

MY EASTER RABBIT



By SUSIE SMALL.

Copyright, 1913, by American Press Association.

THIS rabbit wants to run away, Des see him jerk an' beg, But I is goin' to watch him till He lays a Easter egg!

EASTER.

At Easter we should feel our very hearts budding and blossoming with new loves, new hopes and new determinations to realize the joyfulness of the Christian spring. What is it that makes Easter morning glorious with a glory all its own? It is the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is an abandoned grave. It is the angel ministry which says to all human sorrow the winter is over and gone; the time of the singing of the birds is come. Let us enter into sympathy with this gospel of redemption and preach the gracious doctrines of Christ with an accent of hope rising into an accent of triumph.—Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker.

The Easter Hat as a Life Preserver

[While service was being held at one of the churches an organ pipe fell on the head of a worshiper. But a bonnet which she was wearing probably saved her life.—News Item.]

Seated one day near the organ,
With her hand devoutly bowed,
An organ pipe fell on her
With a noise both sharp and loud.
It woke up the congregation,
And they feared she had taken harm,
But the pipe had struck on her bonnet,
Which protected her like a charm.
It prevented all pain and headache,
For it was both big and soft,
And the pipe had no power to harm her
That fell from the organ loft.
Men have sought the reason vainly
Why our sex wear turbans large,
With velvet and fur overloaded,
And they've grumbled at the charge.
It may be that death's bright angel
Has spared one life just to show
That the saints approve in heaven
Of the hats on earth below.
GERTRUDE M'KENZIE.

THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.

The cornerstone of the Christian church is laid in the empty grave of Jesus Christ. The resurrection proves the death; the death proves the life, the life the birth of Jesus Christ. Deny the resurrection and it is impossible to account for the existence of Christianity. The resurrection proves our own resurrection. Empty as was the tomb of Jesus on the first Easter morn, so empty shall be all the graves of his people on the last great Easter morn. He is therefore in the largest and fullest sense the resurrection and the life.—Rev. Dr. H. S. MacArthur, Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, New York.

EASTER EGGS ORIGINATED IN A QUEEN'S COURTSHIP

By MINERVA SPENCER HANDY.

WHEN Marguerite of Austria was in her youth and beauty she made a pilgrimage to the south of France to visit the shrine of her favorite saint. Some say it was to pray for a young and handsome husband. If so, her patron saint kindly granted the prayer in advance of the petition. On her way she stopped to rest for a few days at Bourg, a village on the edge of a deep forest and at the foot of the majestic Alps.

On Easter Monday the people for miles around met to engage in the customary Easter games. The young regent of the Netherlands from her place beside the chateau of the castle enjoyed the scene hugely. It was very interesting to watch the older men shooting at targets and casks of wine, the winner being allowed to put his lips to the cask and drink his fill. But when the young couples began to gather for the most exciting event of the day then the princess grew enthusiastic, for, you remember, she was young and fair, and even queens dream dreams of handsome, loving partners. The moment arrived for the contest. One hundred eggs were scattered over the ground. A young man and a maiden began the figure. While the on-lookers laughed it was a serious affair for the dancers. The couple that could skip over the eggs, glide between them, twirl about them in all the varied gyrations of the dance, without breaking or cracking an egg might marry each other in spite of the opposition of their parents. Each couple was allowed three trials, and the dance being successfully concluded, none dared oppose the union.

While the merrymaking was at its height the sound of a hunter's horn rang through the forest. Soon appeared a company of horsemen in such brilliant uniforms that the simple peasants stopped in their dance to gaze and wonder whom they might be. At their head rode a beautiful youth, dressed as only the nobles of the time dared dress. He sprang from his horse, bent a graceful knee to the chateau of the castle and requested her hospitality. Of course the hostess granted it at once, for this was Philibert, the handsome Duke of Savoy.

The dance, which the coming of the duke had interrupted, was now resumed with greater zest than ever. After watching the dancers Marguerite in jest said, "I would that I were one of those simple peasants and might try the dance."

Philibert bowed low before the fair regent and said, "Madame, will you permit me to be your partner in the dance that is going on before us?"

This was equivalent to an offer of marriage, and, hearing it, the crowd became wild with enthusiasm. Cries of "Austria!" and "Savoy!" rang through the air, and cheer followed cheer. Marguerite graciously acquiesced, and the handsome pair took their place in the dance. A serious task was before them. They must dance around and around eggs, between eggs, without breaking any. But members of the royal families were accustomed to the dance. The feet of the royal lady were as light as thistle-down, while those of the handsome knight were graceful in the extreme. When the dance ended not a single egg had been touched.

Love in those days was not long in kindling. When the duke gazed into the sparkling eyes and upon the glowing cheek of his partner in the egg dance he knew that the custom of the country wasn't going to be broken. And so it proved.

One year from the day the two were married. Their guests were given souvenirs of gold and silver eggs filled with spices which they called Easter eggs. This custom was continued on each anniversary in memory of that happy day in the forest when with beating hearts they together tripped the measures of the egg dance.

HOT + BUNS

Here is a tested recipe for the hot cross buns for Easter:

To one cupful of scalded milk add one-fourth cupful of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter and one-half teaspoonful of salt. When it is cooled enough not to hurt the yeast cake—that is, about lukewarm—add one-half of a yeast cake dissolved in one-fourth cupful of lukewarm water. Also add three-fourths of a teaspoonful of cinnamon and three cupfuls of flour and one egg well beaten.

Mix these well before adding a half cupful of raisins and currants mixed. The raisins should be cut up and stoned, of course. Let it rise carefully covered like any buns or rolls overnight if for breakfast. In the morning shape the buns like large biscuits, leaving a space of an inch for them to spread, and let them rise well.

Brush them over with beaten egg and bake about twenty minutes. When cool make a frosting into the form of a cross on the top of each or else cut a cross in each just before baking and scatter sugar on when serving them. A glaze of milk and melted butter can also be used wiped over with a bit of soft cotton cloth when they are just ready to take from the oven.

FACTS ABOUT EASTER.

Many Customs Are Ancient and Come From the East.

The custom of putting on new clothes for Easter is very ancient and is common to the great festivals of all religions. On the central feast of the Moslem year it is considered absolutely necessary for every man and woman to wear new clothes.

The "Easter dress" and the "Easter hat" of modern times, so widely advertised by our city merchants are therefore not in any way an incongruity, but emphasize the spirit of the day quite as much as the "Easter egg" which is supposed to typify the germ of a resurrection of life.

So that as all nature is renewed and regarmented in the spring it is fitting that mankind should follow. Unable to renew the body, man does the next best thing and dons new garb.

The name Easter, according to the Venerable Bede, is heathen in its origin, so called after the Saxon goddess Eastre, who was worshipped with peculiar ceremonies in the month of April. In the eastern church it is called Pascha or the holy Pasch, which will be observed in the Russian and Greek churches this year on April 14, the Jewish passover falling on April 22.

In the second century there was a great dispute between the Asiatic and Latin churches regarding the proper date for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. As far as the Latin church was concerned, it was settled once and for all at the council of Nicea in the year 324. The fact that the ancient British church, when Augustine landed, observed Easter according to the Eastern custom, is urged as a reason for believing that Great Britain received her Christianity from the east and not from the west, from St. John rather than from St. Peter, from Antioch and not from Rome.

The early Christian emperors celebrated the day by setting prisoners free and by scattering gifts. It was "Dominica Gaudii"—the day of joy for all people. The popular Easter hymns are from Latin sources. "Welcome, Happy Morn, Age to Age Shall Say," was written by Fortunatus for the Easter worship of the abbey of St. Croix. "He is Risen" is an old Ambrosian hymn which has been sung in the Milan cathedral for many centuries. "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" is of unknown origin, although probably from a Latin source. It appeared first in English in the collection by Tate and Brady. As in the case of Christmas, we are indebted to Charles Wesley for a good Easter hymn, the one beginning "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

Life Reigns Supreme

It is the joyous Easter morn,
When life from seeming death is born,
When loosened waters of the lake
Listen to bird calls in the brake,
And winds from out the perfumed south
Kiss fragrance to the lily's mouth.



Christ rose from earth on this glad day
And left above his tomb a ray
To banish Doubt—there Hope beams bright,
And faith holds in her hand a light,
While "Joy, Joy, Joy," the church bells ring,
"Love conquered Death, and Life is King!"

RESURRECTION EMBLEMS.

Egg, Chrysalis and Kernels of Grain Used as Symbols.

With the egg and the chrysalis all are familiar, but in olden times kernels of grain were also used. In England a tiny cross, together with grains of barley and wheat, has been found in the center block of oaken mantelpieces. The custom had long been forgotten when it was recalled by the discovery of three such emblems in the mantel of the room in which Shakespeare was born.

The house was being restored, and one of the commissioners in charge took a block of the old wood for a souvenir. He gave it to a friend, a Shakespearean scholar, who, wishing to share it with another, tried to split it and found it hollow. It contained a cross, three grains of barley and a piece of tow. To his honor, he said, he restored the relic to the house at Stratford on Avon, where it is now on exhibition.

A great sculptor once said of the three processes used in making a statue, "The clay is this life, the plaster is death, but the marble is the glorious resurrection."

NOVEL EASTER FAVORS.

Rabbits and Chickens Easily Made Out of Peanuts.

Do you want to make peanut rabbits or chicks for Easter greetings? If so it is very easy done.

For the rabbit's ears and tail use little pointed bits of paper, which can be glued on. Sometimes you will find the rabbit already has a tail and you will not need to supply one. The rabbit will stand up very easily after you have given him his feet, because there are four of them. The feet and the eyes are made from matches or tooth-picks.

The little chicks need only feet and eyes, but as they have only two feet they will not stand as easily as the rabbits. To make them stand easily take a piece of a visiting card an inch or less square and when you give the chick his feet push them up first through the card. This will give him a firm foundation to stand upon, and you can either send him this way or, if you wish, you can paste this piece of card to a larger piece or to the bottom of the box you send him in. If you are careful you can put him inside of an eggshell.

Here's the Easter Rabbit—and the Eggs!

