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EASTER EGGS.

What could be more beautiful or more appropriate than the symbolism of the Easter eggs? Each year, at this spring-tide festival, they seem to come to us with new meaning and fresh power. The dainty little book of Anna Barrows, so recently published, with its "Facts and Fancies" concerning "Eggs," is so timely and appropriate that we cannot resist giving copious extracts from its pages for the benefit of our readers:

"The most prevalent and characteristic custom of the Easter festival has always been the giving of eggs. Sometimes they were eaten, oftener kept as amulets, or used in playing games.

"The pagan people at their New Year feasts presented each other with eggs as a type of the new life of nature—which they coloured to show their joy at the return of spring. The Druids used eggs in the worship of the Goddess Eoestre. The early Christians continued this practice and coloured the eggs red to symbolize the blood of their redemption.

"The contrast between the cold, lifeless egg and the warm, downy chicken, full of life and motion, may well have made the former an emblem of the endless life of the soul. A German writer says: 'The egg as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus, who broke forth from the grave as a chicken from the shell, has been from very ancient date

an Easter gift with Christians. After the fourth century the church prohibited the use of eggs, as well as of other animal food during Lent, but the

churches allow their use during the Lenten feast.

"From the custom of giving Easter eggs we have derived the pleasant fashion of sending cards and small gifts at that season. Naturally many of these take the form of the egg, though resembling it in no other way.

"The shop windows at this season seem like huge bird-nests filled with all manner of fanciful eggs. There are eggs of all sizes, made of confectionery and more enduring materials, chocolate eggs with cream where the yolk should be, eggs adorned with mottoes, eggs of soap, of glass and china, ostrich eggs for bombon boxes, egg-shaped boxes, baskets and lockets, notepaper to imitate egg-shells, etc.

"At the pagan New Year festivals many games were played with eggs. In this country there has of late been a revival of some of these games with other quaint Easter customs. Many children in days past have matched their eggs or rolled them over the green grass lots in the grounds of the White House at Washington.

"Passion week in Paris may be called the feast of eggs. In the streets may be heard the cries of 'des oeufs' from women bearing piles of red and white eggs on barrows, and everybody presents his neighbour with an egg, real or artificial."

Jesus is the best friend to have.



hens were heretical enough to keep on laying and the accumulated eggs were dyed for the children at Easter. The Greek Church still forbids the use of eggs during Lent, but other