks, it is thought, the end of the Hargis-Cockrell feud in Breathitt County, which has resulted in the death of twenty-seven persons during the past two years. The trial lasted six weeks and was the first conviction of a member of either faction.

The saloon interests are flooding Nolan County with anti-prohibition literature, notwithstanding the fact that there is no likelihood of an election being held in that county anyways soon. Well, let them go ahead if they want to raise the issue. The prohibition executioner has his little ax suspended over the headsman's block.

The west is highly prosperous, thank you.

Jupiter Pluvius is a good old soul after all.

There is entirely too much Johnson in Ohio.

Human nature woke up Monday morning with a bright smile on its face.

Now that the rains have come, let's all quit growling and go to picking cotton.

Merkel merchants are talking to the trade, and the trade is coming their way.

Roosevelt is still enjoying himself at the government's expense at his palatial home.

To thoroughly purge itself of the stain of assassination, it will be necessary for Kentucky to bring W. S. Taylor, who is hiding behind the cloak of Republicanism, to justice. He is the guiltiest of the guilty.

Prohibition Matters.

Bowie County was last Thursday added to the long list of prohibition counties. Prohibition carried in the following counties Saturday:

Cass, 300 majority.
Upshur, 257 majority.
Montgomery, by narrow margin.

Elections will be held in seven counties this week.

The Cooke County election will be contested by the antis.

The prohibitionists of Brazos County have secured an alternative writ of mandamus to force the commissioners to order an election for that county.

The game law was out Sept. 1, and it will be lawful to shoot doves between this date and March 31, according to the bird protection law, but only 25 can be killed legally by a sportsman in one day.

Geo. S. Berry last week closed a deal for the Rawlins farm of 320 acres, situated four miles southwest of town, the consideration being about \$20 per acre. In the deal the rock business house occupied by Burroughs & Mann passed into Dan Rawlins' hands. This farm is one of the best in all this country, and Mr. Berry is to be congratulated upon his purchase.

The Mail and Dallas News one year only \$1.50. Subscribe now.

Saddles! Saddles! Saddles!

Come and see them.

The largest stock ever shown in Merkel. Prices ranging from \$15 to \$50. If we do not have what you want give us your order and will make it as you wish. We have the best leather and a man that knows how to cut it.

R. L. Hudson.

UNSURPASSED TRADING PLACE

Merkel Merchants are Preparing to Meet the Trade Demands. Goods Arriving Daily.

The time is now here when farmers and their families are seeking the best trading place. In this connection The Mail wishes to call attention to Merkel, the town that has always kept in the front ranks as a commercial center.

We have several stores that would be a credit to towns much larger and of greater pretensions than Merkel. They carry full lines of everything, from a pin to a threshing machine, and sell at legitimate prices. Every merchant in this town is a bonafide citizen and has property interests to protect, therefore customers are assured of honest, reliable and courteous treatment. There are no grafters here. You will be treated fairly in every deal, whether buying goods or marketing your produce.

There is no reason why goods can not be sold as cheap here as elsewhere, and they are. One man's money is worth as much as the money of another man and it will command the same consideration in the wholesale markets; hence, when it comes to buying goods our merchants are there with both feet. There are no discriminations in freight rates, for the Texas Railroad Commission looks after this and the railroads dare not disobey their orders. Taxes and rents are no higher here than elsewhere and not as high as they are in incorporated towns. Therefore, everything being equal, there is no good reason why people should go to other towns to do their trading, when they can do fully as well, and

better, at Merkel.

The business men invite critical buyers to visit their stores and price their goods, and they assure them careful, considerate attention and 100 cents worth of goods for every dollar spent with them.

Look over The Mail and see what they have to say to you.

A Remarkable Record.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has a remarkable record. It has been in use for over thirty years, during which time many million bottles have been sold and used. It has long been the standard and main reliance in the treatment of croup in thousands of homes, yet during all this time no case has ever been reported to the manufacturers in which it failed to effect a cure. When given as soon as the child becomes hoarse or even as soon as the croupy cough appears, it will prevent the attack. It is pleasant to take, many children like it. It contains no opium or other harmful substance and may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Time to Advertise.

It is time now for the merchants of Merkel to begin their fall campaign of advertising. No town in this country offers better facilities or greater inducements to the trading public than Merkel, but it must be proclaimed from the housetops. Our fine cotton market must be heralded abroad.

We have something to offer the people and no time should be lost in doing it.

Heaven Helps Us

In our troubles, but use Hunt's cure for itch, Tetter, Ring worm, Itching Piles and eczema. Guaranteed.

RACINE VEHICLES

For 9 Years the Best Vehicles in the West

Durable, Stylish and unexcelled in all the world for

Genuine Comfort!

Used by thousands of people in West Texas, and endorsed by every user. Remember that RACINE vehicles are the BEST FOR THE MONEY ON THE MARKET.

Let us show you through our repository, or write us for 1903 RACINE catalog.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,

Distributers, - Abilene, Texas.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

Has world-wide fame for marvellous cures. It surpasses any other salve, lotion, ointment or balms for Cuts, Corns, Burns, Boils, Sores, Felons, Ulcers, Tetters, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Chapped Hands, Skin Eruptions; Infallible for Piles. Cure Guaranteed. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Dr. J. E. Kennedy, a brother-in-law of Dr. J. H. C. King, who was here prospecting last week, left Monday for his home at Lovelady, Houston county. He was very favorably impressed with the country.

For good wagons cheap, see Dickson. He is overstocked and is making a special price on the celebrated Lansing Wagon.

I am overstocked on wagons. If you need one now is the time to get a good one cheap.

W. H. Dickson.

Mrs. Geo. S. Berry is visiting her mother, Mrs. Anderson, in Fort Worth.

Sam Patterson and family left Tuesday for Winona, Miss., their future home. The Mail goes with them and, we hope, will be a welcome visitor.

W. W. Johnson and wife of near Trent returned Sunday from a visit east.

Prof. and Mrs. Sewell left Tuesday for Gail, Borden Co., where Prof. Sewell had previously accepted the position of principal of the public school. The Mail regrets exceedingly to lose this family, but takes great pleasure in commending them to the good people of Gail as in every way worthy of their confidence and esteem. The best wishes of all go with them.

The ten week's drouth which has hung over this section was broken by a good rain, which extended from a few miles this side of Midland as far east as Sweetwater.—Big Springs Enterprise.

Feed crops throughout the Big Springs country are damaged considerably by the dry weather and at present the outlook for fall and winter grass is not very promising.—Big Springs Enterprise.

Mrs. Dr. Davis of Ennis, Miss Kate Davis of Greenville and Lige and Granville Moore of Abilene are the guests of Mrs. J. W. Little. Mrs. Davis is Mrs. Little's mother, and the others are near relatives.

Messrs. G. W. Johnson of Dayton, Tenn., and R. T. Greer of Itasca, Texas, mentioned last week as being here prospecting, left Saturday for their homes. Mr. Greer bought 100 acres of land from Mr. Howard and will move here in the fall. Mr. Johnson will probably move here to take advantage of our excellent school facilities. Both are excellent gentlemen and The Mail extends them a hand of welcome.

H. H. Lofton of Eskota sends \$1.50 for The Mail and Dallas News, and he gets a bargain. We are glad to add his name to our list.

Comer Clay visited a friend (?) in Abilene Sunday.

Mr. George and family, who have been conducting the South Side Hotel for some months, left Tuesday for Eskota, where they will take charge of the railroad eating house. Mrs. Woodrum has assumed management of the hotel.

YOU'LL FIND IT IF YOU LOOK AT THE RIGHT PLACE!



WE have the place, you have the desire. We will give you the best for that desire and be glad of the opportunity. If you want good and up-to-date things at reasonable cost, come to us and let us satisfy you.

We have just returned from market where we selected an elegant stock for our store. In marking this stock it is our purpose to put a live and let live price on everything, rather than sell some goods at cost and take advantage on goods with which you're not so well posted. No misrepresentations allowed here if we know it. We want your business and promise as much for your money as you can get any place. New goods arriving daily. Shall be glad to show you if you just look like you want to buy. Come to see us.

J. T. WARREN

Devoured by Worms.

Children often cry, not from pain, but from hunger, although fed abundantly. The entire trouble arises from inanition, their food is not assimilated, but devoured by worms. A few doses of White's Cream Vermifuge will cause them to cease crying and begin to thrive at once, very much to the surprise and joy of the mother. 25c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Pads! Pads! Pads!

Collar pads, knee pads—pads of all kinds at Hudson's.

Read Here.

See Ben Nisbett for up-to-date tonsorial work. Hair cutting a specialty. Everything nice and clean. Next to Star Store.

Miss Susan White of Roscoe is visiting friends here.

Mrs. Lane Corley of Honey Grove, who has been spending the summer at Deming, N. M., for the benefit of her health, came in Monday and will spend a few days here with relatives. She is a niece of Dr. Leeman.

Mrs. Fitts and daughter, Miss Maggie Hatten, were called to Newport, Montague county, Thursday by a telegram announcing the serious illness of Mrs. Fitts' father, Mr. Joplin, who several years ago had ranch interests in this county.

21 Years A Dyspeptic.

R. H. Foster, 318 S. 2d St., Salt Lake City, writes: "I have been bothered with dyspepsia or indigestion for 21 years; tried many doctors without relief; recently I got a bottle of Herbine. One bottle cured me, I am now tapering off on the second. I have recommended it to my friends; it is curing them, too." 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

G. W. Boyce's

New Grain House three doors west Watkins' Meat Market.

To The Public.

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

About 'steen people stopped the editor long enough while in Abilene Saturday to whisper: "You can tell 'em prohibition prohibits in this man's town."

J. T. Warren returned Sunday from the markets. He was accompanied by his family who have been visiting relatives at El Paso, Ark.

J. A. Brown was down from Roscoe last week and favored The Mail with cash on subscription. John recently moved there from Tuscola. He will teach a school north of Roscoe next session.

Mrs. Ray and Miss Jones of Dallas are visiting their cousin, I. S. Allen, and family.

Aunt Lucindy

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

Wanted—Everybody to see that show case full of neckties at Warren's.

Mrs. Taylor, who has been visiting Mrs. Dr. Leeman, left Friday for Anson and will go from there to Austin.

Miss Lillian Julian of Caps returned last week from Colorado where she was in attendance upon the Chautauqua at Boulder, Colo. Miss Julian will be on hand at the opening of school to assume her duties in the music department.

Will Hamilton was up from Abilene Sunday.

W. L. Harkrider arrived from Saint Louis Saturday.

Mrs. H. C. Williams and daughter, Miss Eva, were shopping in Abilene Saturday.

"Grand-ma" Long came in from Eastland Sunday for a visit with her daughter, Mrs. I. S. Allen.

Zade Polk returned Sunday from New Orleans where he accompanied a shipment of cattle.

What is Life?

In the last analysis nobody knows, but we do know that it is under strict law. Abuse that law even slightly, pain results. Irregular living means derangement of the organs, resulting in Constipation, Headache or Liver trouble. Dr. King's New Life Pills quickly re-adjusts this. It's gentle, yet thorough. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

The very newest things in ladies neckwear and belts can be seen at Warren's.

A Full House!

We have just unloaded a full car of Furniture, direct from the factory. It contained

**IRON BEDS, ROCKERS,
TABLES, SIDEBARDS,
ETC., ETC.**

This gives us one of the largest and best stocks of Furniture in this country, and the very low prices we are making ought to move it out. Drop in and let us show you.

W. P. Browning & Co.

A full line of carpets.

Watermelon Molasses.

N. H. Ridings, the watermelon grower, has been experimenting a bit, making molasses from the juice of the watermelon. The sample of this product sent to The Favorite office registers as first class "sweetenin'." It has neither the taste of sorghum nor Louisiana, nor cane syrup nor maple syrup, but it is as good as the best. Perhaps as to price, it would fall into the maple syrup list—at least \$1 a gallon.

Mr. Ridings may be establishing a new and flourishing industry. In the form of molasses, the watermelon becomes a permanent article of commerce.

In the experiment made Mr. Ridings took a Reed watermelon weighing about 20 pounds. Strained through a flour sack to separate the pulp and seeds this melon pronounced about one gallon of juice. This gallon boiled down made one quart of molasses. The melon at the patch was worth 5 cents. If the product is worth \$1 a gallon then 20 cents worth of watermelons makes \$1 worth of molasses.—Bonham Favorite.

All of us need the help, sympathy and collaboration of others in our work here. Our manner and expression can draw sympathy to us or drive sympathy away, dooming us to failure. Each man's success is that of a man among men. We all rely on others, and he who glides along smoothly goes farthest. Gladstone was polite invariably—even in the fierce fights of debate. And his manner was the same when he returned the salute of a cab driver on Carlton Terrace as when he spoke to the greatest men in England. The really great men of all countries are polite, because great men are strong men, and politeness is one

kind of strength. Good manners and cheerfulness should be cultivated for their own sake. But if you must act for personal gain, you can make no better investment of effort than to cultivate in yourself politeness and cheerfulness. There is not a man but could advance himself in that way. Every young man who is gruff, ill-mannered when he dares, is simply keeping himself back.—Ex.

Up-To-Date Definitions.

Morman—An American Turk. Neighbor—A person who borrows from you.

Vixen—A woman who has cut out her rival.

Reformer—A person who tries to make others be good.

Optimist—A person who believes he knows it can't get any worse.

Socialist—A person who wants you to divide your wealth with him.

Quibbler—A very disagreeable person who picks flaws in your arguments.

Yankee—A person who talks through his nose and beats you on a horse deal.

Usher—A person employed by a church to keep strangers from entering the members' pews.

Tomboy—A girl who has some life about her; she is hated by the women because she is liked by the men.

Wag—A person who wags his tongue so constantly that he says something good once in a while.

Politician—A wise man turned fool; an honest man turned dishonest; or a turning the pockets of the other two.

Xylophonist—A person who inflicts a deal of unnecessary torture upon his friends with what he calls music.

Zealot—person who believes

in his God as much as other people do in theirs.—Eliot Kays Stone in Leslie's Monthly.

Ed Campbell and family of Eastland, former residents of this county, are here for a few days' visit. Mrs. Campbell is a sister of Mrs. I. S. Allen.

Another Protracted Meeting.

Evangelist J. B. Jones will begin a protracted meeting at the Tabernacle Saturday night, next. Everybody cordially invited to attend.

Open Again.

Barnhill's Photo Gallery is open again for work on Fridays and Saturdays in each week. Everything in the photo line done at prices to suit the times.

Missing—One post hole digger. The one that borrowed it will please bring it home, and oblige.

T. S. Dennis.

Hard to Understand.

"I don't seem to understand things at all," whined the boy.

"What's the matter now?" asked his father.

"Why, yesterday you whipped me because I didn't tell the truth, and today mamma whipped me because I did."

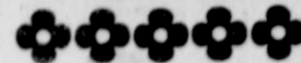
"O, I guess not."

"Yes she did. Old Mrs. Brown was here an' kept lolly-coddling me, an' then she ask me if I didn't like her, an' I said 'no.' If I said 'yes,' I s'pose you would have licked me for lying', an' when I said 'no' ma licked me for not being polite. A boy don't seem to have any chance at all."—Chicago Evening Post.

R. A. Martin has accepted a position with J. O. Hamilton.

Concho County went 4 to 1 prohibition Saturday.

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



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK,

—OF—
MERKEL, TEXAS

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits : : \$65,000
Shareholders' Responsibility over ONE MILLION DOLLARS

We are always in a position to take care of our friends and customers. We want your business and will treat you right and make it to your interest.

GEO. S. BERRY, Cashier.

The Drouth Broken.

It rained!

These two words speak volumes. Many hearts have been lightened, and there is an expansive smile on the face of all.

Rain began to fall in fitful gusts Sunday evening, but it was not until late into the night that it came down in a steady patter on the housetops and forming into small pools on the thirsty ground. The rain was general, and while not as much as was needed, it has done a world of good and is worth many thousands of dollars to the Merkel Country. Fully one inch fell here. Cotton and late feed stuff will come on a-whooping, and another rain inside of two weeks insures a bumper crop.

Tuesday morning a heavy dew, the first of the year, formed, which answered the purpose, almost, of a rain, and following in the wake of the rain was very beneficial.

Altogether, prospects are not so gloomy, and the farmers have cause for rejoicing.

Dora Dots.

It has been a long time since anything has been sent in from Dora, so will try and send in a few items.

Hot and dry.

Cotton needing rain.

Mrs. Lowe and daughter, Miss Verder, of Cedar Hill, Dallas Co., are visiting friends at Dora.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Rope of Dallas Co., are visiting J. M. Bryson and family.

Once more the Dora Red Birds have been called on to show their skill in playing ball. The Wingate boys came to Valley Creek. The Red Birds met them there and defeated them by a score of 8 to 13. Again the Red Birds were called on to show Nolan that they can be beat playing ball—score 4 to 17 in favor Dora. Hurrah for Dora! They haven't been beaten this year.

The big C. P. meeting closed Sunday night with good success.

A good rain fell at Dora Sunday night.

Kat Klaw.

Mrs. Burroughs Dead.

A telegram received from H.C. Burroughs brought the sad news of the death of his mother, Mrs. M. A. Burroughs, at Arlington, yesterday morning. She will be buried at Mansfield today.

The announcement of the death of this good woman has cast a shadow of gloom over the entire community. She had been sick and gradually sinking for several months, and only consented a few weeks ago, after she had begun to realize that the end was drawing near, to visit her daughter at Arlington, where, she said, she could spend her last days near the loved one gone before.

The Mail tenders its sincere sympathy to the bereaved relatives. The writer loved this warm hearted Southern woman and will hold as a sacred memento the memory of her sweet Christian character and many womanly virtues. The toil-worn hands have ceased their labors; the spirit has flown to the God who gave it, and she is at rest. We would not have it otherwise.

††

Austin Fitts received a telegram yesterday announcing the death of Mrs. Fitts' father, Mr. Joplin, at Newport, Texas. He will be buried at Mansfield today. Mr. Joplin many years ago owned ranch interests in this county, and will be remembered by the old time cowmen. Mrs. Fitts has the sympathy of all in her great sorrow.

LAND FOR SALE.

640 acres out of the H. T. Buse survey, 100 acres under fence and in cultivation; about 8 miles south of Merkel and near Nubia postoffice. Title perfect. Will sell cheap and on good terms. Write to Wallace & Camp, Rockdale, Texas, for prices and terms.

W. L. Clay returned from Abilene Monday evening, having been excused from service on the grand jury.

Forward March!

Our business is marching forward and each year shows an increase over its predecessor. The reason is plain: We depend more on Genuine Bargains, Fair Treatment, and the Values we give than on talk. We have nothing but the best to offer. Come see. ∴ ∴ ∴ Fall goods are arriving daily.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

"The Price Setters," : Merkel, Tex.

Harness! Harness! Harness!

We have them.

If you don't believe it come in and see for yourself. We make them to order. All kinds, styles and prices. Buggy harness from \$7 up. Wagon harness from \$10 up.

R. L. HUDSON.

ELLIOTT & MILLER

DEALERS IN

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

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

WORMS! WHITE'S CREAM
VERMIFUCE!

For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies.

Prepared by **JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.**

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN, Merkel, Tex.

Mrs. Mollie Allen, of South Fork, Ky., says she has prevented attacks of cholera morbus by taking Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets when she felt an attack coming on. Such attacks are usually caused by indigestion and these Tablets are just what is needed to cleanse the stomach and ward off the approaching attack. Attacks of bilious colic may be prevented in the same way. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

District Court.

The grand jury was organized by making J. N. Ferguson foreman, the appointment of Capt. Taylor door bailiff, Ed Sheppard and R. H. Reddell walking bailiffs, and J. F. Northington and J. W. Hill riding bailiffs.

The court took up the trial of railroad cases today, and it is thought probable that the week will be consumed by them.

Tuesday the case of Luther Ross vs. the T. & P. a damage suit on a shipment of cattle was called for trial.

Next week the criminal docket will be taken up.

The Patterson murder trial is set for Monday of the fourth week and the Arthur murder case for Monday of the fifth week, a special venire being ordered for each case.

It is not at all probable that the docket will be anything like cleared this term of court.—Reporter.

An operation was performed on the little child of Will Bass, Monday, for some infantile trouble, which was a success, and the little one is now rapidly improving.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Howard are entertaining a fine girl who made her appearance yesterday.

The country is good for a fifth of a bale to the acre without further rain or growth of the plant. This much is already in sight.

Mrs. J. W. Hill and babies are visiting at Trent.

Disease takes no summer vacation.
If you need flesh and strength use
Scott's Emulsion
summer as in winter.

Send for free sample.
SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists,
409-415 Pearl Street, New York, N. Y.
50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

BROOKS COLD TIRE SETTER

Tires Set Quicker and Better and Will Run Longer Without Loosening than is Possible When Set the Old Way.

Compresses the metal cold; no burnt or charred felloe surface to wear away, but a hard wood surface instead; no steam and water soaked felloes to shrink away and loosen the tire; no burnt paint to replace. It gives just the amount of dish required; no over-dishing; no guess work about it. We guarantee our work and refund the money if not satisfactory. Give us a call and see the machine in operation.

Compton & Son,
Merkel, Texas.

A Tripple Hanging.

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

Attempt at Burglary.

Some unknown party made an unsuccessful attempt to burglarize the depot Tuesday night. A stranger was noticed around the depot by Night Operator Childress before and after the arrival of the east bound train. Shortly after the west bound he made his appearance at the door, but was not admitted, and stepping outside he broke in a window, presumably to gain admittance. However, the night watchman was seen coming up and the would be burglar took to his heels. Agent McCord has made an armory out of the depot, and the next night prowler will meet a warm reception.

What A Man Can Do.

Austin Statesman.
A man can have a hard time if he looks for it, and he will get smiles in exchange for his cheerfulness if he chooses that course. A man can believe he lives in a dead town if he tries to believe it, even though it isn't a fact. He can also help to liven up the situation considerably by looking for the advantages of his own town and crying down the disadvantages of other towns. He will thus soon discover his town to be the best on earth for him.

A fine girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Hamm yesterday. The Mail extends congratulations.

Gained Forty Pounds in Thirty Days.

For several months our younger brother had been troubled with indigestion. He tried several remedies but got no benefit from them. We purchased some of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets and he commenced taking them. Inside of thirty days he had gained forty pounds in flesh. He is now fully recovered. We have a good trade on the Tablets.—Holley Bros., Merchants, Long Branch, Mo. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Fatherhood.

"I can find ten men competent to command a regiment for one fit to be a father," wrote a wise man recently. Yet it is probable if a popular vote was taken, 99 out of every 100 normal, able-bodied male citizens would unequivocally declare themselves entirely eligible to the duties and responsibilities of fatherhood. It is not uncommon to find women who hold earnest scruples as to their fitness to meet the grave obligations of motherhood. But if there be a father elect, or otherwise, whose heart and mind are to any degree disturbed by doubts of such a nature, his name is resting in the shade and he has yet to declare himself.

A man's past life may have been a saturnalia of debauchery, yet when it pleases him to marry he sees no reason why there should be any ground to question his own worthiness, any right to suggest that he had qualified himself and should be disbarred. So long as Caesar's wife rigidly maintains a standard of personal honor and virtue, Caesar himself need not bother about the question. He belongs to that half of humanity which makes laws for the other half; his first duty to himself is to see that the other half scrupulously obeys.

There is a type of martyrdom not recorded in the annals of human torture, yet worthy to rank with any there inscribed. It is found in the heart of the mother who sees her son seeking the paths worn smooth by his father's footsteps; seeking them from hereditary instinct, undeterred by any word or council or any knowledge that that father held consistently to a standard of right living, which the son should never derogate nor lose. To say that a man is vicious because he may be, and a woman virtuous because she must be, is to state the problem of parental duty very unfairly and inadequately.

Yet since the world began humanity has furnished in perpetuity this living illustration of the question. The beauty and purity and permanence of domestic life, has been upheld by many women—and some men.

There can be no change in the situation so long as women are themselves content with the accepted standard. When a man realizes that the woman he honors and loves demands something higher and better and nobler of him, he will assuredly meet the demand, if there be worthiness in him. It is a grave question, involving the preservation of domestic virtue and the maintenance of mutual confidence and happiness in the home.

A question which should not be met in a light or flippant spirit, since every man and woman who hopes for the elevation of their kind may accomplish something toward its attainment.

Surely it is a cause worthy of the interest of the best and highest manhood; that manhood which typifies the divine in humanity; the manhood without fear and without reproach.

MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL.

First Session Begins Sept. 14, and Continues 9 Months—Outlook Very Bright.

Merkel High School opens Sept. 14, 1903, and continues nine months. All who wish to transfer their children to Merkel school should do so at once. There is every reason for believing that the next year will be the most successful year in the history of the school. It is the aim of all concerned to give the pupils attending Merkel High School advantages equal to those afforded by the best schools in the State.

You will make no mistake if you enter your children in Merkel High School. 3t

We now have a Turning Lathe and can turn out anything in woodwork; also have installed a feed mill and can grind your corn, etc., at reasonable prices. See us when in need of anything in our line.

Parker & Willingham.

If you have a buggy that needs painting take it to J. C. Watkins. He has a nice room in the rear of his store fitted up for that purpose. He also buys or sells on commission anything you may have to dispose of.

The Mail and Dallas News \$1.50. Hereafter the price of The Mail and Dallas News, both for one year, will be only \$1.50, either to new subscribers or renewals. This gives you 156 papers a year at less than 1c a copy.

Take advantage of this offer now.

A New Market.

I have bought the Sheppard meat market and take this method of asking the patronage of the people. There is a great deal in knowing how to cut meat; I understand the business and can please the best epicure. Give me a trial. 4t

C. V. Bigham.

Pure Neatsfoot harness oil—the best—at Hudson's.

HOUSE COLD TIRE SETTER

A Machine That Does the Work.

We are just in receipt of one of the House Cold Tire Setters, one of the best machines to be found. It will do the work claimed for other machines, and do it better. Come in and let us show it to you.

Moon & Hargroves.

DON'T BE Hidebound

other. Aggravated case, you might say. "Dipping is the only way; you can't feed a cow anything that will kill ticks, lice, cure itch, mange, etc." Don't take that man on the jury if you want justice; evidence does not count with him. Bass' Medicated Salt has proven its case. See witnesses for first day; plenty more if needed:

Geo. W. McDaniel, Abilene, Tex.
Mack Merchant, " "
Judge D. G. Hill, " "
W. J. Thompson, " "
W. A. Farquhar, " "
P. D. Bumpass, " "
W. B. Ellis, Tecumseh, Texas.

Raised From the Dead.

C. W. Landis, "Porter" for the Oriental Hotel, Chanute, Kan., says: "I knew what it was to suffer with neuralgia, deed I did, and I got a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment and I was 'raised from the dead.' I tried to get some more, but before I had 'deposed' of my bottle, I was cured entirely. I am tellin' de truth too," 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Advertised Letters.

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

Burns, Mrs. Laula.
Chappel, J. H.
Rounsaville, D.
Singleton, J. H.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

We have two good second hand organs that we will trade for wood, cattle or good horse. Basham, Shepherd & Co.

To the Ladies of Merkel and Surrounding Country.

We have moved to the Woodard building, just across the street from First Nat. Bank, and have fitted up a toilet room for the accommodation of the ladies who come to Merkel to trade.

Will leave for market Sept. 8. Will have a nice line of street hats on display Sept. 21.

Come and see us; make yourselves at home, and get our prices on all millinery goods.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

The union protracted meeting closed last night. There were 12 or 14 conversions, besides a number of reclamations, and the people generally have experienced an awakening to the need of a greater fervor in their devotions. The meeting has been productive of much and lasting good.

T. J. Coggin came in Monday from his ranch in Collingsworth County. He reports grass good and cattle fat, and says that country is in good shape.

Croup

Usually begins with the symptoms of a common cold; there is chilliness, sneezing, sore throat, hot skin, quick pulse, hoarseness and impeded respiration. Give frequent small doses of Ballard's Horehound Syrup, (the child will cry for it) and at the first sign of a croupy cough, apply frequently Ballard's Snow Liniment externally to the throat. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

ISAAC N. TAYLOR,

—LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC—
Office in First Nat'l Bank.

The hidebound man is a harder proposition than the hidebound horse. Bass' Salt will cure the horse, the man's trouble is mental. Has a rock in one end of the sack, meal in the

other. Aggravated case, you might say. "Dipping is the only way; you can't feed a cow anything that will kill ticks, lice, cure itch, mange, etc." Don't take that man on the jury if you want justice; evidence does not count with him. Bass' Medicated Salt has proven its case. See witnesses for first day; plenty more if needed:

Cooley Brothers, Hodges, Texas.
Wm. Horn, " "
R. L. Olds, " "
Fred Robinson, Audra, Texas.
J. P. McCasland, " "
Walter Porter, Terrell, Texas.
O. T. Maxwell, Cisco, Texas.

Sold by all Grocery and general stores. Freight paid if cash accompanies order. J. T. Warren agent at Merkel.

BASS BROS. DRUG CO., : Abilene.

Watch for Announcement

Of the arrival of our NEW FALL GOODS. We bought a large stock, and the people will REAP THE BENEFITS. WATCH THIS SPACE.

J. O. HAMILTON

The Farmer's Column.

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

Two Methods.

Jno. Ballew.

The farmer can adopt either of two methods. First, he can take the old and tedious task of walking around the rugged base or over the top of the mountain with blistered toes going up, and blistered heels coming down or, second, he can take the fast express through the tunnel.

This will put him at his destination in an incredibly short time and leave his bones and body and brains and muscles in a condition to transact some business when he gets there.

In this age of progress, gentlemen, I'll take the train and let the other fellow do the walking.

In choosing this near and rapid route we should apply the gray matter, vigorously studying what kind of plows require the least power to run them, how the power should be applied and how to loosen and pulverize the soil around the little plant without retarding its growth and vitality.

How to save the entire corn stalk, shucks, blades and all and how to feed it in balanced rations to stock raised on the farm.

We should study how to market the crops and the animals fed on it, and especially how to invest the proceeds after we come in possession of it.

I can put my finger on men, and I might as well confess that I have been one of them, who spend the value of their crops, every year before they are made with credit merchants for short, shoddy goods at long prices and then bewail their awful condition in the fall because they have not the cash to buy the same or better goods at half the money.

This is the man who walks; the other kind reads while he runs.

A Chambers county farmer this year planted 75 acres of land in Irish potatoes from which he realized \$6000. As soon as this crop was harvested he planted the same ground in sweet potatoes and says that this crop will net him from three to five thousand dollars. An object lesson in diversification.

It requires 10,000,000 bales of American cotton to keep the wheels of the world's factories

going. No other country but this can supply American cotton. Therefore factories must patronize American cotton growers or go out of business. Then the question is, who shall price the farmer's cotton, the man who grows it, or the man who wants to buy it? Everybody knows who ought to price it. That's the important question.—Farm and Ranch.

More forage crops and more live stock to eat them, should be grown in every part of the country. This is the most profitable farming for the people generally. Experts make more money growing high-priced specialties, like popular fruits, celery, cauliflower, and the like; but for the farmer with a domain of reasonable size, stock farming is more profitable than growing crops to be harvested and sold, whether these crops be cotton, grain or hay, or what not. When the farmer grows the feed and converts it into meat, horse or mule force, milk cows, or even milk, butter and cheese, he becomes a manufacturer and adds the manufacturer's profit to that of the farmer. He has also a by-product the material required for the permanent improvement of his farm in productiveness and selling value. Such farms never wear out, but like wine, improve with age.

Fearful Odds Against Him.

Bedridden, alone and destitute. Such, in brief was the condition of an old soldier by name of J. J. Havens, Versailles, O. For years he was troubled with kidney disease and neither doctors nor medicines gave him relief. At length he tried Electric Bitters. It put him on his feet in short order and now he testifies. "I'm on the road to complete recovery." Best on earth for Liver and Kidney troubles and all forms of Stomach and Bowel Complaints. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, Druggists.

Newspaper And Man.

Victoria Advocate.

A newspaper is like a man—because generally it reflects some man—and it should be judged as a man is judged—largely on the whole. No man lives a perfect life; no editor prints a perfect

paper. If an editor is honest he is bound to offend some one every day of his life. If he doesn't offend some one he is namby-pamby and flabby. The same thing is true of the newspaper man. A newspaper is bound to make mistakes; in getting news it must necessarily take hearsay. But if in the long run and in the main, week after week and year after year, a paper stands for decency, for honest thinking and clean living, that is a good paper.

A Boy's Wild Ride For Life.

With family around expecting him to die, and a son riding for life, 18 miles, to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, W. H. Brown, of Leesville, Ind., endured death's agonies from asthma; but this wonderful medicine gave him instant relief and soon cured him. He writes: "I now sleep soundly every night." Like marvelous cures of Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds and Grip prove its matchless merit for all Throat and Lung troubles. Guaranteed bottles 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's drug store.

District Court.

District court convened at Abilene Monday with Judge Calhoun presiding. The week has been given over to preliminaries and it will be next week before the court gets down to work in earnest. Following is the grand jurors for this term:

Ed S Hughes	F N Ferguson
C L Brown	T E Mashburn
S N Edinborough	T B Cross
Geo Berry	R A Pollard
T O Anderson	J C Adams
W H Craig	J T Shaffer
W L Clay	J B Wilkinson
C M Hunt	W H Cosper

JURY COMMISSIONERS.

D E Russell	T J Toombs
A B Britton	

JURORS FOR FIRST WEEK.

S H Basham	C F Gratham
A F McDonald	S R Curtis
A G Lane	N Y Brookerson
J Palmer	J H Fuller
J C Cyphers	S A Derstine
T J Coggin	J B Bell Jr
Z D Hailey	M H Bell
R P Henson	J S Barnes
Jinks McGee	C W Harris
W C Newberry	J R Keeling
J L Bradley	C M Largent
C R Booker	R J Fry

County Teachers' Examinations.

By those who are not already licensed to teach in the county schools it should be remembered that examinations will be held at Abilene Friday and Saturday. This will be the only one held this year until December, and

that will be too late for prospective teachers to get certificates for this season. The examining board for these two days will be C. E. Evans and F. W. Chatfield, the other member not having been named.

There used to be eight examinations each year. This number was cut down to three by a law passed at the last Legislature. These will come in September, December and May.

The Third Bale.

C. A. Burks, who lives near Trent, brought in the third bale of cotton last Thursday and walked off with the last premium, \$20. The bale weighed 517 lbs., classed as good middling and sold for 11 9-16c, Watson & Bacon being the purchasers. Mr. Burks also secured The Mail free for one year and his name is placed on our books.

Swallowed a Staple.

The fourteen-months-old babe of R. B. Grider swallowed a 1½ inch wire staple last Wednesday and so far has suffered no inconvenience from the lodgment of

the hard object in its stomach. Physicians state that the passage of the staple seems an impossibility and that an operation may have to be performed before it can be removed. However, there is a probability of its remaining in the child's stomach several weeks before complications set up, though it may pass at any time and with comparative ease.

Important to Patrons.

Children between the ages of 8 and 16 on the first day of September, 1903, have been enrolled or should have been enrolled and are therefore entitled to attendance in the public schools for the next school year.

Children 7 years of age were not enrolled, but under the law are entitled to the benefits of the public school.

Mrs. R L Parker and children of Merkel spent last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hendrick, of near this place. She returned home Saturday.

J. W. Mayfield and family and Uncle Billy Kilpatrick of Merkel spent several days visiting relatives in this vicinity recently.—Auson Western-News.

A CARNIVAL

of high grade goods and lowest prices at this store. Why not supply the many needs for the home and the farm right here and NOW?



Furniture, Utensils, Studebaker Wagons, John Deere Buggies, Buck's Stoves and Ranges,

HANCOCK DISC PLOWS
STANDARD DISC PLOWS
HARDWARE and TOOLS

GEO. L. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.