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The Evening Telegram.

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 7, 1888.

All Letters for publication, and Letters containing any communications should be addressed to W. J. HERDER, Proprietor and Publisher, Gregory's Lane St. Joh'ns, Newfoundland, or to A. A. PARSONS.

To the Bottom of a Snow Bank

WHAT HE FOUND IN A WONDER-FUL HIDDEN CAVERN-BOILING SPRINGS. CURIOUS CREATURES AND GOLD GALORE-A FORTY-NINER'S YARN.

One night last winter, writes a Nevada correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer, when the chilly blasts of a terrible wind and snowstorm were singing and howling around the cabin, Drade Haworth, Bob Burke, Jack Turner and Finn Summers, four genuine, stalwart miners, sat around a blazing fire in their cabin at the foot of one of the mountains in Conversation had dwindled to monosyllables, and this linguistic empitome had subsided to an occasional ejaculation between the whiffs and puffs of smoke which almost completely filled the cabin with its aroma, when Finn, the old weather-beaten '49er, broke the

Bob, tell us a story.' Burke replied: ' don't know any story which would interest you

'Yes, you do; tell us how the Britisher found the gold mine and lost it.'

'But I've told that story already.' 'It's a good one, anyhow, and will bear repeating; so fix yourself and let's have it.'

Pipes were filled all around, a nip out of the keg taken, and the boys fixed their personalities for permanent comfort.

'Two years ago about this time a young Englishman, who came out here for his health and to mend a depleted purse, arrived in this section of country and joined a party of miners near Mount Wilmuth. He was a handsome, clever young fellow, full of grit, free hearted and free handed. All of the boys liked him. One day Lambert—Fred Lambert was his name -started out on a hunt; that's the last we saw of him for nearly two months, and when he did turn up he was bleached as white almost as an Albino, and he had one of the strangest stories to tell I ever listened to. After he had somewhat recovered he told the following story: "I followed the comb of the mountain for hours before I saw any indication of game, when just as I was turning a big bowlder, I came almost face to face with a huge grizzly. Without s moment's thought I pulled up my Winchester and pumped three loads into him quick as thought. In my hurry and excitement I failed to fatally wound or kill him, and in less time than it takes to tell it I was scurrying away, with the grizzly a good second in the rear.

There was no tree which I could climb, even if I had been given the opportunity, and the race resolved itself into a contest of endurance and speed, with the chances decidedly in favor of the bear, with an early prospect of a survival of the fittest. The top of the mountain was almost free of snow, while in the vales and canons the drifts lay many feet deep. I soon found that the grizzly was gaining upon me and would soon overtake me. In a few seconds (I don't know how many, for, owing to the press of business, I failed to keep the exact time) the grizzly was almost within reaching distance. Just at that time we, the bear and I, arrived on the edge of a precipitous descent, over which I sprang.

Down! down! down! I went, into the snow and then on down and down and down until I shot through the snow bank and into an open space. After I had recovered from my confusion I found I had landed in an open space about thirty feet in diameter and twelve feet high. A small stream of water rippled through the space coming from under the mountain, running across, and disappearing under the snow drift. The water was warm, and the vapor arising from it had evidently thawed the snow around and above until it had made the open space. The opening through which the stream trickled was about four feet wide and eight or ten feet high. I concluded to enter it, and find where the stream came from. I picked up my gun, which I had dropped when I struck the ground, and started in.

(Concluded on Monday.)

HOFFMAN, THE BOY WONDER.

He Gets the Old Musicians Crazy—The Greatest Marvel Since Mozart.

THE seasation of sensations in New York to-day is the boy pianist, Josef Hoffman aged ten, who held his first rehearsal Sunday afternoon, of that musical event the Herald says: Hoffman is a musical genius of the rarest order, and nothing like the prodigy of his aptitude has been seen since the time of Mozart. He is a thorough child in manner, save for an attractive swagger of self-possession. In appearance he is not out of the ordinary, and his face and form indicate that the ten years given as his age are pretty near the mark.

Once seated at the instrument young Hoffman seems to throw off his juvenile identity and assume the spirit of a master, grown old in his art. His face brightens with the fire of inspiration, and his whole being becomes animated with unconscious devotion to his work. Not that he employs the bizarre and fantastically vigorous technique with which the performance of many great pianists is associated in one's mind; on the contrary, Hoffman plays with graceful ease that would seem almost languid but for the striking colorature with which his work is informed.

It was amusing to note the thoroughly confident air with which the child conducted yesterday's rehearsal. When the orchestra's work was quite to his fancy he nodded his head approvingly, but when Herr Neuendorff's baton moved too slowly or too quickly Hoffman did not hesitate to express his displeasure. Several times he left his chair at the "baby" grand and, taking a place beside Neuendorff, instructed the wondering musicians as to the manner in which he wanted particular passages rendered.

At times, the old, gray haired men, whose entire lives have passed in the study of art of sweet tones, would become so rapt in the extraordinary musical gifts of the child before them as to cease playing in order to listen and watch the perfect methods of the performer. Again, they would all burst out in a cry of "Bravo!" and at the close of one of his own compositions they rushed forward, some to grasp his tiny hand and others to imprint a kiss on his forehead.

A FALSE VOICE.

An English magazine contains a weird little story which tells how an Italian singer, in possession of a voice of unexampled power, suddenly burst upon the operatic world of Paris, and continued to astonish his admirers until one night he vanished, without warning or explanation beyond the curt announcement that he had "lost his voice." Years afterward the writer, having occasion to engage the services of a poor Italian professor, is supposed to discover in this broken-down person the great basso of other days, and to learn from him the rue history of his sudden disappearance. The phenomenal voice" was simply the result of mechanical contrivance affixed to the palate of the singer. It was the device of a mysterious inventor, who, being ignorant of music, was content to share the salary of the supposed basso, while jealously insisting on his treasure being returned to his keeping every night. There is no need to relate the catastrophe by which one fatal evening "the signor" literally lost his voice" and found his brilliant operatic career suddenly and irrevocably closed. The idea is well worthy the imagination of the author of "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." But the oddest part of the matter is that there appears to be some prospect of this quaint fancy's proving to be only sober truth. A Scotch music teacher, and author of various works on the human voice, claims to have invented an instrument, called by him a "resonator," which fits on the palate, as described in the story and it is said marvellously to increase the

DISCOVERIES IN PALESTINE.

THE Lebanon, famous for having supplied the cedars used in building the temple of Solomon, was formerly considered to have been overed with glaciers upon nearly the whole of ts extent during the glacial period of the post tertiary system of geology. But a late traveller in those regions, named Diener, reports that the moraines of Mount Herman are not real moraines at ali, but remnants left after the denundation of beds of rocks. Even the hills of the Kadishah valley, where alone cedar groves are found at present, Diener says, are probably not of glacial origin, as they are not distinct traces of polished rocks with grooves to be found on them. The highest point of the Labenon chain rises hardly a hundred feet above the present line of perpetual snow.

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By order of the Board HENRY COOK, Manager. is a dage of and of all or N other the cayour vesting to call and a plans de

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