

# THE DARLINGTON HERALD.

VOL. I.

DARLINGTON, S. C., WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1891.

NO. 47.

## CHURCHES.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**—Rev. J. G. Law, Pastor; Preaching every Sabbath at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Sabbath School at 10 a. m., Prayer Meeting every Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

**METHODIST CHURCH.**—Rev. J. A. Rice, Pastor; Preaching every Sunday at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m., Sabbath School at 5 p. m., Prayer Meeting every Thursday at 8 p. m.

**BAPTIST CHURCH.**—Rev. G. B. Moore, Pastor; Preaching every Sunday at 11 a. m. and 8:30 p. m., Prayer Meeting every Tuesday at 8 p. m.

**EPISCOPAL CHAPEL.**—Rev. W. A. Guerry, Rector; H. T. Thompson, Lay Reader; Preaching 3rd Sunday at 8:30 p. m., Lay Reading every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, Sabbath School every Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

**MACDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH.**—Rev. I. P. Breckington, Pastor; Preaching every Sunday at 11 a. m. and 8:30 p. m., Sabbath School at 8:30 p. m., Prayer Meeting every Tuesday evening at 8:30 o'clock.

## COUNTY OFFICERS.

**SHERIFF.**—W. P. Cole.  
**CLERK OF COURT.**—W. A. Parrot.  
**TREASURER.**—J. E. Bass.  
**AUDITOR.**—W. H. Lawrence.  
**PROBATE JUDGE.**—T. H. Spain.  
**CORONER.**—R. G. Farrell.  
**SCHOOL COMMISSIONER.**—W. H. Evans.  
**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**—B. K. King, W. W. McKinzie, A. A. Gandy.

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## A MYSTERY.

Our baby boy one day  
Folded his violet eyes,  
And from his wizen clay  
His white soul flew away  
To far off Paradise.  
His little hands so fair,  
Crossed upon his breast  
And standing by him there  
We gave him to the care  
Of one who doth best,  
And when to final sleep  
We laid him soft and low,  
We could not help but heap  
Upon him lilies deep  
And roses pure as snow.  
And then, with courage great,  
His mother faced the years;  
But oft, when it was late,  
Among his toys she sat,  
And fondled them with tears.  
But now another child,  
With wondrous violet eyes,  
Rests on her bosom mild,  
And smiles as he had smiled  
To-day in Paradise.  
And something seems to say  
To her, so sad before;  
"Is back again to-day,  
Sweet mother, weep no more!"  
—George Horton, in Chicago Herald.

## Cleaning Out Pirates.

During the year 1868 no less than three trading vessels fitted out at Singapore for traffic in the Java Sea mysteriously disappeared, and no trace of them could be discovered. Two more were added to the list early in 1869, and about July 1 it was whispered around that a nest of pirates had been discovered on an island off the north coast of Java. If the news was true the chieftain of the gang must be a bold fellow indeed, and needed looking after at once.

The merchants at Singapore were talking of fitting out a ship to investigate when H. M. cruiser The Shark arrived. She was one of the old-fashioned teagun brigs once so numerous, and at that time was engaged in a survey of the south coast of Borneo, or about to be. As I was one of her crew I can relate what happened during the next two weeks first-hand.

It seemed that the story of the pirate was accepted as a fact, for we overhauled our armament, took in a lot of ammunition and strengthened our crew by fourteen men before sailing. These men were drafted out of a crew belonging to a man-of-war which had been wrecked on the Malay coast, and all were old hands. The captain got his bearings from some source unknown to us, and when we left Singapore the brig was headed to the east. We jogged along down the coast of Sumatra for a week without finding any unusual incident, and though we spoke a score of crafts none of them had any information about the pirate. The crew had begun to ridicule the idea when something occurred to open our eyes very wide.

One morning, about an hour after daylight, we came up with a Dutch trader, which was taking care of herself. All her sails had been cut away, ropes were flying in every direction and she was so low in the water that we wondered why she didn't go down. When a boat pulled off to her it was to find the captain mortally wounded and his wife and two sailors stiff and dead and horribly mutilated on the deck beside him. We got him off, but had no time to give the bodies burial before the little craft went down. The captain was a man about forty years of age, and though hardly alive when we found him he rallied enough to tell his story.

The trader had been trafficking along the Java coast and had finally complete his cargo and headed for Singapore. Just at sunset on the previous evening he had been overhauled by a native craft carrying about forty men. He was then about ten miles off the coast and about five miles south of an island known as "Queen's Bower." He had no suspicion whatever of the natives, and the first thing he knew they boarded his craft and began to cut and slash. When they had finished the crew they began to plunder and strip the vessel, and were with her until midnight. Before leaving they bored her full of holes, and we had reached her just in time to rescue the captain. The first craft was joined by two others later on, and the three carried at least a hundred desperate fellows. The captain heard and understood enough to satisfy him that they were an organized gang of pirates and that they were also well equipped for their bloody business.

The island mentioned was not over twenty miles away, and as the Java Sea was and is a great highway, it did not seem possible that men would take such a risk as those pirates had. The trader said that no less than three friendly sails were in sight when he was attacked, but all too far away to signal, even if he had been warned in time to do something. Owing to the shoals surrounding the island our craft could not approach near enough to use her guns and shell the fellows out, and we were not strong enough to land from our boats and deal with them. The sight of an armed vessel nosing around would put pirates on their guard, and so it was resolved to play them a Yankee trick. We ran into a bay on the coast and set to work.

You are probably aware of the fact that an English man-of-war, no matter how large or how small, is a pattern of neatness and regulation, and the cut of

her sails will alone establish her identity while her hull is yet below the water line. We had, therefore, to undo and overhaul a great deal. We put everything in seeming confusion aloft, disguised her hull as much as possible, and when we left the bay The Shark had the look of a merchantman which had been through a typhoon and was too short-handed to make repairs. The Dutch captain died on the day after we found him, and his last words were a prayer that we might fall in with and punish the pirates.

It was just at daylight that we appeared off the north coast of the island and anchored on a bank about three miles from the beach. Men were sent aloft as if engaged in repairs, a boat was got down as if to work on the hull, and the bulk of the crew remained in hiding below. No doubt the fellows ashore had a lookout in some trees, and provided with a good glass he could see everything going on aboard. It was hardly sunrise when a small native craft with four men in her came out to within pistol-shot of us to make an investigation. Our captain hailed them and they replied with gestures of signification that they would return to the shore for help. They evidently took us for what we pretended to be, and we were piped to breakfast feeling that our ruse would succeed.

About eight o'clock, with the wind breasting up lively, three native sail-craft put out for us. A man aloft with a glass reported that each craft was crowded with natives, and it was now our plan to weigh anchor and make a little sail and pretend to be standing away from them as if alarmed. The object was to draw them as far away from shore as possible, and we had added a mile or more to the distance when the foremost boat came within hail. She hadn't a gun of any sort in sight, but she had forty-eight desperate-looking fellows in plain view, and every one of them had a cutlass and pistol. While her captain was hailing us in a language no one could understand, she was slowly edging along down upon our starboard quarter. At the same time a second craft was drawing ahead on the port side, and the third kept in our wake.

Only seven or eight men were in sight on our decks, and the natives seemed to have no suspicions of a trick. The breeze was a little bit too strong for their maneuvering at first, but after we were about six miles off shore the two suddenly closed in to board us. Our captain had been closely watching them and waiting for this move, and of a sudden the drum beat to quarters and our decks were alive with men. I was captain of No. 3 gun crew and had the honor of firing the first shot. It was a solid ball, and it struck the craft on her port bow and went clean through her and dropped into the sea beyond. This opened the fight; the natives instantly realized that they had caught a Tartar, and they saw, too, that their only means of escape lay in capturing the ship. Therefore, instead of running away, as we had looked for, each craft bore down on us to board. They were handled as easily as an Indian maneuvering a canoe, and it wasn't five minutes after the first gun was fired ere they were on our quarters like wolves seeking to hamstring a deer. I fired another solid shot and then loaded with grape, and this last charge was fired right into a mass of natives waiting to clamber up the side. The gun next to me fired a solid shot, which tore through her bottom, and two minutes later she foundered right along side of us. The second craft got near enough to grapple, but the iron was thrown off, and two guns played solid shot into her hull until she went down stern foremost, leaving thirty men struggling in the waves.

The third craft had forged ahead, sailing five feet to our one, and would have boarded us at the bows but for the sudden destruction of the others. Their fate frightened her off, but she had scarcely laid her head for the island than it was brought around as if the crew had made some desperate resolve. Now occurred a curious thing. She had about thirty men on board, and she came down on us with every one of them shouting and screaming and tried to lay us aboard. We could have sunk her with one gun even, or we could have picked off the whole crew with our muskets before they had crossed the rail. Word was passed to give her a full broadside at the word, and when the smoke cleared away she was not to be seen. There were over twenty of the pirates hanging to the wreckage around us, however, and a boat was lowered to pick them up. You can judge of their desperation when I tell you that every one of them fought like a tiger against being picked up, and that we got only five out of the lot. The others we had to kill as they floated about with the sharks snapping at them.

Two of the five leaped out of the boat after being pulled in and were seen no more, and the others gave us much trouble that the captain swung them up to the yard-arm. Thus not one single man of the hundred or more who came out to attack us escaped with his life. I was in one of the two boats afterwards sent ashore to see what sort of a lair the pirates had made for themselves. The only human beings ashore were an old native woman, a one-armed Japanese, and a white boy about fourteen years of age. This boy was off an English trader, captured the year before, and had been held

prisoners ever since. He said they were 107 men in the gang, and we found enough plunder on the island to load our ship. They had captured about a dozen different vessels, large and small, and in every case had plundered and sunk them. They did not always kill all the crew. Soon after the boy was captured they brought in an American sailor off a spice trader. The boy knew him only by the name of William, but remembered that his home was in Boston. It turned out that they had spared his life to make use of him as a blacksmith, but when they found that he had no knowledge of that work he was put to death. By order of the chief he was hung in chains on a tree about a quarter of a mile away, and was eleven days in dying. The boy went with us and showed us his bones still hanging.

The one-armed man and the old woman, assisted by the boy, were the cooks for the gang. They at first seemed very much alarmed, and protested their innocence of any complicity in the crimes of the pirates, but when they came to understand that all the villains had met their fate, and that we had come ashore to clear the island of its last bale of plunder, they suddenly ran into a rude store-house, blocked up the doorway with boxes, and opened fire on us with pistols. We had two men wounded before we could dislodge them, and they were then hanged to the same limb and their bodies left to the birds. What plunder we could not bring off we burned on the island, and before leaving we set the forest on fire in a dozen places, and the flames did not die out until the whole length and breadth had been swept clean of vegetation.—New York World.

## Acquitted After Nineteen Years.

Touching by the frost of seventy years, old Jacob Staup, of Uniontown, Penn., finds himself at last out from under the shadow of a crime which has haunted him for nineteen years. He was only the other day acquitted, after standing trial for the third time, on a charge of murder. Twice he had been convicted, and the singular feature of the case is that the first of these trials occurred nineteen and the second eighteen years ago.

After the second trial he escaped from jail, and up to last March, when he was finally apprehended, he remained a fugitive from justice.

An old neighbor of Staup in Fayette County was the victim of the murder. There had been a feud between the families, and this fact helped to convict Staup. Since the twice condemned man escaped, eighteen years ago, however, his son has died, and a deathbed confession of the latter, in which he admitted himself to have been the murderer, was one of the features of the third trial, which has led to the old man's acquittal.

The case is one probably without parallel. Had Staup had been taken to the scaffold on his first condemnation and the son's lips remained sealed he would have died an innocent man and the law would have committed unwitting murder. That fortunate escape from behind the bars and the successful main tenance of liberty through long years, has enabled the old man at last to stand free and untrammelled. Perhaps, even more probably, his years on earth will be many more, but at least they will not go out under the sorrow and disgrace of a terrible accusation and condemnation.—New York World.

## Floating Prairies of Louisiana.

A curious phenomenon is to be witnessed at the Americeaux, says a New Orleans letter, and, in fact, is one of the causes of the great damage it has done. Under any circumstances the water from this crevasse would overflow the rich country lying between it and the Gulf of Mexico, causing damage to the amount of several million dollars, but, to the surprise of many, not content with running down stream and overflowing the country below, it has taken to running apparently up stream. Some curiosity was felt over this phenomenon, and the case on examination shows it to be due to the prairie trapezoids—the floating or trembling prairies of southern Louisiana. All along the gulf coast the large border of land floats on the surface of the water. The land is made by fallen timber and grasses. It gradually accumulates dirt, and becomes in the course of time sufficiently firm to support brush and even trees, but the soil is only three inches or less thick, and below it is the water, upon which it floats on account of its lightness. Occasionally pieces of trembling prairie are detached and become floating islands. There are quite a number of these in Salvador, these lands, floating from side to side, being frequently carried at a rapid rate by the wind breeze, trees acting as sails to catch the wind.—Commercial Advertiser.

A new and singular custom that is growing up in New York City is that of hiring private dining-rooms in swell restaurants by rich corporations and in coteries and cliques. In one Broadway restaurant a private room is leased by the year by a great news company, the next one is used by a noted firm of criminal lawyers, a third is hired by several judges, and so on. These groups thus secure privacy, their own particular waiters and a place to take their favorite friends, customers and clients at luncheon time.

## THE GERMAN COURT.

### PLEASURES GAY ROUND IN EMPEROR WILLIAM'S HOME.

#### Hunting the Favorite Diversion of the Emperor—The Ceremony of Bestowing Decorations—Presentations to Emperor and Empress.

The season devoted to amusement is rather short in the German metropolis, says a writer in the San Francisco Chronicle. Official court festivities begin January 18th and last till Lent. After the beginning of Lent private parties with dancing are tolerated, but it is more fashionable to have dinners, routs or musicales, and such mild pleasures. After "Mi-larame" all parties cease, and only theatres and concerts are visited till Easter week brings after retirement to all those belonging to society.

I shall try to give a short glimpse of the events of the past winter season, which was the first under the reign of William II. without mourning. After the New Year ceremonies the Imperial court lived in retirement, because of the confinement and convalescence of the Empress. Thus the Emperor found leisure for hunting, which is his favorite pleasure. The best sport was found at Königswusterhausen, a small place in the midst of large pine forests, where wild boars abound. Here the Emperor hunted for two days, staying the night at a small hunting lodge where his foresters used to remain during hunting time.

The bears are driven together by hundreds of drivers, under the guidance of the imperial gamekeepers, and the Emperor and his guests stand at appointed places, and when the animals rush past have the best opportunity to shoot. In seven days 228 animals were killed, some of great size and astonishing weight. The Emperor shoots very well with a gun or rifle, and has been known to kill 300 head of game in one day.

On such hunting expeditions the Emperor always wears forest uniform, dark gray cloth, with green fastenings and silver cords, together with a felt hat. This uniform is only allowed by imperial permission, and is permitted, for instance, to royal relations or personal friends of the Emperor who are good sportsmen. All the game that has been killed is laid out in rows and the Emperor and his guests look them over, and a bugle sounds the halloo. At the little castle dinner is served to the hungry party, and usually some hours after the company returns by train to Berlin.

On the 18th of January the Vederfest, or "Decoration Festival," was celebrated, together with the anniversary of the Prussian Coronation day and the proclamation of the new German empire in 1871. This festival is for all those who received decorations during the past year and of those about to receive orders on this day. The cavaliers of the Veder of the Black Eagle are always present, as well as the cavaliers of the Veder of Johanniter, receiving their gorgeous uniforms, which belong to the Veder, and the grand cloaks of red velvet or black silk, which make them look very picturesque. The Emperor wears a red cloak, which is most becoming to him. But there are also some present in plain clothes among the many glittering uniforms, for decorations are given to men of merit of all classes, and worthy laborers, with the "Allgemeine Ehrenreihen," a gold medal, stand near private soldiers, also decorated for acts of courage. A good many ladies are also among the decorated ones. Charity and work in the cause of the poor are rewarded by the Guisencross, or Verdienecross, worn on the left shoulder, a more becoming ornament than fine diamonds or jewels, in the sight of God and man. When all the guests, who numbered 1280 this year, were assembled, the Emperor repaired with them to Castle chapel, where divine service was celebrated, followed by a dinner in the gorgeous halls of the Castle, and at the end of it the Emperor proposes to the health of "all those that have been decorated," thus closing the grand entertainment.

The christening of the sixth son of the Imperial Majesties on the 26th of January was the next court festival. The baby, born on the 17th of December, received the name of Joachim, and after the christening in one of the imperial rooms, the Empress was chugged. The invited company, specially the royal god-fathers and godmothers from other courts, assembled for a state dinner in the great White Hall. The following day, the 27th of January, was the birthday of the Emperor, now 32 years old. It was celebrated in great style by official congratulations and much public cheering whenever the Emperor appeared.

On this day, in a small, cozy dining-room, only royalty assembled, and the whole dinner was served on silver, all the plates beautifully engraved with the Prussian arms. The table ornaments and candleabra were of gold, the cut crystal of exquisite workmanship, and the white damask linen of the finest texture. The hangings of the room were dark red with gold fringes; the furniture of chiseled oak. The lackeys were in stockings, with gorgeous liveries and powdered heads. One of them was stationed behind each chair. The service was as noiseless and quick as possible; in fact a dinner at court is less noisy

## SANTA FE.

### IT IS THE OLDEST TOWN IN THE UNITED STATES.

#### It Contains the Oldest House and the Oldest Church in America, and Perhaps the Oldest Palace in the World.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, says a St. Louis Republic correspondent, the city of the holy faith of St. Francis, is the trade centre and until recently the military headquarters of the Southwest. It is the oldest civil and religious Government on American soil. When Cabeza de Baca penetrated the valley of the Rio Grande in 1538 he found Santa Fe a flourishing Pueblo village. The history of its first European settlements was lost with most of the early records of the Territory by the destruction of all the archives in 1680, but the earliest mention shows it then to have been the capital and the centre of commerce, authority and influence. In 1804 came the first venturesome American trader—the forerunner of the great line of merchants who would make traffic over the "Santa Fe" world-wide in its celebrity.

In the city of Santa Fe, previous to 1838, dwelt a race dissimilar to any now existing. They were neither Aztec nor Indian, nor yet were they Mound Builders. Houses built by these people are standing as a conclusive evidence that they built not for one generation, but for centuries. Their manners and customs were like those races who occupied the mountainous regions of Northern and Western Mexico. Resembling the Indian in physical appearance, yet they lived and constructed houses after the manner of the earliest Aztec civilization.

In the southeastern part of the ancient village of Santa Fe just across the Santa Fe River, stand two monuments of pre-historic architecture, the oldest house and the oldest church in America. Their exact age is unknown. They stand as enduring monuments to a race of people extinct, not of any intention or wanton neglect on their part, but for the continued wars waged by savage Spanish explorers and still more savage bands of hostile Indians.

After driving the last inhabitant from the village, the conquering Spaniards set up a government of their own, and in 1550, after the close of the conquest, built many houses that are to-day standing in various sections of the city. On the south side of the Plaza Juan de Otermin, the first Spanish Governor built his palace, the only one ever erected in America. For many generations the palace was occupied by the Spanish Governors and Captain-Generals until forced or driven out by the Indians in 1680 after besieging the city for nine days. Remaining in the hands of the Indians for many years, it was finally retaken by the Mexicans. The place was again occupied by the Mexican Governor and had been continually taken by the American forces in 1846 and 1848. Thus we have in the Executive Mansion of New Mexico perhaps the oldest palace in the world. As it stands to-day, complete and perfect in all its appointments, with proper care a thousand years may glide swiftly by, and in its grandeur, outshining the ruins of Balbec or of Tyre, the American people will rejoice in the antiquities they possess, founded centuries before the birth of the grandest republic that ever governed a people.

On account of its antiquity and of its position as the most northern outpost of Spanish-American civilization, Santa Fe claims our attention to-day. It is of another civilization, and one feels as in a foreign land. The historic old churches of San Miguel and Guadalupe were erected by the Franciscan Fathers, who accompanied the Spaniards into the country as missionaries, the first about 1550, the second some fifty or seventy-five years later. In 1680 the Indians rebelled against the Spaniards and drove them from the country. They at once burned down the chapels and other public buildings and residences; collected the church saints on the piazza and burned them; forbid the use of a word of the Spanish language and swore their intention to wash away the baptism of the Catholic priests, and allowed those who had been married by them to put away their wives and take others. They utterly destroyed everything pertaining to the Spaniards. Twelve years later the Spaniards returned and again reduced the Indians to submission. The men were sent to the forests and the churches were soon rebuilt.

Until within a few years all the houses of Santa Fe were made of mud pressed and sun-baked in form resembling our unburnt brick, though far less symmetrical. Adobe is the name applied by natives to this class of building material, and a house built of this always has an appearance of great antiquity and also of impending dissolution. To convince one of the greatness of civilization found here he has but to glance at the native built houses with their accompanying out-door bake-ovens. No one but a Pueblo Indian could have devised anything so determinedly ugly, and sometimes one is tempted to believe that the old Aztec deities must have assisted in their construction, just to show how hideous a place man could build and still call it home.

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbill, of New York City, is said to have paid \$12,000 for her new team of carriage horses. They were bought in Paris and are demigraze Percherons, half blood, and are beautifully matched.

These houses have no entrances on the

## How Cannibals Do Their Cooking.

"You don't hear much about them, but there are cannibals in Australia to-day," said Dr. F. D. Clum to a Kansas City Times reporter. "Strange? Well, not so very when you take into consideration the character of the country. The blacks or aborigines still wear breech cloths, and when yet a short distance from civilization you will find that the majority of them wear no apparel of any description. The Australian black bears about the same relation to that country that the American savage does to this.

"When you get away from the cities into the brush you will find plenty of them who would kill you, and there is nothing they would relish better than to make a barbecue out of you, provided that there was no danger of being caught. Collectively they have the greatest fear of the white man, for they know that he punishes severely. They prefer to roast their victims. A stew they consider very good, but, as a rule, they lack the utensils and means of making broth. When a plump white stranger is captured and killed the body is carefully prepared. It is then bound to a stout green pole, which is supported at either end about two and a half feet from the earth by forked sticks.

"Between the sticks a fire is built, and when the proper number of coals are made, the green pole, with its choice morsel, is put atop, and it is there permitted to simmer and roast until done to a turn, the man enters occasionally sticking his knives into the body to test the degree of doneness. Cannibalism on the island, however, is gradually dying out. The blacks are a very low order of intelligence. The Maoris in New Zealand are a much more enlightened people."

## A Trifles Exposed by a Lobster.

An ordinary lobster acting as a detective is an anomaly in natural or any other history. Paris (writes a correspondent) boasts of a crustacean which has accomplished the feat of assisting justice to bring home the full magnitude of her guilt to a female thief, whose specialty consisted in making predatory excursions round grocers' shops in order to annex articles hanging up or displayed for sale outside these establishments. French grocers, it must be added, frequently sell shell fish as well as coffee, sugar and spice, and one of these tradesmen, living in the Rue Vieille du Temple, had a nice assortment of marbled edibles outside his place of business the other day.

A tolerably well dressed woman was observed by a shop assistant taking some small articles from the exterior collection of goods, and was speedily given in charge to the police. At the station the prisoner was being interrogated by an inspector when suddenly the muscles of her face contracted; she clenched her teeth and hands, and exhibited all the symptoms of a person in agony. The woman went on in this way for some time, to the stupefaction of the police officer, when she at last shook her dress violently, and out dropped a large, live lobster.

The delinquent confessed that she had stolen the crustacean from the grocer, had tied it up under her mantle, and attached it to her girdle. At the critical moment of her interrogation the lobster had worked its claws loose, and began to apply them vigorously to the waist of its captor, whose body was badly torn. The woman was sent at once to the depot, the preternaturally acute crustacean being returned to its lawful owner.

These houses have no entrances on the

## CURIOUS FACTS.

It costs \$33 to patent a carpet design. It is said that the slot machine is over 150 years old.

The ordinary watch gives 116,144,600 ticks during the year. At Eddy, New Mexico, a stratum of salt has been struck which is forty feet thick. The name Nebraska was first applied to the river. In the Indian language it means shallow water. An Atchison (Kan.) girl who is about to be married has announced that she will pay the expenses of the wedding tour.

There are 325,000 acres of olive trees in Greece. They came into full bearing when twenty years old. The best grape crop is that of the currant grape. Buddha is worshipped in Paris in various private temples, the devotees being chiefly Japanese, but many of them are Frenchmen and a few Englishmen. At North Adams, Mass., the other day a couple who were united in marriage in church before the regular service went at once into the choir and assisted in the singing.

The number of lives lost by accident and disease in the construction of the Panama Canal is conjectural. Many writers agree that it is something like 20,000. A jeweler has invented a device for use in sleeping cars that promises to become popular. It is a ladder composed of tubes of leather, that provide easy access to upper berths. Alaska was discovered by Vitus Behring as late as 1741, and became a retained Russian territory by right of discovery until it passed to the United States by purchase in 1867.

Oceanic or Oesnicia comprises all the islands and archipelagos in the Pacific Ocean, and is often divided into four great divisions named Malaysia, Micronesia, Australasia and Polynesia. Henry Wagner, an old German gardener, was digging in his garden at Dubuque, Iowa, when he turned up the rust-encrusted blade of an ancient sword. Near the hilt could be made out a scroll inclosing the date 1589. The sword is thought to be a relic of the early French explorers who first visited the valley of the Mississippi.

The state bed of the last King of Poland was made of Smyrna gold braid, embroidered in turquoise, with verses from the Koran. Its supports were of silver gilt, beautifully chased and profusely set with enamel and jeweled medallions. It had been taken from the Turkish camp before Vienna, and the standard of Mahomet had stood under it. Plans for the irrigation, both in upper and lower Egypt, during the periods of low water in the Nile, include the building of a high barrage across the river at the first cataract. Great opposition has been excited against this proposition, as it involves the submersion of the beautiful island of Philoe and its magnificent monuments for several months each year.

## Midgets and Giants at a Wedding.

A wedding of an extraordinary character took place at the Registrar's office at South Shields recently, the bridegroom being a tiny little man, who is only thirty-two inches in height, and Professor Hettley, solo euphonium player, who is six feet one inch in height. The gentleman who gave the lady away was M. Hubert, a man without arms, who signed the marriage certificate as a witness with a pen between his teeth, and the bridesmaids were Nina, an American giantess, who is forty-four stone in weight, and Setonella, the "Fire Queen." The best man was Captain Dallas, who is seven feet ten inches in height, and General Metelene, who is twenty-nine and one-half inches in height, formed one of the party, all of whom are connected with a menagerie and circus which is traveling through the country.—Pall Mall Gazette.

## A Queer Waterpout.

A queer sight was witnessed at Crawford, Ga., a few days ago by a large number of citizens. It was something in the clouds that looked like a water-spout. It appeared in a southern direction, and seemed about as large as a four barrel in size and extended from the earth to the clouds above. It looked exactly like a stream of water pouring out of the clouds. We have been told that the thing reached the ground near Antioch and that the stream was not water but dust and trash that was drawn up towards the clouds. Nothing of the kind was ever seen about here before.—Atlanta Constitution.

A boy of ten and a girl of twelve in one of the public schools at Portland, Me., are subjects of a good deal of curiosity, as both are bald as billiard balls.