



POLAR BEAR HUNTING.

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It is rather a cold prospect for both hunter and hunted as shown in our picture. An iceberg in the Arctic seas is about as uncomfortable a place of residence as one can imagine; yet the polar bears seem to thrive amid these surroundings, and I suppose they enjoy life as well as the lions and tigers of the torrid zone. It strikes us that it is hunting under difficulties with mittened hands and fur mufflers. This cut is one of several illustrating a graphic article on Arctic Exploration in the Methodist Magazine for 1896.

RAMBLING IN SPAIN.

A SPANISH diligonco is a strange, lumbering looking structure. It looks like one coach put on top of another. It is drawn by half a dozen prancing, kicking mules with great cracking of the whip and shouting, and sometimes, we are sorry to say, swearing, on the part of its driver. The best place in the diligonco is that under the hood above the driver. To ride in the interior is like trying to look out of the nose of a bottle.

The Spaniards have a strange mingling of pride and poverty. Sometimes even the beggars ride on horseback and address each other with very high sounding titles. The strange tales of Don Quixote don't seem so absurd when read beneath Spanish skies.

The above picture is one of many illustrated papers on "Wanderings in Spain" in the Methodist Magazine for 1896. We borrow the cuts on this page from that periodical.



SPANISH DILIGONCO.

GOUNOD'S MASTERPIECE

ONE of the members of Harper's Young People's "Round Table" sends that paper an interesting item regarding Gounod: "I have just one little scrap about the very great composer Gounod that might, I think, amuse if not interest some musical members of the Round Table, as it shows the love he felt for little children—a thing I like to see in great men, as it shows so well their character and feelings. I suppose all know how to play or at least have heard played the 'Marche funèbre d'une Marionnette,' by Gounod. It is such

a lovely piece of music, not difficult; simple, and yet so uncommon. "This great composer was paying a visit to a lady. In the same room was her little child, playing with marionettes. Suddenly a wail of grief interrupted their conversation. The child, who had been playing so happily some few moments past, was crying. 'What is it? What has happened?' was surely the fond mother's reply at Gounod's anxious demands. One of the marionettes was broken. "Oh, dear! oh, dear! me! What is to be done?" It seemed that the child was crying its little baby soul out, and would never be appeased. "'There, there!' came from the kind composer. 'Do not cry any more; we will have the funeral march.' And so saying, Gounod went up to the piano and composed that masterpiece of his. Thus the baby was consoled."

Glad Christmas Bells.

GLAD Christmas bells, your music tells The sweet and pleasant story; How came to earth, in lowly birth, The Lord of life and glory.

No palace hall its ceiling tall His kingly head spread over, There only stood a stable rude The heavenly Babe to cover.

Nor raiment gay, as there he lay, Adorn'd the infant stranger; Poor, humble child of mother mild, She laid him in a manger.

But from afar, a splendid star The wise men westward turning; The live-long night saw pure and bright, Above his birth-place burning.

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