

HOME JOURNAL

A Department for the Family

People and Things the World Over

On Easter Day

AN EASTFR CAROL

"The world itself keeps Easter Day,
And Easter larks are singing,
And Easter flowers are blooming gay,
And Easter buds are springing,
The Lord of all things lives anew,
And all His works are rising, too.

"There stood three Marys by the tomb
On Easter morning early,
When day had scarcely chased the gloom,
And dew was white and pearly:
With loving but with erring mind
They came, the Prince of Life to find.

"But, earlier still, the angel sped,
His news of comfort giving;
And 'Why,' he said, 'among the dead
Thus seek ye for the Living?
Go tell them all and make them blest;
Tell Peter first and then the rest.'

"But one, and one alone, remained,
With love that could not vary;
And thus a joy past joy she gained,
That sometime sinner, Mary;
First was she the dear form to see
Of him who died on Calvary.

"The world itself keeps Easter Day,
Saint Joseph's star is beaming,
Saint Alice has her primrose gay,
Saint George's bells are gleaming.
The Lord has risen, as all things tell.
Good Christians, see ye rise as well."

* * *

Easter Sunday cannot happen earlier than March 22 or later than April 25, but between these two dates it has a range of thirty-five days. At the time of the council of Nice, 325 A. D., it was agreed by the representatives present that from that time forward Easter should fall on the first Sunday after the full moon occurring on or next after March 21, or, in other words, "on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the sun crosses the line." Since the above arrangement was adopted by the great ecclesiastical council referred to, Easter has fallen on March 22 and on every date between that and April 25, but it is only after long intervals of time that it occurs on its extreme dates. In 1886 Easter fell on April 25, its latest possible date, an event which will not again occur until the spring of 1943. The last time Easter fell on its earliest date, was in 1818. This will not happen again until after this century.

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The rabbit, which has long been associated with Easter festivities, is all a mistake, and the animal that appears in our Easter pictures and done in sugar in the windows of the confectioners should really be a hare, instead of a rabbit. The hare has from time immemorial been the symbol of the moon, and, as the moon decides the time of Easter, it is quite proper and natural that the hare should be associated with this season. In Germany the Easter hare is almost as important a personage as St. Nicholas, and its habits somewhat resemble those of that much loved saint. On the night before Easter a white hare enters the house of all children who have been good, and hides in all sorts of out-of-the-way corners any number of beautifully colored eggs. Anyway, the children find the eggs when they hunt for them, and it would perhaps be presumption on the part of anyone who is not a German to express

an opinion as to where they really come from. A rabbit is not a hare, although they are cousins. There is one marked difference between them. The baby rabbit, as all know who keep these little animals as pets, comes into the world blind and helpless, while the baby hare has its eyes open from the beginning, and is soon able to take care of itself. It has been believed that the hare never closes its eyes, and that is one reason why it is chosen as a symbol of the moon, which always has its eyes open and sees everything that goes on at night.

SHALL WE LIVE AGAIN

"I feel in myself the future life.
I am like a forest once cut down;
The new shoots are stronger and
livelier than ever. I am rising, I
know, toward the sky. The sun-
shine is on my head. The earth
gives me its generous sap, but heaven
lights me with the reflection of un-
known worlds.

"You say the soul is nothing but
the resultant of the bodily powers.
Why, then, is my soul more luminous
when my bodily powers begin to fail?
Winter is on my head, but eternal
spring is in my heart. I breathe at
this hour the fragrance of the lilies,
the violets and the roses as at twenty
years. The nearer I approach the end
the plainer I hear around me the im-
mortal symphonies of the worlds
which invite me. It is marvelous yet
simple. It is a fairy tale, and it is
history.

"For half a century I have been
writing my thoughts in prose and in
verse; history, philosophy, drama, ro-
mance, tradition, satire, ode and song,
I have tried all. But I feel I have not
said the thousandth part of what is in
me. When I go down to the grave, I
can say like many others, 'I have fin-
ished my day's work.' But I cannot
say 'I have finished my life.' My
day's work will begin again the next
morning. The tomb is not a blind
alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes
on the twilight, it opens on the
dawn."

—VICTOR HUGO

A pure white canary, the first ever exhibited, was on view at the Ornithological Society's show at the Crystal Palace. Other novelties were a white sparrow, a black goldfinch and a bird of paradise, with rainbow-colored plumage, valued at £1,000.

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The 1909 Edition is out of that most useful and valuable booklet, "5,000 Facts about Canada," compiled by Frank Yeigh of Toronto, who is widely known throughout the Dominion as an authority on things Canadian. Nearly 25,000 copies were sold of the 1907-8 editions, the demand coming from every part of this Continent and the British Empire. The idea worked out, that of a concrete fact in a sentence, is an excellent one, the data being arranged under such self-indexing titles as area, agriculture, banking, commerce, finances, mining, railways, wheat fields, etc. The wealth of material contained in small space is a revelation to even a well informed Canadian of the standing and resources of the country. The book is published at 25 cents a copy and may be had from newsdealers.

Unfortunate Seamen on Pacific Coast

Mention was made a few weeks ago of the need for something to be done to keep the sailors of Labrador and Newfoundland out of the grog-shops. Dr. Grenfell's idea of establishing a great institution at St. John's has won popular favor and practical assistance from Canadians.

The sailors of the Pacific Coast need just such a friend as Dr. Grenfell has proved to the Canadian Atlantic seaboard. The conditions are not the same, but the misery of the men shipping on the Pacific is very real. An investigation now being carried on is reported in the *Saturday Sunset*. It seems that there are firms in existence along the coast who actually sell the sailors to the skippers for thirty-five dollars each. Not only that, but these firms have obtained practically a monopoly, and sailors applying directly to the captains are told that they must be taken on through these companies. The unfortunate man who takes the hint and registers with these "crimps", is kept in a vile boarding-house, fed on poor food, given worthless clothes, and in return he has to sign off his first month's wages in favor of the agency. It is profitable for the agency, there is no doubt of that, for nearly all seamen on the B. C. coast are hired through them, and they make at least fifty dollars on each man. The men are often filled up with bad whiskey, and in that condition sign articles of whose purport they know little. Many of them are totally inexperienced, but are signed on as able-bodied seamen. Several Vancouver institutions are doing what they can to help the men, but the real root of the evil is beyond their power to destroy, without public sentiment and the strong arm of the law as backers.

Saving the Babies

Recent estimates place the infant mortality rate at a hundred and twenty thousand in England annually. This takes into account only children under a year old. And of this tremendous number who come into the world only to leave it before a twelve-month passes, a hundred thousand die because of the ignorance or carelessness of their mothers. For that reason the education of the mother along the line of proper treatment for young children, is the only remedy for the awful death-rate.

To impart the necessary instruction, schools have been opened in London for mothers. The medical officer who superintends the schools attends two days in every week to examine the babies and their mothers, and to give definite, practical teaching regarding the proper food, clothing and management. Irregularity in feeding, and utter recklessness with regard to the kind of food given have been found to be the chief causes of infant diseases. It is only fair to say that the mothers who attend the classes try hard to follow instructions, even at the cost of considerable inconvenience to themselves, for they are mostly very hard working and very poor. The fees for the course of instruction are twopence every fortnight, not a large sum, but sufficient to keep the institution out of the ranks of mere charity.

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Every year the Emperor of Japan gives out a subject for a competition in poetry, that for this year being "The Pine in the Snow." The selected ones were read a few weeks ago at a great function in the Imperial palace in the presence of the highest officials. Only 7 were selected out of a total of 24,311, besides 1,085 that were not in proper form or came too late. These included 12 sent by Imperial Princesses, 108 by nobles, 967 by officials, 16 from the United States, 142 from Korea and 78 from Formosa. There is no other such literary competition in all the world.

April 7, 1909

THE

GROWING CHRIST

Till we all come . . .
fect Man, unto the mea-
stature of the fulness
Eph. iv., 13.

"Turn not in vain regret
To thy fond yesterday;
But forward face, and
Thy feet toward the un-
ways."

I have just subscri-
magazine, called "E-
gress," attracted by
for I know nothing about
zine or its merits. Eter-
is the business of us all
very little about the life
veil, but we feel into
there is no stagnation
Lord commands us to
as our Father in heaven.
St. Paul tells us to pre-
earnest purpose, until we
holiness of "perfect Ma-
measure of the stature o-
of Christ." Certainly w-
the opportunity of all et-
we reach that standard.
may grow out of a tiny
God gives us all the tin-
our development. He is
for a Christlike charact-
ous result, well worth
But are we growing?
question to be gravely
fully considered. Are we
like the perfect Exam-
were last year?

I once read a story
Measuring Rod." An
down once a year and se-
en rod upright in the g-
it were the words: "Th-
a perfect man." The p-
one by one to be measur-
measurements were recor-
angel in a book.

"No one could escape
accuracy of that strange
one shrank from or incr-
true dimensions—his s-
mensions. It was an in-
soul-growth which was s-
mysterious way."

One who worked very ha-
charitable societies, grew
shorter as she touched th-
The angel said very gra-
would be a soul of high
only the zeal for outside
can be seen of men, had
the lowly, secret graces
and trust and patience
trials. These, too, are
perfect soul-growth."

Then the surprised p-
moved sadly away to m-
a poor little sewing-wor-
stood by the rod she i-
height, and her face sho-
surprise as the angel w-
book, saying: Blessed ar-
spirit, for theirs is the
Heaven."

Then came one who w-
but she shrank so low
noticed the beautiful cl-
she had considered so i-

"Old Jerry, the co-
next—poor, old, clun-
but as he hobbled up th-
angel's face fairly blaz-
and he smiled on him ar-
the rod; and behold!
sure was higher than
others. The angel's voi-
loud and clear, saying
humbleth himself shall
'Whosoever shall humbl-
a little child, the same
est in the kingdom of he-

"Surely it is true th-
keep a record of our pi-
knows whether we
Christlike than a year.
growing steadily, or sh-
ceptibly back? To stan-
possible, and we may gr-
Where there's a will th-
If we are not making p-
it is certain we are i-
and thirsting after righ-

A man who is bent on
cessful farmer, will eag-