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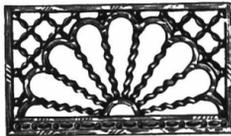
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which sang twelve airs. Wouldn't you like to have seen it? It would make your eyes open very wide if you knew of some of the odd customs in foreign countries in connection with these same eggs.

In Germany it is the custom on Easter eve to place sugar and eggs—the latter filled with bon-bons, or tiny playthings—in a nest, and then conceal them in the house or garden, in order that the children, who always rise very early that important morning, may have the delight of seeking and finding the hidden treasures.

The Russians have a custom at Easter which they always observe, and it is this: at Easter tide they dye or color red a number of eggs, of which every man and woman gives one of the finest to the priest of the parish on Easter morning. The common people carry one of these red eggs in their hands not only on Easter day, but three or four days after, and gentlemen and ladies have eggs gilded which they carry in like manner. They do it, they say, for a great love, and in token of the resurrection, whereof they rejoice. When two friends meet during the Easter holidays they come and take one another by the hand, and one of them says, "Christ is risen!" the other answers, "It is so of a truth!" and then they kiss and exchange their eggs, both men and women continuing this kissing for four days.

In far off Mesopotamia on Easter day and forty days afterward, the children buy as many eggs as they can afford, and stain them with red color in memory of Christ's crucifixion.

In Germany the Easter eggs prepared for the children would delight your eyes, so many kinds they are, and all so pretty. But I dare say that you are very well satisfied with the Easter eggs that your own mothers color for you and that you see in the bright store windows. After all, American children have a very pleasant time, don't you think so?

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—The life and light of Divine truth shine brightest where the windows of the soul are kept clean and clear, so that the truth may enter without obstruction.

Peter.

E. E. Fish, a leading ornithologist, gives the following in *The Blessed Birds*. The story is of a tame crow that he met with in the family of a friend, where he was staying for a short time.

A year before, the boys got possession of the bird soon after it had left the nest. It was so cunning that they enjoyed playing tricks on it. These were harmless, but the crow resented the indignities, and cut their acquaintance, and betook itself to the boys' father, who is noted for his kindness to all creatures. His new master called the recipient readily recognized, and always answered to unless called when he was angry. Peter followed his master about the farm, to the wood, and to the neighbours'. He sometimes made excursions about the neighbourhood alone, generally returning before dark. Last fall he got caught out in a big snowstorm, and did not, as usual, return at night. As days went by and no news from Peter, the family concluded he had either been killed or had gone off with other crows.

The snow had lain on the ground all winter, and been exceedingly deep, but in March it went off suddenly with a heavy rain. Soon after the ground became bare the master, who was at work in the orchard, saw at a little distance a poor, tired, bedragged crow walking and hopping along towards him. A second glance showed it to be Peter, the prodigal. Instantly he had the poor creature on his arm, caressing him as tenderly as though it were a returning truant boy. Peter was beside himself with joy at the meeting, and tried his best to express his affection for his friend. It seemed too bad that he was not fully able to tell his adventures and the cause of his absence, but these, through other sources, were learned afterwards. During that December snowstorm Peter was blown to the ground at Clarence, several miles from his home. A boy caught him, and not knowing to whom he belonged, clipped short his wings to prevent his flying off. The poor, homesick bird could not walk through the deep snow, neither could he fly, so he waited patiently through the winter till the ground was bare, and then started afoot on his journey. How he found his unknown way so many miles through fields and woods and across roads will remain a mystery. Although again able to fly, he will not venture off the premises, but attaches himself more closely than ever to his old friend.

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—The virtue of prosperity is temperance; the virtue of adversity is fortitude.—*Francis Bacon*.

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