

course inadequate, and though we have a spacious public school house which cost about \$1000, the consequence is that it stands vacant. We hope however, ere another year, to see our people take direct charge of the public schools, as they are authorized to do by law, and place them upon an independent footing. The funds are now we believe, sufficient to extend the terms of such schools to probably six months in the year, and the people of corporate towns and certain other school communities are authorized by law to tax themselves to continue the schools longer if they so desire. This is a matter of the first importance to the standing and reputation of our town, at home and abroad.

The new Court House is regarded as one of the handsomest in design and best built public buildings in the State. The material is stone, found a few miles distant. Among the other principal recent improvements are the three fine two story buildings on the North side of the plaza, built by Reynolds & Daniel, Hutchison & Glover and G. W. Donelson & Co., respectively. Another of the same sort is well advanced, built by W. D. Wood. And there are two others on the South side of the square built by Wm. Giesen and Ed. J. L. Green—all but the last named built since 1880. Besides the business houses numerous handsome private residences have gone up or are being built all over the corporate limits.

Now something further as to our water power. During this season, Fourqurean & Code, the present proprietors of the power just below the springs, have built a higher and better dam than was ever there before. It is clear across the river, and affords sufficient power not only for the water-works now in operation, but for mills, gins etc., without number, as also to irrigate the adjacent grounds. The waste water beside, passes in a most beautiful cascade over the central portion of the dam.

Right here we will introduce an extract from the *American Miller* of April last:

"Mr. Tom Code has bought out the half interest of Mr. Pognes in the water power at San Marcos, Hays Co., Texas. We quote from Mr. Code's letter: 'This place is known as the head of the San Marcos River location, about 1000 yards from the city plaza or square. I find that when I attempt to give you a description of this river or spring my pen is a failure. Words cannot describe the beauty of the place. Suffice it to say that at a distance of, say, 500 feet from our mill door, the water bursts out of the ground in one grand spring; a complete river, furnishing between 15,000 and 20,000 cubic feet of water per minute, and giving us a full head at that distance of twelve feet. And such water! A pin can be seen at the depth of twenty feet. People in the North claim to have fine lakes, rivers and water powers, and I concede that they have; but think of this river where the eye of man has never seen a particle of ice. The water is so warm that people can bath in it every day in the year, and cattle are seen in it in winter up to their backs, eating the long grass that grows in its bed, the water being warmer than the air.'"

In connection with this subject, we notice in the same paper that another Texas mill company offer to donate 200 horse power of their water privilege to any cotton, woolen or paper mill company who will come and put up such works. Now we beg to suggest to Fourqurean & Code if they cannot make the same or a similar offer? We should think they might, and that by advertising it in the *American Miller* and through similar sources, the right parties might very likely soon be enlisted in one or more of said enterprises here. The location is pre-eminently favorable for a paper mill, which Texas is bound soon to have, and by proper effort it may be secured here at San Marcos.

The water works, to which we have already referred as one of the grand progressive steps in the progress of the town, are now in operation and will soon be perfected.

We must not fail to notice the San Marcos River Springs and surroundings with reference to their adaptability as a watering-place. We predict that they are bound ere many years to take their place among the most famous watering-places and summer resorts in the South. The grounds are susceptible of fine improvements for boating, bathing, riding, driving, etc. A good hotel on one of the adjacent heights will soon be a matter of necessity. To conclude on this point, we think the town made a great mistake in not buying these grounds long since, and that the best thing it could still do is to secure possession and control of the same, with as little delay as possible. There are thousands in them for the purpose we have spoken of.

Coronal Institute, already referred to, deserves some further notice. It is under the charge of the West Tex-

as Methodist conference, and has considerably over a hundred pupils. The buildings have been extended and improved, an efficient corps of teachers, having the public confidence secured, and on the whole its prospects are better than ever before.

The increase of business of the San Marcos postoffice is another indication of progress. Since the railroad was built it has advanced from a 4th to a 3rd class office, giving the postmaster a salary of \$1,300.

The diversity of scenery in and around San Marcos gives it its principal claim as compared with other towns. The water, the hills, and beautiful groves, with vistas between out over the undulating prairies and cultivated farms, must be seen to be properly appreciated. Besides the live oak and cedar groves there are laurel and various other species of evergreen shrubbery in profusion, so that here and in all this region we have no winter landscapes.

We close with an enumeration of the present business houses of San Marcos:

FREE PRESS Newspaper and Job Printing office, I. H. Julian Proprietor.

Schools—Coronal Institute, Prof. J. E. Pritchett, principal, Prof. Richardson's, Mrs. Duncau's.

Bankers—D. A. Glover, Ed. J. L. Green.

Attorneys—Hutchison & Franklin, Fisher & Rose, O. T. Brown, G. W. Walters, W. D. Wood, Owen Ford.

Notaries Public—Sterling Fisher, I. H. Julian.

Insurance Agents—O. T. Brown, C. L. McCay.

Photographer—J. L. McClure.

Physicians—Woods & Burleson, A. G. Pendleton, W. A. Jackson, Wm. Myers, S. G. Dailey, J. L. Payne.

Druggists—Reynolds & Daniel, R. Fromme.

Dentist—J. H. Combs.

General Merchandise—Johnson & Johnson, Dailey & Bro., Wm. Giesen, L. J. Dailey, E. J. Iglehart, Reed & Son.

Dry Goods—Green & Price.

Clothing and Gent's Furnishing—Walter Dugger.

Groceries, Wholesale and Retail—Martin Hinzie.

Groceries and Hardware—G. W. Donelson & Co., W. J. Reed & Co.

Groceries—B. Pitchford, W. Keesel, Fritz Lange, Mrs. Lea.

Books, Stationery and Notions—Misses Russell & Ellison, Reynolds & Daniel.

Watchmaker & Jeweller—W. H. Robbins.

Furniture—J. W. Nance, J. Ward.

Stoves and Tinware—Geo. H. Henne, Martin Hinzie.

Saddles and Harness—C. S. Cook, (by T. J. White), W. K. McMullin.

Boots and Shoes—J. B. Hankla, G. Laumen.

Baker and Confectioner—Fritz Lange.

Livery Stables—Bales & Son, Barber & Manlove, J. R. Williamson.

Meat Market—S. L. Townsend.

Dressmaker—Miss Iva Cook.

Milliners—Meadames Jones & Richardson, Mrs. Sutherland (with Dailey & Bro.), Mrs. T. K. Hutchins.

Hotels—Hofheinz, Exchange.

Blacksmiths and Woodworkers—W. Lanham, C. H. Rau, A. J. Cowley, J. E. Morris.

Carriage Manufactory—W. Lanham.

Lumber-dealers—Ed. Christian & Co., N. J. Travis.

Mills and Gins—Fourqurean & Code, B. W. Smith, W. S. Gray.

Planing Mills—W. S. Gray, W. H. Steele.

Architects and Builders—Northcraft & Donalson.

Water Co.—C. M. Holmes, A. E. Judge, J. F. Holmes, L. W. Mitchell, W. O. Hutchison.

Boarding Houses—Miss Coleman and Mrs. Hook, Mrs. Prescott, Mrs. Wilcox, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Souter, Mrs. Fry, Mr. Turner, etc.

Saloons—Williamson & Faris, Robinson & Van Wie, Kyser & Schulz, Springer & Tardy.

Barbers—F. Alley, Reynolds.

town may well be regarded as assured. We learn that Col. Sledge and other large landholders in the vicinity, express their willingness to sell portions of their lands in quantities to suit purchasers. Such being the fact, the vicinity will of course soon be thickly settled, and thus hasten the growth of the town.

Kyle is already the second town in importance in the county. The population is estimated we believe at 500, and is steadily increasing. It is a very healthy place, and distinguished for the go ahead spirit of its people. It has recently received its greatest "boom" in securing the location of the High School of the San Marcos River Baptist Association. The buildings as they now stand are valued at \$5000. Contracts are now let for the building of a boarding house in connection with the school for the accommodation of scholars from abroad, and the entire buildings will be completed probably by Jan. 1, 1884, when the property will be well worth from \$12,000 to \$15,000. The school is now in progress, with about 130 pupils. It is in charge of Prof. W. M. Jordan and Mrs. W. A. Andrews, two of the foremost teachers of the State, whose connection with it is alone a guaranty of success.

They have also a Free School at Kyle, of some 65 pupils, successfully conducted by Prof. Ott.

The following is the list of business men of Kyle, which we compile mainly from the late special edition of the *Nutshell*, but supplying some omissions.

Mills and Gins.—Maj. E. Nance proprietor of the Blanco Mills near Kyle, has a superior steam cotton gin and other machinery in the town.

Hotel.—D. A. Barbee, proprietor.

General Merchandise.—Mayer & Wetzel, E. E. Banner, (also postmaster) H. Hellmann.

Lumber.—H. C. Wallace.

Drugstore.—Manlove & Whisenant.

Physicians.—Reagan & Davidson, Barbee and Gazley.

Dentist.—W. R. Simcock.

Law.—F. A. Douglas.

Meat Market.—L. Coffee.

Livery Stable.—Weatherford & Co.

Painters.—T. W. Cornwall and E. McCall.

Printers.—Cashell & Tadlock.

Furniture.—J. A. Bacon.

Groceries.—D. A. Young.

Saddlery.—M. Hudson.

Farm Machinery.—J. L. Hay.

Blacksmiths.—Bones & Son, Smith & Bro.

Saloons.—T. G. Martin, Ford & Allen.

#### DU PRE

Is another growing railroad town, a few miles nearer Austin. It has a very beautiful situation, and some good buildings. Water abundant. Local opinion prevails there by a vote of the people. It has the following business houses:

General Merchandise.—Chandler & Bro. (who also keep the Post office), N. Melasky, Schmidt & Meador.

Groceries.—Mr. Nivens.

Lumber.—Goforth & Bro.

Livery Stable.—Sanford & Robins.

Hotel.—J. V. Allen.

Blacksmith.—Mr. Petmecky.

Steam Gins.—J. M. Lynch, A. J. Carter.

#### DRIPPING SPRINGS

Is situated on the Austin and Fredericksburg road, in an attractive region. It lies a little nearer Austin than San Marcos. As an illustration of its healthfulness, we will state that citizens of San Antonio have come to Dripping Springs to reside, on the express ground of its superior healthfulness to that famous health resort. In this respect it has unquestionably no superior in Texas. Second only to this its chief distinction is its flourishing academy. The spacious school building was erected in 1881 under the auspices of Prof. Jordan, now of Kyle, who did much by his energy and ability as a teacher in making it a success. There are about 100 pupils, many of them attracted from abroad by the healthfulness and good morals of the town. No inebriating liquors are allowed to be sold there. The scenery is quite beautiful and romantic.

The following are some of the business houses:

General Merchandise.—Crow & Estelle, Chapman & Davis, (the Post office is at their store), Major Wortham.

Druggist.—A. D. Gilpin.

Saddles and Harness.—G. W. Womack.

Blacksmiths and Woodworkers.—J. C. Rowe, Carpenter & Lincoln.

The town is just now enjoying a "boom" A fine new hotel, Masonic Hall, and many fine residences are going up, and immigrants of the better class are coming in. A new cotton gin is doing a large business. Dripping Springs is clearly destined to make a prosperous country town, a nice quiet place in which to reside.

#### WIMBERLY

Is the name of a new postoffice, the centre of a community casting over 200 votes, in the northern part of the county. It was so named after Mr. Wimberly, who built the first mill there, which is still in operation. It is in the midst of good stock ranges and small farms. Business as follows:

General Merchandise.—E. P. Laney, R. M. Moore (the postoffice is kept at the last named store, E. A. Davis, P. M.)

Bozarth & Wimberly, nurserymen.

"Jacob's Well, elsewhere described, is near Wimberly.

#### PURGATORY SPRINGS,

Is the name of another prosperous settlement further to the south. Notwithstanding its rather sinister name, it is a very interesting place. It is rich valley land, watered by numerous springs—a sort of oasis in the surrounding rocky pasture lands. The valley is some three miles in length and would average about half a mile in width. There are about twenty families residing in it, and they enjoy church and school privileges. The community is sufficient to support a mercantile house or two, and ought by all means to have a postoffice. The valley was first settled in 1852. Mr. Williamson, from Missouri, bought most of it, and his descendants are still numerous there. It is an admirable location for men wishing to settle their families pleasantly while going into the stock business, which is invited by a boundless range, free as air. There are several extensive ranches in this vicinity, among which we may name those of Mr. E. P. Reynolds and Capt. Johnson.

#### HUNTER

Is the name of a railroad station in Comal, but only a few rods over the Hays county line, which bids fair to become something of a town. The postoffice formerly at Stringtown has been discontinued in favor of Hunter, with G. A. Schley, P. M., and there are some business houses making a start there. The place is in the midst of a splendid country.

#### Our Railroad Business.

We compile the following showing of the local produce, shipped by railroad from August 1, 1882 to July 31, 1883 of San Marcos, Kyle, DuPre and Manchaca:

	Grain	Cotton
	Pounds.	Bales.
San Marcos.....	306,390	8,801
Kyle.....	296,278	6,848
DuPre.....	133,504	
Manchaca.....	46,199	
Total.....	782,371	15,649

#### Tax Rolls for 1883 as Compared with 1882.

No. of acres of land 1883, 399,980, value \$1,191,300, against 386,413 acres valued at \$1,058,830, 1882. Increase; acres 13,567, value \$122,470.

Town lots, 1883, value \$306,039; 1882, \$274,910. Increase \$31,129.

Carrriages, buggies and wagons, No. of, 1883, 1076, value \$43,460, against 938 valued at \$36,385 in 1882. Increase in value \$7,125.

Tools, implements and machinery, value 1883, \$2,500; 1882, 14,560. Increase \$9940.

Horses and mules, 1883, No. 7,014, value \$156,655; 1882, 6,517, valued at \$119,900. Increase, \$36,755.

Cattle, 1883, No. 22,595, value, \$243,445, against 22,810 \$176,205, 1882. Decrease, in No. 215; increase in value, \$67,240.

Sheep, 1883, No. 12,990, value \$28,180, 1882, 14,264 valued at \$30,085. Decrease in No. 1274, in value \$1,905.

Goats, No. in 1883, 3,426, value, \$5,450, 1882, 1,308 valued at \$1,975. Increase, in No. 2,118, value, \$3,475.

Hogs, No. in 1883, 3,782, value \$6,805; 1872, 3,441 valued at \$4,970. Increase in No. 341, value \$1,835.

Goods, wares and merchandise, 1883, value \$149,530; 1882, \$105,355. Increase \$44,175.

Money and credits, 1883, \$202,660; 1882, \$194,855. Increase \$7,804.

Miscellaneous property, 1883 \$33,010; 1882, \$27,155. Increase \$5,855.

Total value of real and personal property, 1883, 2,520,460; 1882, \$2,086,210. Increase \$434,250.

R. S. FORTSON,

Tax Collector, Hays Co., Tex.

#### The Schools of Hays County.

The following is a tabular statement of the white and colored schools of this county for the scholastic years of 1883-4, giving number of children in each community, with the amount apportioned for their support, as kindly furnished us by County Judge Ed. R. Kone.

No.	Name of Community.	No. of Child'n	Am't Due.
1	Elm Grove	32	\$ 172 80
2	Mountain City	41	221 40
3	Mount Sharp	45	243 00
4	Virginia Point	15	81 00
5	Rock Springs	13	70 20
6*	Antioch	48	259 20
7*	Blanco	38	199 80
8	China Grove	40	221 40
9	Walnut Springs	19	102 60
10	Dripping Springs	68	367 20
11	Science Hall	45	253 80
12	Wimberly	31	167 40
13	Purgatory Springs	17	91 80
14	Stringtown	30	162 00
15	DuPre	62	324 00
16*	Pean Springs	13	75 00
17*	San Marcos	65	351 00
18	Mount Gaynor	21	113 40
19*	Oyster Creek	54	291 60
20*	Way-Side	20	97 20
21	High Prairie	21	178 20
22	Independent Hall	63	340 20
23	Valley Ford	7	37 80
24	Liberty Hill	40	216 00
25	San Marcos	117	631 80
26	McGehee	25	135 00
27*	Bear Creek	13	70 00
28*	Rock Ridge	33	178 20
29*	West Point	6	32 40
30*	Durham	23	124 20
31	Salem	12	64 80
32	Mountain Home	49	264 70
33*	Pleasant Hill	27	145 60
34*	Burleson	24	129 60
35*	Sumter	24	129 60
36*	Kyle	77	415 80
37	Mill Spring	18	97 20
38	Pium Creek	22	118 20
39	Bell Spring	26	140 40
40	Prairie Hill	26	140 40
41	Gatlin	11	59 40
40*	Long Branch	16	86 40
43*	Jacob's Well	19	102 60

\* Communities marked with a \* are colored. Several of the above communities lie partly in other counties, a fact which will account for the small number of pupils in some cases.

The Rio Blanco Mills of Major Nance, elsewhere spoken of, have all the modern improvements, and are equal to the best anywhere.

There are seven postoffices in Hays county, as follows: San Marcos, Kyle, DuPre, all on the railroad, Dripping Springs, Cedar Valley, Henly and Wimberly, in the upper part of the county, and Manchaca, Hunter Fischer's Store and Marthdale close to her borders.

Notice the advertising cards of Ed. J. L. Green and Green & Price in this paper. They are among our most reliable and foremost business houses.

See the card of D. A. Glover & Co., an old-established and first-class Banking house.

Read the card of J. C. Eve. He is the Surveyor of Hays county, and well informed as to the subject of his advertising.

We intended giving a list of our principal stockmen, but time for getting it up in proper shape has failed us.

We invite attention to the reading card of Judge Walters, attorney and real estate agent, in our columns. He is competent and reliable.

The card of W. J. Reed & Co., dealers in Groceries, Hardware, &c., solicits attention in this issue. This is a 'young American' firm of vim and popularity, and worthy of patronage.

#### Business House and Lot For Sale.

For sale, a business house and lot on the Public Square, San Marcos. One of the best business locations in town. Permanent water of excellent quality, on the premises. Besides a place of business, the building will also accommodate a small family as a residence. Inquire at the office of the Free Press.

#### LAW CARD.

The undersigned, on East side of Plaza, second door South of Post office in San Marcos, can be found at all times. Has for sale Farms, Business Houses in town, and county of Hays and other counties in Texas. He offers cheap, on easy terms, invites purchasers and patronage, and satisfaction guaranteed in all contracts in Texas, and real estate agencies. Live stock interests looked after, and business attended to in all parts of Texas. Give him a trial before investing elsewhere and be convinced.

G. W. WALTERS.

Solicitor, Att'y at Law and Real Estate Agt.

## Ed. J. L. Green, BANKER,

AND DEALER IN EXCHANGE. SAN MARCOS, - - TEXAS. Collections Made on all Accessible Points. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

## D. A. Glover & Co. BANKERS,

AND DEALERS IN EXCHANGE. SAN MARCOS, TEXAS. Special attention paid to collections. Jly 28

ED. J. L. GREEN. ALF. PRICE.

## GREEN & PRICE,

Dealers in Fine Dry Goods, SAN MARCOS, TEX. The largest Dry Goods house in San Marcos.

## Isaac H. Julian, NOTARY PUBLIC,

—AND— GENERAL AGENT. SAN MARCOS, - - TEXAS.

Letters of inquiry accompanied by a stamp for reply, will receive prompt attention.

## W. J. REED & CO.,

—Dealers in— TIN