

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 26, 1903.

NO. 40.

THE HIGHER LIFE.

Rev. Abe Mulkey's Famous Sermon on Restitution.

As we sat down to the table I said, "Oh, God, accept thanks for the first honest food that we have had in seven years," and will always believe Jesus Christ dined with us that evening spiritually as much so as he ever dined with Zaccheus in person after his restitution. Since then I have been invited out by men estimated to be worth millions; I have been asked to come to their homes and to their banquets and I have been to many a spread, but the sweetest food that ever went into my mouth, it seems to me, was that little bacon and that corn meal that night.

My friends, my belongings at Corsicana only brought thirty-three and a third per cent of my indebtedness. I got New York exchange and sent it to all my creditors with my note for sixty-six and two-thirds per cent pinned to it, and after I had paid the last dollar, God laid his hand upon my head and heart and said, "Go preach the Word." The last year's sales of my business reached forty or fifty thousand dollars, but I said, "I will go."

Did you ever notice these fashionable mercantile thieves? We call them fashionable because it has become popular. Did you ever notice how they break? The first thing you know he comes home and says to his wife—maybe he is a Methodist and his wife belongs to the Baptist church—"Wife here is \$500; put it away for safe keeping." She takes the money, puts it in one of them things and finally slips it between two mattresses. The next day, somehow, sales are grand and he brings home some more money. This keeps up for two weeks and then after he has brought home some thousands, he says, "Wife, I am fixing for a rainy day," and the wife knows as well as she knows her name, that that damnable little Methodist is robbing at the institution and instead of saying, "I will not be implicated; you are robbing your best friends, the men who have been your best friends for years; you cannot bring your money home and make me your partner." Instead of saying that, she will take it, and put her arms around his neck and say, "God bless your soul, I knew when I got you that I would not starve." And she will take that money and shove it down in the same place, and then the first thing you know, the concern is busted; and then, here comes the drummers. Now I am going over ground which I know all about. See those drummers you bought the goods from? A drummer can see further through a millstone than anybody you ever saw. He can see clear through that wall right into the wife's stocking where the money is hid. Now then, he has a task on hand to get it, and this woman has a task on hand to hide it. You can't hide a stolen dollar to save your soul. You can put all the earth on top of that dollar; you can put your stocks and bonds in the same place, but, God bless you, it will come out on top some way. Then your wife comes down the street with

See W. H. Dickson for Hardware.

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

you and she asks, "What does that sign, Agt. mean? "A grand thief." Then see the fellow as he goes poor for a little while. His clothes get seedy. He is not the big bug of the town now. His horses don't go quite as swift, not so many entertainments at his house. Then again he tries to convince everybody that it was an honest break. The worst task the devil ever gave me for my face to cry out, "I am honest; I am honest;" and my heart to cry out, "Yeu are a liar, Abe." Did you ever have a task of that kind? Trying to make everybody believe you are honest and all the time your gizzard crying out, "You are a liar!"

My friends, see that business man going down to the butcher's. Why, the best judges of every thief in your town are the bank cashier and the butcher. The butchers know every thief in your town. Now, watch this fellow, as he walks up the butcher is sharpening his knife. "Captain, you will have a porterhouse dollar and a quarter steak an inch and a half thick?" "No, didn't you hear I was busted?" "Yes, well, what will you have?" he says. "Give me ten cents worth of liver." He eats stewed liver for breakfast, fried for dinner and hash for supper. Then, the next thing, he goes to hiding the money in his wife's name.

Now, let me draw you a picture. God bless you, the old devil sits on his hind feet and laughs. Listen. You see a great big two hundred and seventy-five pound fashionable mercantile thief with about \$45,000 in a little banty wife's name. Did you ever undertake to put 45 dominecker eggs under a little banty hen and require her to cover them all? Look at that big dominecker thief as he stands on one foot. Here comes a drummer to collect his account, and he sees that little wife sitting over there on those eggs clucking. The drummer gets nothing. My Lord, what a picture; and that thing has the audacity to call himself a man. God bless

you, you are a dog. Look how ridiculous those things are, and yet you call yourself a Christian. There is a slipshod profession of religion going up and down in this world that is called the Christian religion, my friend, that is of the devil. The God that I serve says, "No thief shall enter the Kingdom of God." You can be baptized in the mighty deep, and be confirmed and take on the ordinances of the church, but God tells me I must remember and be honest toward my fellow as well as toward my God.

There are ten commandments, four of them relate to God and six of them to man. A man cannot be a Christian and not pay his debts. You say that's hard; it is not Abe Mulkey's statement; it's God's. A man who will not pay his debts is a thief; he is more than that, he is a liar—has got to be.

I remember my first sermon was to a crowd about two-thirds the size of this. I preached on "Restitution" and it was something new to those people, but somehow God took that sermon and laid it on the hearts of the people. They fairly rained dollars at me. I took all that money in my hat and called for the secretary of the foreign mission society. She stood up and I gave it all to God for missions. I resolves to dedicate my life, my experience, my all to his service. Up and down this state and other states I have told this experience and God has blessed it to the salvation of souls and caused the restoration of many, many thousands of dollars. About 42,000 have professed faith in Christ. I resolved to pay every cent I owed with interest and build an orphanage for homeless children in Texas. Thank God, both have been accomplished.

I preached this sermon once in a town in East Texas and a dentist came to me afterward and said: "Mr. Mulkey your sermon was good, but while you was preaching a woman in your choir was singing "Come to Jesus" with a set of teeth in her mouth

that she refuses to pay for." But bless your life before I left she had paid for those teeth with a sewing machine and was singing with her mouth wide open.

At Amarillo a man, after hearing this sermon, wiped out his wife's name from his sign and told her I could tell it over the state that he intended to pay his debts.

A man changes his name after he "busts." He don't do it. He simply changes his breeches.

A good woman is the best thing in the world, but when she becomes bad she is very bad. I asked an H. & T. C. conductor once what was the most reprehensible thing that had occurred in his experience as conductor. He studied a minute and then said: "A woman once came into the car with a great big thing,

that looked like a bass fiddle wrapped up in a blanket. I asked her what it was and she said it was a kid. I said you will have to pay that kid's fare. She began to cry and say "Oh, conductor, you wouldn't make me pay for a baby would you?" I looked at that "baby"—great big yearling—feet hanging down like canvassed hams, hands big as a hat and his eyes like buck-eyes in a bowl of clabber—and it occurred to me to have a little fun. So I said all right ma'am, but you will have to nurse that kid in your arms till you get off. And I made her do it."

(continued next week.)

New Century Flour—guaranteed to be the best that comes to Merkel.

Chenault & Provine.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING!

We have inaugurated a drawing of parcels at our store which, in advance, has excited much interest. The plan is this: A certain number of packages containing merchandise to the value of 50c have been made up, and in one package is a 50c piece, in two others \$1.00 each, in another \$2.50 and in another

\$5.00

We sell these packages at 50c each and they positively contain 50c worth of goods. Remember that the drawing begins Saturday, Nov. 28, at noon, and

TRY YOUR LUCK!

MAXWELL & SONS.

Don't forget that we have nice Groceries and sell them at honest prices. Price with us.

THE 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.

FOR SALE

Sarré and double harness, good as new, for cash or on time. J. C. Hamm.

G. W. Boyce's

New Grain House three doors west Watkins' Meat Market.

Aunt Lucindy.

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

Select your holiday goods now before the stock is broken. We have an elegant line to select from.

Rust & Pittard.

If you want good coffee use Blanke's. Every pound guaranteed at the Star Store. 3t

We have by far the nicest line of perfume we have ever carried. All the different odors and at all prices.

Rust & Pittard.

While it lasts, any kind of coffee 10 packages for \$1.00 at Chenault & Provine's.

Harps, Harps, Harps!

Fine assortment from 5c to 75c each.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

For Sale.

I have for sale the following property:

2 choice milk cows, fresh in milk; cheap.

Good farm hoses on time with approved note.

4 good buggies, very cheap. For particuless inquire at Exchange Stable or see

E. M. Rust.

Good flour \$1.00 per sack at Chenault & Provine's.

Young Lady Deputy Sheriff.

Quanah, Tex., Nov. 20.—Hardeman county has the distinction of having the only lady deputy sheriff in Texas, Miss Neva Matlock, daughter of sheriff Matlock, was duly and constitutionally sworn in as deputy. Miss Matlock wears her honors with womanly grace, and says if there are any bad men in her jurisdiction, she feels satisfied there would be no trouble in placing the cuffs and bringing them to justice.

Enjoying Himself.

A fond mother sent her boy into the country and after a week of anxiety received the following letter:

"I got here all right, and I forgot to write before. It is a very nice place to have fun. A fellow and I went out in a boat, the boat tipped over and a man got me out, and I was so full of water that I didn't know nothin' for a long while.

"The other boy has to be buried when they find him. His mother came from her home, and she cried all the time. A horse kicked me over, and I have got to have some money to pay the doctor for mendin' my head. It was broken a bit.

"We are going to set a barn on fire tonight, and I am not

your son if we don't have some real fun. I lost my watch, and I am very sorry. I shall bring home some snakes and a toad, and I shall bring home a tame crow if I can get 'em in my trunk."—California Ladies' Magazine.

An Invitation.

You are cordially invited, and urged, to come in at once and pay what you owe us. We need the money and must have it. Attend to this at once, please. 3t Compton & Son.

Wants to Confess.

A report is current that Wm. Dillard who with Dolph Johnson is confined in the county jail under indictment for the murder of Hank Richardson last week, has offered to divulge all the facts connected with the crime under the consideration that he be released from custody. Sheriff McGaughey says that he has received no such offer from Dillard, direct, but is informed by the jailor that Dillard made such a statement to him (the jailor.) Much interest is manifested in the outcome of this affair and it seems the general opinion that Dillard will tell all he knows concerning the deed.—Sweetwater Reporter.

20th Century Club Program.

Nov. 28.

Roll call—Current Events. Sketch of Rudyard Kipling—Mrs. Warren.

Rudyard Kipling as a Poet—Mrs. Hoople.

Selections from Success—Mrs. Daniel.

Comments. Parliamentary drill—Mrs. Johnson.

Meet with Mrs. Hairfield.

Dec. 5.

Mary Johnson. Roll Call.

Business. Life of Mary Johnson—Mrs. Thurmond.

Criticism on Audrey—Mrs. Evans.

Conduct round table talk—Mrs. Berry.

Meet with Mrs. Evans.

Religion at Home.

Pecan Valley News.

There is no place where a man's religion is so valuable as in his own home. Many a man appears very religious on Sunday, but if you could see him at home with his family, at the table, or when he loses his temper over some trivial thing, you'd not wonder when he says he can not do personal work. And it would not do any good for him to speak to his own children about becoming Christians. A man had been storming at his family, especially at his wife, one day, until he had spoiled the pleasure of everybody in the house that day at least. Then he went out slamming the door behind him. His little boy had stood off at one side listening to it all. He looked into his mother's face with tearful eyes and coming across the room, took her hands in his own and exclaimed: "Mother, we made an awful mistake when we married papa, didn't we?"

The Christian people have been very successful in their efforts to raise money to build a house of worship. They have about \$1,250 subscribed and hope to swell the amount considerably. This will give Merkel five church buildings. Nothing gives a town a better moral tone than beautiful and commodious churches with their domes pointing heavenward.



Drs. Adams, Hubbert & Thompson Experienced Specialists

of Abilene and Colorado

will be in Merkel to look after some unfinished work. One or more of the firm will remain this one day, Nov. 30, 1903, and take pleasure in looking after any one afflicted with

EYE, EAR, NOSE THROAT

or defective vision which can be remedied by the fitting of glasses. We cure all diseases and deformities of eye, ear, nose and throat that are curable; the incurable are frankly told of their condition, hence they are out no money or time on useless treatment. Unquestionable reference furnished if desired. 90 per cent of catarrhal conditions cured.

Dr. Thompson is no new partner, though in consequence of continued illness of family has not been in the field of work with us until the last week, he working most of the time west on the T. & P., with and without Dr. Adams.

One case of cross eyes straightened free Monday, the 30th, at Merkel. Call and see us. Cost you nothing for examination.

Office with Drs. Leeman and King.

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.

R. W. Millsap received the word Thursday night that his daughter, Miss Lena, and J. R. Green had married. He came in Friday morning to investigate. On finding that it was true that they had married without his knowledge, he was considerably warmed up over the affair and made things lively for awhile in town, but there was no serious damage done more than a shot through J. R. Green's prescription case. He and Mrs. Millsap left for Dallas Friday.—Roby Banner.

Legislating Morality.

The Advance.

"Hold on," cries the saloonatic, "you can't make men moral by law." Well, neither can we make men healthy by law; but perhaps you may have noticed that we have quarantine laws to prevent the spread of disease and law against adulterated foods and diseased meat. It would seem that when some men come to deal with the liquor traffic, they throw away every particle of their common sense—if they ever had any.

That it costs the United States Government the sum of \$2,329 to carry mail from New York to "the outer end of its territory," is the claim advanced by a writer in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. This "outer end" of territory is said to be Point Barrow in Alaska, a distance of 3,452 miles from New York, and such are the difficulties of travel that the journey one way covers almost five months, and five different methods of transportation are used, the cost to the government being the same if there is but one letter to be sent.

Geo. S. Berry spent yesterday in Abilene.

Thanksgiving:

This is a special invitation to the farmers of Taylor county and adjacent county when in town to call and make their headquarters at the bank. All information and courtesy will be extended. We'd be glad to explain our method of doing business, and if you give us a part of your business, we'll treat you right. Our business has greatly increased recently, and we take this opportunity of thanking all for their business. We appreciate it and try to deserve it. See us when you come to town!

Warnick's Bank,

Merkel, Texas.

FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

New Way of Using Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Mr. Arthur Chapman writing from Durban, Natal, South Africa, says: "As a proof that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is a cure suitable for old and young, I pen you the following: A neighbor of mine had a child just over two months old. It had a very bad cough and the parents did not know what to give it. I suggested that if they would get a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and put some upon the dummy teat the baby was sucking it would no doubt cure the child. This they did and brought about a quick relief and cured the baby." This remedy is for sale by Burroughs & Mann.

The latest sensation is the scrap between L. Lapowski and Mrs. S. S. B. Greer, which occurred at Mr. Lapowski's residence on last Sunday. Mrs. Greer has made complaint against him for striking her, and he pleads not guilty. The case will come up at the January term of county court.—Roby Banner.

Where He Ought to Go.

Cuero Star. A father once wrote to his county paper, saying that his son, who was raised on a farm, desired to study medicine and asked as to where would be the proper place to send him. The following answer was at once received: "To the lunatic asylum by all means. When a young man has a practical farm education and thinks of entering a poorly paid and badly crowded profession it is a sure sign that he is becoming demented."

Electric Lights.

It is understood that R. L. Parker will put in an electric light plant on a small scale, but sufficient for the present needs of the town, and has already ordered the necessary machinery. He is building a house for the accommodation of the plant and work on its construction will begin right away.

The people should encourage the move and give it their hearty approval. It takes these things to make a progressive, up-to-date town.

The Taylor County District Court convenes Monday, Feb. 29.

SPECIAL

WHILE IT LASTS.

About 3 dozen men's suits at wholesale cost.
About 2 dozen boys' suits at wholesale cost.
Also about 40 children's suits.
A few ladies' jackets worth 12.50, this sale 7.15
A few ladies' jackets worth 10.00, this sale 6.35
A few ladies' jackets worth 5.00, this sale 3.75
Capes worth 2.00 at 1.00
Capes worth 1.50 at .75
Waists worth 1.50 at .85
Waists worth 2.50 at 1.40
Bring list; we sell strictly as advertised.

DENNIS BROS.

Don't forget that we are in line on Groceries.

Their Aspirations.

Center Champion. The young man or woman who never aspires to anything noble and worthy, who is never ambitious to do a good deed or perform a noble act, will not be likely to do either. Any young man or young woman who is destitute of hope, who is gloomy, morose, despondent, will never be heard of in the world's history because of his having especially benefited the world.

A Cotton Convention.

The Reporter is advocating a county cotton convention to discuss the question of securing fresh and better seed for planting next year. It is a well known fact that boll weevils hibernate in cotton seed, and to run the risk of inviting the depredations of this pest by planting home grown seed is something our farmers should fight shy of. The Mail does not believe the boll weevil can survive our climate, but it is best to take every precaution. Northern grown seed do fully as well here, and it lessens the danger of the spread of the weevil. Let's have a convention by all means. A thorough airing of the matter will do good if nothing else is accomplished.

Time's About Up!

Pretty soon you'll have to make a decision regarding the purchase of

MEN'S, BOYS' AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

For Fall and Winter. We respectfully ask you to call and look through our stock before you decide. We are making very low prices on this line and the quality will speak for itself. : You cannot afford to buy shoes without seeing the "Star Brand;" none better. : Ten per cent reduction on all woolen Dress Goods. : In addition to giving you the benefit of Lowest Prices, we give you Premium Dishes with every Dollar you spend. Full line of Staple and Fancy Groceries at Lowest prices. Yours truly,

The Star Store,

Merkel Mercantile Co., Props. : Merkel, Texas.

SPECIAL CLUBBING OFFER

A man who is fully alive to his own interests will take his local paper, because he gets a class of news and useful information from it that he can get nowhere else.

STRONG-MINDED

up-to-date men also want a good general newspaper in order to keep in close touch with the outside world. Such a paper is the Dallas Semi-Weekly News. A combination of the Merkel Mail and the Dallas Semi-Weekly News is just what the farmers in this section need in order to keep thoroughly posted upon Local News, Home Enterprises, Personal Items, State News, National Affairs, Foreign Matters. In short, this combination keeps the farmer and his family up to the times on information.

For \$1.50 we will send the two papers one year—156 copies. The Farmers' Forum in The News is alone worth the money to any intelligent Farmer or Stockman of this locality, to say nothing of other special features.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

List of Immortals.

Following is a list of The Mail's friends who have remembered it in a substantial way since last report. Note what good men they are:

S A Walden,	Merkel.
C D Sears,	"
W S Smelser,	"
J W Tally,	"
C J Douglass,	"
F H Maxwell,	"
H C Burroughs,	"
G W Wilson,	Inkum.
E Burroughs,	Italy
by H C Burroughs	
Mrs N E Brady,	Red Oak, Tenn.
by S A Walden	
W H Wynne,	Bee, Tenn.
by S A Walden	

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.

The fine hat which some lady will wear away from Mrs. Hoople's Millinery establishment is to be given away Dec. 23. Every purchase amounting to \$1 entitles you to a chance at it. tf

We've Had Enough.

The Baird Star has tendered The Mail a very cordial invitation to come down and partake of Baird hospitality and while there cast our optics over a town what is a town. But the Star's invite only reached us this morning—too late for Thanksgiving. If another invitation is forthcoming about Christmas times perhaps we'll consider it favorably. The writer used to visit Baird pretty often before she put on her city raiment. We had a juiceheart down there, but, like the Star, she went back on us. We can never forgive Baird for throwing this damper on our youthful aspirations. We've had enough.

How About It, John?

An exchange asks: "Who is the happier—the man who owns \$100,000 or the man who has seven daughters?" The man with the surplus of girls, of course. The man with the money is not satisfied and wants more. The man with the seven daughters is satisfied—he has enough.—Kerens Gazette.

According to that, the editor of the Garland News has got two to go.—Lewis, in the Record.

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.

DR. J. W. LITTLE,
Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN
FERRIER BUILDING.

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-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. 6-1p

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 THE FARMERS' DEPARTMENT... farming written by college professors and others up North on conditions that don't fit Texas. It is the actual experiences of farmers here at home who have turned over the soil. If you are not taking THE MERKEL MAIL you should be. **OFFER**.. It is helpful to the best interests of your town and county. For \$1.75, cash in advance, we will mail you The Merkel Mail and the Galveston or the Dallas Semi-Weekly News for 12 months. The News stops when your time is out.

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



"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS

BETWEEN
FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS

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

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.

Try reading The Mail.

Best Liniment on Earth.

I. M. McHany, Greenville, Tex., writes, Nov. 2nd, 1900: "I had rheumatism last winter, was down in bed six weeks; tried everything, but got no relief, till a friend gave me a part of a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment. I used it, and got two more bottles. It cured me and I haven't felt any rheumatism since. I can recommend Snow Liniment to be the best liniment on earth for rheumatism." For rheumatic, sciatic or neuralgic pains, rub in Ballard's Snow Liniment, you will not suffer long, but be gratified with a speedy and effective cure. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Dirt was broken yesterday for The Mail's new building. Contractor Miller hopes to have it ready for occupancy early in January.

The cotton crop of Jones county is going to be pretty good this year and it is not all out yet by considerable. Anson has weighed out about 5,500 bales and still it comes. Not far from 8,000 will be the number and that means much for our town and county.—Western News.

Miss Lucy Leeman came in from Polytechnic College, Fort Worth, yesterday afternoon to spend a few days with home folks and recuperate from a spell of sickness.

Mr. Morris' daughter has been seriously ill for two weeks, but is improving and will soon be well again.

Passenger trains were delayed a couple of hours Sunday by a freight wreck near Tebo in which one car was derailed.

The Fort Worth Record.

A Democratic Paper
for Democratik Texas

The long felt want of North Texas has been supplied, and the Fort Worth Record, as good as the best and Democratic besides, is a daily and semi-weekly fact. By special arrangement The Mail is enabled to make a remarkably low combination rate until Jan. 1, next, for subscriptions one year in advance.

The Record one year.....	\$1.00
The Mail one year.....	1.00
Both papers one year.....	1.35

This offer will be withdrawn on Jan. 1, after which the usual combination price will prevail. Sample copies at this office. Remit to this office.

Caesar Conquered Britain.

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

The stores are closed today from 10 to 3 o'clock in observance of Thanksgiving.

Cut 'em Out.

Fort Worth Telegram. An old-timer says that there are two kinds of girls a fellow should never flirt with. The girls who are so young that they don't know any better and the girls who are so old that they mean business.

Little Alese Berry has been quite sick since the return of the family from Mineral Wells.

See those Christmas novelties at Burroughs & Mann's.

Worm Destroyer.

White's Cream Vermifuge, not only kills worms, but removes the mucus and slime, in which they build their nests; it brings, and quickly, a healthy condition of the body, where worms cannot exist. 25c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Life's Variations.

Richmond News. As the hours and days are in the years, so are the days, months and years in our lives, changing and varying, showing vivid contrasts as we recall and consider them. Looking back, each of us identify all these different times—the glory and tranquility of summer, the storm and stress, the following beauty and happiness and depression and misery. Every life is filled with these changes. Calm and storm, success and failure, and sunshine and gloom, grief and happiness, confidence and fear succeed each other, some times swiftly, some times slowly. None of us may expect that the years of our lives will be all alike. It would not be good for us. We are beings of many sides and emotions, and changes are necessary to develop us symmetrically and completely. If it was all joy or sadness we would be wrapped or deformed, stunted or immature as things in the nature are when they live always in the dark, as all nature would be if we never had clear weather or never clouds, wind or rain.

Get your combs, brushes and toilet soaps at Burroughs & Mann's.

There are many kidds of cowards, but none lower and more despicable than the slanderer.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES

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Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS:

Statements of their indebtedness were sent out to foreign subscribers Nov. 7, with the request that they remit amounts due at once. We have heavy obligations to meet Dec. 1, and feel sure this appeal to our subscribers will not go unheeded.

Kindly send in what you are due, and if convenient pay your subscription a year in advance. This would help us out wonderfully and place The Mail under further obligations to its friends.

Sincerely,
THE PUBLISHER.

PROHIBITION AND POLITICS.

The Mail has all along contended that the prohibition question should not be mixed up in politics. This idea is growing in popularity, and from many and various sources the people are being urged to avoid such contentions. Even the Sweetwater Review, which recently stated that an opponent of Congressman Smith was being hatched out in the prohibition incubator, has had the wool pulled from its eyes and now sees that the saloon interests are trying to drag prohibition into politics. The saloons know no party when they think their nefarious trade is at stake, and they will make a tremendous effort to land Texas in the republican column next year. The following from the Review, which is both timely and pertinent, shows to what extent the saloon interests are organized:

"The prohibition question has finally been dragged into politics, and that, too, by the antis, who of all things had least to gain by such a course. In a special election to fill the vacancy in the Houston congressional district, caused by the resignation of Hon. T. H. Ball, the democratic nominee, Judge Pinckney of Waller county, is a prohibitionist. The republicans attacked him on this ground, and it required the combined efforts of the anti-prohibition leaders throughout the state to prevent the fool antis in the Houston district from bolting the democratic ticket by the wholesale, and electing the republican nominee, and as it was, they remained away from the polls by the thousand and permitted the republicans to carry the city of Houston by a small majority—the first since re-construction days."

One by one the old confederates are passing away and the ranks are thinning fast. The latest of these old heroes to pass over the river is Gen. George M. Stuart of Baltimore. He was a West Pointer and a member of

the regular army at the breaking out of the war, but resigned and joined the confederate forces, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. Peace to his ashes.

The Confederate Veterans meet next year at Nashville.

Uncle Sam may yet have more wards than he can comfortably look after.

The Panama uprising has solved the vexed problem of the isthmian canal.

By the way, wouldn't it be a good plan for the turkeys to get out an injunction in behalf of their breed?

The spare rib season is upon us in all its epicurean grandeur and beauty. Excuse this sauged English.

The administration practicing secession in Panama is a spectacle for you. Southern people are laughing up their sleeves.

YOUR NEW PREACHER.

Under this head the Texas Christian Advocate says some timely things—thoughts that should sink deep into the heart of every member of the church. The Advocate says in part:

"When your preacher arrives give him a warm and cordial welcome and make him and his family feel that they are at home and among friends. This will brighten the parsonage life and start the preacher off with a light heart and an earnest purpose."

This is good advice not only for Methodists, but for Baptists, Presbyterians and members of the various other denominations. People too often criticise instead of assist their pastors, and the result is a strained feeling between them. The pastor does not come up to expectations; he is either too old or too young, too large or too small, and he doesn't act just right. These criticisms, and more, are made publicly, they reach the pastor's ear, and, very naturally, he is placed at a great disadvantage in making pastoral calls and in various other ways. We should keep our opinions to ourselves.

In the case of the Methodist pastor there are many things to consider and weigh. He has no choice in the matter of his going and must go where the bishop designates. Perhaps he would prefer other charges, and perhaps he is not just the man to suit the peculiarities of the congregation over which he presides; but he ought to be satisfied and the people ought to be charitable and extend him a warm welcome.

Petty church bickerings are the most abominable things to be met with in the Christian life. They breed discord and strife and the preacher's salary suffers in consequence. Cut it out.

A joint resolution has been introduced in the Senate inviting Cuba to become a State, with Porto Rico as one of its counties.

There is a general wail for broom corn, and with this product selling at \$100 per ton, it looks like there is money in raising it.

Will the Sweetwater Review give us an account of that case of delirium tremens pulled off in its town last week? Did prohibition cause it?

When your Uncle Samuel and his stalwart son, grand, glorious, glimmering, glittering old Texas, both hike after Mr. B. Weevil,

there will be something doing in the cotton patches.

The Supreme Court of Nebraska is taking steps to enforce its mandate against the use of the Bible and hymn books in the public schools. This is a news item and comment is unnecessary.

The sheriff of Potter county has been suspended from office upon evidence presented to the District Judge alleging failure in the performance of his official duties in enforcing the local option law. There are a number of other officers in this State who ought to be given a similar dose. When an officer can enforce the law and won't, he should be made to do it.

THANKSGIVING.

Merkel people and people of the Merkel Country have many things to be thankful for, and this is the day to utter the prayer of thanksgiving to the Supreme Ruler of the universe for the bountiful harvest of the past year, and to petition that he continue his care throughout the coming year. Our country has been immeasurably blessed; the people are fairly prosperous, and above all we have escaped the dread pestilences which have laid bare the hearts and homes of the people in many sections of our lovely Southland. For these blessings we, as a whole, happy and contented people, should be duly grateful.

Who would have thought that the editor of the Merkel Mail was so thirsty, with wide open towns like Sweetwater and Abilene on either hand?—Review.

We'll admit that Sweetwater is wide open, but as to Abilene—she is wide open only in the matter of juggling local option violators and for the reception of cotton and other business boosters. Unlike Sweetwater, Abilene's jug is uncorked.

This seems to be an age of grafting, boodling and bribery, especially in high places. The postal scandals, the Territory scandals, the western land scandals and the Saint Louis boodling scandals—these are a few of the frauds that have been recently unearthed. All of which shows that corruption is rampant. And these things are going on under the cloak of the Government.

SALOON BENEFITS.

In giving the result of the court decision in the Nolan county local option contest case last week, the Baird Star took occasion to say: "This is bad news for Colorado and Merkel that were so anxious to bestow the blessings of prohibition upon the ungodly town of Sweetwater." Why bad news for Merkel? What interest other than the common good of humanity had Merkel in the election? Of course the Star will say that Merkel wanted Sweetwater dry to save her own tallow, but that is not so, and we can prove it. Sweetwater has a larger trade territory than Merkel—so has Colorado,—but up to Monday of last week (we have not heard since) Merkel had shipped more cotton than both of them together had shipped. Trade is booming, while three or four new business houses are in course of construction, not to mention the many improvements in the residence portion; for unlike Sweetwater Merkel's future does not hinge on the success of the sa-

We Make Them

Saddles Harness Lines Bridles Strap Goods

Also carry a full line of Harness, Chains, Collars, Whips, Blankets and Robes; in fact I carry a full line of everything kept in an up-to-date saddle shop. See me when in need of anything in my line.

Yours for Business,

R. L. Hudson

It might be well to mention, also, that one of Baird's enterprises has just moved here, and it was not attracted by saloons. Truly, Merkel is a living, moving, animated refutation of the charge that it takes saloons to make a live town. Come up and help us revel in prosperity (and prohibition), Bre'r Gilliland.

But the Star is reminded that the saloons have not yet won their contentions. A solid anti-commissioners court is not the whole thing in a case of this kind. The election boundaries were written out by one of the best lawyers in West Texas and he contends that they are correct. If not, why did the antis put up such a fight?

PRAIRIE DOG QUESTION.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a notice of an election to be held next month to determine the fate of the prairie dogs in this county. In calling attention to the election The Mail wishes to state that it will have nothing to say for or against the proposition. It is a matter affecting only the farmers and one which they alone should decide. Town people, of course, would like to see the festive dogs go hence, but it would be unwise for them to vote something upon the farmers that they don't want, and which in some instances might prove burdensome.

Let the farmers decide the question to their own satisfaction, and they are sure to be pleased.

For Perfect Baking

Charter Oak & Garland Stoves

Surpass ALL Others

When you get one of these stoves PERFECT BAKING is guaranteed, DURABILITY is guaranteed, CONVENIENCE is guaranteed, ECONOMY of FUEL is guaranteed in fine, PERFECTION in a stove guaranteed. Remember, Charter Oak and Garland Stoves bake perfectly and last a lifetime. It is just as easy to own one of these makes as any other kind, and they give twice the satisfaction. We are waiting to serve you with one.

Ed S. Hughes &

Abilene.

You May Depend On It!

When you select a suit of clothes or an overcoat or any kind of a garment here, and we recommend same as reliable and first class. We know what we are talking about. We have the guarantee of reliable and responsible manufacturers for the makeup and quality of our garments. The materials have been carefully selected from the most reliable mills and factories in the country and the clothing made up under competent supervision and by the most skilled labor obtainable. The result is the best and most perfect garments possible. We are never satisfied until we have the best to offer the trade: nothing is too good for our customers.

You want to see the latest in young men's dress overcoats.

We handle the McDonald Shirts in dress and work. It is useless to say that they are the best shirts made.

Our assortment of neckwear would do credit to a city store. Such a variety of shades and styles.

Hats for men & boys. The Stetson in all the new shapes, white and blk, \$5.00

The Thoroughbred \$3.00

The Statesman 2.50

The Globe 1.50

Best assortment in all this country.

There is nowhere to be found a better selected stock of dress goods than here. Quite a lot of suit and skirt patterns, one of a kind. Just in, a lot of velvet waist pattern, 4 yard lengths, and very stylish.

Ladies skirts, jackets and capes, and some splendid values to offer you.

Blankets in wool and cotton—enough to supply every home in the country—at prices that will cause you to buy if you

need them at all. Sizes 10-4 and 11-4 in both wool and cotton.

In ladies, misses and childrens underwear we have ladies union suits at 50 and 75c, heavy ribbed pants and vests at 25c each or 50c a suit, misses heavy ribbed union suits at 50c, and childrens heavy ribbed union suits at 35c.

Men's wool and cotton underwear—a fine assortment in medium and heavy weights.

Boots and Shoes.—Yes, you want to see our new boots in black and tan. They are the latest of the Hamilton Brown get up, and are beauties. You should see them if you wear boots. This kind is \$7.50. We sell the best shoes—the Hamilton Brown make.



J. T. WARREN



THE PRICE SETTER
Merkel, Texas.

Doesn't Respect Old Age.

It's shameful when youth fails to show proper respect for old age, but just the contrary in the case of Dr. King's New Life Pills. They cut off maladies no matter how severe and irrespective of old age. Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Fever, Constipation all yield to this perfect pill. 25c, at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

We advertise to induce you to visit our store and see our stock. We rely upon our goods and prices to make sales and our way of doing business to make you a regular customer.

J. T. Warren.

Prairie Dog Election.

The commissioners' court during its session of last week upon petition ordered an election to be held Dec. 19th, 1903, to determine whether or not the prairie dog shall be exterminated in accordance with the law passed by the last legislature.

This is a question that should be generally discussed and understood, and The Mail will publish extracts from the law at the proper time.

The murky and smoky weather which has experienced several much for our to-day. A general complaint from the State, and is a Western News.

Miss Lucy which no one seems to care for. Some say it is a Worth, yesterday there are positive spend a few days and recuperate certain it is smoke. sickness. Texas the smoke is

Mr. Morris' or by the presence of seriously ill foot it is improbable is improving and effect this local memory of the oldest well again.

Passenger to a similar experience ever been experienced a couple of hours before. one car was destroyed in Abilene Saturday.

J. A. LEEMAN...

PHYSICIAN and SURGEON

Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store, Merkel.

W. J. Cunningham L. A. Dale

CUNNINGHAM & DALE,
LAWYERS

Partners in Civil Practice only. Office over Comper Bros., Abilene, Texas.

ISAAC N. TAYLOR,

—LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC—

Office in First Nat'l Bank.

Some store keepers work hard to see how little they can get into their goods and how much out of their customers. We make new customers right along by reversing the process.

J. T. Warren.

Sam M. Leeman and family arrived Friday from Collins, Miss., to spend a few days with relatives.

The editor and I. S. Allen drove out to Stith Saturday evening and spent a few moments viewing the sights. But, seriously, Stith is situated in one of the most prosperous communities in this section. There are some beautiful, well tended farms along the route, which does one good to see. Stith has one store, gin, blacksmith shop and a long distance phone station. It will be a city after awhile.

Thanksgiving services will be held at the Presbyterian church this morning, the various congregations to participate in the exercises. It is peculiarly appropriate that the occasion be observed in this way, for as a people we have been bountifully and graciously blessed.

The road leading north of town has been graded and put in first class condition. Yea, verily, all good roads lead to Merkel. But keep up the work.

A Runaway Bicycle.

Terminated with an ugly cut on the leg of J. B. Orner, Franklin Grove, Ill. It developed a stubborn ulcer unyielding to doctors and remedies for four years. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured. It's just as good for burns, Scalds, Skin Eruptions and Piles. 25c, at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

Buy a "Majestic" suit this time. For \$10 you can get fit, fabric and finish equal to the average \$12.50 suit.

J. T. Warren.

To The Public.

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

That new house belonging to Tom Dennis, which is nearing completion, shows up nicely. It looks suspicious, to say the least.

I. S. Allen was heard to remark Monday that he landed in Texas just 28 years ago—Nov. 23, 1875. He stopped in Collin county and hired out as a wood hauler for the munificent salary of \$12 per month. Big jump, that, from wood hauler to telephone magnate.

Rev. R. B. Young shipped his household goods to De Leon Saturday and left the following day to join his family at that place, from which they will proceed to Blanket. Bro. Young's many friends here regret to lose him and their best wishes go with him to his new charge.

Mr. Houston with his family left last week for Clairmont, where they will reside in the future. We are sorry to lose them, but trust they will be well pleased with their new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. S. Berry returned Sunday evening from a week's stay at Mineral Wells.

Beautiful Clear Skins.

Herbine exerts a direct influence on the bowels, liver and kidneys, purifying and strengthening these organs, and maintaining them in a normal condition of health; thus removing a common cause of yellow, mothy, greasy skin, and more or less of pimples, blotches and blackheads. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

A Corn Mill.

I will grind your corn at reasonable prices; also have installed a turning lathe and can turn out anything in wood. See me.

R. L. Parker.

Remember H. M. Rose when wanting first-class barber work. He will please you. Next door to Star Store.

Fresh car of flour at Warren's. Now would be a good time to lay in a supply. Straight Patent Flour at \$2, and Peacemaker, \$2.25.

G. W. Jones of the Stith community has sold out and bought a small farm near Clyde, where he will engage in truck farming. Mr. Jones says he hopes to establish a market for his truck at Merkel, and seems confident that he will make it pay.

Rev. C. A. Evans came down from Sweetwater Saturday. His household goods were brought down by wagons Tuesday, and the family is comfortable domiciled at the parsonage. His congregation seemed well pleased with him, and no doubt this will be one of the best year's work in the history of the church.

The well just east of The Mail office has been completed and the windmill and tank in the street will be moved to it. This is a decided improvement—a discarding of backwoods manners.

A Dangerous Month.

This is the month of coughs, colds and acute catarrh. Do you catch cold easily? Find yourself hoarse, with a tickling in your throat and an annoying cough at night? Then, you should always have handy, a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup. J. A. Anderson, 354 West 5th St. Salt Lake City, writes: "We all use Ballard's Horehound Syrup for coughs and colds. It gives immediate relief. We know it's the best remedy for these troubles. I write to induce other people to try this pleasant and efficient remedy." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

A Full House!

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

IRON BEDS, ROCKERS, TABLES, SIDEBOARDS, 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.

New crop syrup and oatmeal at Warren's.

My boy, if you have not learned to use tobacco, ponder on this fact: No man who uses it is glad that he learned how, and no man who does not use it is sorry that he never learned how.

Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.
Bradley, Arthur G
Burleson, Rue
Clark, Ever
Currie, J A
Edwards, W P
Greenway, Walter
Myers, Miss Nora
McWill, Miss Leta O (4)
Waulton, Miss Mary
Weeb, Jake
Willingham, A F
Young, W F

Blanke's Coffee, the best on earth. Every pound guaranteed at The Star Store. 3t

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.

Lunch baskets—all sizes and prices—at Browning's. Just the thing for school children.

WANTED—FAITHFUL PERSON to TRAVEL and supervise force of salespeople and make collections for manufacturing house. Straight salary \$20 a week and expenses. Salary paid weekly and expense money advanced. Previous experience unnecessary. Local territory. Business successful. Position permanent. Enclose self-addressed envelope. Superintendent, 324 Dearborn street, Chicago.

Heaven Helps Us.

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

Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins!

All kinds of strings and repairs at Basham, Shepherd & Co.'s.

Dr. Hubbert, the specialist, will be in Merkel next Monday. Reed his ad.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is Pleasant to Take.

The finest quality of granulated loaf sugar is used in the manufacture of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and the roots used in its preparation give it a flavor similar to maple syrup making it quite pleasant to take. Mr. W. L. Roderick, of Poolesville, Md., in speaking of this remedy, says: "I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy with my children for several years and can truthfully say it is the best preparation of the kind I know of. The children like to take it and it has no injurious after effect." For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

We have in stock, and more to arrive, a full list of copyrights—all late works and the popular craze. Call and inspect them. Rust & Pittard.

New T. & P. Schedule.

The following passenger schedule is now in effect:

DAY TRAIN
No. 6, east bound, ... 11:51 a. m.
No. 3, west bound, ... 4:55 p. m.
NIGHT TRAIN
No. 4, east bound, ... 11:25 p. m.
No. 5, west bound, ... 4:15 a. m.

All is not gold that glitters. Our holiday goods is one exception. It must be seen to be appreciated.

Rust & Pittard.

W. H. Dickson has at last settled down to business on his new location. Go and see how snugly he is fixed up.

Miss Clara Browning has secured a music class at Eskota and went up Monday to take charge.

Burroughs & Mann did not respect age in selecting holiday goods. They have them for old and young.

Free Holiday Games
60 different games—all new—one in each package of
Lion Coffee
at your Grocer's.



S. A. Walden killed a couple of hogs this week which were monsters. He rendered up 155 pounds of lard from the two. Who can beat this?

Nolan County Smallpox.

Health officer Sparks reports that T. A. Rounsaville who has been confined to his bed with smallpox is now convalescing. Two sons of Mr. Rounsaville now have the disease, but of a mild form. All members of the family have been vaccinated and no fatal results are expected.—Sweetwater Reporter.

A great quantity of fruit and shade trees have been delivered here the past 30 days, the deliveries being made mostly to farmers. Every farm in this country should contain a small orchard.

A large force of hands are at work on the Watson & Bacon building this week and it is being run up at a lively pace. This progressive firm hopes to occupy the building by Jan. 1.

Miss Fannie Berry of Abilene is the guest of her brother, Geo. S. Berry, and family.

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.

CATTLE INSPECTION

will not trouble you if you feed them Bass' Medicated Stock Salt right; there is a wrong way.

If the Salt is given them in feed, so that each one is given his dose regularly, in such quantity that it acts as a gentle laxative, it is impossible that cattle or horses can have TICKS, LICE or BLACKLEG, and they will fatten much faster.

When Salt is left in the pasture for cattle to lick, they will not

always lick enough to make it satisfactory, unless very salt hungry.

If given all they will lick twice a week, cattle will take it regularly, and be free of ticks and blackleg.

We pay for feed and salt if cattle fed as directed by us are not free of ticks in two weeks.

Sold by

J. T. WARREN,
Merkel, Texas.

Bass Bros. Drug Co., Abilene, Texas.

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

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN, : : Merkel, Tex.

Why Buy Money Orders

when you can get bank exchange just as cheap? In case your exchange gets lost we can always issue you a duplicate free. If your money order gets lost you cannot get a duplicate, as the Government will not issue them. We can give you exchange on any point in the United States.

We also have the largest bank vault in Taylor county, and the largest bank safe (fire proof.) We are always pleased to take care of your private papers free. The First National Bank, by Geo. S. Berry, Cashier.

We have a large assortment of holiday goods on display, and more yet to arrive. Choose your gifts before the stock is picked over.

Rust & Pittard.

The Anson Western-News facetiously remarks: "Our new jail will be the thing we have long needed." What does the man mean? Is he thinking of moving into the jail? We await an explanation.

By the Red Oak Glow.

They were sitting by the old fire-place.

"Our kisses are like velvet," he whispered; "so soft."

"Velvet?" she said, sweetly. "I think they are all felt."

And the autumn wind sighed. We need your drug trade.

Burroughs & Mann.

Some of the young men met Tuesday and organized a band. Instruments have already been ordered, and they will begin practice as soon as the instruments arrive. Mr. Fred Parker is leader and under his guidance the boys ought to make rapid progress. There is good musical talent here. It only needs proper development to insure a musical organization of great excellence.

FOR SALE

or will trade for Merkel property, some good mares and colts. Apply to
It S. A. Chenault.

Holiday goods at Burroughs & Mann's.

BEAUTIFUL LIFE-SIZE DOLLS FREE!

We are going to give away to three little girls the Beautiful Dolls now on exhibition in our window. Here is the plan: With every 10c purchase of jewelry and 50c purchase of Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, etc., (groceries excepted) we give a ticket. On Dec. 24 the little girl holding the most tickets gets first choice, the next largest second choice and the third largest third choice. Every little girl in the town and surrounding country is invited to try and get

ONE OF THESE BEAUTIFUL DOLLS FREE!

We also have something for the babies that are not old enough for dolls. We love the babies, and if you have a baby under one year of age we want to see it. Bring it to our store and we will make it a present of

A SOLID GOLD RING ABSOLUTELY FREE!

No conditions. This is not a cheap imitation, but Solid Gold; a Ring that will wear a Life-time. Come in and see.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

"The Price Setters," : Merkel, Tex.

To the Purchasing Public:

A Complete Line of....

**DRY GOODS,
LADIES' WAISTS,
SKIRTS, JACKETS,
HATS, CAPS,
SHOES, etc.**

Also a full line of Groceries
as CHEAP as the Cheapest.

We wish to say that our stock is larger and more complete than ever before. One of the modern features of this store is selling goods on their merits. We buy good merchandise to the best possible advantage, and sell it on a small margin of profit. We do not offer premiums or discounts to induce buyers; instead, we give increased values and lower prices.

Our constantly increasing patronage proves our assertions.

J. O. HAMILTON

Items From Various Sources

The Best Liniment.

"Chamberlain's Pain Balm is considered the best liniment on the market," write Post & Bliss, of Georgia, Vt. No other liniment will heal a cut or bruise so promptly. No other affords such quick relief from rheumatic pains. No other is so valuable for deep seated pains like lame back and pains in the chest. Give this liniment a trial and you will never wish to be without it. Sold by Burroughs & Mann.

A Lover's Woe.

I stood on the porch one evening, while the sun was going down, and the Junebug bright in the starry night, flew merrily o'er the town. Oh, sweet were the gentle zephyrs, that blew from the balmy south, and red were the lips and sweet the sips, that I took from her pretty mouth. Her tiny waist, encircled by my arm so strong and true. Said I: "Whose duck are you, love?" "Your'n," she murmured, "and whose are you?" Oh, the hallowed hours of that evening! Oh, the cruel caprice of fate! Her father unkind, stole up from behind, and kicked me over the gate.—Exchange.

Obey Your Teachers.

Texas Coaster.

Parents should indelibly impress upon the minds of their children when they are sent to school the imperative importance of studiously obeying the teacher. Any school where the scholars are not under the control of the teacher is a dismal failure. It is impossible, also, for a teacher to control your children if you listen to their petty grievances, or the imagined partialities shown others of their class. It is far better for the child, even if the teacher should be a little unjust, to make it understand that the teacher must control. Uphold the teacher and you build up your school. Visit the school whenever opportunity affords and thus show that you take an interest in the education of your children.

There is a newspaper in Kansas whose motto is, "Lie, steal, drink and swear," and thus is explained by the editor: When you lie let it be to please a n t dreams, when you steal let it be away from immoral associations, when you drink let it be pure water, when you swear, let it be that you will patronize your home paper, pay your subscrip-

tion, and not send your job work away from home."

A True Friend.

It takes a great soul to be a true friend—a large, catholic, steadfast and loving spirit. One must forgive much, forget much, forbear much. It costs to be a friend or to have a friend. There is nothing else in life except motherhood that costs so much. It not only costs time, affection, strength, patience, love—sometimes a man must lay down his life for his friends. There is no true friendship without self-abnegation, self-sacrifice.—Ex.

Not a Sick Day Since.

"I was taken severely sick with kidney trouble. I tried all sorts of medicines, none of which relieved me. One day I saw an ad. of your Electric Bitters and determined to try that. After taking a few doses I felt relieved, and soon thereafter was entirely cured, and have not seen a sick day since. Neighbors of mine have been cured of Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Liver and Kidney troubles and General Debility." This is what B. F. Bass, of Fremont, N. C. writes. Only 50c, at Rust & Pittard, Druggist.

Trap Lanterns for Insects.

Entomologists are at present experimenting in many places in the United States with trap lanterns, to determine what classes of insects are most abundantly caught with these lures. At one station, where the trap was run every night for five months, it was found that the harmful insects, such as the buffalo tree-hopper, the squash-bug, the chinch-bug and the bee-moth, almost entirely avoided the light, and surprisingly few specimens were caught, while on the other hand ichneumon flies, lacewings, ladybugs and other insects useful to the farmer were destroyed in vast numbers. Another singular fact was that the great majority of the harmful species that were lured to the trap were males, whereas it is the females that cause the chief harm to vegetation.

An Indian's Thanks.

T. M. Buffington, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, when he issued his Thanksgiving proclamation began in this way: "Let us again commemorate the custom of our forefathers, which prevailed since time immemorial, and adopted by the Pilgrims and their descendants,

by celebrating a day devoted to festivity and praise for the goodness of the Great Spirit, after the joys and sorrows of another year, and harvests have been gathered."

Some may be disposed to think the chief has assumed overmuch when he claims for his people precedence in giving thanks once a year, but he is really correct. The "Green Corn Dance" of the Indians which was annually celebrated when the corn was ready for food, was the occasion of a much more ceremonious rejoicing than is usual among the whites on Thanksgiving Day. It was the Indians' manner of showing their gratitude to the Great Spirit for the blessings of grain and they make it one of the greatest and most memorable of their annual ceremonies.—Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser.

Texas Assessment Figures.

The tax rolls of the various counties in Texas, a summary of which has just been completed at Austin, discloses the following facts of interest to farmers and stockmen:

Land assessed in acres, 145,576,753, an increase over last year of 1,254,143; assessed valuation, \$46,9869,689, an increase of \$27,372,008.

Horses and mules, 1,481,430; decrease in number, 71,442; assessed valuation, \$38,617,001; increase of \$356,355.

Cattle, 7,231,344; decrease 344,046; assessed valuation, \$67,221,427; decrease \$7,007,062.

Sheep, 1,333,694; decrease 186,400; assessed valuation, \$1,858,179; decrease \$213,121.

Goats, 445,841; decrease 12,871; assessed valuation, \$531,294; increase \$7,275.

Hogs, 883,936; decrease 130,379; assessed valuation, \$1,766,023; increase \$157,430.

The merchant who thinks he can "get along" without his local paper is right. He can get along without sugar in his coffee, paint on his house or clothes on his back, that is, he can exist. But if he will devote a little careful study to the subject of "getting along" with the local paper, he will find it the greatest assistance he ever employed at any price.—

Disastrous Wreck.

Carelessness is responsible for many a railroad wreck and the same causes are making human wrecks of sufferers from Throat and Lung troubles. But since the advent of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, even the worst cases can be cured, and hopeless resignation is no longer

Burton-Lingo Co., Lumber Dealers.

A full and complete line of Lumber, Shingles, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Brick, Lime, Cement, etc. We can save you money on any size bill.

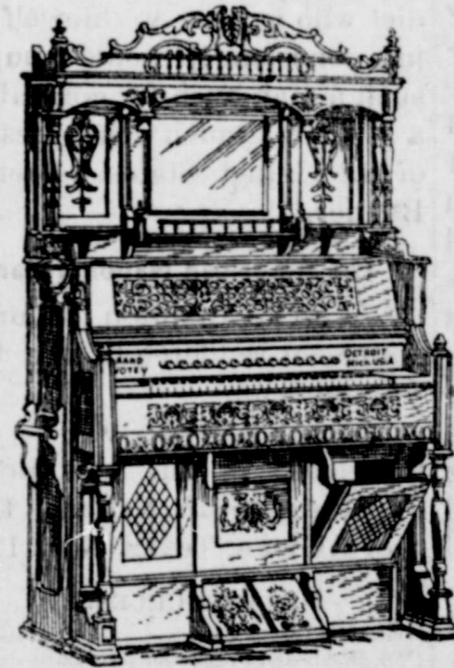
J. S. BARNES, M'n'g'r.

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....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 ¼ 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.



MONEY!

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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.

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necessary. Mrs. Lois Cragg of Dorchester, Mass., is one of many whose life was saved by Dr. King's New Discovery. This great remedy is guaranteed for all Throat and Lung diseases by Rust & Pittard, Druggists. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

The city of Dallas has three hundred saloons from which it receives a revenue of \$45,000. The last directory gives the city 75,400 population. The people of this city sell themselves for about sixty cents. Are they worth no more?—The Advance.