

MEMORY GEMS—APRIL.

A gush of bird-song, a patter of dew,
A cloud and a rainbow's warning,
Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue—
An April day in the morning.

—HARRIET PRESCOTT SPOFFORD.

Again the blackbirds sing; the streams
Wake, laughing, from their winter dreams;
And tremble in the April showers
The tassels of the maple flowers.

—WHITTIER.

There is no joy in star or blossom
Till looked upon by a loving eye;
There is no fragrance in April breezes
Till breathed with joy as they wander by.

—BRYANT.

The holy spirit of the spring
Is working silently.

—GEORGE MACDONALD.

For one swallow does not make a spring,
Nor yet one fine day.

—ARISTOTLE.

Hark! the hours are softly calling,
Bidding the spring arise,
To listen to the rain drops falling
From the cloudy skies.
To listen to Earth's weary voices,
Louder every day,
Bidding her no longer linger
On her charmed way;
But hasten to her task of beauty
Scarcely yet begun.

—ADELAIDE A. PROCTER.

Oh! proudly then the forest kings
Their banners lift o'er vale and mount;
And cool and fresh the wild grass springs,
By lonely path, by sylvan fount.

—EDITH MAY.

Do you hear the chill rain patter,
Tiny seeds, beneath the snow?
And the noisy winds above you
Come and go?

—ANON.

Who loves the trees best?
"I," said the Spring.
"Their leaves so beautiful
To them I bring."

Who loves the trees best?
"I," Summer said.
"I give them blossoms,
White, yellow, red."

Who loves the trees best?
"I," said the Fall.
"I give luscious fruits,
Bright tints to all."

Who loves the trees best?
"I love them best,"
Harsh Winter answered,
"I give them rest."

—ALICE MAY DOUGLAS, in the *Independent*.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Westminster Abbey is closed to the public, and workmen are engaged in making the necessary preparations for the King's coronation, which is to take place on the 26th of June.

In Spain, a similar event will take place on the 17th of May, when the young Alphonso XIII, who was born King of Spain, will ascend the throne at the age of sixteen years. In the Spanish ceremonies, there is no actual coronation, the sovereign being merely sworn in as the official ruler of the country, in the presence of the senators and other dignitaries.

A revolution has broken out in the republic of Santo Domingo, and the whole country is under martial law.

The revolution in Venezuela is gaining, and the rule of President Castro, who is a military dictator, rather than a constitutional ruler, will probably end with the triumph of the insurrectionary forces.

The Colombian government troops have recently met with serious reverses on the Isthmus of Panama. Here another General Castro is a leader of the government forces, which makes South American war news at times rather confusing.

The Queen of Holland and her husband, the Prince Consort, will make a four months' tour of the Dutch colonies.

A complete mammoth has been found embedded in ice in Eastern Siberia. It was covered with rather thick red-brown hair.

Some of the railways in the United States will plant trees this year to supply timber for ties and other purposes.

A fourth Canadian contingent, consisting of 2000 mounted men, will be sent to South Africa with the utmost despatch. New Zealand has sent forward her ninth contingent, and fresh troops are continually being sent from England. The speedy termination of the war, either by force or by treaty, is much desired by the imperial government, and there are indications that the Boers are ready to come to terms.

A Boer victory on March 7th, left General Lord Methuen wounded and in the enemy's hands. He was subsequently released by the Boer leader, General Delarey (or De la Rey) in return, it is said, for General Methuen's kindness to Delarey's wife and children.

Commandant Delarey, the most chivalrous of the Boer leaders now in the field, is of French ancestry, as his name implies. He led the Transvaal contingent at the battle of Modder River, where it was he who won the victory, though a Free State leader was nominally in command. He was also Lord Methuen's opponent at the battle of Magersfontein. Before the war, he was one of the political leaders of the party in the Transvaal opposed to President Kruger; and he voted against the declaration of war.

Cecil Rhodes, whose name, attached to the province of Rhodesia, is written upon the map of South Africa, and whose true place in the history of that country a