

parts of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Their boats remain away sometimes as long as six months and return when a sufficient load of sponges has been secured. The divers are almost without exception Greeks. A little church is maintained in which all of the services are conducted in the Greek language. They have one ceremony held once a year, called in common parlance "Throwing the Cross", I witnessed it. A service was held in the church and at its close a procession was formed which marched to a large pool formed in the bay. Priests walk ahead of the procession. They bless the waters of the sea to the divers. A cross about one foot long is thrown far out in the middle of the pool. Many divers in small boats are out even before the cross touches the water, to dive and rescue it. It is supposed to bring very special blessings to the diver who secures it.

The cross is made of wood and gilded. In former years real gold was in use for this purpose. It is returned to the church by the diver who rescued it, and he is here honored by his fellow divers. This Greek church is said to be the only one in the country which keeps up strictly its ancient ceremonials."