

Easter, 1926



EGG-ROLLING ON WHITE HOUSE LAWN

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

ASTER as we Americans will celebrate it on the fourth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fiftieth, is an evolution wrought by Christianity and civilization from the prehistoric ages of the world.

Easter is a popular festival, aside from its religious significance, because man has always welcomed the recurrent miracle of the spring with rejoicing. As a festival of the Christian church its importance is obviously basic. The foregoing linking of the birth of Jesus Christ and of the Independence of America is warranted, inasmuch as in America church and state have been made separate and the American of today has religious freedom to observe Easter according to the dictates of his own conscience.

He may see in the Easter of the Gentile only the Passover of the Jew. He may confess himself an "infidel" and walk with that gentle old nature-lover and plant-wizard, Luther Burbank. He may confine his activities to raising for the market the Easter lilies now made symbolic of the day—



the egg; it was retained, and since from its shelly sepulchre there issued a new and winged thing of life and beauty it was easily made to fit in with the Christian faith in the resurrection of the dead.

There is of course abundant warrant, as all the world well knows, for holding spring the season when "the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." Writes the Twentieth Century:

Methinks no leaf would ever bud in spring
But for the lovers' lips that kiss, the poets' lips that sing.

From this it appears that spring is a season of song, no less than of lovers' kisses. And so it is. Moreover, civilized man has long laughed at himself for the verse for which spring is responsible. Yes; many a literary crime has been committed in the name of "Spring Poetry." Yet why laugh at it? It is but man's way of voicing an urge as old as man himself. Laugh as we may, so much a part of us today is this ancient appeal of spring that not even the unheroic, material, sophisticated, cynical, overcivilized, irreligious Twentieth Century man is entirely immune to either the pagan Call of the Wild or to the religious message of Easter. And many a heart-touching line has been written—whether inspired by the rollicking strains of the street-piano or by the sweetly solemn church bells.

My figures grow hazy, I gaze with a lazy
And indolent languor at nothing at all
In happy enslavement while up from the pavement
The magical melodies summon and call.

They build me a vision of meadows
Elysian,
Of brooklets that babble and breezes that croon,
And wistful and tender young Spring
In her splendor
Comes dancing to me on the wings of a tune.

Poor spring! But often she must fall back on the street-piano in the big cities with their canyonlike streets between skyscrapers, their slinky pavements and their hurrying crowds intent on the business of the moment to deliver her message:

Oh, joy is the law of the Open Road
And glad are its ways, its laughter free;
Away with your town-wrought weary load.
Come hit The Trail with me!

No light thing is this Call of the Spring, oh, no! Her Song of the Wanderer Lure has called forth men of all times to do and dare. Well may she boast:

I breathed the breeze into the sheets
Of gallies from Phoenix;
Columbus heard me call his fleets
And so he knew no peace.
The Drake I summoned out to war
With plate ships to be won;
I am the lonely jungle star
That beckoned Stanley on.

Around the world, around the world,
Where'er the lips of surf are curled
And challenge of the wild is hurled,
I've claimed men for my own.
And some I've given gold and fame,
And some black sorrow and worn shame,
But still—I called them and they came
To take the trail alone.
I am more strong than beath or wife
And all things that endure;
I am the new dawn—I am Life—
I am the Wanderer Lure.

Strong as is Spring's Song of the Wanderer Lure, even stronger is man's hope of immortality. And it is at Easter that this hope springs strongest in his breast.

Shall man alone, for whom all else re-lives,
No resurrection know? Shall man alone
Imperial man! be sown in barren ground,
Less privileged than grain, on which he feeds?

Thou wilt not leave us in the dust;
Thou madest man, he knows not why,
He thinks he was not made to die;
And Thou hast made him, Thou art Just.

And at the last, no matter how strong has been the call of the world, the flesh and the devil, the call of the Easter bells reaches every normal human ear, and the cry goes up from every human heart:

"Abide with me, fast falls the evening,
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help to the helpless, O abide with me.

"Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see,
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

"Hold Thou Thy Cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies,
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee,
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me."

Associated With Easter

Two creatures are associated with the great festival of spring—the sea because of the cross upon its back and because it was upon an ass that Christ rode into Jerusalem; and the sea called the dory, for this is the creature from whose mouth the *Jesus* piece was taken, and upon either side of whose head are said to be the marks of the sacred finger and thumb.

Thirteen American Presidents have been United States senators.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. F. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of the Evening School, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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Lesson for April 4 JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES

LESSON TEXT—John 20:24-29; 21:1-22.
GOLDEN TEXT—Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed; blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—John 20:29.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Thomas Happy to See Jesus Alive Again.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Jesus Appears to His Disciples.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Jesus Appears to His Disciples.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Loving and Serving the Risen Lord.

I. Jesus Manifests Himself to the Disciples—Thomas Present (20:24-29).
Thomas was absent at the first appearance of Jesus—just why we may never know. His absence deprived him of a vision of the Lord. The other disciples went to Thomas with the glad news of the Lord's resurrection but he would not believe. His stubborn disbelief was such that he doggedly declared that unless he saw the prints of the nails and put his finger in the print of the nails and thrust his hand into His side, he would not believe. Note:

1. The Lord's kindness to those who have difficulties (vv. 26, 27).
Thomas deserved rebuke, but the Lord kindly supplied the evidence which he demanded.

2. The Lord revealed Himself to Thomas (vv. 27, 28).
When He thus revealed Himself, Thomas was transformed from a doubter into a confessor. He cried out, "My Lord and my God."

3. The superior blessing of belief without sight (v. 29).
Jesus patiently furnished Thomas with tangible evidence of His resurrection, but assured him that belief on Him without the tangible evidence was to be in a frame of mind to receive the blessings of the Lord.

II. Jesus Manifests Himself to Seven Disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (21:1-14).

1. The occasion (vv. 1-3).
At Peter's suggestion the disciples go fishing. They do not go back to their old calling without hope in Christ. They should not be accused of forsaking their Lord—they were poor men, therefore obliged to work. Furthermore, honest toil should not be considered incompatible with witnessing for Christ. Sensible men and women will be busy at so-called secular occupations until called from them by the Lord. Indeed, when the Lord wants men to work for Him, He goes to those who are busy. The disciples toiled all night and got nothing.

2. The risen Lord the supplier of the disciples' needs (vv. 4-14).
At daybreak the Lord appeared on the shore and inquired as to their success. The Lord appears at the point of their extremity. When the disciples confessed their failure, He directed them and success followed.

III. The Charge of the Risen Lord to Peter (21:15-17).
Christ put to Peter the thrice repeated question, "Lovest thou me?" before He gave to him a commission. This shows that supreme love to Christ is the one essential qualification for serving Him. "Lovest thou me more than these?" means, no doubt, "Do you love me more than you do these disciples and all things besides?" These classes in the church need special care and food adapted to their several estates.

1. Feed My lambs (v. 15). This first charge relates to those who are beginning the Christian life, the babes in Christ. The word "feed" means more than instruction. It means in addition to instruction, surroundings, influences, examples, etc.

2. Tend My sheep (v. 16). This charge shows a different class. It means to shepherd the sheep. The duty here enjoined is to deal with the mature class. He must feed them, give them the proper instruction, guide them, lead them and correct them.

3. Feed My sheep (v. 17). This third charge means the caring of aged Christians. The word "feed" is much the same as in the first case. It means that for the aged Christians the instructions ought to be such as will be suited to their needs.

IV. Follow Me (vv. 18-23).
Christ here gives a prophecy concerning Peter's death. It was to be by crucifixion (v. 18). Peter once shrank from the cross, but now the Lord holds it up before him. It is not the Lord's death on the cross, but Peter's own. Whatever may be before, even the cruel cross, the disciples are directed to follow Him.

Worldly Joy
Worldly joy is like the songs the peasants sing, full of melodies and sweet airs. Christian joy has its sweet airs, too; but they are augmented to harmonies, so that he who has it goes to heaven, not to the voice of a single flute, but to that of a whole band of instruments, discoursing wondrous music.—H. W. Beecher.

Our Lives
Our lives are like a garden, they give either weeds or flowers.

She Didn't Care
We had been going together for about six months. One Sunday afternoon in the fall we were out walking in a new addition of the city, where many young couples lived. As we passed one newly built house, I said, "There is one house that young married people won't live in, because it has no heating plant."
She immediately turned to me, and putting her hand on mine, said: "O, that wouldn't make any difference to me; I could get along with a stove."
We are now married, but do not live in the house that has caused all our happiness.—K. P., in Chicago Tribune.

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The First Cuckoo
A certain minister in a remote Highland district last year thought he would introduce an innovation into the Watch Night service, and brought into the church a cuckoo clock. It had not the effect he had expected, which was of solemnizing the occasion. As the cuckoo began to strike, the village lads at the back started to accompany it, and by the end of the twelfth sound pandemonium reigned, and the service had to be abruptly closed. The experiment will not be repeated this year.

For economy's sake, why not buy a varnish which expels Worms or Tapeworm with a single dose? Dr. Perry's "Dead Shot" does it. 372 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

Full Moon and Baldness
Theodore H. Morgan, a federal customs inspector at Philadelphia, adopted the policy of having his hair cut only when the moon was full, as a means of warding off baldness and he asserts the effect was so noticeable that half a dozen men in his organization did likewise with good results.

All nature is but art.

Stomach or Liver Trouble?
Bakersfield, Calif.—"I have used Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for poor blood, torpid liver and stomach disorder and there is nothing in the world like it to get the human machine clear of the poisons and to get every organ of the body feeling strong and healthy. I know what I am talking about for I was hardly able at times to get to my work, feeling mean, sick and rundown all the time. I have never had a return of this condition."—H. H. Cross, 2416 Emadio St. All dealers. Tablets or liquid.
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A grain of theoretical wisdom may turn out to be a pound of practical folly.
Whatever Noah's shortcomings were, he knew enough to go in when it rained.

CHILDREN CRY FOR

Fletcher's CASTORIA

MOTHER:—Fletcher's Castoria is especially prepared to relieve Infants in arms and Children all ages of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic and Diarrhea; allaying Feverishness arising therefrom, and, by regulating the Stomach and Bowels, aids the assimilation of Food; giving healthy and natural sleep.

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A German electrical engineer has invented a device that enables a policeman, by merely touching a criminal with the tips of his fingers, to render the miscreant unconscious.

Plant Millions of Trees
New Zealand nurseries have more than doubled their supply of timber seedlings since 1910, more than 10,000,000 young trees now being available.

A man eating himself to death rarely gets any advice to stop it. Truth is as old as time, and it is the prehistoric truths that baffle us.

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Tracing Honored Customs

The staining of the Easter egg with various colored wools is a very ancient custom and like many others predated the Christian era by centuries. The shaggy-skinned Druid used to stain eggs with blossoms of rose or broom and gave it to his neighbor to bring him sun and success for his crops. As every farmer and gardener knows, early crops need both rain and sun. It is a curious

fact that savages in almost every part of the world try to obtain the weather they want by imitating it. If they want rain they sprinkle water; if sun, they light fires; if wind, they blow or whistle—as sailors still "whistle for a wind." So, at these early fertilization festivals, our savage forefathers prayed for the necessary sun and rain with charms of fire and water. Here doubtless originated sprinkling customs still extant in many churches, also the burning of the Paschal candles.