

Marriage of General Thomas Thumb AND LAVINIA WARREN.

For the benefit of those of our readers who take an interest in the fortunes of these small celebrities, we copy from the New York Express the following account:—

The marriage took place in Grace Church. The guests invited to the ceremony commenced to arrive about eleven o'clock, and three-quarters of an hour after the edifice was crammed. Vehicle after vehicle appeared, leaving its fair load of beautiful ladies and consorts, and beaux to be conducted by the police to the porch. The dresses in which the majority of the guests appeared were brilliant—wreaths, tiaras, trinkets, wristlets and brooches, sparkling with diamonds, rubies, pearls, emeralds, and other gems, invested with coronal splendor.

The buildings around the church were crowded with spectators, and even the roofs were occupied. In Stewart's store-rooms the crowd was immense.

At noon, precisely, the tumult among the outside concourse, which surged to and fro like a wave, betokened the advent of the bridal party. An indescribable rush commenced as the carriages, at a brisk pace, proceeded past Ninth street, amid the applause and exclamations of thousands of feminine voices, who followed them, apparently losing all sense of the proprieties and decorum which should govern womanhood.

Aside from the unusually gay appearance of the congregation, the church presented its usual features, with the exception that fronting the altar a platform three feet high had been erected on the steps, in order to give a full view of the young couple as they stood up to breathe those vows which were to unite them through life, and until death alone should part them. The platform was covered with Brussels carpet, secured to the steps by gilt stair rods.

A few minutes after twelve the bridal party entered the church. They were placed by the relatives of both parties, and Phineas T. Barnum, Esq. Immediately a busy hum of excitement arose, and notwithstanding the holy character of the place, the ladies stood on the seats, and, with outstretched necks, gazed on the middle aisle.

Commodore Nutt led the way, gallantly escorting a most tiny bit of femininity, the bridesmaid, little Miss Warren, the sister of the bride. Next came Tom Thumb, gallant and gay, with his little bride upon his arm; and then came the relatives and friends, who were seated in the front pews.

In the meantime, the four tiny specimens of humanity ascended the little platform, while, without any delay, the officiating clergyman, Rev. Mr. Wiley, began to read the marriage service.

And here be it known, that however farcical and absurd the whole affair may have appeared hitherto, from the moment that the words—"Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God and in the face of this company to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony"—from the moment that these words were said, everything was quiet and reverent, and the entire service was listened to amid the most profound attention.

The bridegroom repeated with clearness and distinctness the words set apart for him, and the bride—who was "given away" by her father, a tall and very respectable looking old gentleman—also appeared to be perfectly familiar with her part of the routine. Both bride and groom went through the ceremony with perfect ease and self-possession, but yet manifested an earnest seriousness which showed that to them, at least, it was no farce. The slightest levity on their part would have made the affair repulsive; but this was carefully avoided.

They were dressed most charmingly; the bride, completely enveloped in a magnificent veil, which fell over a rich white silk dress, never looked so well, while the little bridesmaid, in a white dress, dotted with tufts of pink lace, and with pink roses in her hair, attracted nearly as much attention. This little lady, now sixteen years old, is as much smaller than the bride as Commodore Nutt is compared with Tom Thumb.

Commodore Nutt, by the way, wore a very solemn expression of countenance during the service, but performed his part in a very elegant style. None of the participants in this novel affair appeared at all alarmed or agitated. There was no weeping, no fainting, none of the sentimental excitement customary on such occasions.

Rev. Dr. Taylor pronounced the benediction. The service was otherwise effectively read by Rev. Mr. Wiley.

After the ceremony, the little creatures marched down the middle aisle, entered a carriage, and were driven down Broadway to the Metropolitan Hotel. The carriage was surrounded at once by the eager crowd—now numbering about five thousand persons—but by the aid of the police was not detained. At the hotel, during the afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Stratton held a reception, and exhibited their bridal presents.

It had been announced that Bishop Potter would officiate, but that Right Rev. Prelate yesterday came to the conclusion that the interests of Christianity would be better served by his abstaining from active participation in the matter. He was reluctant to share in the notoriety of the great little wedding.

So also was Mr. Brown, the sexton of the church, who wishes it to be distinctly understood that he had nothing to do with the arrangements and management of the wedding, as far as the interior of the church was concerned.

The next day the bridal party visited Philadelphia, where they held a reception at the Continental Hotel. They left for Washington the next morning. They will soon proceed to Bridgeport, Conn., the former residence and birth-place of the General, where a public reception will be given, and from thence to Middleboro', Mass., the native place of Mrs. Stratton, where a like reception will be held. A visit to Europe is contemplated in a few weeks.

The General was born at Bridgeport, Conn., on the 4th of January, 1838, and was consequently 25 years of age last January. At his birth he weighed nine pounds and a half, so that he bid fair to become a bouncing boy. He grew steadily until he attained the age of eighteen months, when nature put a veto on his upward progress, and ordered him for ever afterwards to remain in *statu quo*. When he was two years old, persons fancied that he had not grown an inch for some time; measures were resorted to for the purpose of ascertaining his stationary condition, but although in every other respect he improved with rapidity, not a hair's breadth was added to his stature.

His appetite increased, he never complained of illness, but partook freely of ordinary food, enjoyed refreshing sleep, and has always enjoyed perfect health, with the exception of those slight colds to which the most robust are liable. His parents have had other children, who are of the ordinary size. In fact, there is nothing in his history or appearance, or in that of his family, which furnishes the slightest clue to the astonishing phenomena which are presented by his miniature features and frame.

He kept up his growing operations only till he had attained the height of thirty-one inches, and the weight of twenty-nine pounds. At the age of ten or thereabouts, Mr. Barnum, the Museumite, found him out, and

brought him out, and has kept him out ever since.

The queen of beauty, Miss Lavinia Warren, is a native of Middleboro', Mass., where she was born on Oct. 31st, 1842. She, too, is the child of ordinary sized persons, and has brothers and sisters of customary dimensions. She has, however, a little sister, Minnie Warren, who, though sixteen years of age, is the smallest woman in the world. The little queen, until she became one year old, grew as children generally do at that age, but from that time she increased in stature slowly, and ceased growing entirely when she was ten years of age.

She attended school regularly, and found no difficulty in keeping up with the members of her classes. At home, her mother taught her to sew, knit, cook, and do all manner of housework, making her really a good housekeeper. She also has a knowledge of fancy work practised by ladies who have the leisure to devote themselves to it. She is, in a word, an accomplished lady,—intelligent, pleasant, modest, and agreeable. She is very lively in conversation, and speaks with all the confidence, and even wit, of an accomplished and talented woman. She is fond of poetry, music, eloquence, and the fine arts generally.

But a few months since she was discovered by Mr. Barnum, and, though on the eve of departure for Europe, engaged herself to him for a brief exhibition at the Museum.

The first really auspicious marriage of little people of which we have any knowledge, was that of Mr. Gibson and Miss Shepard. They were not so very small, however; they each measured three feet ten inches in height, and the gentleman was an excellent painter. He taught painting to the daughters of James II. They seemed to have lived the usual checkered life of married people, and had nine children, five of whom lived, and attained the ordinary size of men and women. Gibson died in 1690, and his wife twenty years later, at the ripe old age of eighty-nine.