TEXAS TOWN TOPICS.

NEWS NOTES GATHERED BY POST REPORTERS.

The New Year Dawns Auspiciously and Is Generally Observed as a Holiday—Doings in the Courts. Homestead Progress.

GONZALES, January 1.—The Methodist congregation of this place, according to their usual custom, held watch-night last night at their church after the usual services, staying there until the old year had passed out of existence.

At 12 m. the solemn tones of the Catholic church bell tolled the death of 1893, and in a few moments the ringing of bells, firing of one load gun and the prolonged whistle of Darst's steam engine announced the advent of the new year. At daylight this morning a regular fusillade of pistol shots in different parts of the town lasted for half an hour in honor of 1894.

Rev. R. M. Hall of Victoria, who is here visiting his mother, preached yesterday morning and night at the Presbyterian church, delivering two excellent sermons. Rev. J. A. Montgomery, the pastor, is visiting his father at Giddings, and preached there yesterday.

W. M. Hanson, one of Ranchos's merchants, passed through Gonzales today on his way to San Antonio to arrange for the right of way (about thirty miles) through the western part of this county for the San Antonio and Gulf Shore railroad.

District court opened this morning in the temporary court room (Meier's hall), and after a plea and forfeiture charge to the grand jury from his honor Judge T. H. Spencer, they retired, with W. H. Jones of Belmont as foreman.

As some of the neighboring towns have been wished by sharers and sore lowers lately, the officers and business men of Gonzales are on the watch and are prepared to give them a warm reception.

HEMPSTEAD.

HEMPSTEAD, January 1.—Mr. J. W. Johnson, who was brought here from Houston by Constable Lincoln, charged with selling goods under false pretenses, waived examination and was allowed bail at $200.

District Judge Reese left for Brazoria this morning for District Attorney Finkney is down with a stroke and may not be able to leave this week, in which case court may be delayed at Brazoria.

County court convened this morning, but was at once adjourned over till tomorrow, on account of the New Year.

Among the business changes taking place with the beginning of the new year is the dissolving of the firm of Rosenwaro & Dinn, the latter retiring from this place. Mr. H. Rosenwaro will continue at the old place, while Mr. Dinn's business and doubtless will enter others of the town.

The year just ended has seen the most important in the history of this city. More buildings have been erected in the town in six years previous compared. A National bank with a capital of $50,000 has been organized, a building for its use has just completed at an expense of $6,000, and is serving a satisfactory people.

The district court house is almost completed, a $20,000 flowing water contract, new businesses seem all and the work thus reported elsewhere seem material to the prosperity of the city. None of the new year follows in the wake of the old.

TAYLOR.

TAYLOR, January 1.—Last night at 12 o'clock the new year was ushered in at this city with the usual number of hard firing guns and bursting anvils, making a horrible and unearthly din. Indications are that it was quite a New Year, and in keeping therewith everybody seemed in the spirit of the place, including the man who is the owner of a new baby boy born here yesterday morning, which is the second born in Taylor since the beginning of the year.

W. H. Pulliam, one of Austin's best citizens, is visiting his family and friends in this city.

Mrs. Dr. Hall, who has been very ill for some time, is now convalescent, and her friends hope for her speedy recovery