A WEEK OF CARNIVAL AT HAMPE'S.

Nothing Like Low Prices to Interest Buyers of Holiday Goods! You will Find this an Exceptional Opportunity to Procure High Grade Goods at the Very Lowest Prices. OUR GRAND CUT SALE OF DRESS GOODS AND WRAPS STILL GOING ON.

Handkerchief Department.

Ladies' Colored Bordered Handkerchiefs,
Reduced to.....**3½c, 5c, 8½c and 10c**
Ladies' White Swiss Hemstitched Handkerchiefs,
Reduced to....**5c, 8½c, 10c, 15c, 18c, 20c, 25c, 35c**
Ladies' All Linen Hemstitched Handkerchiefs,
Reduced to.....**18c, 25c, 35c, up to 60c each**
Ladies' Embroidered Swiss Handkerchiefs,
Reduced to....**10c, 12½c, 15c, 18c, 20c, 25c to 70c**
Ladies' Embroidered All Linen Handkerchiefs,
Reduced to....**25c, 35c, 45c, 50c, 60c, 65c, 75c, 85c, $1, up to $1.75 each.**
Ladies' Mourning Handkerchiefs in Hemstitched and Embroidered, ranging in price from....**10c to 65c**

Gentlemen's Handkerchiefs.

Gents' Colored Bordered Handkerchiefs at
5c, 10c, 12½c, 15c, 20c, 25c
Gents' All Linen, Colored Bordered Handkerchiefs
Reduced to.....**15c, 25c and 35c**
Gents' White Hemstitched Handkerchiefs,
At.....**8½c, 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c**
Gents' All Linen White Hemstitched Handkerchiefs,
Reduced to..... **25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 50c, up to 70c.**
Gents' White Hemmed Handkerchiefs,
Reduced to.....**5c, 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c**
Ladies' All Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, extra fine quality, half dozen in a box, regular value $2.50,
To Close..... **$1.75**
Gents' All Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, extra fine quality, regular value 75c each, to close..... **35c**
Gents' Sik Initial Handkerchief, value 25c,
To Close..... **15c**
Gents Japanese Silk Handkerchiefs,
At.....**35c, 50c, 65c, 75c, 85c, up to $1.15 each**
Ladies' Japanese Silk Embroidered Handkerchiefs,
At.....**15c, 20c, 30c, 40c**

SEE OUR HANDSOME LINE OF

LADIES' NECKWEAR!

Such as Square and Round Yoke Collarettes in Lace, Ribbon, Velvet and Chiffon Trimmed.

LADIES' NECKWEAR—Continued.

Mousseline de Soie Fichus with Honiton Lace.
Black Chiffon Collarettes with Honiton Braid.
Jabots in Black Lace with Ribbon or Chiffon Trimmed.
Fancy Lace Stock Collars of all descriptions with either Lace, Ribbon or Chiffon,
Also Plain White Linen Bishop or Czarina Collars with Cuffs to match.

GREAT REDUCTIONS MADE IN

Hair Ornaments, Tooth and Hair Brushes, Side Combs, Combs, Colognes, Soaps, Curling Irons, Kid Hair Curler, Belts in Silk and Leather, Belt Buckles, Sachet Powder, Hat Pins, also

JEWELRY OF ALL KINDS

Such as Shirt Waist Setts, Shirt Waist Studs, Collar and Cuff Buttons of all kinds, Brooches in Various Styles, Fancy Enameled and Sterling Silver Hat Pins, Silver Belt Supportors, Fancy Pearl Glove Fasteners, Children's Solid Gold Rings, Baby Dress Pins Sets, etc., and other Fancy Goods too numerous to mention.

DO NOT FAIL TO SEE OUR LINE OF

MONEY PURSES AND SHOPPING BAGS.

In all the Late Styles, going at Cut Prices.

WE CAN SURELY

SAVE YOU MONEY

ON THE FOLLOWING:

VEILINGS Just received, the very latest and most correct in Black, Chenile, Dotted (large and small) also with Mousseline De Soie ruffle velvet edge, Solid Black Fish Netts, Jetted and Plain Netts, Ready-made Veils with Honiton Lace Borders; also, Silk Thread and Berege Veilings in all colors.

White Lawn Household and Nurses' Aprons.

in Deep Hemstiched, Tucked and Embroidered, Embroidered Inserted, etc., ranging in prices from 15c to 50c each, all made extra wide and long.

Stamped Linens of All Kinds.

such as Doylies, in Square and Round, in Plain and Fringed. Splashers in Plain, Stamped, Fancy Drawn Worked and Fringed. Table Scarfs, all lengths, in Plain, Drawn Worked, Satin Damask and with Lace inserted. Sideboard Scarfs in Plain Hemstitched, Mexican Drawn Worked, Satin Damask and with Lace inserted. Dresser Scarfs in Plain, Hemstitched and Drawn Effects, in all lengths. Wash Stand Covers in all lengths and styles; also Lunch Cloth, Tray Covers and Center Pieces, in Plain White Linen, Satin Damask, Drawn Effects and Colored Bordered. Also Fringed Scarfing by the yard, in White and Colored Bordered.

China Silk, Table Covers and Scarfs, in Tinsel Embroidered; also Fancy Figured Satin Cushion and Table Covers, Japanese Drapery Covers, etc.

White Irish Point and Applique Wash Stand and Dresser Scarfs, Pillow Shams, etc.

HOSIERY. HOSIERY.

Ladies', Misses' and Children's.

We carry only the best **Ethiopian** and **Standard** brands. Every pair warranted just as represented. Ladies' Fast Black Cotton, Lisle Thread and Silk Hose, in Plain and Drop Stitched. Ladies' Fast Black Outsize Hose. Misses' Fast Black Ribbed Hose, all sizes and prices. Boys' Extra Heavy Bicycle Hose at various prices. Gents' Half Hose in Balbriggan and Fast Black.

CORSETS. CORSETS.

We carry only the most renowned and best brands in stock. Expert saleslady in charge.

KID GLOVES.

"Foster, Paul & Co." and "Our Own" makes.

Did you know that you could save 25 to 50 cents on every pair of Kid Gloves bought of us? Full line of Street and Evening Gloves, with Lace or Buttons, all lengths. Every pair warranted or money refunded.

Gloves fitted if desired.

A. HAMPE — A. HAMPE

"COMPARISONS ARE ODIOUS."

Men of Today Placed Beside Those Famous in History.

Sam P. Jones:

Waco, Texas, November 28.—Honor From your article in The Houston, November 1, 1896, headed as alarming evidences of your disordered digestive apparatus can not fail to be served. If it were my province to do, it would modestly be suggested you take a long rest at once, or that you consult a physician instanter. It is the result seriously if you let it run

some extent you are excusable for the old song. It has been a popular for several thousand years, and only variation in the song is that singers have usually put up a better We find the same song popular with classic Roman scholars, even before crossed the Rubicon. Ever since at frequent intervals, divers and songsters have assumed their lyres same catchy refrain, with apparently the same result—to satisfy themselves, let others think what they may. brother, you know that such are to all its predecessors. You know, that all the learning, wit and wisdom coming ages, in fact all that is valuable is handed down to us in printed for our own use; and, when we have with it, it is to be handed down, whatever addition we have made to posterity. You can not even to dodge or deny this. Its patent is beyond controversy, be it not, and commentary on the intellectual of the present generation (or upon judgment in diagnosing the case) twice, at great length, to prove mental inferiority of nearly the whole present generation? Revert to the and test your estimates made in article, and see if you did not "line sweet hymn."

portions of your article state with truth, certain conditions and instances which we of the closing but surely brilliant nineteenth century are to. The Great Apostle of civic and liberty found the good and the inseparably interwoven in his and the same appalling condition greeted from that to the present It is true that today we have the shrewd, powerful, unscrupulous politician, the heartless, avaricious shark, whose motto is the the adytes alleged to have been in the New England farmer to go home to begin a career in luck city—first, get on, second, get third, get honest—and we also have Talmage (pardon the slang) time-wasting, useless preacher. All of these are represented and permitted to exist today in much greater than our conceptions of the of Infinite Mercy and Tolerance fully explain. Shall we conclude that all the good, noble and traits of human character have inherited from the present generation? While the burden of your article harmingly in that direction, it certainly does not reflect your actual sentiments.

Lest that you make the mistake of judging true greatness by the volume of this world's plaudits. More good, in all the walks of men, has been done by those who have crept silently to their graves "unknown, unhonored and unsung" than by those who have, from time to time been educated by the superficial flattery of the world—who have gained for themselves a National reputation.

In estimating the greatness—or the lack of it—of a man or combination of men—we should consider well what was accomplished, what means were at hand and what obstacles were overcome; and, in moral questions, it were well to consider, if possible, the motives of the operation.

When we measure representative men of the present generation, in all callings, with their predecessors of other ages the balance is every time in our favor. Strip historical characters of the fictious raiment emanating from the fertile brain of historians and every one of these characters will suffer by a comparison with living, breathing specimens of the present age. Neither the good nor the bad of other ages can compare at all favorably in immensity with those of our own time.

It is very easy to refer to President Cleveland as the greatest living American statesman (it is often done, and especially during very recent months) and it is very queer, to say the least of it, that some of those who make said estimate never take the pains to make an inventory of his greatness or to itemize his surpassing statesmanship. To what position President Cleveland may be assigned by the coming non-partisan historian is fully as unknown now as is the direction and velocity the wind will have the 4th of March next. It is neither the privilege nor the desire of the writer to in any way tamper with the political destinies of the present occupant of the White House (coming writers will attend properly to that), but he does most strenuously oppose belittling men and affairs of the present age and generation with mere unsupported statements.

No other age, either modern, mediaeval or ancient, has produced generals who can compare even favorably with those who were pushed into international prominence by the late unpleasantness in the United States. A Lee, a Jackson, a Johnston, a McClellan, a Meade or a Grant finds no equal in military acumen and in dauntless endurance in any anterior history. When we desire to observe and to study the very acme of superiority of the soldier in the ranks we have only to revert to the civil war. There we find a condition of discipline, of bravery and of intellectual ability never before even approximated by the armies of the world, unless perchance it were in the armies led by Xerxes and by Hannibal. When in all martial times even we find military leaders worthy to be ranked in the same category with those "numerous sons of the Western Hemisphere mentioned above.

The United States, or even her predecessors, the colonies, have never suffered from a scarcity of orators and oratory. It seems to be indigenous to our soil and climate, and the genius of our civic institutions foster it most gloriously. In a large measure oratory and statesmanship (both in their broadest application) are necessarily co-existent. Go back to colonial times and to the early days of our National life, and we find Patrick Henry, Nathaniel Bacon, Jr., John Randolph, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams and many others not only thrilling the populace with their oratory, but also arousing said populace to greater and nobler action. Coming on down the corridors of time we observe the following names linked inseparably with the history of our great Nation: Clay, Webster, Calhoun, Frontiss, Marshall, Lincoln, Blaine, Garfield, Conkling, Cobb and Crisp, and there are hundreds of other names that shine almost as brightly in the glorious diadem of our earlier grandeur. Now scrutinize the actors in the National drama today. By your argument they are not orators, yet the pages of history fail to reveal a group of men who were even approximately able to sway the populace as those of the present day can and do. Observe Bryan, and Bailey and Cockran, and Reed, and Lodge, and Wilson, and Breckenridge, and thousands of others, whose chief inferiority lies in the fact that the course of human events has not brought them so prominently before the scrutiny of the Nation. They are not orators! Then the article called oratory is a myth and its previous existence a colossal fabrication. You say the quality of the supreme court of the United States is little today, compared with fifty years ago. What are the facts which furnish the foundation for this statement? The Chicago platform made some criticism of the National supreme court and you McKinley people almost went into hysterics. Be exceedingly guarded in your remarks, or they will be calling you an "anarchistic Bryan dope."

And so there are no towering men acting in the capacity of State governor today? Well, if you will study the matter closely, you will no doubt accuse yourself of undue haste. How about Mitchell, and Stone, and Turney and Matthews, and Morton, and Atkinson, and Oates, and several others?

In every section of our broad land can be found a fair supply of ministers of the Gospel who are serving God instead of man, and are, therefore, a pillar of strength in their respective communities. It is true that there seems to be an overproduction of notoriety seekers in the garb of ministers just now, but that does not, and rightly should not, detract credit from those noble, towering ministers who are consecrated to the service of the Most High.

Today we have in the United States the greatest men in all lines of work that the world has ever known. Men who are great because their mental capacity and even their physical surrounding absolutely force greatness upon them. If you want to observe and to study the greatest and most daring rogues, thieves and robbers, and the shrewdest criminals with whose names the pages of history have or ever will be stalked, look into the concurrent American history. The depth, the subtlety and the celerity of mental acumen displayed by the heroes in an unholy cause is positively astounding. It has never been excelled. No other age has produced a set of politicians even approximating in mental sagacity and moral obliquity those prominent at the present time. The work that they are compelled to do makes it absolutely necessary that they be mental giants and moral pigmies. We have them of degrees of prominence and their usefulness to the political parties with which they affiliate, as well as the continuation of their prominence, depends almost solely on their willingness and ability to bring about certain results regardless of agencies employed. At the same time, and working against rather than with the politicians, we have a full assortment of the most exalted kind. With the enlarging of the functions of our government, with the needs of the people becoming more complex, and with the increased demand on the minds and abilities of men our statesmanship has kept pace. Today it is without a peer on the habitable globe and also without a superior on the pages of history. The same is true of oratory, science, commerce, navigation, exploration, mining, manufacturing, authorship, music, the bar, the bench, diplomacy, civil engineering, teaching, recreative sports of all kinds, the stage, the detection of crime, journalism and of the circus, with its attendant humbugs.

Slack your jib sheet, ease off your peak halyard, iron your main sheet and double reef your main sail, for your frail craft has more wind than its tonnage can maintain—you have entirely too much wind aboard. It causes your craft to be buffeted by the waves of "Life's Sea" to such an alarming extent that you are unable to carefully observe the successful or faulty guiding of other crafts accompanying you on the voyage to the mysterious unknown harbor. H. M. Brown.

MEXICO'S FIRST LADY.

The wife of President Diaz of Mexico is known from the mansions of the rich to the humblest hut in the land as Carmelita, "our little Carmen." The 16th of July is always celebrated by an outburst of loving attention toward her because it is her "saint's day." In Latin countries a person's birthday is always celebrated on the day dedicated to the Catholic saint after whom he or she is named, and on the saint's day of a prominent person all friends are supposed to call with congratulations.

The last saint's day of Mme. Diaz' father may be taken as an illustration of the ceremonies of such a day. Senor Rubio was in public life for many years and the celebrations were extensive. Indian flower vender brought loads of plants and flowers and built huge arches above the main entrance to his home; the inner court also was decorated. Hundreds of leading people called, messengers and vehicles were constantly arriving with costly presents, and many bands of music stationed therefrom near the house. Delegations from labor societies came to read lengthy addresses and school children came in bodies. This is the way Mme. Diaz' birthday is also celebrated—of course with modifications.

Mme. Diaz is a woman of sound, good sense, perfectly unaffected, and with much kindliness of character. She gives particular attention to an industrial school for girls. She brought to an amicable settlement a strike among the girls employed in a match factory last summer. Her influence counts for a great deal. There is no throne so obscure she is not eager to visit if her presence can be of any relief or help.

She is often appealed to on behalf of some prisoner sentenced to death or life imprisonment, and by careful investigation she is often convinced of the merits of a case and secures clemency from her husband. Neither she nor her husband attends the brutal bull fights and they use all their influence to discourage the pastime.

Mme. Diaz is her husband's second wife and is in her 33d year. She is an advanced Spanish-American woman, speaks English and French with equal fluency and is posted on current events, to the great help of her busy husband, who is 66 years old and very proud of his lovely wife. When they were married in 1884 they took a tour through the United States, and while President Diaz was lauded his wife was admired for her grace, simplicity and beauty. Her ancestry dates back into the nobility of old Castile and she shows the evidences of generations of culture.

CHINESE TELEGRAPHING.

All the principal cities of China are now connected with each other and with Pekin, the capital, by telegraph. Telegraphing is, however, a laborious and lengthy process and very expensive. The line does not pay for itself and is a heavy drain on the state treasury. The dispatches are, of course, sent in Chinese, for not one native in a thousand has an inkling of any language but his own.

As everyone knows, the Chinese language has no alphabet, there being a sign for every word, hence it was utterly impossible to invent a telegraphic code that was practicable. The difficulty was obviated by inventing a signal for each of the cardinal numbers, and a code dictionary was compiled where every number, from 1 to 1000, stood for some Chinese character. The sender does not have to bother what the message means, but the receiver has to translate the message into Chinese before he forwards it to the recipient.

The Chinese system has its great disadvantages. The written language is entirely different from the spoken one and men of sufficient education to receive and translate messages are not looking for jobs in a telegraph office, so the government recruits its employes with great difficulty. The Chinese merchants do not have business relations all over the country as do our merchants, and so the telegraph business is rather dull.

The public is not invited to buy stock in the line and if it was no one would invest with a view to dividends, for the receipts do not equal the expenses. A stumbling block in the way of introducing railroads more extensively is that the trains have to be dispatched by telegraphic orders, and this will be impossible, as the Chinese government will not employ foreigners and the Chinese of the literary class, the only class that has enough education to take these positions, would indignantly refuse to become trainmen.

Liberty Vindicator: Fruit and nut orchards would add to the income of many of our agricultural readers, and now is the season for planting for future orchards. The Vindicator is glad to know that many of our citizens have this year ordered fruit trees and will give more attention than ever to the planting and proper protection of their orchards. And we would advise every new comer who buys a home in our county to not only plant a fruit orchard, but plant, also, a number of pecan trees. You can buy the young trees at a very low price from the several Texas nurseries.

"LOVERS' WHEEL."

A New Bicycle For Use in Taking Out Your Sweetheart.

New York Journal.

The "lovers' wheel" has arrived. It is a bicycle, but one of a queer family—a sort of a cross between the ordinary safety and a tandem.

The tandem has been considered a great success in all except a single feature, which is that the riders can not face each other. In the "lovers' wheel" this point is overcome, and a man and a woman may sit on a wheel face to face.

As for kissing, impossible on the wheel of old, it now becomes an easy matter. This unique attachment can be fitted to any bicycle by clamping it to the machine which is then ready for two occupants. It is not correct to call both of them riders, for there is only one set of pedals, and the man does all the work.

Extending from the saddle mast, straight forward just the fork and saddle bars, is a

metal shaft. It is clamped securely at the saddle mast and again at the point where the tubing of the upper frame bars joins the handle of the fork just above the spread.

The end of the bar projects a foot beyond the handle bar, directly over the wheel. At the very end of the bar is a curious seat for the fair companion of the rider. The seat itself is a light metal framework, softly cushioned, and having a high, comfortable back. It is so placed that when the occupant is seated she is facing the rider in the saddle. The seat is set out on a sort of arm arrangement, which places it out to one side of the wheel.

As such an arrangement would destroy all possibility of maintaining an equilibrium when on the wheel, a wicker skirt protector or guard extends out from the seat, over the wheel, and ends in a foot rest. This skirt guard is formed so that it folds over the skirt in much the same manner as does the apron of a cab, thus entirely protecting the dress of the occupant of the front seat from becoming soiled or getting entangled with the wheel.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS AND VIEWS.

Mexia-Herald Echo: Texas feeders can by finishing their cattle better sell them at home this winter and make more money than by sending them hundreds of miles and having them sold in competition with the short haul and well fatted native.

Halletsville Herald: Specimens of ore resembling pure gold have been taken from a well being dug on the J. Hallupka place near Sweet Home by Devall & Timm. If the ore isn't gold it has at least fine mineral qualities. A sample can be seen at this office.

Beeville Picayune: From Hon. R. H. Wood of Rockport, who was in town yesterday, we learn that Mr. Goodyear, the contractor to prosecute work at Aransas Pass, will begin operations next week. This item will tend to relieve the suspense of many who have been breathlessly waiting to hear something definite of the future prospects of the pass.

Lampasas Leader: Texas is in as fine a condition as any State in the American Union, and there is no apparent reason why she should not attract population and capital from all over the country. If her own newspapers will stop discrediting her, and her citizens will make an effort to attract strangers, she ought, in the next few years, show phenomenal developments.

Velasco Times: Raw prairie land can be had here at from $5 to $10 per acre, which, when drained, will produce a bale of cotton, worth $40, or three or four crops of vegetables per year, or from $100 to $200 worth of strawberries. These are facts which can be demonstrated by hundreds of people in Brazoria county during the past year. Thousands of crates of beans, peas and other vegetables are now being shipped from this county weekly, for which a fancy price is readily obtained in any Northern market. This will continue until January, and in February the strawberry crop will be on the market, and by March another crop of vegetables will be ready. The reason these crops pay so well here is because green stuff during the winter months is a luxury and are offered in a market which can never be overstocked. Proper results can not be achieved by a few individuals who have bought small farms. It can only be secured by the co-operations of individuals with large holdings, or through a general community interest. It is foolish for a man with a small holding to drain his little tract, for in many instances he will be flooded with the rainfall of several miles of country surrounding his place. The Times is pleased to note that such prominent papers as The Houston Post are now editorially advocating drainage.