

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 a Year.

Devoted to the Interests of Merkel and the Merkel Country.

Eight Pages.

VOL. XII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, NOVEMBER 22, 1901.

NO. 40.

Chapter from Sam Houston's Life With the Cherokees.

That there is an unwritten chapter in the life of the illustrious Texas hero and statesman, Sam Houston, there can be no doubt, and just why it has been omitted from the biography of that great man, or not published in the newspapers before now, is indeed a great mystery. The omitted chapter is a romantic and interesting one. After Sam Houston left his wife in Tennessee under such peculiar circumstances while enjoying the distinction of governor for that State, he came directly to the Cherokee nation, where he resided two or three years before going to the Lone Star State to fight for her freedom and independence. This is the chapter of Houston's life which the historians have for some unknown reason failed to record, and which, if recorded properly, would form one of the most interesting and romantic chapters in the history of his life. Many old Cherokees of this nation are still living who associated with Houston while here, and can relate many true and entertaining reminiscences of him. But few, perhaps, if any, of Houston's admirers in Texas or elsewhere, know that he came from Tennessee to this country and married a beautiful Cherokee maiden about a year thereafter. But such is a fact, and can be substantiated by many old and truthful residents of the nation. Here is the story as related to a correspondent a few days ago by ex-Mayor G. H. Hughes, of Tahlequah, who has been a resident of the Cherokee nation for over fifty years, and who was personally acquainted with Houston while here, and who, by the way, is an old veteran of the Mexican war and altogether responsible:

Sam Houston was partly raised by the old Cherokee chief, John Jolly, in Tennessee, before those Indians were removed to this country. Jolly treated Sam as one of his own children, and was never forgotten for his kindness. A short time after Houston resigned his governorship of the State of Tennessee, the old Cherokee chief, who had many years before removed to this country, was surprised one day to see his old friend Sam step into his hut. However, the greetings were mutually warm between them. It is said that Houston did not explain why he so abruptly left Tennessee, but always evaded an answer to the questions put to him by Jolly on the subject. Houston took up permanent residence with the old chief who then lived on the Arkansas river near where Webster's Falls now stands, and about forty miles west of Fort Smith, Arkansas. He discarded the apparel worn in this country and dressed himself into the Indian style of moccasins, leather shoes and a buckskin hunting

were great friends and were together most of their time. After being here a few months Houston went to Fort Smith, got a small stock of goods, and bringing them back to Jolly's went to merchandising. This venture, in connection with his hunting expeditions with the Indians, did not prove a success, and Sam failed in business. He had secured the goods at Fort Smith to sell on commission, and when the Fort Smith men sent a representative up to Houston's place of business to collect, he found pretty nearly all the goods disposed of. The Fort Smith man was informed by Sam that he had sold the goods on credit. He then asked for the ex-Tennessee governor's books and was told he had none. "Why," said the collector, "how do you do a credit business without a set of books?"

Pointing around on the walls of the house Sam showed him how he did it. In letters written with charcoal, chalk, etc., Houston had charged his customers with whatever they had bought. However, Houston had money that he brought with him from Tennessee, and he paid the fellow up and quit the business.

While in the mercantile business Houston met Miss Lyontha Rogers, a pretty half-breed Cherokee girl, and fell in love with her. He married her a short time afterwards, and for a year they lived happily together, at the end of which time she sickened and died. The loss was great to Sam, for he loved his little Cherokee wife, it is said, almost madly. Houston tenderly laid her to rest near his hut, and that lonely grave is marked today with a rough native marble tombstone put there by Houston on the eve of his departure for Texas. Inscribed on the face of the slab are these words: "Sacred to the Memory of My Darling, Lina." This is all. Why Houston did not inscribe a more comprehensive epitaph is not known. But that he was legally married to the woman and lived with her about a year as his lawful wife, there is no mistake, and the facts can easily be substantiated by many of the old people of the country. It is said that on one occasion while Houston was among the Cherokees he went to Washington City with an Indian delegation, and under an assumed name and dressed in the garb of an Indian was not recognized by members of congress, with whom he had been there as senator from Tennessee and was well acquainted. He even returned to this country without revealing his identity to them.

While here, Houston, it is said was in constant correspondence with friends at Washington. On one occasion he was at the military post at Fort Gibson, in the nation, and in some way or other was snubbed by one of the commanding officers. Houston, giving him a good thrashing, told him that he (the officer) should know who he was. "Why," said Sam

wrote to the secretary of war, at Washington and had the offending officer removed.

These incidents of Sam Houston's sojourn among the Cherokees could be continued until a good-sized volume were filled. Sam Houston Benge, one of the leading Cherokee statesmen, was named after Sam Houston, and many of the people of this country even claim that Houston Benge is Sam Houston's son, and that the Benge part of his name is a suffix. However true this may be, certain it is that Houston Benge resembles the great Texas hero very much, and possesses many of the peculiar characteristics of that individual.—Tallequah, I. T., Letter.

Johh Collett, Jim Carte and Jasper Millman left Tuesday for Portales, New Mexico. They are hunting a ranch and will be gone a month or more.

Dr. J. H. Walling sold 160 acres of land near Newman to T. L. Brantley, consideration \$1,000. The Doctor has bought 320 acres of land in Jones county, seven miles north of Merkel, but he is not ready to leave Fisher county yet.—Roby Banner.

There has been a considerable changing around of clerks since the fire. J. L. Mann is helping the boys, Hinkley Barker is with Rollins & Young of Abilene, Lewis Martin with J. P. Sharp, and W. L. Clay with Hamilton. The others have their old places with the firms who have resumed business.

MARY'S LAMB.

Mary had a little lamb,
Some steak and mushroom stew
And ere the sunlit morning
dawned
She had the nightmare, too.

Mary had a little lamb,
She called it "Darling Ike,"
And when it grew to be a sheep
She swapped it for a bike.
—Swiped.

People are Starving.

Sometime ago the report was sent out that a drouth was prevailing in Zapata county and that many people were on the verge of starvation. This report was lately contradicted, but not before considerable food and clothing had been sent there for distribution.

Now comes the news that the reports were true and that while the help extended has partially relieved the situation, suffering is intense and help must reach them at once. There has been no actual starvation yet, but the destitution is such that starvation must soon be expected unless speedy relief is made. No crops of any kind were made there this year.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS.

The building boom has not been quite so breezy since the fire, but contractors seem to have plenty to do. A great many improvements in the way of additions to old residences are being made, but no new ones are under construction.

COST SALE!

NOW GOING ON AT THE STAR STORE

You should visit our store and get some of the genuine Bargains before it is too late. We offer our entire line of Men's and Boys' Clothing, Overcoats, Duck Coats and Ladies' Skirts and Capes at

ACTUAL COST!

All best brands Calicoes.....	4c
Mattress Tick as low as.....	4 1/2c
Extra quality Feather Tick.....	12 1/2c
Good width heavy fleece Cotton Flannel.....	7 1/2c
Others ask 10c for it.	
Fair assortment of men's Shoes at about.....	half price.

Heavy Discount on..... Bed Quilts and Blankets.
Good quality Ladies' Fleece Vests only..... 18c
Ladies' Onita Union Suits..... 45c
Regular 65c values.
Children and Misses Union Suits..... 25c

Our prices on Cotton Checks, Bleached Domestic, Cotton Flannel and Sheetings, is lower than you can buy elsewhere.

The Star Store Co.

touches to the rock building recently purchased by Mr. Berry, but which was formerly The Mail building. It will only be a one story structure and will be completed by next week.

A neat pressed brick sidewalk has just been completed in front of Warnick's bank and the Thornton buildings. This completes the buildings with the exception of the bank, which yet likes a plate glass front.

As yet no definite plans have been given out as to the intentions of those who own the rock buildings gutted by the fire. The walls are still standing and seem but slightly damaged, and it is hoped and expected that the work of restoration will commence at once.

A representative of a building and loan association of Ft. Worth was in the city last week. He was negotiating with parties who contemplate the erection of rock business houses here and gave out the information that the deal would more than likely come to a head within a short time.

J. W. Daniel has built a couple of rooms to his residence and added other improvements which gives him one of the nicest and most convenient homes in the town.

Wind mills

THE HOME GOLD CURE.

An Ingenious Treatment by Which Drunkards are Being Cured Daily in Spite of Themselves.

No Noxious Doses. No Weakening of the Nerves. A Pleasant and Positive Cure for the Liquor Habit.

It is now generally known and understood that Drunkenness is a disease and not weakness. A body filled with poison and nerves completely shattered by periodical or constant use of intoxicating liquors, requires an antidote capable of neutralizing and eradicating this poison, and destroying the craving for intoxicants. Sufferers may now cure themselves at home without publicity or loss of time from business by this wonderful "HOME GOLD CURE" which has been perfected after many years of close study and treatment of inebriates. The faithful use according to directions of this wonderful discovery is positively guaranteed to cure the most obstinate case, no matter how hard a drinker. Our records show the marvelous transformation of thousands of drunkards into sober, industrious and upright men.

Wives, cure your husbands! Children, cure your fathers! This remedy is in no sense a nostrum, but is a specific for this disease only, and is so skillfully devised and prepared that it is thoroughly soivable and pleasant to the taste, so that it can be given in a cup of tea or coffee without the knowledge of the person drinking it. Thousands of drunkards have cured themselves with this priceless remedy and as many more have been cured and made temperate men by having the "CURE" administered by loving friends and relatives without their knowledge in tea or coffee, and believe today that they discontinued drinking of their own free will. Do Not Wait! Do not be deluded by apparent and leading "improvement." Drive out the poison at once and for all time. The "Home Gold Cure" is sold at the extremely low price of One Dollar, thus placing within the reach of everybody a treatment more effectual than others costing \$25 to \$50. Full directions accompany each package. Special advice by skilled physicians when requested without extra charge. Sent prepaid to any part of the world on receipt of One Dollar. Address Dept. 1, EDWIN B. GILES & Co., 233 and 232 Market St., Philadelphia.

All correspondence strictly confidential.

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Well drilling is 4

the first 100 feet

One man

as cheap

THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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

Subscription Rates.
One year \$1.00
Six months .50
Three months .25
Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES per month
One inch space \$1.00
Two inch space 1.50
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches) 2.50
Half column (9 inches) 4.00
One column (18 inches) 7.50
Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the name of the plume 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.

Applicable to Merkel.

The farmer, like all other people, is likely to allow his spirit of independence to do him an injustice, says the Florence Vidette. He is too apt to get the idea that he is not interested in the town nearest him, and gives his support to a foreign place. Every farmer within ten miles of Florence is interested in the welfare of the town and should do everything in his power for its advancement. A growing town will give you a market for all of your produce which now goes to waste. It will give you a good school for your children; a better market for what you have to sell and everything you want to buy; enhance the value of your farm; and there are many other advantages a growing town would be to you. So let us wake up and all pull together for a greater Florence.

Good advice, this, and it can not be too deeply impressed upon the minds of the people of the Merkel Country. A town can not grow and prosper unless the country keeps pace with it, and vice versa. And the increased value of town property enhances the value of country property in proportion. So that it is to the interests of the farmers to patronize and help build up the town nearest to them, and all the advantages enumerated above will very naturally fall to them.

Death is natural to man, but slavery unnatural; and the moment you strip a man of his liberty, you strip him of all his virtues. But there are no slaves in this country, except those who remain so by choice, and are too infernally lazy to adapt themselves to their surroundings. A man must hustle these days; he must bring science to bear in every occupation. Time was when a man could make a good living with a grubbing hoe and a spade, but that time is past. We are progressing and you must keep up with the band wagon or fall by the wayside.

The Hay - Pauncefote canal treaty has been signed and it now awaits ratification by the United States Senate, in the event of which negotiations for the construction of the canal will at once be made. The new treaty will not be made public until it comes up before the Senate.

It should be remembered that in manners, in habits, the supreme duty of a citizen is to his country. Loud-

There is evil enough in the world, God knows! But it is not the mission of every young man and woman to detail and report it all. Keep the atmosphere as pure as possible, and fragrant with gentleness and charity.

It is the duty of every voter to inspect the moral conduct of the man who offers himself as a lamb for the sacrifice. Too much politics and not enough morality is a menace to the good of the country. Good men must be elected if we would have good laws.

Idle men should be taught the meaning of industry. A practical application may be found on the public roads.

To warm the Congressional seat seems to be the consuming desire of many would-be politicians throughout the district. They are cropping out in various places. In the meantime, they are talking to empty air.

The grand jury of Stonewall county has reported to the District judge that they find the prohibition law null and void. Some hop aleist must have furnished the inspiration.

Courage is no spasmodic virtue to be shown on great occasions and then laid on the shelf. The day never shines in which heroism may not work. Every man who does his duty, as he sees it, is a hero in its truest sense.

In Minnesota a man is imprisoned if he fails to support his wife. In Texas the penitentiaries are too small to accommodate such a law.

The First National Bank of Austin will open for business on Dec. 1.

Monotony is the cause of many of our diseases. The dead sameness of many lives gradually produces a sense of mental and physical depression which is injurious, both directly and indirectly. All, therefore, should try to obtain some occupation which has variety about it.

Brakeman Killed.

On a west bound freight train last night, on top of a car, was found the body of a brakeman, dead, with a bullet hole through his body. The murder is supposed to have been committed for the purpose of robbery. Jim Tidings, the murdered man, was an old hand on the road and stood high with the officials. He was known to have a large sum of money on his person, which he carried in a belt around his waist, and the opinion is that he lost his life for this cause. The murder was committed on the train while climbing the steep grade just this side of Baird, where all trains are compelled to slow up. When discovered the clothing of the dead man was in flames, showing the close proximity of the robber when he fired the fatal shot.

Officers are at work on the case and it is hoped the murderer will be apprehended and made to suffer for his dastardly crime.

Longer Life, Fewer Deaths.

None of the work carried on by the Census Bureau is of greater interest for the whole country than that which relates to the mortality of the decade, and discovers and records the causes of deaths occur.

A WORTHY SUCCESSOR.

"Something New Under the Sun."

All doctors have tried to cure Catarrh by the use of powders, acid gases, inhalers and drugs in paste form. Their powders dry up the mucous membranes causing them to crack open and bleed. The powerful acids used in the inhalers have entirely eaten away the same membranes that their makers have aimed to cure, while pastes and ointments can not reach the disease. An old and experienced practitioner who has for many years made a close study and specialty of the treatment of Catarrh has at last perfected a treatment which, when faithfully used, not only relieves at once, but permanently cures Catarrh, by removing the cause, stopping the discharges and curing all inflammation. It is the only remedy known to science that actually reaches the afflicted parts. This wonderful remedy is known as "SNUFFLES, the Guaranteed Catarrh Cure" and is sold at the extremely low price of One Dollar, each package containing internal and external medicine sufficient for a full month's treatment and everything necessary for its perfect use.

"SNUFFLES" is the only perfect catarrh cure ever made and is now recognized as the only safe and positive cure for that annoying and disgusting disease. It cures all inflammation quickly and permanently, and is also wonderfully quick to relieve Hay Fever or Cold in the Head.

Catarrh when neglected often leads to Consumption—"SNUFFLES" will save you if you use it at once. It is no ordinary remedy, but a complete treatment which is positively guaranteed to cure catarrh in any form or stage if used according to the directions which accompany each package. Don't delay, but send for it at once, and write full particulars as to your condition, and you will receive special advice from the discoverer of this wonderful remedy regarding your case without cost to you beyond the regular price of "SNUFFLES," the Guaranteed Catarrh Cure.

Sent prepaid to any address in the United States or Canada on receipt of One Dollar. Address Dept. 1, EDWIN B. GILES & Co., 2330 and 2332, Market St., Philadelphia.

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tion to population decreased nearly ten per cent. during the decade, and the gain in longevity was even greater. In 1890 the average age at which the people of the United States died was 31 and one-tenth years. In 1900 it was 35 and two-tenths. If even this figure seems low, let it be remembered how many children die in infancy.

Improved sanitation, greater care in the protection of milk and water-supply and better food are credited with these gains. The explanation is confirmed by the fact that the cities show more improvement than the country. Greater sanitary precaution overcomes the handicap of crowded quarters and less wholesome air.

For the first time, too, the "great white plague," consumption, has been relegated to the second place in the list of human scourges. The death-rate from that disease has fallen from 245 in every 10,000 to 190, and diphtheria, bronchitis, cholera infantum and typhoid fever claim fewer victims now than ten years ago.

Pneumonia, on the other hand, has increased in frequency and fatality, and heads the list. This, however, is regarded as a temporary condition, caused by the prevalence of the "grip."

It is cancer, apoplexy and diseases of the heart and kidneys which have increased most rapidly. Of cancer so little is known that references are useless; but of the others the high pressure of modern life, especially in cities, is regarded as the most potent cause. High living, lack of exercise, undue and prolonged excitement exact their inevitable tribute. Life itself is the price.

If the reader of the bulletin needs a moral, let it be this: Better sanitation in the country, plainer and saner living in the cities.—Youth's Companion.

Max R. Andrews of the Taylor County News was on the west bound passenger Sunday enroute to Eskota. He was merely on the hunt for a few delinquent subscribers who had strayed from the fold and carried his gun along to emphasize his persuasive powers.

The Methodist people are

THE MERKEL MEAT MARKET

D. M. CRAVEN, Manager.

Beef, Pork, Mutton and Sausage.

Prompt delivery, and courteous attention to all.
Your Patronage Solicited.

J. M. C. KING & CO.

DEALERS IN

Pure Drugs and Medicines.

Nice line Sundries and Toilet Articles.

Prescriptions Accurately and Promptly Compounded, Day or Night.

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.

DO YOU NEED PRINTING?

THE MAIL JOB OFFICE is equipped with all LATE FACES in Job Type---ALL NEW---and we guarantee all work to give SATISFACTION...

GIVE US A TRIAL

The Mail Reaches All the PEOPLE.

10 DAYS OF SPECIAL PRICES ON NEW Seasonable Merchandise

We expect to make this the greatest 10-day sale we have ever had in the sale of Dry Goods, Clothing, Millinery and Shoes since we have been in Abilene.

Below we give you some prices that are the smallest possible to be made, but we make them and will stand by them.

When we placed the orders for most of these goods we were supposed to have the very finest of crops. Since then crops have been cut short, and now cotton is falling every day, and we have decided it is best to commence to unload.

DRESS GOODS

Half wool Dress Goods.....6 3/4c
Half wool Dress Goods, better grade.....10 to 15c
All wool Dress Goods.....\$1.00, 75c, 50c and 25c

LADIES' CAPES

Cloth Capes.....35c to \$1.50
Plush Capes.....\$1.25 to \$4.00
Jackets for Children.....50c to \$1.50
Jackets for Ladies.....\$10, \$7.50 and \$3.50

STAPLES

Good Outings at.....8 1/2c, 7 1/2c and 4c
Good Domestic.....6c, 5c and 4c
Calico, the best.....4c and 5c
Cotton Checks.....5c, 4c and 3c

MILLINERY GOODS

During this 10 days we will sell you Millinery Goods at about one-half the usual price.

CLOTHING

We offer you during this sale, Black Granite and French Black Worsteds, the kind of suits to get married in, suits we have been selling for \$18, at.....\$12.50
During this sale we will sell all our \$12.50, \$13.50 and \$15 Clay Worsteds, Fancy Worsteds, Serges and California suits at.....\$10.00
We throw together for this sale all our \$8.50, \$9 and \$10 suits and make you the very low price of.....\$7.00
We sell our \$6.50 suits for.....5.00
We sell our 5.00 suits for.....3.60
Boys' long pant suits, the \$7.50 line at.....5.00
Boys' long pant suits, the 6.00 line at.....4.00
Knee pant suits \$1, 1.25, 1.50 up to.....3.00

FURNISHING GOODS

Geo. P. Ide & Co. shirts, "The Gold" \$1.50 and \$1.75 shirts, this sale.....\$1.20
"The Silver," the \$1.50 shirt, at.....1.00
"The Eagle," the \$1.00 shirt, at.....75c
The 75c line of shirts at.....50c

We have not got space to give you prices all over the house, but if you will come and see us we will make you special low prices on every article in the house. We want to price you. Come and see us first, get our prices and then when you go to next house you'll know whether its cheap or not.

Hollins & Young

ARE YOU DEAF?



ANY HEAD NOISES?

ALL CASES OF DEAFNESS OR HARD HEARING ARE NOW CURABLE

by our new invention. Only those born deaf are incurable.

HEAD NOISES CEASE IMMEDIATELY.

F. A. WERMAN, OF BALTIMORE, SAYS:

BALTIMORE, Md., March 30, 1901.
Gentlemen:—Being entirely cured of deafness, thanks to your treatment, I will now give you a full history of my case, to be used at your discretion.
About five years ago my right ear began to ring, and this kept on getting worse, until I lost my hearing in this ear entirely.
I underwent a treatment for catarrh, for three months, without any success, consulted a number of physicians, among others, the most eminent ear specialist of this city, who told me that only an operation could help me, and even that only temporarily, that the head noises would be cured, but the hearing in the affected ear would be lost forever.
I saw your advertisement accidently in a New York paper, and ordered your treatment. I had used it only a few days according to your directions, the noises ceased, and after five weeks, my hearing in the affected ear has been entirely restored. I thank you and beg to remain
Yours truly,
F. A. Werman.

N. 730 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.
at your usual occupation.
SELF AT HOME
LA SALLE AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.

The Best is the Cheapest.

Not how cheap, but how good, is the question.

The Twice-a-Week Republic is not as cheap as are some so-called newspapers. But it is as cheap as it is possible to sell a first-class newspaper. It prints all the news that is worth printing. If you read it all the year round, you are posted on all the important and interesting affairs of the world. It is the best and most reliable newspaper that money and brains can produce—and those should be the distinguished traits of the newspaper that is designed to be read by all the members of the family.

Subscription price, \$1 a year. Any newsdealer, newspaper or postmaster will receive your subscription, or you may mail it direct to

The Republic,
St. Louis, Mo.

Brain-Food Nonsense.

Another ridiculous food fad has been branded by the most competent authorities. They have dispelled the silly notion that one kind of food is needed for brain, another for muscles, and still another for bones. A correct diet will not only nourish a particular part of the body, but it will sustain every other part. Yet, however good your food may be, its nutriment is destroyed by indigestion or dyspepsia. You must prepare for their appearance or prevent their coming by taking regular doses of Green's August Flower, the favorite medicine of the healthy millions. A few doses aids digestion, stimulates the liver to healthy action, purifies the blood, and makes you feel buoyant and vigorous. You can get Dr. G. G. Green's favorite remedies at Rust & Pirtard's.
Get Green's Special Almanac.

Short Stops.

Usually the newest thing in flannels is a baby.

Street corners are the turning points in many lives.

Poets are born, but verse writers grow of their own accord.

Speaking of women and folding beds a man can shut the latter up

Every man may have his price, but the market is apt to be overstocked.

The proofreader points out the typographical error of the compositor's ways.

An Irishman says the apple that caused old Adam's fall must have been a banana peel.

It's often better to be the sole owner of a small dog than than a stockholder in a large one.

Children learn a great deal at school that they are compelled to unlearn after they grow up.

When a bright man is wanted for actual labor he doesn't have to pass a civil service examination.

After being landed by a girl who has been angling for him a man naturally feels like a fish out of water.

More people spend their time in wondering why they are not loved than in trying to make themselves lovable.

Many a fool man who is always saying that life isn't worth living continues to do business at the old stand just the same.

When a woman has company to dinner and her cooking is absolutely faultless she always says it would have been better had the range been in good working order.—Chicago Mews.

Persistent and continued advertising is the kind that brings success. Try it.

Methodist Appointments.

The Northwest Texas Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, which was in session at Corsicana last week, made the following appointments for the Abilene district. But few changes were made in the location of ministers.

E. A. Smith, P. E.; Abilene, C. E. Brown; Eula, C.W. Young; Buffalo Gap, M. H. Hudson; Anson, J. H. Trimble; Stamford circuit, I. E. Hightower; Baird, W. W. Moss; Aspermont circuit, C. H. Ledger; Putnam, I. L. Mills; Cisco, E. Hightower; Eastland, M. A. Turner; Albany and Moran, W. A. Manley; Merkel, R.S. Heizer; Sweetwater, W. H. Harris; Roby, T. N. Lowery; Colorado, T. S. Armstrong; Colorado circuit, A. D. Livingston; Snyder, A. B. Roberts; Big Springs, C. W. Irvine; Midland, L. A. Webb; Clairemont, E. L. Sisk; Crystal Falls, to be supplied; Truby mission, G. A. Nance; Gail mission, J. F. Trice.

METHODIST STATISTICS.

The report of the statistical secretary is as follows:

Local preachers 373, members 71,341. Fifteen hundred and four infants have been baptized during the year and 3,383 adults have been baptized. There are 187 Epworth Leagues and 6,752 Epworth League members. The number of Sunday schools is 547, with 4,225 officers and teachers and 37,885 Sunday school scholars.

The contributions for the year are as follows: For conference claimants \$8,666, for foreign missions \$11,284.42, for church extension \$3,730.32, for home missions 11,012.48, for the American Bible Society \$507, for presiding elders \$19,027.49, for pastors \$157,508.09, for the bishops \$2,406.69.

There are 825 societies and 470 1-6 houses of worship owned by them, valued at \$898,029.78. There are 232 pastoral charges and 219 parsonages, valued at \$203,935.50. There are twelve districts and nine district parsonages, valued at \$16,000; \$214,025 insurance is carried on the church property.

There have been 15,000 additions to the church this year within the Northwest Texas Conference and forty-nine new churches built.

There is some probability of a dentist locating here.

Many people are suffering fearfully from indigestion or dyspepsia, when one single bottle of Herbine would bring about a prompt and permanent cure. A few doses will do more for a weak stomach than a prolonged course of any other medicine. Price, 50 cents.

Abilene News.

Ground was broken Tuesday morning for the foundation of the Federal Building. The Sentinel had a representative on the ground to note progress.

The contract for the excavation for the mains and water pipe for the epileptic colony has been let to T. M. Wells and the ground has already been broken.

The contractor for the asylum building has arrived on the grounds and will immediately begin the construction of the necessary quarters for the workmen and work shops. A pumping station will be established at the lake. The excavation for the water works is being rapidly pushed, and in a very short time everything will be completed.

Your Hair

"Two years ago my hair was falling out badly. I purchased a bottle of Ayer's Hair Vigor, and soon my hair stopped coming out."
Miss Minnie Hoover, Paris, Ill.

Perhaps your mother had thin hair, but that is no reason why you must go through life with half-starved hair. If you want long, thick hair, feed it with Ayer's Hair Vigor, and make it rich, dark, and heavy.

\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send us one dollar and we will express you a bottle. Be sure and give the name of your nearest express office. Address, J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

headway. It is learned that the contractor expects to be employed in the construction eighteen months or two years.

Now that the Asylum is an assured fact that the Federal Building is under way, Abilene will be putting on airs, and will require club house and pleasure resorts on the Lake, and then an electric line will become a necessity. All up-to-date towns have these attractions. Why not Abilene?

Some weeks ago Mayor Roberts received a communication from Ardmore, I. T., asking for the whereabouts of a little girl supposed to be at the poor farm in this county. Through the local papers she was located at Merkel in the family of Mrs. Nan Thompson. The grandfather was notified and was soon on his way to Merkel, but after his arrival it is said some meddling persons persuaded the child to remain with her foster parents and not return with her grandfather as she had promised to do. This week Judge Miller of Merkel received another letter from the grandfather asking him to do all he could to get the child to come home. The Judge says that the case is one that almost demands the attention of the officers and that he is in correspondence with parties at Ardmore to satisfy himself more fully before any decided action is taken in the matter.—Sentinel.

Subscribers to The Mail are paying up promptly, and we are glad their appreciation of the paper and a sense of our recent heavy loss urges them to do so. In order to meet our obligations as they fall due it is necessary that we collect every cent that rightfully belongs to us, and we trust that those who are still delinquent will come forward and wipe out all arrearages without further urging. A very few are behind for two or three years' subscription. It is to these that this request is particularly addressed; we must have what you owe us.

To The Public.

Allow me to say a few words in praise of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I had a severe cough and cold and feared I would get pneumonia, but after taking the second dose of this medicine I felt better, three bottles of it cured my cold and the pains in my chest disappeared entirely. I am most respectfully yours for health, Ralph S. Meyers, 64-Thirty-seventh St., Washington, Va. For sale by...

If you want made, advert

COMING TO THE FRONT AGAIN!

Merkel Will be Rebuilt Bigger and Better than Ever.

The report has gone abroad that the burnt district in Merkel would never be rebuilt and that only inferior stocks of goods are now offered for sale here. These and all other reports are erroneous, Merkel is not seriously crippled, and at no time has the people been imposed upon. We have merchants who are able to cope with any situation, however disastrous, and they are honest and reliable in every respect.

NOW LEND US YOUR EARS FOR A VERY FEW MOMENTS ONLY

At the outset we promised the people of this country a stock of goods second to none, and we kept that promise. But that stock "went up in smoke," so that we now have another, which is new and the best that money could buy. Our prices will be as low as you will find them anywhere. Goods are coming in on every train and our stock will soon be complete in all lines.

We ask the people--YOU--for their trade, and we promise to give you as much for your

money as you can get for it at any store in the west. We have a large stock of dress goods, shoes for everybody, just like we had before; clothing, underwear and one of the nicest lots of ladies' shirt waists and skirts ever offered on the market.

So come in and look around; it won't cost you anything, and like to show goods. A look will convince you that our goods are real values and our prices money savers. Remember, your money back if you are not satisfied.

FARMERS, BRING YOUR COTTON TO MERKEL AND GET THE HIGHEST MARKET PRICE FOR IT.

FITTS & SMITH, SPOT CASH MERCHANTS.

THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Entered in 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 1-2 inches) 2.50
Half column (9 inches) 4.00
One column (18 inches) 7.50

Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the non-*de plume* 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.

The increased acreage of wheat this winter shows a disposition on the part of farmers to quit depending altogether on cotton for a means of livelihood. It is the first step toward diversification in this country, and a greater era of prosperity is dawning for the people. This is essentially a stock-farming country. To insure prosperity among all classes we must make the earth yield almost every known variety of product, and these in turn must maintain the country and keep up all other interests. Horses, cattle, mules, sheep and hogs—these should contribute to our general welfare and the prosperity of the country. We can not hope for general prosperity until the one crop theory has given right-of-way to more advanced ideas of farming. The success of one crop should not be the standard for the other.

It is an incentive for the farmer to make his lands. Di-

versification is destined to prove the salvation of the country. We must depend upon our own resources for a living.

Friends of the town are rallying to its support, and we are simply humping ourselves.

There were no favored sections this year. The cry of short crops is universal.

It is said that Spain is now in a more prosperous condition than ever before, and this condition of affairs is said to be due to the effects of the Spanish-American war, which robbed(?) her of unprofitable colonies.

The town that offers the best bargains is the one in which to do your trading. Merkel is that place. Here you can secure both quantity and quality which, combined with low prices, gives satisfaction to the purchaser.

President Roosevelt has a perfect right to break bread with a coon, but the White House should be thoroughly fumigated afterward. The dining of negroes at the White House is a dangerous precedent and one which will result in raising the standard of the colored individual—in his own estimation—a few notches. There can never be social equality between whites and blacks. To attempt such a change will result disastrously to the colored race.

It is nonsense to speak of this town as seriously crippled. We are doing just as much business as before the fire, cotton is coming in right along and trade in all lines is brisk. All of which shows that we are still very much alive.

Every man in Merkel would do his part toward

upbuilding the town, we would grow and prosper as never before.

This, the Sixteenth Congressional district, is the largest district in the United States. It should be represented by the largest man, intellectually, in the district.

Merkel is not dead nor is she sleeping. Many car loads of goods have arrived since the fire, and stocks are being replenished as fast as possible. You can secure just as good bargains here now as before the fire and the assortment is almost as varied. Give the merchants a chance at your trade.

The blow was a hard one, but we are recovering.

Boll weevils are extending their ravages to the forest trees in South Texas, and the limbs are being stripped of their leaves. Great fears are felt for next year's cotton crop.

Subscribers to The Mail are paying up promptly, and we are glad their appreciation of the paper and a sense of our recent heavy loss urges them to do so. In order to meet our obligations as they fall due it is necessary that we collect every cent that rightfully belongs to us, and we trust that those who are still delinquent will come forward and wipe out all arrearages without further urging. A very few are behind for two or three years' subscription. It is to these that this request is particularly addressed; we must have what you owe us.

Cotton continues to fluctuate, up one day and down the next, there is no telling where it will go to before it stops. The

tendency of the market now is to go lower and lower. Probably there will be no material rise until the crop is practically out of the farmers' hands.

It is hard to tell which is the most destructive to the country—a drouth or the politicians.

The country has already vindicated Schley of any intent or act of wrong during the Santiago campaign, but it is doubtful if he will be dealt with so generously by the court of inquiry. There are few "rotten things" than the naval clique.

The Mail appreciates the kindly expressions and good will of the press boys very much. Our office is not exactly on wheels, but it has almost a block to itself and the danger from fire is not now so great. And we shall at least save the shooting stick next time. The Mail hopes to escape another such disaster; one is enough for a lifetime.

Thanks, Awfully.

The Merkel Mail showed up this morning for the first time since the great fire that destroyed some of the best business houses in Merkel, together with The Mail building and material. Here is to Ed Leeman, the plucky editor of The Mail, and to Merkel, one of the best towns on the T. & P. May they all live long and prosper.—Baird Star.

Cattle in Demand.

Some time ago a few remarks were made in these columns in reference to the cattle situation and the opinion was expressed that many small holders would be forced to sacrifice their herds owing to the scarcity of feed stuff and the consequent high

prices demanded for it. The article, it seems, was copied by New Mexico exchanges, and the result is that a constant flood of letters have been pouring in upon this office inquiring into the situation. It has been impossible to answer these inquiries. We therefore mention the matter here so that if any one becomes interested they can call at this office for further information.

Generally, young cattle are wanted, but special inquiries are made about cows and calves, and they must be in a condition to pass a rigid quarantine inspection. From the letters received we judge that range conditions are tip-top, and cattle are scarce and in demand.

For Associate Justice.

Hon. Ocie Speer of Bowie is an avowed candidate for Associate Justice of the Court of Civil Appeals, and his candidacy is being generally favorably mentioned.

Mr. Speer is a Western product. His father, Prof. Speer, was among the first teachers to hold a position in the Merkel Public School, soon after the town was established. Mr. Speer is well known throughout this and adjoining counties. He is a lawyer of recognized ability and has had considerable experience in legal writings, which places him in a position to discharge the duties of the office to which he aspires in an acceptable manner. We should be glad to see him honored with the nomination.

Don't Become Discouraged.

But use Simmon's Liver Pills (tin box.) Many imitations so be careful.

A Startling Surprise.

Very few could believe in looking at A. T. Hoare, a healthy, robust blacksmith of Tilden, Ind., that for ten years he suffered such tortures from rheumatism as few could endure and live. But a wonderful change followed his taking Electric Bitters. "Two bottles wholly cured me," he writes, "and I have not felt a twinge in over a year." They regulate the kidneys, purify the blood and cure rheumatism, neuralgia, nervousness, improve digestion and give perfect health. Try them. Only 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

We have the largest stock and nicest selection of Christmas goods ever displayed in the town. Make your selections now while the stock is comparatively unbroken.

Rust & Pittard.

AT THE GRAVE.

Little Arthur, the five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Herring, of Abilene, died at midnight Wednesday, Nov. 13, after a short illness, the interment taking place the following evening at 3 o'clock. Friends and relatives of the family here were deeply grieved at the sad news. Arthur was an unusually bright and lovable child and gave promise of noble manhood. He was idolized by the fond parents, in whose lives there now seems a terrible vacancy, and to them we extend deepest sympathy. May God console them with His presence.

† † †

Mrs. S. J. Patterson was gathered to the fathers Wednesday night of last week. She had been sick for three months with some heart affection, complicated with other diseases, and for some time it was known that she could not recover. But the death of this good woman was a severe shock to the entire community. She was upwards of 65 years of age and for almost 50 years of this time was a happy wife. The interment took place from the Merkel cemetery Thursday evening. To the husband and children who survive her The Mail tenders tenderest sympathy.

† † †

The year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, who live at the Ustick place, died Sunday from cholera infantum and was buried the following evening. The family are new comers here and the child had been sick several months previous to their arrival.

† † †

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tipton of Nubia was found dead in bed last Thursday morning, it having died from some unknown cause during the night. It was buried here that evening.

Pick out the laziest, poorest man in a town or community and you will hear him grumbling about luck. When he comes to explain his career, you will see that he planted potatoes and waited for luck to hoe them, while he sat around the grocery and talked politics—of which he knew nothing. The ill-luck he grows about has come through his own shiftlessness and bad management and from no other cause. It is too late in the day to make people believe that some folks were born to be rich and others to be poor. It exists solely with the boy and man.—Knoxville Reformer.

D. Coats for

"Last winter an infant child of mine had croup in a violent form," says Elder John W. Rogers, a Christian Evangelist, of Filley, Mo. "I gave her a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and in a short time all danger was past and the child recovered." This remedy not only cures croup, but when given as soon as the first symptoms appear, will prevent the attack. It contains no opium or other harmful substance and may be given as confidently to a baby as an adult. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Cheapness without worth is high priced. We give you value with price.

J. T. Warren.

Hinkley Barker is with Rollins and Young of Abilene and would be glad to have his Merkel friends call upon him when in town trading. He assures them careful and courteous attention.

10 per cent discount from regular prices on all jewelry in stock, until the holidays are over. Every article sold under a guarantee.

Rust & Pittard.

A large crowd was in town Saturday and our merchants report the largest trade since the fire.

Deputy Collector Lon Cunningham was here Friday and Saturday collecting taxes.

Fully one-fourth of the cotton is being held throughout the country for better prices, though farmers admit they have no hopes of a rise anyways soon. The market has been very unsatisfactory in the face of prevailing conditions.

W. P. Thurmond favored The Mail with a sample sack of very fine apples last press day, which were a part of a shipment which his brother sent him from Missouri. They were very large and of excellent flavor, and the treat was very much appreciated.

Hawk's spectacles are the best. We have a very large stock and they will be sold right.

Rust & Pittard.

Jack Frost makes his presence felt these mornings.

Card of Thanks.

Mr. S. J. Patterson requests The Mail to extend his grateful thanks for the many kindnesses shown him during the fatal illness of his wife. The neighbors, he says, did all in their power to aid in relieving the sufferings of his wife, and were especially helpful in the administration of cheer and comfort to his now desolate home, for all of which he is grateful and prays God's blessings upon them.

Miss Laura Evans was called to Anson Sunday, her sister being dangerously ill. Miss Maud Counts is filling her position in the school room.

Bumps Smith is visiting relatives at Mansfield this week.

Miss Laura Herring has returned from Abilene.

J. T. Warren received a car load of cake and meal yesterday and will soon put his cattle on feed. They will enter the winter in good shape, perhaps better than a majority of the cattle in this section.

160 acres of land, adjoining town, for sale. See H. C. Williams.

Window glass, all sizes and at the right prices at Rust & Pittard's.

Announcement

It affords us great pleasure to announce that we have opened for business again, since the disastrous fire of October 15th. We are now located with a line of General Merchandise, as before, in the Polk building, one door east of the Largent corner, where we shall be glad to get a share of your business. Our stock is new and up-to-now in every respect. We are in a position to give you as much for your money as anybody.

J. T. Warren.

Luck in Thirteen.

By sending 13 miles Wm. Spirey, of Walton Furnace, Vt. got a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, that wholly cured a horrible fever sore on his leg. Nothing else could. Positively cures bruises, burns, felons, ulcers, eruptions, boils, corns and piles. Only 25c. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard.

Now is the time to buy your flour for winter. J. T. Warren is selling 500 lbs. Peace-Maker for \$10.

J. D. Boring returned from the Plains last week where he was very successful in the sale of nursery stock. He says that country is highly prosperous this year.

N. J. Rawlings was down from Taopi, Fisher county, Tuesday. He marketed his last two bales of cotton at Stamford, but says he won't do so any more. He will do his trading here, as usual, next year.

Dr. H. H. Ramsey of Baird was in the city Sunday.

We have a complete stock of Hamilton-Brown Shoes; every pair new and up-to-now.

J. T. Warren.

J. H. Counts left yesterday for Crosby county to look after his stock. He will be gone a month.

Mrs. Bigham and daughter, Miss Willie, left Monday night for Alexandria, La., to spend the winter. The Mail wishes them a very pleasant stay.

Jumped on a Ten Penny Nail.

The little daughter of Mr. J. N. Powell jumped on an inverted rake made of ten penny nails, and thrust one nail entirely through her foot and a second one half way through. Chamberlain's Pain Balm was promptly applied and five minutes later the pain had disappeared and no more suffering experienced. In three days the child was wearing her shoe as usual and with absolutely no discomfort. Mr. Powell is a well known merchant of Forkland, Va. Pain Balm is an antiseptic and heals such injuries without maturation and in one-third the time required by the usual treatment. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Gainesville Lard and Hams are good enough. Try them.

J. T. Warren.

The rains last week and the week before put good seasons in the ground and will prove very helpful to wheat.

The creage of wheat throughout the country is larger this year than ever before. It is looking well and promises a fair yield.

We are making extremely low prices on Seth Thomas clocks. They are bargains at the prices asked.

Rust & Pittard.

Are you a subscriber to The Mail? If so, you are satisfied, are you not? It is worth the money asked for it.

Startling, but True.

"If every one knew what a grand medicine Dr. King's New Life Pills is," writes D. H. Turner, Dempseytown, Pa., "you'd sell all you have in a day. Two week's use has made a new man of me." Infallible for constipation, stomach and liver troubles. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

The Mail neglected to mention, last week, in its write up of the fire, that J. R. McAdams was also a sufferer. He saved about \$1,000 worth of goods, and with his usual pluck was not long in setting up shop again. He is now located just north of Sharp's grain house with a large stock of leather goods.

Mrs. J. W. Taylor of Stonewall county was the guest of Mrs. Dr. Leeman a part of the week.

We have our own delivery now and can get goods out as soon as ordered. Try us.

J. T. Warren.

Farmers are gathering the remnants of their cotton crop and in a few days it will all be out. That the crop was short, can not be doubted, but notwithstanding the country is in a fairly prosperous condition. We are better off than most sections of the country.

Say, you man who swiped our paste pot, please call around and bring it with you.

Ladies capes wholesale

OLD LADY...

Style,
Quality
Fit
and
Finish
are
what
you
want.

Where will we buy our Cloaks, Hats, Groceries and Dishes to-day? You need a nice dress and shoes, and I am going to get me a new Coat and a pair of Boots and the boys want an Overcoat."

"Why at Sharp's, of course. You know that's the best place to trade, and we have always found things just like they say and we'll go and load our wagon."

A TRIAL WILL CONVINCe YOU OF THE TRUTHFULNESS OF THIS CLAIM

J. P. SHARP & CO.

Business follows the house that makes the lowest prices and that carry GOOD GOODS.

If you want cabinet work done or furniture repaired, or remodeled, call on W. B. Jones at Freemon & Hughes' wagon yard.

The Grand Chapter of the Eastern Star has donated money sufficient to purchase Christmas presents for all the children of the Widows and Orphans Home of Fort Worth. Faith, hope and charity, but the greatest of these is charity. God bless the women.

Rev. R. S. Heizer and H. C. Williams came in Tuesday from the Methodist conference at Corsicana. They report an exceedingly pleasant and profitable time. Bro. Heizer's many friends will be glad to learn that he was returned to this charge for another year.

The members of the Methodist church administered a severe pounding to their pastor. Rev. R. S. Heizer, Tuesday night. As no police alarm was turned in, and as not even a cry of "murder" awoke the silent echoes of the night, it is presumed that the pounding was of the kind in which cakes and pies and soap and coffee and flour and bacon and the innumerable other things brought into requisition on such occasions, played a prominent part. If so, no doubt the good brother is praying for a repetition of the gracious act. His prayers, too, are worthy of fruitful results.

Another pounding of extraordinary proportions was administered to Rev. A. J. Leach by the members of the Baptist church, Monday night. The people of Merkel never do things by piece meals, hence the editor of The Mail will bar his doors hereafter.

J. C. Watkins closed a deal for the Jim Tucker farm of 160 acres in the Canyon, last week, which he bought of W. A. J. Moat. The price paid was \$1,100. Mr. Watkins is making a good many improvements on the place and is very proud of his purchase.

Mrs. Pittard returned Monday from a week's visit with her

To whom it may concern:

Parties indebted to us will please come in and settle at once, either with C. W. Harris at Nubia or at our gin at Merkel. 3t Harris & Hunt.

The Wind Mills that make water are the kind that Elliott & Miller sell.

Prof. Sewell and Miss Armstrong contemplate organizing a vocal training class in Merkel, to meet on Tuesday and Saturday nights. The prime object of the enterprise is to improve singing in the churches. They propose to give the class a thorough practical drill in the rudiments of vocal music. They wish to meet all who may be interested in such a move at the Methodist church next Saturday night, when they will set forth their plans and terms and what they expect to accomplish.

Let everybody come out and give the enterprise a hearty support, for something of the kind is badly needed.

Do you know Clifford? He is the man that made well drilling 40c. He has been drilling six months at that price and has all the work he can do, but will have another new drill this week and will be prepared to meet the demands of all parties wanting wells. If you want water see him; he will treat you right.

You—Want pictures of the fire. Different views. Call at this office.

Nubia News.

News scarce. The farmers are done picking cotton.

The Evangelist is holding a meeting at Xroads.

Rufus Davenport is working for Lee Watkins now.

School at Nubia is progressing very nicely.

Misses Allie and Davie Perry went to Abilene Monday.

Rosebud

We do not know the price others sell at—we are busy attending to our business—but we do know that we sell windmills cheaper than any dealer in Texas, as we buy direct from the factory in car lots.

Open Your Mouth

And swallow one. Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets combines all the qualities of the best lipid chill tonics. Dose always ready. Dose always the same. No cure—no pay.

Commissioners Court.

H. L. Roger's resignation as constable of precinct No. 5 was accepted and J. A. Woodard appointed in his place.

Jno. Elliott was awarded the contract to furnish Rock Creek Coal at \$4.50 per ton to the county.

The annual report of J. H. Thornton, county treasurer, for the year ending Aug. 31st, 1901, was duly approved.—Reporter.

The Captain of the Gray Horse Troop.

The Tetong Indian Reservation is the scene of Mr. Hamlin Garland's new novel of Western life, which he calls The Captain of the Gray Horse Troop. Mr. Garland's hero is a young army officer who has been detached from his regiment and sent to relieve a dishonest Indian agent. The resourceful captain's guardianship of an Indian tribe beset by starvation and driven to desperation by cattlemen and politicians is full of dash and adventure. The daughter of a United States Senator, a land grabber of the worst sort and the Captain's sworn enemy, is Mr. Garland's heroine. The story is a powerful and vivid picture of reservation life, glowing with color and fairly alive with action.

The Captain of the Gray Horse Troop will appear serially in The Saturday Evening Post, the opening installment being scheduled for the issue of December 14. The story has been illustrated with spirited pictures by Messrs. Frederic Remington and Jay Hambidge.

The Baptist people, while in session recently at Fort Worth, pledged \$20,000 to rebuild the storm destroyed churches of Galveston and vicinity, and the sum is to be raised within three months. They also pledged \$25,000 for a Burleson memorial. Baylor University also received \$5,000.

Herbine sweetens the breath, brightens the eyes and clears the complexion without the slightest ill effects whatever, and insures the natural bloom of health. Price, 50 cents.

Dora Dots.

News scarce. Cotton is just about picked out.

J. M. Bryson came in Friday from Dallas where he has been with cattle.

The young people enjoyed a candy breaking at A. R. Sanders Friday night.

Preaching at Dora Sunday by Rev. Elliott of Sweetwater.

Singing Sunday evening at Mr. Elliott's.

Prayer meeting Sunday night. G. W. Hawkins and R. D. Brandon went to Sweetwater Saturday.

The school at Dora is moving nicely.

W. M. Beall and J. F. Ensminger went to Abilene Monday.

B. J. Rhodes went to Sweetwater Monday.

John Holder and Jeff Cromwell went to Abilene Monday.

I. E. Lowe is turning the sod nowadays; he says he is full of business.

J. M. Bryson is on the sick list this week.

B. Jenkins went to Sweetwater Monday.

Mrs. Whitiker and Mrs. Hawkins started to Brown county Tuesday.

KAT KLAW.

A Select Party.

A young man in a town not far away, who has been paying attention to a young lady in the country, made his regular call at her home a few evenings ago. He was met at the door by the young lady and escorted into the parlor; then she excused herself and the old man came in and said: "Young man, I have no objections to your visits here, and you may come as often as you like, but you will have to make your little bow and hit the road on this occasion, as we are going to have a select party here to-night, and no one is invited but two or three old women and a doctor." Selected.

J. T. Warren, Pres.
S. F. West, V.-Pres.
Geo. S. Berry, Cash.

The First National Bank

of Merkel

CAPITAL, \$30,000.

Surplus and Undivided Profits - - - \$1704.86

We guarantee satisfaction to our customers, and offer them the services of a reliable and conservative Banking Institution which is at all times willing to extend every courtesy consistent with sound business methods

We solicit your business

White's Cream Vermifuge removes the unhealthy tissue upon which worms thrive; it brings, and quickly, a healthy condition of body, where worms cannot exist. Price, 25 cents.

There is probably no disease so distressing and annoying than piles. Tabler's Buckeye Pile Ointment is daily curing cases of years' standing of itching and bleeding piles. The cure begins on the first application, a little perseverance makes the cure complete. Price 50c in bottles. Tubes, 75c.

I have a hack for sale at \$2
Wheels and bed are new.
Freemon & Hughes'

Buy the Best Stove
The
Celebrated
Bridge and
Beach.

Yellow
Kid
Disc Plows
They will do
the work
every time.

Queensware

I am overstocked on Queens-
ware and until Jan. 1 will give

Greatly Reduced Prices

on this line of goods. Many ar-
ticles suitable for Christmas
Presents and worth double the
prices asked for them. Come
and take a look at the goods.

W. H. DICKSON

Baker Perfect Barbed Wire is the BEST...

Headquarters for
Hardware
Implements
Glassware
Etc.

Bible and
Lansing
Wagons
Best High-Grade
wagons on the
Market.....

McKinley's Sentences

Washington Star.

I am for America because
America is for the common peo-
ple.

An open schoolhouse, free to
all, evidences the highest type
of advanced civilization.

National policies can encour-
age industry and commerce, but
it remains for the people to pro-
ject and carry them on.

In the name of humanity, in
the name of civilization, in be-
half of endangered American
interests, which give us the right
and the duty to act and speak,
the war in Cuba must stop.

Peace is the national desire
and the goal of every American
aspiration.

A Government like ours rests
upon the intelligence, morality
and patriotism of the people.

I believe that there is more love
for our country and that more
people love the flag than ever
before.

The time has now come in the
evolution of sentiment and feel-
ing, under the providence of God,
when, in the spirit of fraternity,
we should share with you in the
cares of the graves of the Con-
federate soldiers.

Intelligence and industry are
the best possessions which any
man can have, and every man
can have them.

These heroes died for their
country, and there is no nobler
death.

Courts, not mobs, must exe-
cute the penalties of the law.

The nation is his best eulogist
and his noblest monument.

Our growing power brings with
it temptation and perils requiring
constant vigilance to avoid. It
must not be used to invite con-
flicts nor for oppression.

The American people, intrench-
ed in freedom at home, take their
love for it with them wherever
they go.

Our earnest prayer is that God
will graciously vouchsafe pros-
perity, happiness and peace to
all our neighbors and like bless-
ings to all the peoples and pow-
ers of the earth.

Hay! Hay! Hay!
Car of Alfalfa Hay at G. M.
Sharp's.

W. B. Mann has sold his resi-
dence to Tom Wiman and will
occupy the Bigham residence,
recently vacated.

Santa Claus will have his hands
full if he disposes of all the pres-
ents in Merkel this year. Santa
and the little folks are watching
The Mail for Christmas adver-
tisements. They are better after
being advertised.

Mrs. George has taken charge
of the South Side Hotel.

Some where near 4,000 bales
of cotton will be marketed here
this season. This is less than
one-half the amount received
here last season, which shows
that the crop is very short, con-
sidering the increased acreage.

One of the greatest crimes any
one can commit, says a writer, is
to rob a child of his school days.
Don't keep a boy at home to
work a week or a month after
school begins, and thus greatly
discourage or handicap him when
he begins. If there is anything
in the world a man can afford to
make a sacrifice for it is the edu-
cation of his children. They
don't need your money. A boy
is better off to earn his own mon-
ey, but what he needs is
training and good
there is but one t

DR. JOS. H. WARNICK, PRES.
WM. H. DUNNING, CASHIER.

Jos. H. Warnick
BANKER

CAPITAL, \$15,000

DOES A GENERAL BANKING AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS.

Our vault equipment is modern in every respect. We are using the Mosler Patent
Screw Door Safe, with triple Yale Timer, affording the greatest possible security.
It is our purpose to deal justly and liberally with all. Our patrons will receive every
courtesy and accommodation within the range of prudent Banking.

Talk That Talks...

It's nice to do business with
plenty of nice, new goods
and plenty of appreciative
customers. We have the

Right Goods at Right Prices!

Our stock of General Mer-
chandise is complete, and
we should be glad to show
and price it to you.

J. O. HAMILTON.

RESERVED FOR
BURTON-LINGO CO.,
Lumber Dealers.

Thanksgiving Services.

The Odd Fellows and citizens
of Merkel and the Canyon will
observe Thanksgiving, Nov. 28,
when they will return thanks to
Almighty God for the blessings
bestowed upon them during the
past year. Services at the C. P.
church.

PROGRAM.

Invocation—Rev. Leach.
Ten minute addresses—Rev.
Baker, Rev. Heizer, Prof. Chas-
tain, B. J. Riney.
Master of Ceremonies—J. J.
Miller.

A. A. Baker,
J. J. Miller,
S. H. Basham,
J. F. Elliott,
Committee.

The dry goods store of Brown
& Forston at Cresson was bur-
rized Monday night and \$50
worth of goods stolen. Mr. Brown
is a brother-in-law of W. B.
Alsobrook of this place.

The merchants are receiving
their calendars for 1902.

Rev. T. N. Lowery was station-
ed at Roby and will move his
family there in a few days.

A dispatch from Big Springs
says there is a well defined ru-
mor along the line of the Texas &
Pacific to the effect that that road
will soon enlarge its service so
as to run two through trains each
way. However, the rumor has
not been affirmed by railroad
officials.

C. P. Warren came up from
Abilene and spent a few days at
his ranch this week.

Losing Temper.

The most foolish thing in the
world is to lose one's temper. Of
old the wisest of men said, "Bet-
ter is he that ruleth his spirit
than he that taketh a city." The
person in authority who is self-
controlled can control—children,
and employes generally. No one
can govern subordinates who is
not able to govern himself. When
one loses temper in the home,
and says bitter things, in a hasty
mood, there is sure to come an
after-time of sorrow and repen-
tance, and there is a hurt in the
heart which may or may not last
for years. There are scars that
never cease to throb, though the
old wound seems to be healed.
Should death suddenly snatch
hence a dear one, before pardon
for some injustice had been
sought and granted, the regret
will never pass away.—Christian
Herald.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Call a man a donkey and he is
apt to kick.

Love and a silver dollar are
tested by the ring.

Keep in the straight and narrow
path, and avoid the crowd.

If the good don't die young no
one knows how bad they might
be.

Many a man falls all over him-
self in striving to get ahead of
others.

Unless a man has an occasion-
al inning he is unable to enjoy an
outing.

Every time a wise man encoun-
ters an obstacle he makes a step-
ping stone of it.

A girl gives up a lot of ice
cream and theatre tickets in ex-
change for a husband.

Only a woman's first marriage
is made in heaven; she arranges
the second herself.

The world has seven wonders,
but the average woman can won-
der more than that in seven
minutes.

What will eventually become
of the tramp, if, as reported, his
Satanic majesty finds work for
idle hands to do?

A girl may not think a certain
young man is not good enough
for her, but she always considers
him too good for any other girl.

Mr. T. P. Gibson called around
this morning and kindly offered
good wishes and substantial help.

The report comes from Saint
Louis that an employment agency
is sending American boys to
South Africa, who are impressed
into the British army.

Must Pay Back Lease.

Many of the big ranch owners
in the Panhandle, who have been
leasing land from the State and
occasionally fencing in an extra
section or two, which was not in-
cluded in the lease, are coming
to time and paying up back lease
money for the use of the extra
sections. This has been brought
about by the attorney general's
department, as assistant Sim-
mons has been after them for
some time and the State is get-
ting the benefit of a few shekels
which it would not otherwise
have had. Some of the ranch-
men, however, refuse to answer
the letters of the department on
the subject; but they will all be
brought to their senses before
many days, as the office has de-
cided to adopt some stringent
methods with reference to the
warranted use of the State's
land.

**A. HILL,
BARBER.**

Agent, Model Steam Laundry of Abilene.

S. T. EASON, THE BARBER.
NORTH FRONT STREET.

A genteel shaving parlor for genteel people.

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

First class work and prompt and polite attention to all.

**DR. F. N. BROWN,
DENTIST.**

Nitrous Oxide Gas Administered. Office, Pine St. Abilene.

**J. J. MILLER,
Justice Peace and Notary Public**

Also fire insurance agent. Will write deeds, take acknowledgements, pay taxes on land, furnish abstracts of title and transact all other business entrusted to him.

I. O. O. F. LODGE

No. 355 meets every Friday night. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend.
S. H. Basham, N.G.
T. F. Compton, Sec.

**DR. T. S. HOLLIS,
THE DENTIST—**

Office over Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

**H. C. WILLIAMS,
Real Estate and Insurance Agent**
Notary Public

Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc. OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

**I. N. TAYLOR,
Attorney-at-law & Notary Public.**

Office in the Bank building.

J. A. LEEMAN

Physician and Surgeon.
Office, King's Drug Store.

**G. H. RICHARDSON
Physician and Surgeon.**

Residence, West Merkel.

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Handwritten notes:
The Standard
our best line
to our front
from Bank

**E. P. TURNER,
GEN'L PASS'G AND TICKET AGENT,
DALLAS, TEXAS.**

Ever ready, always reliable, are Cheatham's Daxative Tablets. They cure a cold quicker than any other remedy. Easy to take.

With the Sick Folks.

T. J. Coggin was able to be up and about Saturday and was greeted by many friends on the streets.

+++

I. S. Allen, who has been sick for a month with fever, is able to sit up a little and is gaining strength daily. He has had a hard struggle and we shall be glad to see him up again.

+++

Mrs. Pate has been quite sick, but is improving.

+++

A little child at the section house is reported ill.

+++

Mrs. Woodard has been quite sick, but is better to-day.

+++

Sam Sheppard was reported dangerously ill yesterday. We hope he is not as sick as reported.

+++

W. B. Alsbrook's little child was some better yesterday and will no doubt rapidly recover its health.

Sweetwater Siftings.

From the Reporter.

The grand jury adjourned Tuesday evening, having turned in 10 bills of indictment, 7 felonies, and 3 misdemeanors.

Clardy & Highley have sold the A K Y ranch, consisting of six sections and the improvements thereon to T. B. Tharpe of Paris, Tenn.

The jury in the case of the State vs Willis Carroll returned a verdict of not guilty Monday evening. Defendant was charged with theft of cattle and the case was here on a change of venue from Howard county.

The case of the State against C. W. Shaw (Roebuck) was tried in district court Tuesday and resulted in the jury finding him guilty and assessing his punishment at 30 days in jail and a fine of \$100. Defendant stood charged with an assault with intent to kill.

Ernest Edwards was tried on a charge of horse theft Wednesday and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. Charles Wright against whom there was a twin case to the above was dismissed upon a motion from the district attorney. Edwards was re-arrested immediately after his release and carried to Callahan county where he stands indicted for forgery.

For all fresh cuts or wounds, either on the human subject or on animals, Ballard's Snow Liniment is excellent; while for corn-husker's sprained wrists, barbed-wire cuts or sores on working horses, it cannot be too highly commended. Price, 25 and 50 cents.

Asleep Amid Flames.

Breaking into a blazing home, some firemen lately dragged the sleeping inmates from death. Fancied security, and death near. It's that way when you neglect coughs and colds. Don't do it. Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption gives perfect protection against all throat, chest and lung troubles. Keep it near, and avoid suffering, death, and doctor's bills. A teaspoonful stops a late cough, persistent use the most stubborn. Harmless and nice tasting, it's guaranteed to satisfy by Rust & Pittard. Price 50 and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

FOR SALE—Good gentle family horse. Ap

For catarrh and colds in the head, Hunt's Lightning Oil is a sure cure. A few drops taken internally relieves and cures cramp colic, cholera morbus and such troubles. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

A Query.

A freight train, one mile in length, stopped with the caboose just opposite a depot. The conductor got orders to move his train to the next station, which was just five miles distant. He gave the engineer the signal to move, which he did, while the conductor moved over the train to the engine, and got there just as the locomotive reached the station, where he got off. The question is, how far did he walk, or how far did he tride, or did he ride at all?—Ballinger Banner-Leader.

Woman and Jewels.

Jewels, candy, flowers, man—that is the order of a woman's preferences. Jewels form a magnet of mighty power to the average woman. Even that greatest of all jewels, health, is often ruined in the strenuous efforts to make or save the money to purchase them. If a woman will risk her health to get a coveted gem, then let her fortify herself against the insidious consequences of coughs, colds or bronchial affections by the regular use of Dr. Boschee's German Syrup. It will promptly arrest consumption in its early stages and heal the affected lungs and bronchial tubes and drive the dread disease from the system. It is not a cure-all, but it is a certain cure for coughs, colds and all bronchial troubles. You can get Dr. G. G. Green's reliable remedies at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Special Almanac.

At best life is but short. Do not make it shorter yet by rank neglect of that cough of yours, when one bottle of Simmons' Cough Syrup would cure you. Guaranteed. Price 25c and 50c.

All itching diseases are embarrassing as well as annoying. Hunt's Cure will instantly relieve and permanently cure all forms of such diseases. Guaranteed. Price 50 cents.

Well Drilling Must Come Down.

I have reduced the price of well drilling to 40c per foot, up to 100 feet. I have first-class drilling outfits, which are paid for, and should be glad to figure with you on a well. I can also save you money on wind mills, pumps, etc. My stock is large and prices down to rock bottom. Thanking you for past favors, I am

Respectfully,
E. D. COATS.

To The Public.

Allow me to say a few words in praise of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I had a severe cough and cold and feared I would get pneumonia, but after taking the second dose of this medicine I felt better, three bottles of it cured my cold and the pains in my chest disappeared entirely. I am most respectfully yours for health, Ralph S. Meyers, 64-Thirty-seventh St., Wheeling, W. Va. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Never try to coax a cold or cough, use the remedy that unfailingly conquers both. Ballard's Horehound Syrup is the greatest specific for all throat and lung troubles. Price, 25 and 50 cents.

**ED S. HUGHES & CO.
Hardware Implements**
Abilene, Texas

S. W. SHEPPARD

Groceries
Vegetables
Fruits
Country Produce
and Fresh Meats, etc.

We sell almost everything afforded by the market, and sell at reasonable prices. Come to us for your groceries....

Bargains..

ARE AWAITING YOU IN THE

Furniture Line

We have a fine line of Rockers, Fancy Tables, Folding Beds, Side Boards, Iron Beds, Springs, Bed-Room Suits, Window Shades, Rugs, etc.

These goods are going to be sold if low prices are any inducement.

W. P. Browning & Co.

Blackleg Vaccine...

We are agents for Pasteur and Parke Davis Blackleg Vaccine, and can supply almost any amount, wholesale or retail, at any time. Call on us for anything not obtainable at home.

Bass Bros. Drug Co.

Liver Wrong—All Wrong.

It is impossible to have good health with a bad liver. It is nearly as impossible to have bad health with a good liver. It may be, as you think, that the stomach, the bowels, the kidneys or the blood causes your bad health, but the liver is back of every one of them, and in nine cases out of ten, if you correct the liver you correct all.

Herbina

is as sure to correct the liver as it is sure you have a cold. Through the liver it cures Constipation, Malaria and other ailments which arise from a lack of assimilation of food. At druggists