

BREVITIES.

The debt of Atlanta, Ga., is \$12,810,193.

Troubles, like babies, grow big by nursing.

Fechter is to have \$50,000 for playing at Niblo's.

An old lady was admiring the beautiful picture called "Saved." "It's no wonder," said she, "the poor child fainted, after pulling that great dog out of the water!"

The people of Crampton, Maryland, last week closed the school of Mr. Hamilton, because Mr. Hamilton had taught some negro children their letters.

In Jasper county, Illinois, during the year 1895, over 80,000 acres have changed hands, at an average price of \$5 per acre. Nearly one half this was bought by actual settlers.

The average crop of potatoes in Maine the past season was about seventy-five bushels per acre, one-third of which have decayed so as to be worthless.

Two coal wagon drivers in Vienna got into a quarrel a few weeks ago, as to which should allow the other the right of way. From words they soon began to beat each other with their whips. Both men died the following day from the wounds received.

Mrs. A. N. St. Clair, who last year performed the journey of the Rocky Mountains in her private carriage, has recently arrived at her home in Malden, Massachusetts, and will lecture on the Mornons, her journey, &c., previous to her departure in March for the Pacific coast, China and New Zealand.

A lady went into a dry goods store in a New England town, and inquired for "bleached cloth." Several pieces of sheeting were shown her for inspection, but failed to suit. "Perhaps," said the lady, "if I should tell you what I want it for you would know what to give me. It is to be used for reposing robes." The man faints.

"You can't stand there," said a watchman to a thin man, in a suit of rusty black, who was endeavoring to maintain a favorable position for viewing a recent fire, "you must come down, sir." "Allow me to remain, if you please; I am a reporter, and it is necessary I should see what is going on." "I don't care," responded the guardian, "if you want a report of it you'll see it in all the papers to-morrow."

It is asserted by the *Figaro* that Beresowski, the Pole who shot at the Emperor of Russia in the Bois de Boulogne, in the Universal Exhibition year, is not dead, as lately reported; but that he escaped from his place of transportation (New Caledonia), was absent three or four days, during which he underwent such privations as to ruin his constitution, and was then captured and brought back. He is now, it adds, in a state of imbecility, and on that account is treated with indulgence.

Experiments made in Germany by the military authorities show that a sheet of ice three inches thick affords a perfectly safe passage for infantry or horses marching in single file, and for light carriages; with a thickness of six inches it will bear all sorts of wagons and cannon. The strength of the ice may be increased by covering it with straw and laying planks under the wagon wheels.

A story is current about the son who was born to Mark Smith, the comedian, on the 31st of last month. Mark has been in England for some months past, but he was determined that his boy, though born on English soil, should be a Yankee in some degree, and so he draped the maternal couch with the American flag. Thus the little fellow came into the world beneath the folds of the Stars and Stripes.

The Nashville *Banner* tells this: "A large Tennessee river catfish, weighing one hundred pounds, was opened at a fish stall located at the corner of Cherry and Demonbreun streets. In its stomach was found as much as two handfuls of metallic substances, among them a gold watch chain eighty-five cents in silver currency, and various pieces of jewelry. These facts are vouched for by gentlemen of reliability who witnessed the affair."

There is on exhibition at Leipzig a speaking machine, invented by Faber, which is a masterpiece of art. It is an imitation of all the parts of the human organs of speech, executed in India-rubber and wood. A key-board, like that of a piano, played by a young lady, puts the parts in motion, while by a pedal and bellows the required air is sent through the wind-pipe. The key-board has only 14 keys, representing the sound of a, o, u, i, e, j, r, w, f, s, g, d, sh; the other sounds of the alphabet are produced by the same movement, and the admission of more or less air. The sounds of m and n are produced by closing the lips, u and l by pressing the tongue against the roof of the mouth, etc. The French nasal sounds are produced by a separate contrivance. The laughing, says the *German General Intelligence*, sounds truly diabolical, and very comical is the crowing of a rooster.

At a theatre in Edinburgh, recently, a pantomime was in progress, when a tremendous report shook the building. At the same instant a thick cloud of dust and smoke rose over the stage, and a moment later the whole house was in darkness. The lights having all been blown out. A panic seized the audience, and a rush was made to the doors. When the doors were reached they were found to be blocked by a crowd from the outside, who, attracted by the noise, were pressing in to see what had happened. Disastrous consequences seemed inevitable, when a voice from the stage was heard to call out through the darkness: "Keep your seats; there is no danger." The words came from the manager, who had preserved his presence of mind, and a light being brought, the gas was relighted, and order restored. The accident was occasioned by the bursting of two bags of gas which were being used for oxy-hydrogen light. The shock of the explosion was so severe that hardly a whole pane of glass was left in the building. Strange to say, no one seems to have been at all injured.

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