

QUEEN OF FESTIVALS.

THE DISTINCTION THAT IS GIVEN
EASTER DAY.

Some Customs by Which It Is Observed—Why the Egg Is Symbolical of the Occasion—Legends and Superstitions Connected With It.

EASTER Sunday, which for centuries has been observed only by certain churches, is now almost universally kept as a day of days, all evangelizing churches symbolizing it as the anniversary commemorating the resurrection of Christ, a festival which in the early Christian era was distinguished as the Sunday of joy, and which Gregory Nazianzen 1,500 years ago called the "Queen day of days, that exceeds all others as far as the sun exceeds the other stars, and which is still known in the east as the 'bright day.'" Another typical name for Easter is the "Holiday of Hope."

There is a wonderful charm and fascination in this queen festival of the year, which dominates the whole world with its wonderful lessons of returning life. Not only is the deep religious significance of the occasion illustrated in the most attractive and beautiful form as a lesson to the eye, and through that to the heart, but the joyful features of Easter, the unspringing of hope and the miracle of returning life, inspire a condition of joy and happiness in the lives of young and old, and the most insensible object becomes a part of the carnival of joy.

Easter was not kept as a festival until the fifth or sixth century, but previous to that the question of establishing such a feast day came before the council of Nice, when it was decided authoritatively that Easter was henceforth to be the Sunday following the 14th day of the calendar moon which happened upon or next after the 21st of March, so that if this 14th day be a Sunday, Easter was kept on the Sunday, but on the next following Sunday, Easter day, therefore, may be any day within five weeks inclusive of March 22 and April 25. It cannot happen earlier nor later than those two dates. In 1883, Easter occurred on March 25, and again in 1894, which will be twice in the present century. In 1901 it will occur again on March 25.

It has often been asked why an egg is the symbol of Easter. The use of eggs for Easter can be traced to the theology and philosophy of Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and Romans, among all of whom an egg was a symbol of the universe, the work of the Supreme Divinity. The Persians gave presents of eggs at the feast of the vernal equinox—in honor of the renewal of all things. The Jews adapted it to suit the circumstances of their history as a type of their departure from Egypt, and it was used in the feast of the pascha, over as part of the furnishing of the table with the paschal lamb. The early Druids also used the egg in their ceremonies.

The custom of coloring Easter eggs seems to be as old as the use of the egg as a symbol. In Germany sometimes instead of eggs at Easter, a curious print illustrative of their use is presented. An Easter custom brought from Mesopotamia is that of egg-rolling or egg-pitting. The manner of this sport is to strike the egg one against the other, until one is broken, which is the spoil of the contest, the egg which remains whole. Another egg is then pitted against the winning one, and so on until the last one is victorious.

Every year at Washington the children of all classes of people meet in the grounds of the White House, and with the President and his family looking on, and great crowds of spectators in attendance, proceed to roll eggs of all the colors known to humanity, and in such quantities that it would seem as if the hens of all the world had contributed. It is one of the sights of Washington on Easter Monday. In this country eggs of all colors are used for the rolling sport, but in Mesopotamia they are used only in remembrance of the crucifixion.

In France it was once customary at the approach of Easter to seek the largest egg as a tribute to the king, and when the Easter high mass was finished, in the chapel of the Louvre, to take them into the royal presence, handsomely gilded and carried in pyramids. Then the chaplain blessed them, after which they were distributed to the people.

Easter Eggs.

The use of eggs on Easter Day, sometimes called Pasche, or paste eggs, has come down to the present time, writes Jane Searle in an article on "Easter and Easter Customs," in the Ladies' Home Journal. Eggs were held by the Egyptians as a sacred emblem of the renovation of mankind after the Deluge. The Jews adopted them to suit the circumstances of their history as a type of their departure from the land of Egypt. They were also used in the feast of the Pasover. Hyde, in his description of Oriental sports, tells of one with eggs among the Christians of Mesopotamia on Easter Day, and forty days afterwards. "The sport consists in striking their eggs one against another, and the egg that first breaks is won by the owner of the one that struck it. Immediately another egg is put against the winning egg, and so on till the last egg wins all the others, which their respective owners shall before have won."

In Germany, sometimes instead of eggs at Easter, an emblematic print is occasionally presented. One of these is preserved in the print-room of the British Museum. Three hens are represented as upholding a basket, in which are placed three eggs ornamented with representations illustrative of the Resurrection; over the center egg the "Agnus Dei," with a chalice representing faith; the other eggs bearing the emblems of charity and hope.

A German Custom.

A German Easter custom is to light fires on the hillside of the Hartz, obtaining the holy water from the streams at midnight, when the good spirit moves the waters, and the presentation of cakes, shaped in the form of the rising sun, are made special features of the occasion.

Eggs-actly the Easter Style.

He stooped and touched his childish lips to hers, then shut the door, leaving 'Lisbeth alone once more, this time thoroughly dazed. No one had ever kissed her since her mother died, and the unfamiliar caress burned deep into her warm little heart and comforted it.



AN EASTER DAY.

Shall it be a song or sonnet?
South! it must be something gay;
Bess has got a stunning bonnet
She will don on Easter day.
I can see her in my fancy.
As she marches up the aisle,
With a nameless paeonancy
In the sunshine of her smile.
She's the loveliest of lassies
Ever winged a Cupid-dart;
Every gallant when she passes
Will have failure of the heart.
Every belle—my word upon it—
Will with jealous growl growl,
When sweet Bessie in her bonnet
Treads the aisle on Easter Day.
I would give a feudal castle—
(All my castles are in Spain!)
And the wealth of lord and vassal—
(All my wealth is in my brain!)
If I might—to think upon it
Fairly takes my breath away—
March with Bessie and her bonnet
Up the aisle on Easter Day.



HER clothes were certainly very nice, but her toes were rebellious and objected to staying in her boots. 'Lisbeth looked at them despairingly. She was only nine, yet she could reason. "If I was as cold as my feet am," she mused, "I should have no place to go, I just wouldn't stay out in the cold!"

Nearly all that day she had wandered up and down the city street looking for a home. Her father had left her three days before on a drunken spree, with no place in particular to lay her head. During those three days she had eaten nothing but a piece of bread an old Irish woman had given her. Suddenly she made up her mind she would go up where the rich people lived and see if they didn't want a little girl. "So much money to spare," said 'Lisbeth, "somebody'll surely take me." Poor little trusting soul!

She turned her steps and went toward the west. The short winter twilight had already commenced to deepen as she climbed a flight of long stone steps and timidly rang the bell. How warm it looked inside, she thought. A servant came to the door and regarded the ragged little before her curiously. "What do you wish for?" she asked, not unkindly.

"Please, marm, a home," said 'Lisbeth. The girl laughed. "There is none here for you," she answered, and closed the door.

'Lisbeth sank down on the doorstep, stunned and sobbing. The door behind her opened softly once more, and a little boy looked out. He had heard the servant's description of the little waif, and his childish heart was touched.

"I've brought you some," he said, putting a large napkin into her hands, filled with hastily snatched goodies from the dining room. "Eat it quick, before Nurse finds me! No, wait a minute, and I'll get you a present." And he ran into the house. His little heart was filled with pity for this poor little girl whose mamma was dead, and whose papa was drunk—most always. He came back in a moment and pressed a flower petal into 'Lisbeth's hands.

"Keep it where it's warm and sunny," he said hurriedly. "By and by it'll be pretty. It's an Easter lily. I must go now. Nurse is calling me. Good-by, little girl."

He stooped and touched his childish lips to hers, then shut the door, leaving 'Lisbeth alone once more, this time thoroughly dazed. No one had ever kissed her since her mother died, and the unfamiliar caress burned deep into her warm little heart and comforted it.

EASTER'S SIGNIFICANCE.

Beautiful Sentiment Expressed by the Late Phillips Brooks.

And now comes Easter morning! What does it mean? Do you see it? Every old guess and dream and hope becomes suddenly lighted up with certainty. Lo, it is true! Death is not the end of all things.

There is a man, the truest, realest man (we often forget that about Jesus Christ, but so He was), the realest man that ever lived; He died, and see, He still lives. Then we, too, do not die in death. We thought so. Now we are sure of it. This life here is a part, not a whole. It is worth while to struggle, however shapeless and crude the work is when we have to lay it down over night, for there is a to-morrow coming.

The world's poor heart knows very well what it wants. For years and years it longed to see one man rise from the dead. If it could only have that! It could let many other questions go unanswered, but for some light on that darkness—oh, for some sound out of that silence! If it could have that, then its bonds would be broken; its whole pale life flooded with color; its best truths verified completely, and a hope lighted upon every grave. No longer should spiritual philosophy labor under the burden of materialism; no longer should the dying die in terrible doubt, and the mourners go hopelessly about the streets. My friends, the world's prayer is answered. A true man has risen from the grave. Life and immortality are brought to light.—Phillips Brooks, D. D.

An Easter Legend.

"Will the sun really dance on Easter?" Questioned the Louter devotee. On Easter morn she rose betimes To hear the merry ringing chimes, The spectacle of joy to see. Dame Fashion from her trail released her To watch the dancing sun at Easter.

Did the sun dance for her at Easter? She saw its rays of glory shine In greeting at the break of day; Young Cupid met her by the way, Love cast o'er her his glamour flue, All nature offered joys to feast her Her heart danced with the sun at Easter."

Easter Superstitions.

There are many superstitions connected with Easter Sunday which are significant of the season, and are almost as imperative as laws. One of these is the necessity of having something new to wear on this day in order to insure happiness for the coming year. Hence the Easter bonnet. Another one is that on that day the sun dances. This is an old legend, and the lines from Sir John Suckling are well known:

"But oh, she dances such a way—
No sun upon an Easter day
Is half so fair a sight."

It is also claimed in heathen countries, where the superstition originated, that the lamb frisk and dance in the light of the rising sun on Ostro, the name of a heathen divinity who was also represented as dancing and who gave to our Easter its name.

A JOYOUS EASTER.

THE BOY TOUCHED HIS LIPS TO HERS. "I'll go to sleep and rest a bit." The nurse bent over the dying child with eyes filled with tears, and watched the breath flutter between the pale lips. It was only a slight flutter, fainter and fainter!

Then it went out, and 'Lisbeth gave her Easter lily to the Lord on Easter morn.—Ladies' Home Journal.

A JOYOUS EASTER.



FAT IS NOW FRYING.

SENATOR CHANDLER REPEATS
HIS CHARGE.

In a Letter to a Washington Paper He Asserts that Money Is Being Collected by McKinley's Managers—Unjust to the Other Candidates.

Explains the "Fat Frying."

When rogues fall out they are apt to tell the truth about each other. The Republican rascals who are laying plans to capture the Government so that they can again enact high tariff laws in the interest of trusts and monopolies are just now quarreling among themselves over the nomination for President. Major McKinley is so far in the lead of all the other candidates that the friends of the latter have become angry and boldly assert that the Ohio man's friends are using large sums of money to buy the delegates to the national convention.

Among other culprits Republicans who charge McKinley's friends with making a boodle campaign for the nomination is Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, who says: "I was very cautious in speaking about McKinley, but it certainly does seem to me that he is in the hands of unscrupulous managers. They say that this year the Republicans can elect a yellow dog if we nominated one. At the same time look at the situation. If McKinley is nominated we shall have to meet the charge that we fried the fat out of the manufacturers in the last campaign, that he fried the fat out of them again to secure his nomination, that he is continuing to fry the fat to buy his election, and as a result he will pay his political debts with a high-tariff framed solely in the interests of the manufacturers."

"With such charges as these to meet on the stump, the campaign on the part of the Republicans will be defensive instead of offensive."

In a letter addressed to the editor of a Washington paper Senator Chandler explains some of the statements he



W. E. CHANDLER.

made in the interview concerning McKinley's canvass. Mr. Chandler declares he did not intend to cast any slur upon McKinley personally, but beyond that the Senator does not retract a word of his statement. In fact, he reiterates it with an attention to the circumstances of the fat-fryers' work which was lacking in the original interview. The latter is as follows:

The interview with me on March 16 has led to much misrepresentation of its terms. I said nothing unduly of Mr. McKinley personally, but called attention to certain methods of some of his managers and protested against their adoption. The substance of the charge made by me was that the same men who had assisted in raising the money to pay Mr. McKinley's debts were calling upon the owners of protected industries to make contributions to help nominate him for President.

Although the charge has been denied by Gen. Grosvenor and others, a review of the subject confirms my conviction that it is true. As bearing upon the question whether the collection and the use of the funds are for reasonable and legitimate expenditures I add that the fund which was planned to raise was to be \$250,000, a sum which the country does not need except for illegitimate purposes. In view of the effort to raise this large fund from protected industries my points were very simple and clear.

Such a movement is unfair and unjust toward the other candidates, in whose behalf it is certain that large sums of money are being raised or used. Messrs. Reed, Morton, Quay, Cullom, Allison, Davis and Manderson are as devoted friends of protection as Mr. McKinley is, and the triumph of any one of them would be as sure a guaranty of the enactment of judicious and effective tariff laws as the victory of Mr. McKinley. For manufacturers to contribute large sums of money to be expended in nominating Mr. McKinley over any other candidate hitherto named would be a most unjust and uncalled-for proceeding.

The interests of the Republican party will be seriously injured by demanding and receiving such large contributions from the representatives of protected interests. It has been a continuous cause of attack by the opponents of protection—the belief that the system has been maintained, Republican victory will be secured by the money of manufacturers. Whatever may be said in justification of reasonable contributions from such interests toward the expenses of presidential and congressional elections after the nominations are made, a system of using money to control Republican nominations for office would be scandalous in the highest degree and fatal to all attempts to maintain the purity and honesty of the party organization.

If to the natural popularity and strength of Mr. McKinley Messrs. Osborne and Hanna are to continue to add the expenditure in improper ways of large sums of money collected by them from the owners of industries protected by the tariff, thoughtful Republicans will do well to consider the consequences of a nomination thus made; the character of the canvass which is to ensue, the possible defeat which, even with the bright prospects before us, may come if we rush headlong into any egregious blunder, and the controversies which, even if we are successful, are to follow such an admission of the standing charge of our opponents, that gross venality and corruption attend the maintenance of a high tariff system by the Republican party, which charge we have hitherto truthfully denied.

The Republican party is about to be returned, if it acts wisely, to overwhelming political power in this country. The party should begin its new career sustained by high principles and free from corrupt practices. It will be a fatal mistake, soon to be grievously punished, if we make a dishonest start. W. E. CHANDLER.

When a Republican Senator admits that the candidate of his party will be forced to answer charges that he

bought his nomination with "fat" fried out of protected interests, to be repaid with high tariff favors, it should be easy for the Democrats to win on a platform of principles versus corruption funds.

A High Tariff Clown.

Congressman J. P. Dolliver of Iowa is ambitious to wrest from ex-Congressman Roswell G. Horr of Michigan the distinction of being the biggest buffoon on the high tariff stump. In the Iowa Republican State convention he repeated some of his stale Congressional jokes, which the assembled Republicans were polite enough to laugh at. Then ceasing to jest he proceeded to record his "most solemn conviction" that the only way out of the present condition of misfortune was to give back to the workman of the United States the opportunity to do all the work of the American people. This time his hearers did not laugh. They were probably too much depressed at the terrible thought that through the designs of the bold, bad Mr. Wilson and his Democratic associates, the American hired man was having his work done for him by some obliging foreigner. The condition of misfortune which had followed the repeal of the McKinley law, owing to the willingness of other people to do all our work, had probably never before been realized. But when Dolliver, orator, wit and statesman, unlimbered his jaw and told how the American people were suffering because they did not have to work so hard as when they had more taxes to pay, it all became as clear as mud. The Iowa Republicans looked at each other and whispered, "Ain't he great?"

And he is great. A man who can look over his broad land and see armies of workmen who are idle because foreigners are willing to give us goods for nothing, and understand at once that the way to change things is to allow the American people to do their own work, must be a genius. Of course there will be some carping critics who will say that as long as they get things made abroad without paying for them, the American people would be foolish to want to work. And the same critics will say that as a matter of fact our workmen are even now busy in the mines, mills, or on the farms, producing things to send abroad in exchange for what we import. But Dolliver knows better. He knows that since the Wilson law went into force all our work, including that of building houses, digging wells and inventing protection arguments, has been done by European labor. If the Iowa farmers have not noticed that their ploughing has been done by foreign paupers, it is probably because they have not been observant. If they think that it would be a mighty good thing if somebody would do their work for them, they are mistaken. They should do all their own work, except thinking on the tariff question. Dolliver will do that for them.

It is well to know just what to expect in case the Republicans are returned to power this year. So long as there was a likelihood that the American people would continue to have their washing and other work done abroad, it was useless to look forward to a return to the happy conditions which prevailed in 1893. But when it becomes certain that the workmen of the United States will be allowed to do all the work of the American people, such as growing tea and coffee, or gathering elephants' tusks, then the prosperity of the McKinley panic years will be assured.—Exchange.

Our Best Customer.

The bureau of statistics on the commerce and navigation of the United States has just issued an annual report which contains some instructive figures. Of our entire exports the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland purchased just 47.94 per cent; Germany a little over 10 per cent; France something over 5 per cent, the Netherlands 4 per cent, the whole of South America a little over 4 per cent. In the matter of imports one-fifth of what we purchase comes from the United Kingdom; Germany takes about the same quantity from us that we take from her, while as between France and this country the balance of trade is in favor of France.

Thus it will be seen that free trade England takes from us nearly half of our exports and we take from her just one-fifth of our imports. Protection countries like Germany and France consume very little over in the one instance one-tenth and in the other instance one-fifth of what we sell. The reason that our exports to these countries are so small is to be found in the fact that they have placed a duty on American foods. While the working men of Paris were starving a short time ago, meat was prohibited from the shores of this nation by prohibitive duty. The Agrarian party in Germany succeeded in having a tax put upon American corn.

If the importation of English products were as free as the exportation of our products is to England, then there is little doubt that our export trade to that country would show a marked increase. The figures quoted should cause the protectionist, not less than the Jingoist, to pause.—St. Louis Republic.

Do They Know What Is Good for Them?

The theory of protection rests on the supposition that if the people were not restrained by tariff laws they would buy things at their disadvantage. Acting on this idea, the high-tariffers proceed to prohibit trade which private individuals find profitable, and justify their action by the pretense that unless they were "protected" the consumers would be fooled by the sellers of cheap foreign products.

If it were true that the people could not be trusted to look out for their own interests when buying goods, it would still remain to be proved that a protectionist Congress would be any wiser. If the majority are fools in business matters which directly concern themselves, how can they elect all-wise representatives and what reason is there for believing that a few hundred politicians know more about the value and quality of goods than the practical business men who handle them?

Any one who believes that the people are capable of self-government must acknowledge that they know enough to buy and sell to their best advantage. Any other view is suited only to a despotism or paternalism in which the few rule the many.

ARGENTINE A RIVAL.

HER TRADE IN GRAIN GROWING
FAST.

Agricultural Industry of the United States Seriously Menaced—An Indication as to What Our Wheat Farmers May Expect in the Future.

Endangers Our Interests.

The people of the United States have very little comprehension of the growth of the agricultural industry in the Argentine Republic and Uruguay and the danger that confronts our grain as well as our cattle interests from that direction, says a Washington correspondent.

In 1880 the Argentine Republic was importing flour and wheat, but in 1882 the tide turned, and nearly 2,000 tons of wheat were exported from that country. About that time modern mills were introduced also, and soon after the flour produced exceeded the local demand and the Argentine millers began to ship it to Europe. The exports of wheat in 1882 were 1,700 tons, and in 1884 the first shipments of flour were 3,734 tons; in 1890 the total had reached 327,894 tons of wheat and 12,117 tons of flour, and in 1894 1,008,000 tons of wheat and 50,812 tons of flour.

Mr. Mulhall, the well-known statistician of the London Times, is also editor of the Buenos Ayres Standard, and he gives it as his opinion that the area in wheat in the Argentine Republic in 1895 was more than double that of 1893. The following are his estimates of the wheat acreage for the last three years, and they will give some idea of the magnitude as well as the growth of the industry in that country and what our wheat farmers are to expect in the future:

Years.	Acres.
1893.	3,305,000
1894.	5,453,200
1895.	7,340,000

The number of immigrants to the Argentine Republic in 1891 was 28,293; for the first eleven months of 1895 they numbered 50,081, and during November alone they numbered 10,075, which will bring the total for the year up to 60,000. The most of these immigrants go into the interior and settle upon the agricultural lands which are furnished them free by the Government. In fact, the agricultural development of that country is very similar to that which was going on in the Mississippi valley twenty years ago.

It is important also to consider that the cost of raising wheat in the Argentine Republic will average 25 per cent less than in the United States, and that the average cost of transporting it from the farmer's cart to the hold of the steamer is only about 10 per cent of the market value at the seaboard. Thus, assuming the average price of wheat in Buenos Ayres at \$25 gold a ton, the average cost of transportation is \$2.50.

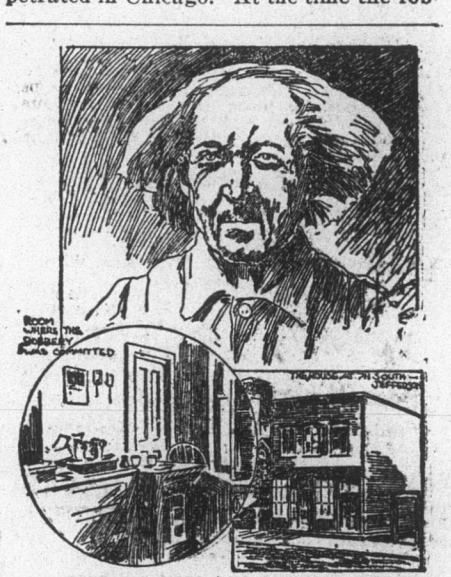
The same story may be told about Uruguay. Mr. Rodriguez Diaz, of Montevideo, who has recently been in the United States as the agent of his Government for the purpose of examining into the methods of our agricultural department for the purpose of organizing something similar in Uruguay, made the very interesting statement before the Committee of Ways and Means concerning the growth of the export trade in beef products and cereals from his country. He showed by official statistics that the exports of wheat from Uruguay had increased from \$109,307 in 1893 to \$1,882,938 in 1894, and it was his opinion that in 1895 the gain was 100 per cent. He showed, also, that there has been a similar increase in the exports of flour, which were only 1,054 tons in 1893, but jumped to 300,024 tons in 1894. The great bulk of this flour goes to Brazil, 95 per cent of it—and the exports in 1895 were double.

The exports of corn from Uruguay in 1893 were \$23,272 and in 1894 \$885,539. There was a very large increase in 1895, the principal market being Brazil. Mr. Rodriguez stated that no more wind mills are being erected in South America. They are all now moved by steam power.

SCHRAGE AND HIS SAVINGS.

Chicago Police Get Suspects in the Big Robbery Case.

Five persons have been locked up on suspicion of being implicated in the robbery of Christopher Schrage, the Chicago miser who was beaten and bound and gagged and robbed. Chris Schrage, who is 70 years of age and lives alone at 711 South Jefferson street, was bound and gagged by two men at 6:30 in the evening and robbed of money and papers amounting to more than \$50,000. The robbery was one of the boldest ever perpetrated in Chicago. At the time the rob-



CHRISTOPHER SCHRAGE AND HIS HOME.

bery occurred Schrage was alone, and it was some time before he was discovered and the police notified. The valuables taken included \$45,050 worth of Cook County and Chicago city bonds, mortgage papers amounting to \$5,000, \$300 in registered Government bonds, \$500 in currency, and \$100 in gold.

The old man lives entirely alone, and has always kept his money and securities in a safe in the rear room of his house. It was matter of common report that he was in the habit of counting his money every evening before closing up his house for the night. The robbers were evidently aware of this habit of Schrage, and timed their visit accordingly. The men gained entrance to the house by pretending that they were anxious to rent some rooms.

RELATIVE SIZES OF CITIES.

