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questioning. All that afternoon and evening the struggle went on in Lillian's heart, but at last the question was fully decided. When she was ready for bed and mamma came for her good-night kiss, Lillian nestled close and her voice was somewhat broken as she whispered, "Mamma, I would rather not have my party, but

will you please give me all the money it would cost?"

"Not have your party! Why, Lillian, what is the matter, and why do you want the money?"

"For the Easter offering, Mamma, for the poor little sick children in Japan. The money will do them much more good than the party will do me."

The mother drew her child very close and a tear fell on the golden head as she answered, "Yes, my child, you shall have the money, every cent of it."

During the weeks that followed, Lillian's courage was put to a severe test. The little friends were sadly disappointed, some of them even indignant, at the loss of the party; but Lillian remained firm in her decision. She explained why the party was given up, and one by one the other children caught her enthusiasm in the cause of the heathen children, and many of them went to work with a will to earn money for the hospital. The mothers, too, and many others, heard of the little girl's sacrifice, felt ashamed of their own lax efforts, and resolved to do better.

When Easter at last came, the offering in the little church was far larger than had ever been known, and filled the heart of the rector with thankfulness. As little Lillian, with a joyful heart, laid on the plate her fifty dollars, marked as a special offering for the hospital in Japan, she little dreamed how largely her act of self-denial had contributed to the offering that Easter morning. Nor did she know why her teacher, after service was over, kissed her so tenderly, and why her rector laid his hand upon her head with a fervent "God bless you, my child."

#### EASTER ISLAND.

I wonder how many of us, as we keep the great feast-day of Easter, know of the only bit of land which bears the name of the holy festival,—a lonely island in the Southern Pacific Ocean?

"Easter Island," it is called, because many years ago, away back in the year 1722, Roggeveen, an explorer, sailing his ship through the deep, blue waters of the lonely waste of sea, came upon this bit of volcanic land on the sunny morning of Easter Day. Great peaks of stern, gray mountains reared themselves one thousand feet high, their base washed by the placid waters, their heads high in the sunshine of the tropical sky.

The island is forty-seven square miles in area, and has come up from the sea by volcanic eruption; so there seems, as we think about it, another reason why the lonely bit of land should bear the name of the great Day of Resurrection. Here and there are yawning craters with open mouths against the sky, but no longer flinging their fiery messages of smoke and lava; for their force of life is extinct.

We do not know how long Roggeveen tarried there—perhaps not at all, save to record the discovery upon his charts, and to give the blessed name, "Easter," to the desolate land. Yet we can imagine that he loved to see the appearance of earth in that far-

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away waste of seas, and he must have rejoiced over the feast day, or he would not have so appropriately given its name in honor of the discovery.

About fifty years later, in 1773, the famous English seaman, Captain Cook, on a voyage of discovery to ascertain whether any communication existed between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, sailed over this stretch of waters, and visited Easter Island. He and the later visitants of the land report many picturesque sights there. There are upon the island in various places, not less than five hundred stone statues—probably portraits of famous people—and the rudely carved images seem not to have been idols, but merely representations of humanity. The statues vary in size from three feet to seventy feet high.

Who carved them?

Whom do they represent?

We do not know, yet they tell us a story of past achievement, and they were the work of men's hands; so, even in that distant, lonely island, there have been heroes and workers, even as we know them to-day.

There are ruins of more than a hundred stone houses, too, quaint and curious, the habitations of our brothers of the long ago age. Within the houses are painted walls, and upon many of them are placed incised tab-

lets, with undeciphered words. It is all mysterious and strangely interesting. How we would like to know more, and some day, perchance, we shall.

Easter Island is twenty-three hundred miles west of the coast of Chile, and to-day is owned by the Chilean Government, which, since 1888, has used it as a convict station. How strange, again, to find the portion of land bearing the name of the great festival of release from bondage, now used as a place of confinement! Easter Island, like India's coral strand, where

"The heathen in his blindness,

Boys down to wood and stone."

Easter Island, since 1722 upon the earth's charts of recorded land, is yet as unknown to most of us as though it were situated upon another planet. It only proves to us how far away still are these distant lands of the sea. Yet the Easter Day sun will rise upon it, and Easter Day flowers will in abundance bloom under the warmth of the overhanging Southern skies.

Let us pray that the Easter-day message of hope will be spoken there, also, to the men in bondage, and as the antique monuments of the past past are lighted by the returning tide of light, they may realize that the God of eternity reveals Himself through all



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