

A PANAMA INDIAN VILLAGE.

OUR illustration of the village of Ocahona, in Panama, gives a vivid idea of the luxuriance of tropical vegetation and the peculiar character of the habitations occupied by the Indian natives. The village depicted is on the line of the Panama Railroad and Telegraph Company, and is a fair type of many others on the Isthmus.

THE LATE SOJOURNER TRUTH.

SOJOURNER TRUTH, one of the notable characters of our history, is dead at last, at the more than patriarchal age of 108 years. She was born in Ulster County, New York State, in slavery. Her name was Isabella, and by it she was known during her years of captivity. When she was nine years old she was sold on the auction-block with a lot of sheep, the whole lot, the sheep and the child, bringing \$104. Her owner was Colonel Hardenburgh; but in 1827 she was emancipated, being then over half a century old. At an early age she experienced religion, and in her, as upon all of the colored race, it manifested itself in great enthusiasm. She never missed an opportunity to attend a camp-meeting or religious exercise. After her emancipation she became dissatisfied with her name, and it is said that she went out into a wilderness and prayed to the Lord to give her an appropriate name. After praying for some time she heard, she said, the name "Sojourner" whispered to her, and she was to travel "up and down," and afterwards "Truth" was added to it to signify that she should preach nothing but truth to all men.

This decided her mission, and for over half a century she traveled over the country lecturing on slavery, temperance and woman's rights. She never learned to read or write, and her business affairs were managed for her by her grandson. She was tall and masculine-looking, with a deep and powerful voice, so much so that many would not believe that she was a woman, but insisted that she was a man masquerading in woman's clothes. Previous to the war she held a series of meetings in Northern Ohio. At the close of one of these meetings a man came up to her and said: "Old woman, do you think that your talk about slavery does any good? Do you suppose people care for what you say? Why, I don't care any more for your talk than I do for the bite of a flea!" "Perhaps not," Sojourner said; "but, the Lord willing, I'll keep you scratching!"

During the war she served as a hospital nurse and gained much notoriety. But she did not seek the applause of her fellow-beings, but ever did conscientiously what she thought to be her duty.

She knew many statesmen, but in Sojourner's estimation Abraham Lincoln was the "foremost man of all this world," and in October, 1864, she went from Michigan to the White House to see him. "I said to him," to quote her own words, "Mr. President, when you



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of over a thousand votes, Judge C. C. Pool, a brother of the former Congressman, being his competitor. With Mr. Skinner's election, North Carolina has seven Democrats in the Lower House of Congress.

the same apartments in which lived the Emperor who preceded him on the dragon throne. There he eats with gold-tipped chop sticks of ivory, and sleeps on a large Ningpo bedstead, richly carved and ornamented with ivory and gold, the same on which the noble-minded Emperors Khang Hei and Chien Ling used to recline after the day's fatigue in the last century and the century before. Like one of those living Buddhas who may be seen on the Mongolian plateau, he is honored as a god by his attendants, who kneel to him. The seclusion in which he is kept is also far more complete. The building in which the Emperor resides is called Yang Hsin Tien, and is a little to the west of the middle of the palace. At the back of the central gate on the south side is the great reception-hall. When Ministers of State and others enter for an audience at four, five or six in the morning, according to custom, they go on foot to the centre of the palace, over half a mile, if they enter by the east or west gate; and when they get on in years they can appreciate the Emperor's favor, which then, by a decree, allows them to be borne in a chair instead of walking.

The rooms of the Emperor consist of seven divisions. They are provided with divans covered with red felt of native manufacture, and the floor with European carpets. The cushions have all embroidered on them the dragon and the phoenix. Pretty things scattered through the rooms are endless in variety, and are changed in accordance with any wish expressed by the Emperor. The rooms are in all thirty yards long by from eight to nine yards deep and divided into three separate suites, the throne-room being in the middle. Folding doors ten feet in height open into these apartments to the north and south in the centre of each. The upper part of these doors is in open work in which various auspicious characters and flowers are carved. At the back paper is pasted to admit light to the rooms. The front is ornamented with gilding, sculpture and varnish of various colors. These doors remain open even in winter, because during the cold season a thick embroidered curtain hangs in the doorway, which, by its weight, keeps its place close to the doorposts and prevents the cold air from entering. In summer this is replaced by a curtain of very thin strips of bamboo to admit the breeze. The silk threads used in sewing the strips of bamboo together are of various colors, and, passing through the whole texture of the curtains from the top to the bottom, are very agreeable to the eye. These summer and winter curtains are rolled up to give air to the rooms when required. Exit and entrance are effected on each side of these curtains by side doors.

Along the whole front of thirty yards there is a covered flight of steps fifteen feet wide. The roof over these rests on two rows of pillars. The pillars shine with fresh vermilion, both within the rooms and on the steps outside, and are decorated with sculptured work, partly gilt and partly varnished. The Hoppo, who lately returned from Canton, gave the Emperor a present valued at \$8,000. It consisted of chan-



PANAMA.—OCAHONA, AN INDIAN VILLAGE ON THE LINE OF THE PANAMA RAILROAD COMPANY.

first took your seat I feared you would be torn to pieces—for I likened you to Daniel who was thrown into the lions' den; and if the lions did not tear you into pieces, I knew it would be God that would save you! And I said to myself, if He spared you I would come and see you myself before your term of office was out; and He has done so, and here I am to see you." Mr. Lincoln congratulated me on my having been spared. I told him that I thought he was the best President that had ever lived, as he emancipated the slaves. He showed me several nice presents of his; and before I went away he wrote in my "Book of Life," in a big, bold hand, and with the same fingers that signed the death-warrant of slavery: "For Aunt Sojourner Truth. October 29th, 1864. A Lincoln."

Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe had many years ago written the book known as Sojourner Truth's "Book of Life," a volume that had an extensive sale among anti-slavery people. In 1876 this book was enlarged and reprinted at the expense of Mrs. Francis W. Titus, of Battle Creek, Mich., where Sojourner lived for many years.

During the last ten years, her object in traveling around has been to obtain names to a petition which she intended presenting to the Government, asking that a portion of the public lands in the West be set apart for the establishment of a negro colony, where she proposed that the negro youth should be educated.

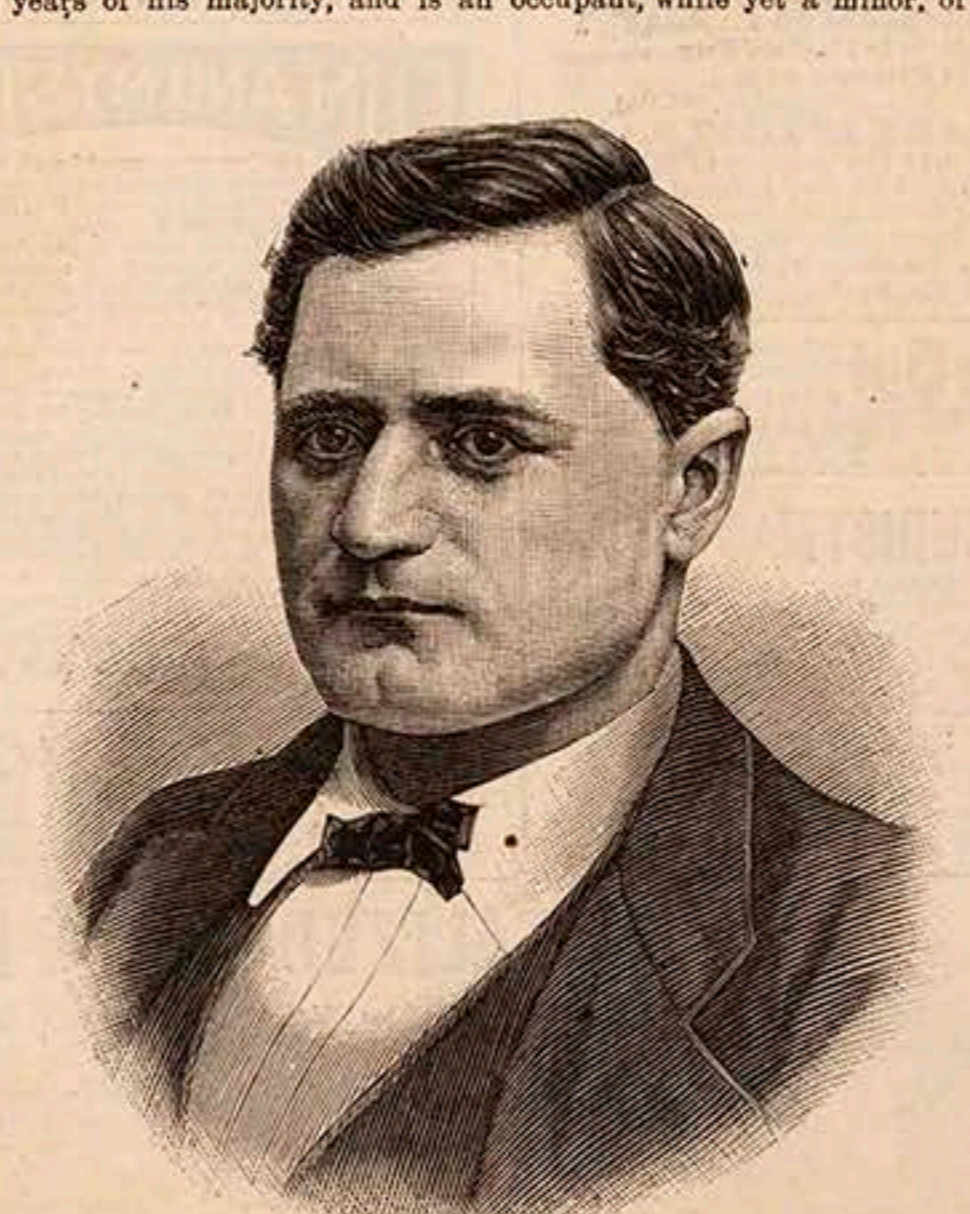
She has been very feeble of late years, and in 1876 she was reported to have died, but she lived until the morning of November 26th, in her old home at Battle Creek, Mich., when her night of rest came after her very long day of work.

HON. THOMAS G. SKINNER.

THOMAS G. SKINNER, who was, on November 20th, elected to the House of Representatives from the First North Carolina District, to occupy the seat of Hon. Walter Pool, deceased, was born January 21st, 1842, in Perquimans County, N. C. He was prepared for college by Junius H. Horner, of Oxford, N. C., and entered the University of the State in 1858, but in his junior year, 1861, he volunteered into Company D, First North Carolina Volunteers (Colonel D. H. Hill), and was at the battle of Bethel. He served during the whole war in First North Carolina Volunteers, afterwards in the Thirteenth Virginia Cavalry, S. T. Martin's Battery of Virginia Artillery, and L. S. Webb's Battery of North Carolina Artillery. When the war ended he returned to his home, worked on the farm, and engaged in one of the immense fisheries which are productive of so much wealth and prosperity in the eastern portion of North Carolina. In 1865, 1866 and 1867 he studied law, and obtained his license to practice during the winter of 1868, retaining his interests in the fishing industry in the Albemarle and Croatan Sounds until after the Spring of 1870, when he began regularly to practice law. Since that time he has devoted himself almost exclusively to his profession. He has never held office.

He was a Delegate to the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis, and also at that held at Cincinnati. He is a good lawyer, a polished and Christian gentleman, a popular citizen and a staunch Democrat. He made a stirring canvass, and was elected by a majority

of over a thousand votes, Judge C. C. Pool, a brother of the former Congressman, being his competitor. With Mr. Skinner's election, North Carolina has seven Democrats in the Lower House of Congress.



NORTH CAROLINA.—HON. THOMAS G. SKINNER, M.C. ELECT.

delers holding 500 wax candles each. The Emperor has also some electrical machines and numberless foreign curiosities. He was vaccinated when an infant, before his high destiny was thought of, otherwise it would have been difficult to vaccinate him, for, his person being sacred when Emperor, no lancet can touch him. His mother, the Princess of Chun, who is a sister of the Empress of the West, will be raised to the rank of Empress Dowager when he is sixteen, and his father will also be made T'ai Shang Huang. At least this is to be expected by precedent, so that after three years there will be two Empress Dowagers, but in this case they will be sisters. The Princess, his mother, goes in to see him once a month, and kneels when she first speaks to him, but rises afterwards. His father does likewise. The Emperor studies Chinese daily for an hour and a half, and Mantchu also for an hour and a half. He spends two hours in archery and riding, and in winter amuses himself with sledging. He has a little brother of five, whom his mother takes with her when she goes to the palace. The teachers who instruct him, kneel to him on entrance, but afterwards sit. The Emperor has eight eunuchs who constantly attend him, besides an indefinite number for special occasions. He has his meals alone, and the eight eunuchs wait around him, restraining him if he takes too much of any one dish. His schoolroom is at the back of the Yang Hsin Tien, already described, and the hall in which he holds conference every morning with the Ministers is a little to the east.

HOW RUSSIAN TROOPS TRAVERSE RIVERS.

ONE of the Russian papers gives some interesting experiments which have been conducted in the Vistula district to accustom infantry to traverse rivers afloat. The stream selected was eighty yards wide, with an average depth of five feet and a maximum in the centre of the channel of eight feet; the speed of the current was three feet a second, the bed of the river is gravelly. Across this two swimmers conveyed a cord, to which was attached a rope one inch thick, weighing twelve pounds. To cross the stream and firmly attach this rope to the ground on the opposite side occupied twelve minutes. The troops then crossed, those who could swim first and those who could not afterwards. Wading as far as they could, on reaching deep water they seized the rope and hand over hand hauled themselves along it to the opposite side. This hauling process occupied a minute, and as only ten men could use the rope at one time, the passage of the entire company on a war footing occupied twenty minutes. All the soldiers carried their arms and knapsacks arrayed on their shoulders, so as to avoid wading more than possible. When the Autumn manoeuvres take place, it is proposed to repeat this with large bodies of troops on the Vistula at places 150 to 200 yards wide, the rope being buoyed at various places with ladders.

PARIS has sixty Roman Catholic churches, and some thirty chapels for other denominations. It is estimated that there is a place of worship for every 20,000 of the inhabitants, and even this is more than sufficient for the number who go.