
THE HENKEL SQUARE HERALD

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VOL. 5

Henkel Square, Round Top, Texas, January 1864

NO. 1

Nearly all the troops that arrive here, especially if they have been long in the service, are destitute of socks. Quartermasters are unable to buy them at the schedule prices, and consequently cannot issue them. We have received and distributed many pairs to those needy men, and solicit further contributions from the ladies for this purpose. All socks sent to us for distribution, will be acknowledged, and will be issued either directly to needy applicants, or be placed in the hands of the Quartermaster of any regiment or the Captain of any company, as may be desired. We urge the ladies to send forward their contributions at once. They will not remain long in our hands.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 1, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

An old citizen of Dallas county says that a good article of worsted socks can be purchased in abundance in that county at five dollars per pair and Texas jeans at twenty dollars per yard. This will, of course, be cheering news to many of our citizens, and especially to the editor of the State Gazette, who expresses an anxiety to procure such articles.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 6, 1864, p. 1, c. 2

We are pleased to learn that the Bastrop Military Institute will receive twelve young men who have been wounded in the Confederate service, and are unable to educate themselves, and educate them free of charge, except for actual cost of boarding. It will also teach twenty more without charge, provided they board elsewhere than at the Academy. The only proviso is that they are indigent, and have been disabled in the service. The proposition is a liberal one.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 7, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Col. John B. Walker, of Madison, Ga., had 500 acres planted in Chinese Sugar Cane this year. He is the pioneer in the cultivation of this plant in Georgia, and having found it to be a valuable product, has given almost his whole attention to it. He manufactures large quantities of syrup, and vinegar. The vinegar is made from the juice of the cane, boiling it long enough to skim off the feculent matter which rises to the surface, then pouring it into barrels. The bung left out, it acidifies in the usual way, making very strong vinegar.

Mr. Walker saves all the fodder, and seed of his cane, which he says pay the whole cost of the crop.

STANDARD [CLARKSVILLE, TX], January 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We understand the Israelites of Houston yesterday presented some of the soldiers in this vicinity with twenty india rubber tents. The present was a timely one, and speaks well for those who made it.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 12, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Soldiers Contemplation.

"Air—Southern Wagon."

O soldiers I've concluded, to make a little song,
And if I tell no falsehood there'll surely be no
wrong,
If any be offended at what I have to sing,
'Twill be because his conscience applies its bitter
sting.
Chorus
Oh how'd you like the army, this high falutin army,
The brass-mounted army, where eagle buttons rule.

Of late I've oft been thinking, of this great army-
school,
With iron regulations, and tyrants rigid rule.
But chosen words, or phrases, I need no longer seek,
Plain fact as soldiers know them, a stronger language
speak;
Then how'd you like the army &c.

Whisky is a monster, and ruins great and small,
But in the noble army, Head Quarters gets it all,
They drink it where there's danger, although it seems
too hard,
And if a private touch it, they pop him under guard,
Then how'd you like the army &c.

And then when we are marching, we're Order No.
Blank,
That makes the private soldier forever stay in rank,
Although 'tis rather cooling, as soldiers often say,
It is a General Order, and all at once obey,
Then how'd you like the army &c.

At every big plantation, or negro holders yard,
Just to save his property, the Generals place a guard.
The sentry's then instructed to let no private pass,
The rich man's house, and table are fixed to suit the
brass,
Then how'd you like the army &c.

I hate to leave this story so beautiful, and true;
But the poor men, and the widows must have a line
or two.
For them no guards are stationed—their fences all
are burned,
And property molested, as long ago you've learned,
Then how'd you like the army &c.

The army is much richer than when the war begun,
It furnishes three tables where once it had but one.
The first is richly laden with chicken, goose, and
duck;
The next with pork and mutton, and third with good
old buck.

Then how'd you like the army &c.

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Soldiers Contemplation.

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The Generals eat the poultry and buy it very cheap,
Our Colonels and our Captains, devour the hogs and
sheep;
The privates are contented—except what they can
steal—
With Buck and cornbread plenty to make a handsome
meal;
Then how'd you like the army &c.

And when we meet with ladies, we're bound to go it
shy,
Head Quarters are the pudding, and privates are the
pie,
They issue standing orders to keep us all in line,
For if we had a showing, the brass would fail to shine,
Then how'd you like the army &c.

Sometimes we get so hungry we chance to steal a pig,
Then the biggest stump in Dixie, we're sure to have to
dig,
And if we fret an officer, who wears long legged
boots,
With neither judge nor jury, we're put on double roots,
Then how'd you like the army &c.

These things and scores of others, are truly hard to
me,
Yet we should be contented, and fight for liberty.
And when we leave the army, we'll have a jolly time,
We'll be our own commanders, and sing a sweeter
rhyme.
We'll say farewell to armies &c.,

We'll see our loving sweethearts, and sometimes kiss
them too,
We'll eat the finest rations and bid old buck adieu.
There'll be no General with us, no orders to compel,
Long boots and eagle buttons, will take a long
farewell.
And thus we'll leave the army &c.

By Foot Cavalry,
From the privates of Alexander's Regt., 2nd Tex.
Brigade.

STANDARD [CLARKSVILLE, TX], January 9, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Castor Oil.—Mr. I. M. Camp has shown us a most
beautiful article of castor oil, of his own manufacture.
It could not be distinguished from the best imported
article in appearance, and we cannot entertain a doubt
but that its quality is equally good. Mr. Camp deserves
the thanks of the public for his enterprise. He has
spent much time and money in bringing this article to
its present perfection.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Col. J. R. Skiles, of Karnes Co., writes us that
his lady, in obedience to Gen. Magruder's call upon
the ladies, has made fourteen haversacks from trunk
covers of Russia duck, an admirable article for such a
purpose. We understand the ladies of our city are also
responding in this good work.—S. A. Herald.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

How to Spin Cotton Yarns Without Cards.—

Gov. Shorter, of Alabama, received the following
communication on the above subject, from Hon. W.
E. Clarke, Senator in the Alabama Legislature. The
Montgomery Advertiser publishes it for the valuable
information it contains:

Capitol, Nov. 12, 1863.

His Excellency, John Gill Shorter—

Dear Sir:—A constituent of mine, Col. R. R.

Pickering, of Marengo county, is making excellent
cotton yarns, for the manufacture of bagging and
heavy clothing for negroes, without the use of cards.
He gins the cotton slowly, so as to throw large flakes
through the flue, which are caught in a hamper
basket placed under the flue, and taken to the
spinning wheel, without pressing the cotton. Col.
Pickering informs me that his best spinners average
eight cuts per day. Since he made this discovery he
has abandoned the use of cards, in making coarse
yarns. I herewith send you a specimen of the yarn
for exhibition.

Believing this a matter of much importance
to our country, I have taken the liberty of making
this communication.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Resources of Southern fields and Forrests [sic]

Glenblythe, Dec. 29th, 1863.

Ed. Teleraph—Thanks for your loan of Surgeon
Porcher's "Resources of the Southern Field's [sic]
and Forrests [sic];" in which I have found very much
of interest. And most heartily wish that the surgeon
general, or somebody else who has it in their power,
would favor me with a copy sent to your care.

I begin my promised digest.

T. A.

The Chinese Sugar Cane.

Dr. Porcher speaks in high terms of this
plant, and of the syrup made from it. I had a small
crop last year, and am so much pleased with the
result, as to be now preparing for it as a main crop.

Prepare the ground well and deeply, plant
early with a view to a full crop and early grinding,
although it may be planted at any time, up to June.
One or two good showers will cause it to give a
wonderful yield. On our black prairies, rows 4 ½
feet, dropping two or three seeds at every 16 inches,
is about the proper distance, tend as if corn.

The plant throws up stalks in succession; the
first watering their seeds when the roots are about
half grown, and so on, depending on the season and
showers.

I tried the experiment of cutting off the
blossom, so soon as it showed itself on the oldest
stalks; and found them become, in four or five days,
decidedly sweeter than those not topped. But, with
the first shower, or within a week or ten days if the
soil be moist, a seed stalk is pushed at the base of
every leaf, when these stalks soon lost their
sweetness until the seed again approached maturity.

My experiment was not sufficiently
extensive, long continued or repeated often enough
to warrant saying more, than as yet I deem it best, to
let the seed of each planting become ripe or nearly
so before beginning to cut and grind; that [then?]
push through with the piece as rapidly as possible.

I found it the most expeditious, to have the
leaves stripped from the stalks whilst standing, then
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Resources of Southern fields and Forrests [sic]

Continued from page 2

cut down, hauled to the mill and the seeds cut off there.

Oxen and mules are much fonder of the fodder when green than when dried. The seeds are relished by all kinds of stock. Hogs will keep in growing order on the stalks; but do not fatten. As forage for anything but horses, cattle and hogs, I prefer drilled corn to sugar millet.

For the making of syrup and sugar from the juice of this plant, Dr. P. quotes at some length from the writings of northern chemists, writing from their laboratories. The whole lacks practicability.

I was fortunate enough to have the services of Negroes, trained on a first-class Louisiana sugar plantation, worth a whole regiment of Yankee chemists.

Four small wash kettles, the largest of about 30 gallon capacity, were set in the furnace, in a row; the largest next the chimney, and called the *grand*. They were set each about an inch or inch and half above the next; the grand being the lowest; and had their capacity greatly increased by being cased around above their edges, with thin stones set in cement or lime, with a casement of wood over all; the top of which was some eight or ten inches above the edges of the kettles, declining in height towards the grand.—The smallest kettle, next the mouth of the furnace, which boiled most vigorously, is called the *siro*.

I had secured an old-fashioned sugar mill, to be driven by mules, consisting of three cast iron rollers, set on end, with cogs on their circumference, at their upper ends. The center roller being turned, caused the others to turn with it; the canes were crushed between them, and the juice flowed into a trough placed below.

To have the work go on steadily and regularly, the capacity of the mill and of the kettles should be, as nearly as possible, kept up to the same point. There should be little interruption to the work, after it is started; else it is difficult to make good syrup.

The cane is passed first into the *grand*. To each charge a quantity of strong lime water is added, depending upon the condition of the juice. My canes were very ripe, yielding of course less juice, but a larger proportion of sugar. Two quarts of lime-water was put to each charge. Canes grown on strong lime soil, as are these black prairies, contain a large proportion of lime; and I am induced to believe the juice from them requires less lime-water than if grown upon soil less calcareous or limy.

From the first moment the scum begins to rise, it must be carefully and continuously skimmed off. As the juice thickens by boiling, it requires more space, and is baled forward into the other kettles. It will be seen that the manner of setting each higher than the other, enables the attendant to strip off the scum with a long, broad paddle into the next kettle below, and so into the *grand*, where it is finally skimmed off. By this careful and attentive skimming, the sediment, gum, starch, &c., are boiled out of the syrup, instead into it, as by the usual practice. The boiling is finished off in the *siro*. I found none of the reported strainings, filterings, and other manifestations, recommended by the Yankee

chemists, quoted by Dr. P., to be at all necessary.

It would be better for three or four neighbors to join, where kettles are scarce, and set four, or even five in one furnace, though good syrup could be made I presume, with even one kettle.

The syrup is excellent. Have not tried yet making it into sugar. The yield per acre is remunerating; say from two to four barrels.

[Yours, T. A.]

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 14, 1864, p. 1, c. 2-3

Indigo.

The soil of the rich alluvial bottoms of Texas is peculiarly adapted to the culture of the Indigo plant, frequently attaining the height of from four to six feet, with comparatively no care in either the mode of planting or means of cultivation. Farmers who attempted its culture in Brazos county, utterly failed in procuring the dark blue precipitate in which consists its chief value. I have been informed by those who have experimented in the manufacture of Indigo in Texas, that the invariable result has been a deep green precipitate, not in a solid mass, but rather in floating follicles. To obviate this result is the principal object of this article.

It should be borne in mind that all the varieties of the indigo plant, from the *Indigofera tinctoria* to the *Baptisia tinctoria*, contains a greenish brown and greenish red coloring substance, each of which yields more readily in the process of manufacture than the deep blue. Hence great care is requisite in order to obtain the desired results.

Time of planting.—The ground should be thoroughly prepared by plowing and harrowing, run out in furrows about three feet apart, the seeds planted in drills about one foot distant from each other. This should be done as early in the spring as the temperature and condition of the soil will permit. One or two plowings between the rows will be sufficient for the season, unless the ground is quite foul with weeds or other undergrowth. New ground is preferable, when it can be had, but even in old fields there is no crop that will yield so rich a reward to the husbandman, with the same amount of labor, as the one under consideration.

Time of gathering.—When the plants are in their greatest perfection, the seeds well formed but not yet ripe, is regarded as the best time for gathering the stalks by those engaged in its culture in the East Indies as an article of commerce. Although an inferior article of Indigo is manufactured from the stalks reserved as seed bearers, after the seeds are gathered, the difference between the two articles is so marked and apparent, that the latter always commands a much less price than the former. The first is always formed in firm dense cakes, presenting upon fracture, a bright glistening blue, while the latter contains less of the blue coloring matter, and an excess of the brown. The cakes are more porous and more soluble in water, hence its inferiority.

Mode of manufacturing.—The plants having been gathered as above indicated, they are placed in large barrels or vats, and covered with rain water (no other kind of water should be used.) Our streams and wells generally contain sufficient foreign matter, either of a saline, chalybeate, or sulphuric character, sufficient in quantity to prevent the desired result. These barrels or vats should be allowed to remain in

Indigo.

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the sun. In a few days the fermentive process will commence. The stalks should be stirred up once or twice every day, from the commencement. According to the rapidity of fermentation will the stalks yield their several coloring principles to the water. The length of time which they should remain in the water is determined by the water assuming a deep green color. The stalks are now taken out, and a small quantity of lime water, or a solution of potash or salaratus [sic] is added to the water, in order to aid the precipitation of the Indigo. The water is now either decanted or drawn off by means of a faucet placed immediately above the precipitate.

This precipitate now undergoes a marked chemical change, from a bright green to a deep blue color—from a soluble substance to one that will but sparingly yield its coloring matter to either water or alcohol. This change is doubtless caused by the rapid absorption of oxygen from the air.

This precipitate is now collected, washed upon linen strainers, moulded in such shapes as fancy may dictate, placed in the sun and dried. The process is thus completed—the yield incredible, the reward abundant—the result satisfactory.

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Poppy.

The Poppy is too well known to require any description. Its vast varieties have been cultivated in gardens as ornamental plants from time immemorial—while all along our vast plains and wood-scoped prairies, a variety may be found growing wild, presenting all the floral beauties of the more highly favored members of this family, which has so long received the fostering care of the tasteful gardener. But, as a source of profit by the manufacturing of opium, the only variety that will remunerate the laborer is the White Poppy. This is distinguished from others by its round smooth stalk, growing to the height of from three to six feet, and by its large white or silver gray-colored flowers, often double and not unfrequently tinged with a deep violet color at their base.

Mode of Cultivation.—The manner of cultivating the Poppy is quite similar to that of the Indigo plant, it may, however, be planted much thicker as the stalks are not so branching, and the plant absorbs less support from the soil hence it grows well in comparatively poor ground.

In this country with early planting it will bloom by the middle of May or the first of June. In a few weeks thereafter the capsules will be nearly half grown, at which time its milky fluid is fully elaborated and the process of collecting it should commence—this is quite simple, consisting in making small longitudinal incisions with a sharp knife, in the capsules and various portions of the stalk, from which a tenacious milky fluid escapes. This is collected every day, and the process of incision again renewed from day to day until it ceases to flow. This juice when collected is put in large deep plates and exposed to the action of the sun until it acquires consistency sufficient to form it into flat cakes or which is better round balls. In this condition it should be allowed to dry for three or four weeks. It is then fit for market,

and sold under the name of Opium.

It might not be inappropriate to remark in this connection, that Opium thus procured is entirely free from adulteration or deterioration and would be more anxiously sought after by our physicians and druggists, than even the Turkey Opium provided our trade with that country was at present entirely uninterrupted.

Another process of extracting the active properties of the Poppy consists in macerating the capsules and stalks, rejecting the leaves, previously bruised to a pulp in a small quantity of water and straining it through flannel.

The inspissated [sic?] fluid thus obtained is evaporated down by means of a sand bath, or an opened mouth vessel kept in boiling water until the desired consistency is attained. Although the result of this process is vastly inferior to the first, it has this advantage, it can be resorted to after the capsules and stalks have ceased to yield any exudation by incision or acupuncture; and although the opium thus obtained is vastly inferior to that procured by the former process, it is nevertheless superior to the ordinary article of commerce.

Profit.—One acre of ground properly attended to, will yield from fifty to sixty pounds of opium by the first process, and about twenty by the last. Estimating the pure to be worth \$100 per pound, and the inferior at \$50 per pound, you have, as the proceeds of one acre of land, a sum exceeding six thousand dollars, and that, too, by work that can be done by small negroes, at a season when they have little or nothing else to do.

To us, especially at this time, there is another source of profit and utility that should not be overlooked. All the varieties of the Poppy yield a large amount of seeds which contain a great quantity of bland oil, which is easily expressed. This oil is a complete substitute for the pure Olive Oil, and can be used for all purposes, both in the arts and sciences for which that oil has so justly commanded attention.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

We regret to observe the suspension of the Marshall Republican. It is the ablest paper left in the East. In fact always was the ablest paper there.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Miss Tucker, of Weatherford, deserves to bear off the palm. She has made with her own fair hands a pair of cotton cards, and carded, spun, wove, and made her own dresses. Who can beat that.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Marshall Republican, of the 2d instant, announces that that paper will be suspended for a few weeks for the want of paper and the necessary assistance, but that an Extra will be issued when important news is received. We hope our able contemporary may soon be enabled to resume, but the "paper question" is becoming every day one of more and more absorbing interest to us.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 7

Moscow, Polk county, Jan. 4, 1864
 Editor Telegraph—On last Wednesday, about noon, during one of the coldest and hardest rains of the season, the monotony of our usual quiet village was interrupted by the entrance of Capt. R. S. Poole, commanding detachment 24th Texas Cavalry, with forty men in hot pursuit of some deserters from Sabine Pass. Learning that a body of the deserters were about fifteen miles ahead, the Captain gave orders for immediate pursuit at full speed. Although the rain was pouring down in torrents, and very cold, yet the gallant Captain would not tarry a moment to partake of refreshments offered by the patriotic citizens of Moscow. But off they went at full speed, overtaking and capturing the deserters, 29 in number the same evening. On Thursday night Capt. Poole, with the 29 prisoners and guard of forty men stopped in this place over night. The citizens of Moscow desire to bear testimony to the gentlemanly conduct and soldierly bearing of Captain Poole and his brave command, whom we know to be performing good service in arresting deserters, and freeing the country from Jayhawkers and turbulent characters, thus contributing to the peace and security of the country and the morale of our army. The discipline of Capt. Poole's company seemed to be perfect, and the Captain's constant personal attention to business was marked by all.

Citizens of Moscow.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 14, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

To the Ladies of Texas.

The troops of Gen. Tom Green's Division are very much in need of socks. It is impossible for Quartermasters to supply them with this most essential article of clothing, and this appeal is now made to you for the purpose of aiding us during the winter campaign. Very few of our men have any socks, except such as are fortunate enough to have received them from home. Agents have been appointed to gather as many socks together as can be purchased, but the supply is insufficient. Any clothing deposited with Mr. Peter Crow, Brenham, Texas, or Col. Boone at Hempstead, will be forwarded immediately to the Captain of the company to which the soldier belongs. Those desiring it, will be paid the maximum price allowed by Government for the articles furnished. Socks and hats are most needed for the men of the Division.

It will be made the duty of every Quartermaster of this Division, to see that all contributions of clothing made to the troops of the Division, is properly turned over to the commanding officers of company's [sic], to be by them delivered to the proper owners. In this way it is hoped that soldiers will receive all donations promptly that are made to them.

J. H. Beck, Maj. & Q. M.,
 Green's Cavalry Division.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

We have received a circular of the Waco University, from which it appears that that institution is in quite a flourishing condition. 171 students have been matriculated during the past session. In addition to the ordinary branches taught, Prof. J. T. Strother teaches the science of war thoroughly. The circular is signed by J. W. Speight, as President Board of Trustees.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Wanted, at the Texas Penitentiary.—

800 bales cotton, not to class below Low Middling, for which I will pay 25 cents per lb., one half in cotton goods.

30,000 lbs. wool, clear of burrs, for which I will pay one dollar per lb., either in money or cotton goods.

20,000 lbs. bacon, clear sides, for which I will give one yard osnaburgs for 3 lbs.

15,000 lbs. lard, for which I will give one yard osnaburgs for 3 lbs.

10,000 lbs. flour, for which I will pay 30 cts. per lb. in cotton goods.

The above supplies must be delivered at this place within eight weeks from this date.

S. B. Hendricks,

Financial Agent Penitentiary.

Huntsville, January 20, 1864.

Galveston News, and State Gazette publish 5 times and send bill to this office.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 4

Shreveport, January 13th, 1864.

Dear News:-- . . . I have noticed several articles in your paper recently upon the subject of iron and from the tone I judge that the writer is not aware that there are already furnaces in operation in Texas that are turning out an immense quantity of the finest pig iron in the world. It is pronounced by Col. Clemson, the scientific gentleman at the head of the Iron Department in the Trans Mississippi Department, to be superior to any iron to be found in Europe or America. And the quantity is unlimited. All the iron used here for shot and shell and for other government purposes as well as for private use—I mean castings is brought from these Texas mines. At present we have only the pig iron, but soon the rolling mills and hammers will be in operation and then we will have as much car iron and nails as the country can use.

Every week long trains of wagons arrive loaded with pig iron to be worked up in the government foundries here. In addition we have an immense coal bed in the immediate vicinity of Shreveport, of which thousands of bushels have been used by our steamboats and gas works. It burns well, as well as any, but I know not its exact quality. I am aware that Col. Clemson some months since was of the opinion that all the coal on this side of the Mississippi river, was what is called lignite, which I believe is not equal to other qualities of coal.

M. E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

We are informed that Capt. E. C. Wharton has been relieved from charge of the Clothing Bureau, etc., at his own request, and Capt. E. W. Taylor has been assigned to duty in his place. The change was necessitated by the fact that Capt. Wharton was not able to make up his returns while attending to the business of the office. We wish Capt. Taylor joy of his appointment, though we question if he or anybody else can derive much joy from so laborious and responsible a bureau.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 26, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Galveston Still Suffering.—We make the following extract from a letter just received from Galveston. It is from one of the most respectable citizens of the devoted island city:

"The want of wood causes a wide havoc with our buildings; over ten houses have been torn down for firewood. Our unfortunate town is fast going to destruction, whilst we have two or three steamboats making but about one trip in eight or ten days with wood. A heavy hand is laid on our property. The wharves are now being torn up for firewood. Most of our wood boats were seized a few weeks ago, and some thirteen went out to sea in a norther, the balance were returned to their owners. Oh, the folly, folly! of those men of theory! Yet poor Galveston is to suffer to the bitter end for their blunders."

Flake's Bulletin contains the following which conveys the impression that making fuel of the houses in Galveston is by order of the commanding General:

"Quite a number of old houses have disappeared since the cold weather came on. We understand that Gen. Magruder, in consequence of the scarcity and impossibility of procuring sufficient firewood, has issued an order for the impressment of the wharves and the old vacant houses, to be used as fuel by the troops. A number of houses have been torn down. The wharves have thus far escaped destruction."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Montague, Dec. 29, 1863.

Ed News.—The Indians came down to this country the other day and stole several head of horses, keeping down Red River right along the big road until they got into Cooke county. There they killed six persons, one man, two women and three children, and stole all the horses they could get. They then kept down the river some distance, when they made straight for the Gainsville settlements, going within four miles of Gainsville. The soldiers, about forty in number, came up with them, when the Indians, numbering some 200, charged them, compelling them to retreat, with the loss of two or three killed and one mortally wounded. When they got within four miles of Gainsville, having by this time gathered up some two or three hundred head of horses, they then divided, one party with the horses crossing Dead River, the other party, consisting of about forty, turning to the right, and making for other parts, to try their hand somewhere else at murdering and stealing horses. What we shall do I know not. I hope those in authority will awake to a sense of our situation.

Respectfully,

J. H. Cox.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

We learn that a small Restaurant or Store was broken into and robbed last night by some two or three soldiers. The proprietor immediately notified the city guard who promptly came to his protection. The soldiers soon returned a second time, and commenced firing on the guard with their pistols, when the guard returned the fire, breaking one soldier's arm with a shot and wounding another. The former was sent to the Hospital and the latter taken into custody.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We copy the following from the Victoria Advocate:

On the recent raid of the Yankees to Lavaca, the following individuals took the occasion to leave and retire to "Abraham's bosom:" Dr. F. E. Hughes, Rev. Mr. McRae, pastor of a church in Lavaca, who occasionally "held forth" in Victoria; Dr. (?) Rosencranz, and _____ McKee, a quondam merchant of Lavaca. We have no sympathy for the traitors, and hold them up to the scorn of the true and faithful. We congratulate our sister town on being rid of these blots on her social surface.

The Yankees seem to have determined on a permanent establishment at Indianola. We hear that they have gone to merchandising and have begun publishing a newspaper; we expect to hear soon that they have opened intelligence and insurance offices, with a few model artist exhibitions.

Since the raid of the Yankees to Lavaca, we have heard nothing further of their doings. No one suffered from their visit there, we believe, except Capt. Bradbury, whose property they used pretty roughly. At Chocolate bridge they acted in a villainous manner. They entered the house of Mr. Norris, whose wife and children were at home, and destroyed everything in the shape of food, maliciously cutting up the furniture, bedding, &c. If two or three hundred good men had been there, the rascals would have had other work to attend to instead of a war on women and children.

The Advocate says the Yankees are publishing a paper at Indianola, on half a cap sheet, using the materials used by Mr. Yancey, deceased. It is called the "Horn Extra." The following extracts are taken from that paper:

We are astonished at a queer fact in regard to our new location, i. e., the entire absence of the "*unbleached*" American. A new feature in towns of this magnitude in "Dixie." Have learned, however, that all the "colored population," and a few *gentlemen* in "yaller," emigrated recently under the *chilling* influence of the recent "Norther."

Gen. Fitz Henry Warren has issued stringent orders against straggling and marauding by the soldiers of his command. Commissioned officers will be held responsible for the conduct of their men. A good order. It is not our purpose to molest defenceless inhabitants. Our business is with armed rebels. The Generals Commanding will see to all the wants of the soldier, through the regular military channel.

Our visit to this beautiful town was sudden, unexpected and unceremonious, but none the less pleasant—in fact we like it amazingly for the short acquaintance; have had some solemn thoughts of "settling down" right here "when this cruel war is over."

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

Wanted to Hire—Thirty Good Coopers for whom I will pay a liberal hire, to be employed in making flour barrels for the C. S. A. Persons hiring them to me will be entitled in the Labor Bureau to a credit of two common hands for each cooper thus hired. Address me through McKeen & Co., Houston; Trabue & Deadrick, Millican; or myself at Wheelock.
J. B. Durant.

Wheelock, Jan. 23, 1864.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Shreveport, Jan. 16, 1864

Dear News:-- . . . A word on the subject of iron. You are aware that there is an unlimited supply of iron ore in Texas. The vein extends across Red River from Louisiana, and runs in a southwesterly direction to the Trinity, and may be through the whole width of the State. Its quality is said, by Col. Clemson, who is, practically, the best qualified man in America, in such matters, to be unsurpassed in the world. Col. Clemson was educated in France, and received special instructions upon the subject of metals. He was afterwards employed by the Spanish Government to develop the mineral resources of Spain. He has large interests in iron furnaces East of the Mississippi. In a word, [illegible] in his manhood has been devoted to this subject. Having traveled recently through the iron region of Texas, he is well qualified to judge of the quantity and quality of the ore in your State. He is satisfied that no risk will be incurred, in peace or war, in making investments in iron works. The superior quality of the ore, the interior region in which it is found, will enable persons owning labor at all times to reap a handsome profit on their investments. In Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, etc., iron works open the widest field for a profitable investment of capital. I shall have something further to say on this subject at another time.

M. E.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 20, 1864, p. 2, c. 3

Indigo No. 2.

Dr. Porcher devotes several pages to this subject, but none of the articles he quotes seem to me nearly so clear and practical as that of which I have given you a digest.

To the north of this place, some ten or a dozen miles, either near the Gegua or Davidson's creek, there is quite a patch of the native Indigo, to which the ladies for miles around have resorted for many years, for the plant to dye with. I was strongly in hopes that some of them had stumbled on a more natural process, of dyeing their thread or wool in the liquor in which the plant had been steeped, and before the process of heating; but cannot learn that this has been done.

Here again, is a stumbling block in the way—that of explaining the why and because, in simple language. This heating is for the purpose of exposing the liquor to the air, so that a chemical change may take place by the taking up of a gas from the air, by which the coloring matter is separated and can be gathered together and dried. In order to dye with the dried indigo, it must be brought back by the use of copperas, or alum or lye, to the condition in which it was before it was exposed to the air in the process of heating.

I do not intend to enter into a discussion with the ladies, and especially the old ones; who know infinitely more, practically, than I do, in this case. But I desire to use the suggestion as a test on which to remark:

That we of the South have been a very blind people! Will we ever become less so? We grow the cotton and the wool; can grow the hemp, the flax, the dyestuffs—as Indigo, Madder, Wood, &c.; and the Teazles; can make the Pot and Pearlash, the Barilla and Soda, the Sulphuric Acid; and in fact, every article

used in the manufacture of cotton and wool into cloth. Yet we have, in the face of the volumes of facts published in this connection, through a long series of years, done everything in our power to continue subject to, because dependent on Yankeedom and Europe for every rag we wore, until we had cultivated the feeling of contempt on the part of the Yankees towards those to whom they naturally felt themselves infinitely superior, that has brought about this cruel and ruinous war. We have paid the heavy cost of transportation on both cotton and goods, with all the large profits made by those whose hands they passed through—an immense profit to the manufacturer—not only a legitimate profit, but derived from every possible series of rascality, by cheating in the materials used, &c.; and have also paid a big price, as the cost of bringing the baled cotton back to the condition in which it was when it left the flue of the gin-stand, when it was in a better state to make a good and strong thread, than it can ever again be brought to. And so it is and has been with wool, hides, &c.

Query.—Looking to the past, how long time will elapse after we secure our independence, politically, before we again become entirely dependent, in a commercial and manufacturing way, upon our bitter enemies, the Yankees, and our *unfreens*, the English and French?

But to return to our subject, Indigo: I do not think it necessary to be equally precise with the processes of draining and drying, and of pressing the Indigo. For home use it may be treated in a very simple manner. Any one proposing to engage in the crop as a business, will inform himself more fully than he can do through a newspaper article.

When the heating process is completed, the liquor must not rest until the mud or indigo settles to the bottom; when the reddish colored water must be drawn off; the mud dipped out and placed on frames, covered with close linen, hemp or even cotton cloth, to drain thoroughly; placed under cover.

It should be scraped off, and put on fresh cloths, until the mud becomes stiff enough to be placed in a box, lined with a loose cloth, and subjected to pressure; where it may remain twenty-four hours; then to be taken out and worked over in a basin with a paddle; or better if beaten in a smooth mould, in which it may be cut into squares of, say, two inches each way. These squares are then taken out and dried. If any white mould appears on the surface, it must be carefully brushed off.

There are other processes by which the coloring matter of the Indigo plant is extracted—as, by hot water, and without lime or ley, and from the dried leaves. But I will consider your limited space, and refrain.

Dr. Porcher says: "According to Lesunes, the decoction of the root possesses the property of action against poison, and is useful in nephritic diseases. In Jamaica, it is employed to destroy vermin. The leaves are alterative, and are given in nephatic disorders." These, your readers can look into their dictionaries, or consult the Doctors.

This I can add, the dried Indigo has been found a useful remedy in croup, giving so much of the powder as would lie on a dime, repeating if necessary.

The powder, moistened with water, and applied to the spot stung by a bee, or wasp, will give immediate relief.

You have had enough of blueing for this boat!

Glenblythe, Jan. 11, '64.

T. A.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 21, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

To the Citizens of Texas.

Under the approbation of Lt. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, I have drawn up a plan for supplying the soldiers and citizens of this Military Department with Clothing, &c. I have obtained from the Legislature of Texas a charter granting the necessary privileges; also making a conditional grant, which, to the company I propose to organize, will amount to between one and two hundred thousand acres of land. The privileges granted by the Confederate authorities will be of great pecuniary advantage; the whole being equal to a bounty of some three to five hundred thousand dollars. The plan is simply to establish and operate a Cotton and Woolen Factory, of sufficient capacity to manufacture some \$8,000,000 worth of cloth per annum. The machinery can be obtained. The Factory can be established and operated by those who have had experience in this business. The profits will be sufficient to satisfy the most craving. Your Confederate notes can be invested in that which is equal to specie, and at little, if any, discount.

While thus investing most profitably to yourselves, you will greatly benefit the citizens of your State; the soldiers family; the army fighting for your liberties.

Instead of depreciating our currency, our entire operations will tend to enhance its value. These are bold assertions, but they are based on clear calculations founded on practical experience. To carry out its plans the company will need \$1,000,000 Confederate money. This will be raised by shares of \$1000 each. One gentleman has already offered to take 100 shares in cash, and invest 200 bags of cotton at a fair valuation, in the same way. Will not the citizens and capitalists of Texas at once take the 1000 shares and put the whole in operation.

I wish you clearly to understand that, to accomplish this, we expect to meet great difficulties and run many risks. Energy, activity, perseverance and prudence, will surmount the difficulties. Your Government, by its liberal offers and grants, have covered almost the entire risk. As to profits the Company can reduce the present prices at least one half and yet, when in full operation realize a profit of \$25,000 per diem. Should peace be established you will own a property that will produce you annually in specie funds not less than 33 per cent.

For further information, I refer you to the bearer of this, or to the undersigned at Washington, Texas.

Thos. Lockett,
Capt. P. A. C. S.

Austin, Dec. 16th, 1863.

Remark:--Maj. Lockett has the best endorsements possible in this Department. He has over half the stock proposed taken. He now offers to the people of Houston an opportunity to enter into this matter. We urge their attention to it. He is stopping at the Rusk House.—Ed. Tel.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 22, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

We learn that small pox is prevailing in Brenham, Chappell Hill, Fairfield and other towns in the interior. New cases continue to occur in this city, but it attracts little or no attention. We hear of few deaths.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 29, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Poppy and Opium.

Under any other circumstances than those now existing in our Confederacy, the cultivation of the Poppy for Opium would be nearly as objectionable, on account of the negroes, as would be a rum distillery, just over the fence and in irresponsible hands. Let this be borne in mind.

The variety cultivated for opium is one having a branching habit of growth, having large white blossoms, and a capsule or head as large as a good sized lemon, though all the Poppy tribe will yield the gum, proportioned to the size and thickness of the capsules.

The cultivation of the large variety, as a field crop, is very similar to cotton; rows, say, three feet; plants fourteen inches apart. Prepare the ground well. Sow early, during lat of January and first half of February. It is a plant that loves a rich soil, and pays well for suitable manure on poor land. After the plant is a foot high, do not cultivate deeply, but merely to keep down the weeds.

The opium is the sap of the plant, procured by scarifying the sides of the capsule, when it is full grown and the petals, or flower leaves, are still plump and fresh—some say, not until the petals have fallen off. This scarifying is affected by making, at sunset, two longitudinal incisions, from below upwards, without penetrating the cavity, with an instrument which has two points, as fine and sharp as a lancet; the incisions are repeated every evening; until each capsule has received six or eight wounds, and they are then allowed to ripen their seeds. The juice which exudes is collected in the evening, and being inspissated (become thick by drying) to a proper consistence, by working it in an earthen pot in the sun's heat, is formed into cakes, for sale."

It is best to make the incisions circular and upward; by which more juice will flow out and less of it drop on the ground.

I would be glad to have a little seed of a large variety.

T. A.

Glenblythe, Jan. 12th 1864.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 23, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Editor Telegraph—Allow me through your columns to acknowledge the donation of eight hundred dollars from the citizens of Houston, for the purpose of buying Bibles for the soldiers at the post of Galveston. The Bibles have been bought and distributed to the soldiers, but we need as many more. I also take pleasure in announcing to the well wishers of our Savior's cause, that we are passing through a most gracious revival amongst the soldiers. There have been eighty conversions, with sixty-five accessions to the Camp Church, which is composed of each Evangelical denomination of Christians.—The good work is still on the increase. The Camp Church is nightly crowded, and many are seeking the Great "I Am." We solicit the prayers of God's people for the descent of His spirit upon the entire soldiery upon Galveston Island.

L. H. Baldwin,
Post Chaplain, Galveston.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 26, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

A Sensible Scheme.

About the time of the beginning of the war, some of the merchants of Houston interested themselves in getting up a Manufacturing Company, and we believe the capital for the company was readily obtained. It fell through by reason of timidity, and nothing else. Had the enterprise been carried out as it was in the power of the projectors any time in 1860, every dollar of the stock would to-day be worth five dollars in gold, while the profits of the establishment, costing as was then estimated, about \$40,000, would now be reckoned in millions. No man can for a moment question this. Since then it has been thought to be injudicious to undertake things of this kind for the reason that the blockade would make them exceedingly expensive, and that the expected short duration of the war would soon put a period to the profits. Had the machinery however been run in in 1861 or 1862 or 1863, the enormous profits would have been beyond computation. We have yet to suffer for the want of enterprise, and enterprising men still rest in idleness, and prepare for the same regrets in 1865 and 1866.

Is not this childish? Is it not time for us to begin to take the practical views of things?

Maj. Lockett, who is now in town, an old and experienced manufacturer endorsed as such, as well as a man of entire probity and of business habits by the highest authority in the Trans-Mississippi Department; has a charter for a cotton and a woolen factory, to be built on a capital of \$1,000,000 Confederate money. Of this, he has \$500,000 already taken. His plan appears to be simple and certain. His showing of the cost of machinery, the cost and mode of getting it here, the cost of building and the cost of working is lucid. By it no one can fail to see, that as a business operation, there are few opportunities in a lifetime equal to it.

Many business men affect to regard Confederate money as worthless. they have cart-loads of it packed away, and pretend that they know not what to do with it. We commend to them the experiment of putting some of it into this enterprise. They will at least do the country the service of helping to supply the army with clothing, even if they do not gain a good return for their investment, in profit.

We hope Major Lockett will meet with the encouragement due to an enterprise so useful and promising, and that timidity in business matters so unusual in our people, will not stand in the way of his success.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 23, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Sweet Home, Dec. 26, 1863.

Ed. News.—You will please announce to the traveling soldiery, that my charges for man and horse shall henceforth be \$1 per night, and everything else in accordance. This will be more proportionate to their small wages than the present extravagant charges throughout the country.

My inn, Sweet Home, Lavaca county, is constantly well supplied, and henceforth shall be the soldier's house.

W. West.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 6

Editor Telegraph:--I noticed in your paper a short time since a request for information relative to the culture and growth of the White Poppy. I herewith send you Mr. Kerr's method of procuring opium in the East Indies. He says: (See Kerr's method of cultivating the White Poppy—*Papaver Somniferum*.)

The field being well plowed and harrowed, it is reduced to an exact level superficies [sic?]. It is then divided into quadrangular areas of seven feet long and five feet in breadth, leaving two feet of intervals, which is raised five or six inches, and excavated into an aqueduct for conveying water to every area, for which purpose they have a well in every cultivated field. The seeds are sown in October or November, the plants are allowed to grow seven or eight inches apart, and are plentifully supplied with water. When the young plants are six or eight inches high they are watered more sparingly. The cultivator spreads over all the areas compost of ashes, human excrement, cow manure, and a large portion of nitrous earth scraped from the highways and old mud walls. When the plants are nigh flowering, they are watered profusely to increase the juice. When the capsules are half grown, no more water is given, and they begin to collect the opium. At sunset they make two longitudinal, double incisions upon each half ripe capsule, passing from below upwards, and taking care not to penetrate the internal cavity of the capsule. The incisions are repeated every evening until each capsule has received six or eight wounds, then the seeds are allowed to ripen.

The ripe capsules afford no juice. If the wound be made in the heat of the day, a cicatrix will be too soon formed. The night dews, by their moisture, favor the exstillation of the juice. Early in the morning the juice is collected by scraping off the wounds with a small iron scoop. It is then deposited in an earthen pot, where it is worked by the hands in the sunshine until it becomes of a considerable spissitude. It is then formed into cakes of a globular shape and four or five pounds weight, and laid in little earthen basins to be further exsiccated. These cakes are covered with poppy or tobacco leaves, and dried until fit for sale.

In the fall of '59, in southern Arkansas, I gathered from one-third of an acre, sown in poppies, three pounds of good opium. My mode of culture was very similar to the above; I, however, found it unnecessary to water the plants more than three or four times, from the fact that I had good seasons. I used only cow manure, and found a sandy soil the most suitable. In this portion of Texas, I believe Mr. Kerr's method of watering, as well as the manner of planting, is the proper one. In conclusion, if you will influence the medical Purveyor to send me a supply of seeds, I will engage to furnish him some good opium next fall.

M. D.

N.B. The proper time of planting is from 1st to middle of February.

Bellville, Austin County, Jan. 16th, 1864.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 26, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

How Letters Should be Directed to Soldiers.

Ed. News:--Paper, ink, pens and envelopes are very scarce, especially among soldiers, and it seems a pity that they should waste so much writing material just for the want of a little information. You would be astonished to see the amount of letters lying in some of our offices, which, from the carelessness or ignorance of the writer, will never reach their intended destination, but will be finally sent to the Dead Letter Office. One reason of this is the want of the proper endorsement. Letters may be sent by soldiers without prepayment of postage, leaving the postage to be collected upon the delivery of the letters, but letters so sent, says the law, "shall be endorsed with the name, and shall be in account of the individual sending the same, and shall contain a description of the party who sends the same by the endorsement of his military title, if an officer, or of the company and regiment to which he belongs, if a musician or private." Again, many are under the impression that by having their envelopes stamped "Paid" at one office they are good for postage at any other office. Envelopes so stamped are good for postage only at the office where the money was paid, and letters enclosed in such envelopes cannot be mailed at a different office, unless the postage is paid again. Again letters endorsed *official business* cannot be mailed without prepayment of postage. No letters are sent free of postage except such as relate exclusively to post office business, and these must be endorsed "Post Office Business," over the signature of the post master sending the same.

In writing letters to soldiers great care should be taken to give not only the number of the regiment, but also to state whether it is cavalry, infantry, State Troops or Confederate; also the name of the Colonel commanding. For instance, a letter directed to the "wd Texas Regt.," may be forwarded by a postmaster to three different regiments before sending it to the right one, and in this round the chances are that it will be lost. There are four "2d Texas Regiments"—two are cavalry and two are infantry—two are State Troops and two are in the Confederate service, hence the necessity of particularizing in subscribing letters. Much complaint is made in regard to the mails, but the real cause of complaint is often with the writer of letters, at least in the opinion of

A Postmaster.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

The Mobile Register has an article upon the trade of that city, showing that the enormous high prices are in a great measure attributable to the unnecessarily large number of persons engaged in that trade, all of whom are making money by it. The same article has to pass through several hands leaving a large profit to each, before the consumer is permitted to get it. First, there is a class engaged in buying up the country produce and they make their profit by selling to the wholesale merchant of the city, who will only sell by the large quantity.— Between the wholesale merchant and the small retail dealer there is a class of jobbers who will only sell flour by the barrel, lard by the firkin, &c., and this class must also make a profit. But the poorer classes cannot purchase of any of these, never having money enough to buy more than a few pounds of any article, and hence they have to go to the small retailer who charges them his profit

in addition to the profit made by all the other classes of traders. Hence, the poorer people are, the more they have to pay under this system of trade. Surely there ought to be some remedy for this great evil. It is certainly not right that three or four classes of persons should be engaged in doing the business that might just as well be done by one class, and then taxing all the profits upon the poor consumers, made up, in great part, of the families of soldiers. The writer gives the following as an illustration, which may possibly apply with equal truth in this city:

A single instance will suffice as an illustration of the way in which the "so called" wholesale business of Mobile is now conducted. A housekeeper applies to a Commerce street merchant for a few pounds of butter from a firkin. The merchant is in his counting room, an assistant or two unemployed in the store, and scales and weights on the counter, showing that some articles at least are there sold by retail, but the merchant will not sell his butter except by the entire firkin, though there is no doubt he could dispose of it in less than twenty-four hours. It must stand until a retailer applies, who taxes it with at least fifty cents a pound in passing it over to the consumers.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 4

Blackening from China Berries.—The Columbus Sun recommends its readers to preserve the following receipt:

If you want good blackening, take a half bushel of China berries, and, having them well picked from the stems, put into a kettle, and add three gallons of water; boil down to one gallon, then strain the liquor through a sieve, from the seed and skins, and add as much pine wood (the richer the better) soot as will make a good black, and it is ready for use; a pint of good or a quart of weak vinegar, (or stale small beer) first mixed with the soot will make it better, and if you add the white of one egg to half a gallon of the liquor it will be best, and equal to any Yankee blackening.

This blackening costs little besides trouble; and we have seen boots cleaned with it inferior to none in gloss, and it will not soil a white handkerchief.

Let it stand several days before you bottle it off.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

Capt. Wiggins, A. Q. M., has shown us a very convenient mode of turning a blanket into a hooded-talma and over-coat, which any soldier can readily put in practice, if they can understand our directions. It is much more easily made, however, than described. At the middle of one side edge of the blanket, strike a curve—a semi-ellipsis, that shall be two feet across on the edge, and 18 inches deep. On this sew a strip of cloth [sic] at the edges, leaving space for a stout cord, or a tape (a peice [sic] of listing will do,) to pass through. This when drawn up makes the hood. Now, at each of the two corners on the same edge as the puckering string, put button holes, having a diagonal direction. Two-thirds of the way across the end edges of the blanket from these button holes, and in the opposite side of the blanket from the puckering string, sew two buttons, and your talma is complete. Now put it on, and make, at will, a close coat, or an open talma—or use it as a blanket. The invention is worth a premium.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The Goliad Messenger of the 13th inst. says:

Some days ago, about sixty Dutch renegades and Mexicans came to King's Rancho. They committed some depredations, and left, carrying with them, we are told, three of our citizens. There were about seventy sacks of flour and a few bales of cotton at the rancho, which they could not take away, but they told Mrs. King that they would return in a few days, and would hold her responsible for the flour and cotton. Capt. Robb's men went down the next day, and burnt the cotton, and took the flour to their headquarters. Mrs. King did not wait for the return of the ruffians, but went to San Patricio. It is to be hoped that our small force west of the Nueces will soon be reinforced, so as to enable them to clean up the thieves.

The Yankees have paid several visits to Corpus Christi. They have some friends there. They offer the loyal citizens rations at King Abe's expense.—Old Capt. Dix it is said gave them a cordial reception to his house. He will no doubt apply for rations as he told Col. Moore he was not "patriotic enough to starve."

The road to Eagle Pass is open and travel is safe. We learn that a considerable quantity of goods has already been taken to that place. Our quondam citizens H. Seeligson and R. Bolter are engaged in the trade.

GALVESTON WEEKLY NEWS, January 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Violent Death.—The Countryman, contrary to our announcement of last week, will *not* go on the "even tenor" of its way. It dies this week a violent death. The awful fiat was pronounced by the supreme authority of the State of Texas calling to the tented field the residue of the unterrified and invincible State Troops is one. Although the Countryman dies, it is not as one without hope of a glorious and happy future. Till that period dawns upon us, beloved readers, fare ye well.

BELLVILLE [TX] COUNTRYMAN, January 28, 1864, p. 1, c. 1

The Southern Dramatic Association will play the thrilling drama called the Guerilla Chief again this evening, at Perkins' Hall. The play is founded on facts that have taken place during this war in Virginia, and are of the most truthful and thrilling character. The Hall has been crowded nightly by delighted audiences, and all who have attended pronounce it the best play ever produced on the stage in this city. Mr. John English, the unrivaled actor, and Mrs. Sala sustain the leading characters. If our reader wish to witness an interesting play, they should not fail to attend.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 28, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We met two boys, Thomas and Robert Bostick, yesterday, who have had adventures enough in the last six weeks to deserve a paragraph. They are twins, fourteen years old, belong in Washington county, Ala., their father being in the Confederate service at Dalton, Ga. About six weeks ago they started from home to come to Texas, to visit a sister, who lives near Danville, Montgomery county. They came by railroad to Brandon, from whence they undertook to travel on foot to Texas. They made their way to Grand Gulf, where meeting a Yankee gunboat they went on board, and asked to be sent to the coast of Texas. The captain put them on a river steamer and sent them to New Orleans.

After remaining there two days they saw a transport taking on troops to leave for Texas, and they fell in with the soldiers and came aboard. They were not noticed till the steamer got off, when they told the Yankees where they were going, answered all their questions, etc. The Yankees gave them food, and after a ten days delay, landed them at Deckrow's Point. There they remained until last Friday, one of them escaped through the lines. The following Sunday the other was paroled and sent after his brother. They went on to Montgomery county yesterday.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 29, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Capt. J. T. Cleveland,
C. S. gunboat "J. H. Bell,"
At anchor off Sabine Pass, Texas:

Sir:—We, the undersigned, present this flag to the officers and crew of the "J. H. Bell," as a testimonial of our love for the Confederacy, and gratitude to, and admiration for, the brave hearts and strong arms engaged in our defence.

Never permit the light of Hope to grow dim, while a single star remains upon this banner of Liberty; but may it gather new luster from the deeds and daring of its gallant defenders.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Samuel Watson,
Mrs. K. D. Keith,
Mrs. R. J. Parsons.

Sabine Pass, Texas, Jan. 25th, 1864.

Ladies:—In the name and behalf of the officers and crew of the C. S. gunboat "J. H. Bell," be pleased to accept our thanks for the beautiful C. S. flag, herewith received at your hands. In the hope that your anticipations and aspirations may be fully realized, I am, ladies, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. T. Cleveland,
Com. St. gunboat "J. H. Bell."

To Mrs. Samuel Watson, Mrs. K. D. Keith,
Mrs. R. J. Parsons, Sabine Pass, Texas.

[HOUSTON] TRI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, January 29, 1864, p. 2, c. 4