

BREVITIES.

Madame Ristori is said to be the best pistol-shot in Europe.

Passengers by the Pacific Railroad stopping at Sherman station are warned to look out for bears.

Tennyson has a printing-office in his house, and sends his works to the publishers in type.

Napoleon finds it necessary to pad in order to bring himself up to the standard of sovereign bulkiness.

On the fifty-fourth anniversary of Waterloo, just past, there were living one hundred and thirty-five English officers who took part in that battle.

Sidney Smith compares the whistle of a locomotive to the squeal of an attorney when Satan first gets hold of him.

Black tongue is killing the cattle in Fied county, Ga. Four dead deer were found in the woods killed by it.

A house without children is like a lantern and no candle, a vine and no grapes, a brook with no water gurgling in its channel.

Chrysler says that with an average Methodist audience, Bishop Simpson will call out nearly ten "amens" to Morley Punshon's one.

The San Francisco Bulletin says the sea wall is slowly and surely creeping around the city front. The work has progressed as far as Mission street wharf.

The pastime of swinging is attacked in a Boston paper as being highly injurious to the health of persons, young or old, who indulge in it. The writer also attacks the use of the cradle as damaging to infants.

One of Napoleon's teachers, when he was in his teens, wrote, "Keep an eye on young Bonaparte and promote him as fast as possible, for if you do not he will make his way for himself."

The latest counterfeit is got up by cutting a bill in two in the middle, and using a counterfeit half in pasting it together. So one half is genuine and the other half counterfeit. St. Joseph, Missouri, has that kind of money.

More than 500 persons are temporarily living in tents on the blueberry plains, near Skowhegan, Me., spending the season picking berries. It is estimated that more than \$20,000 worth will be shipped from the State this year.

An Albino boy, Amos Roebman, weight one hundred and twenty pounds, and the fat girl, Julia Hatlason, whose traveling weight is four hundred and ninety-five pounds, were married at Aurora, Iowa, a few days ago, while Bailey's circus, to which they were attached, was stopping there.

An Austrian vampire, the mistress of a Russian at Vienna, was detected in bleeding young girls and drinking their fresh blood, for the purpose of increasing her reduced stock of that vital article. On the discovery of her crime, her attempt to poison herself was frustrated by the police, and she has been committed for trial.

The New Yorkers are getting tired of the newboys, whom they pronounce a noisy nuisance, congregating in numbers at the crossings and obstructing the thoroughfares so that the police are often obliged to interfere. They propose to abolish them and establish regular stands for the sale of newspapers, as was done long ago in Paris. Already the proprietors of hotels will not permit these boys to come into their houses, nor car conductors on their cars.

A few weeks since, a young American girl was to be married at Bonn, in Prussia, to the son of a wealthy and aristocratic Prussian family. Just as the bride and bridegroom were stepping up to the altar, a young girl, bearing an infant in her arms, rushed forward and implored the bride not to bestow her hand upon the bridegroom who, she said, had seduced her, and refused to do anything either for her or for her child. The young American bride immediately left the church and broke off the match, in spite of the efforts of her betrothed to explain the matter.

Among the usual agricultural implements now manufactured in Great Britain, are a large number of elephant plows, which are forwarded by the way of the Mediterranean, the Isthmus of Suez and the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, to the place of their destination. Every morning at sunrise the elephant takes his mahout by the waist-belt, places him on his back, and starts into the field. Two assistants guide the two plow handles, and as long as the sun is above the horizon the elephant marches along, throwing up a huge ridge behind him, the furrow having a breadth of four and a half feet and a depth of three.

The guillotine was first known as the Louison, of Lonslette, and did not obtain its present name until some time after its invention. It was *Les Armes des Apaches*, an organ of the Royalists, that first sarcastically applied the name it has since retained. Dr. Guillotin had nothing to do with the invention of the machine. Its name was derived from his, merely from the fact that he was the first to propose a change in the mode of capital punishment, as it existed in his time; that is, he proposed to obviate the use of the axe or the sword. It was Dr. Antoine Louis (in 1792) who gave the first plan for a guillotine, and it was according to his ideas that the first was erected by Schmidt, a German mechanic. It is said that Dr. Guillotin, "by a singular coincidence, was the first victim of his own invention." Wrong. The learned physician died a natural death, March 23, 1814, in Paris. During the Reign of Terror he was imprisoned, but he was afterwards released. The first victim of the guillotine was a celebrated robber.

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