

Easter Hymn.

BY MINNIE A. GRIZZLER.

ANGELS roll the rock away
From the grave's dark portal.
Lo! the risen Christ appears
Clothed in light immortal.

He has triumphed o'er his foes,
Burst his three days' prison
Angels shout the Easter hymn:
"Christ the Lord is risen."

He is risen, the Lamb of God
Slain on Calvary's mountain
From his side deep pierced for sin
Flows a cleansin' fountain.

Scattered are the clouds of sin
Past the night of sadness:
In the east a brighter day
Dawns in peace and gladness.

Be not faithless but believe,
Yield to doubting never,
Christ is risen! he lives again
Lives and reigns forever.

He is risen; and so shall we
Rise to joys supernal:
Reign with him, our Saviour King,
In the land eternal.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MARCH 31, 1888.

THE EASTERTIDE

THE approach of the annual Easter leads our thoughts to an event which can never cease to interest, but which must become ever increasingly interesting as time goes on. That event is the resurrection of our Lord from the dead.

At different times the Saviour had said to the disciples that he should be delivered to the chief priests, and should be crucified, but that on the third day he should rise again. However they may have understood his reference to his own crucifixion, it is certain that they did not at all comprehend what he said about rising again. After he had actually arisen, and had appeared to the women, when the women declared that they had seen him the apostles did not believe them. Afterward, however, they believed. Jesus appeared some time

during the day to Simon Peter, and in the afternoon toward evening to two who were journeying to the village Emmaus. Then in the evening, when ten of the apostles and some others of the disciples were together in an upper room, Jesus suddenly stood among them and spoke to them. After that he was seen a number of times by the apostles, and finally they saw him ascend up to heaven.

This great fact of Jesus' resurrection the apostles after this constantly declared to the people. And this is the great and wonderful historical fact whose anniversary we celebrate at Easter. The day should be observed with gladness, in a spirit of fervent worship, with songs of praise, and the glorious truth of the Saviour's victory over death should be made prominent in our thoughts. Jesus said once to his disciples, "Because I live ye shall live also." Because Jesus lives, and because of his conquest over death, we shall be brought to a like blessed resurrection, and to everlasting life at his right hand.

THE EASTER FESTIVAL.

ON this happy Easter morning, it is perhaps not amiss that we should tell our young readers something of the history of this great Christian festival. It is held in commemoration of the resurrection of our Saviour, and is called *Pascha* by the Roman and Greek Churches. It is a movable feast, occurring at any date between March 21 and April 25; and by it the other movable feasts throughout the ecclesiastical year are regulated. It is held about the same time as the Jewish Passover, or Paschal Feast, although it very seldom happens that the Christian and Jewish festivals are observed on the same day. In the early Church this festival lasted several days, and catechumens were then usually admitted to the rite of baptism. At present its celebration is confined in the Church of England to Easter-eve, Easter Sunday, and the Monday and Tuesday in Easter week. In the Roman Catholic Church it is a time of enjoyment, because the restrictions imposed during the preceding period of Lent are no longer to be observed.

Some ascribe the institution of the Easter festival to the apostles, but the more general opinion is that it was first observed by their immediate successors, about A.D. 68. The Council of Arles, in 314, and the Council of Nicaea, in 325, decreed that the day for keeping this festival should be the 14th day of the March moon; but by the alteration of the calendar by Gregory XIII., in 1582, the first Sunday after the full moon immediately following the 21st of March was fixed as Easter-day.

With your savings aid the cause of God, and thus encourage Christian workers.



A BRAVE BOY.

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JAMES FARRELL was an orphan boy. That is, his mother was dead, his home was broken up, and his father sent him to live at a large boarding school. Here the poor orphan, who was shy and timid, and had never been from home before, felt very lonely among a crowd of strange boys. When they all went to bed in one large room, James knelt down by his little iron cot to pray to God as he had been taught by his dear dead mother, now in heaven.

"Hello!" said Tom Loker, the bully of the school, "got a saint among us, have we? We won't have any sniffing and praying around here," and he flung pillows and boots at poor James, and the other boys joined in the cruel sport. As James took no notice of these persecutions, Tom took a pitcher of water and was going to dash it over him; but some of the other boys prevented him. James prayed in his heart to his mother's God, and felt the truth of the words, "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you." And night after night he continued to pray, till the persecutors got tired of their one-sided game, and one of their number even came and knelt down beside James and said, "My mother taught me to pray, but I was ashamed to do so before all these boys. God helping me, I'll be a braver boy."

So through the influence of that single praying boy much good was done in that school. Boys! dare to do right! Dare to be a Daniel, to stand up for Jesus, to confess him before men, that he may confess you before his Father and the holy angels.

An Easter Carol.

SWEETLY the birds are singing
At Easter dawn;
Sweetly the bells are ringing
On Easter morn;
And the words they say
On Easter day
Are "Christ the Lord is risen."

Birds! forgot not your singing
At Easter dawn.
Bells! be ye ever ringing
On Easter morn.
In the spring of the year,
When Easter is here,
Sing "Christ the Lord is risen."

Easter buds were growing
Ages ago.
Easter lilies were blowing
By the water's flow.
All nature was glad,
Not a creature was sad,
For Christ the Lord was risen.

HEARING AND ANSWERING OF PRAYER.

SOME persons nowadays are seeking to effect good by trying to analyze the reasons why God in specific cases does and in others does not answer prayer. They practically argue in such a way as to lead to the conclusion that answered prayer comes as a reward of meritorious asking. Such speculation is both erroneous and dangerous. It is ours simply to pray in faith, and to leave the results to the wisdom and goodness of God.

Prayer's power and effects cannot be reasoned out. Dr. Pierson well says: "I have made up my mind that there are some things in the mind of God that I cannot get into mine; hence I do not attempt to reconcile the two revealed truths—that God is unchangeable, and that prayer changes him."—*The Moravian*.