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COAST



MAIL

JOHN CHURCH.

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MARRIAGE IN RUSSIA.

The Professional Match Maker - The Ceremony of Betrothals and Weddings - Authority of the Parents Over Their Children - Matches Not Made in Heaven.

The Russian merchant, the citizen of Odessa, retains to this day some of the ancient customs of his forefathers.

The father then sends for the members of his household, even to the janitor of the building; all sit down and remain perfectly still for a moment; they then rise, say mentally, making the sign of the cross, and the father declares to all present that his daughter is asked in marriage.

The match maker is the intimate friend of all parents who have children to marry and of young lovers of both sexes.

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Then follows the marriage ceremony. It is also called the coronation, because, during the ceremony, a crown is placed on the heads of the affianced.

All the clergy that assisted at the wedding of the bride and groom, and all the friends and relatives, are invited to the house of the bridegroom's father.

The Mother-in-Law's Lament.

Who is it who my daughter long And breaks my rest with midnight song? And as the winters slowly roll, Burns yards of gas and tons of coal?

Who takes my darling from my side - A happy, laughing, lovely bride, And to their cottage by the brook, Takes me along to wash and cook?

Who is that from time to time Stalks me for dollar, half, and dime? And then, with humor, scant and mean, Calls me old Granny Bombardier?

Who lingers at the festive cup While, heavily, I for him sit up? And meet him, groping for the door Along the smooth, piazza floor?

Who, when he takes a summer trip, Contrives to give "mamma" the slip? That while he's away and I'm at home, She minds his children ten at home?

Who is it who, when he is gone, Leaves me a letter and a broken bone? Who is it who, when he is gone, Leaves me a letter and a broken bone?

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The Friction of Tides Causes the Earth to Revolve More Slowly.

The tides are caused mainly by the moon, as it were, catching hold of the water as the earth revolves around on its axis.

The friction of the water on the earth's surface, as every one knows, causes loss of power.

Suppose a wheel, with hair round its rim, like a circular brush such as is used for hair-brushing by machinery.

If this brush, revolving rapidly, and we hold our hand over so lightly on the hair so that it is slightly rubbed backward as the wheel revolves.

At last it will be brought to a standstill, provided there is no additional power communicated to the wheel by machinery or hand beyond what was given to set it spinning round.

Now, this is somewhat analogous to what is happening to the earth in its rotation.

There is reason to suppose, that the action of the tides is slowly, but surely, lessening the speed of the earth's rotation, and consequently increasing the length of the day.

The change this will bring about on the face of the earth can hardly be exaggerated. All life, both animal and vegetable, will be destroyed.

The Spirit of Democracy.

A Front street merchant was in his office Wednesday evening, when one of his up-country customers came in, and slapping the merchant on the shoulder, shouted: "Hurrah for Cleveland!"

"We've got 'em at last; came in to celebrate. Won't you paint 'em red?" The merchant answered, with an amused smile, "I am not celebrating; my candidate was defeated; I supported Blaine."

The exultant light faded from the up-country man's face, and a savage look took its place as he slowly answered: "Is that so? Then by g-d you don't get any more of my trade."

This democrat was not very drunk. He was in what our friend Colonel Waters would perhaps describe as his "normal condition" - just drunk enough to express himself freely and without any foolish reserve.

And this remark naturally carried my memory back to days and scenes of long ago. When the city of Memphis was captured by the United States forces it was selected by northern merchants as a favorable point for trade.

A great many came, bringing immense stocks of all kinds of merchandise. In 1865 every store and warehouse in the city was "occupied," and its population exceeded 75,000, more than double what it had ever been before.

The city had four national banks, railroad lines were repaired, and a line of splendid new steamers furnished facilities for travel and transportation.

These heavy wholesale houses established branches in the interior towns, supplying the planters with everything necessary to restore their wasted lands and resume their occupation of raising cotton and sugar.

The prosperity of the Mississippi valley seemed assured. But about this time Colonel M. C. Galloway, one of General N. B. Forrest's staff officers, assumed control of the Memphis Avalanche.

The election it was observed that Memphis gave a heavy majority for Brownlow.

And it was well understood that although they took no very active part in politics, the northern merchants, with few exceptions, voted the republican ticket.

This unwarranted liberty the Avalanche denounced in unmeasured terms; printed the names of prominent merchants known to be republicans, and declared it would "write small-pox" over the door of every house owned or managed by republicans in the city of Memphis.

This was the beginning of what has since been termed "bulldozing." When Gen. Forrest mustered out his army, he gave his soldiers some good advice.

He advised them to return peacefully to their homes, to observe the laws, and as they had been good soldiers, to try to become good citizens.

Forrest had fought well - a little savagely sometimes, perhaps, and admitted that he had been conquered. Perhaps he believed he had been subdued. Had the Pikes and Galloways let him alone he would never have attended a democratic national convention.

But Stephens pointed the way, and Galloway, and Pike, and Semmes the pirate, having returned from his life on the ocean wave and assumed command of the Mobile Register, assisted by a thousand lesser lights, resolved to paint the whole confederacy red.

Some one has said that "capital is cowardly" - perhaps "cautions" would have been a better word - but either will do. At any rate, northern merchants and capitalists, seeing the cloud gathering over their heads, began to set their affairs in order.

In May, 1866, a terrible "negro riot" occurred in Memphis, in which over three hundred negroes were killed and one white man was maimed by a shot fired by another white man at a "nigger."

Not a solitary man was even arrested for this barbarous affair. Northern capital, merchandise and enterprise moved back to the north, and left this flourishing city and the south to anarchy and its fate.