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april 15

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W.A.T.

MUTT AND JEFF—

How Easter is Observed

In Prison and Elsewhere—Religious, Legal, and Social Points of View.

BY ALEX. A. PARSONS.

The silvery slopes of Olivet
Where steeped in mystic gloom,
Save where the Morning Star, unsent,
Hung over the garden tomb;
When to the angels walking there
Across the shadows dim,
Came thrilling through the hallowed air

That earliest Easter hymn—
"The Lord is risen!"

AN INVITATION AND THE RESULT.

When one is invited by the editor of a well-conducted and widely-read newspaper like the *Evening Telegram* to write an article on "Easter in Prison and Elsewhere" he naturally begins at once to realize the importance of the position in which the invitation places him. First, of course, he questions himself as to the nature and extent of the data available for such an undertaking and, secondly, the best way to utilize that data, so as to make the story as interesting as possible for all classes of his readers. Having satisfied himself on these two most essential points, he then proceeds with the task in hand. In this instance, however, I am not going to confine myself to "Easter in Prison" or anywhere else in particular. I intend to give myself a free hand and deal with various aspects of the subject.

THE MOST ANCIENT CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL.

How many, I wonder, realize that Easter is even older than Christmas and is the most ancient festival observed by the Christian world? All the same, it is perfectly correct. As far back as we can trace it, Easter was the celebration of a pagan faith, a worship of the Dawn. The very word is the name of a Germanic Dawn-Goddess, Eostre, symbol of the East, the Sunrise, the Spring. In the dark German forests and along the frozen marshes by the northern seas, men and women of our blood worshipped Eostre long before the idea of migration swept them to the island of Britain. Through the long winter nights, as we do know, they waited and hoped for the coming of warmth and sunlight and the sight of green earth once more.

SPECIALLY INTERESTING CUSTOMS AND BELIEFS.

Of course there are many ancient customs and beliefs which are especially interesting. One of the oldest customs is that still found in some parts of Greece in the higher institutions of learning. This is claimed to have been started in the days of the Apostles, and consists of reading a certain passage in the Gospel of St. John in more than twenty different tongues, French, Italian, English, German and in the Balkan languages; and the people for miles around crowd to the institutions to hear this go on.

HOW SOME COUNTRIES USHER IN EASTER.

Even now, in some countries, especially in mountainous districts, it is the custom to usher in Easter with the pealing of bells. Not only do they usher in the day, but they also keep the peals echoing all day long. It is the children, in many instances, who do this ringing, and they believe in having a purpose in what they do. For example, the first hour is for the resurrection; then there is a period of "ringing for the blossoming of the flowers." In older days many "gits" were made and as many kindnesses as possible were done on Easter Day. The poor were fed bountifully and made happy, and many prisoners were freed that they might go home and join their families.

EASTER SUNDAY AT THE PENITENTIARY.

Speaking of the release of prisoners reminds me that I am expected to say

something in this article about what happens in prison here on Easter Day. There is, as a matter of fact, very little of general interest to relate in this immediate connection, but there is much to be said indirectly. Easter at the Penitentiary is not, as a rule, characterized by any unusual proceedings or services. On Easter Sunday morning—as on that of every other Sunday except the first in each month—the Roman Catholic inmates, male and female, are assembled in their respective wards for religious instruction by the Ladies of the Mercy Convent. At 2 p.m. the Church of England chaplain conducts a service specially adapted to the occasion, and at 3 the Methodist chaplain officiates. This pretty well occupies the time till 4 o'clock, when the prisoners are sent back to their rooms, where they remain till tea hour, after which they are locked up for the night.

THE BEST BLEND OF HUMANITY IN THE WORLD.

The general conduct of the inmates of this institution is decidedly good. This I attribute to three causes. First, to the fact that nearly all the convicts are natives of the colony and the descendants of English, Irish and Scotch—the best blend of humanity in the world; secondly, to the fact and efficiency of the officials; and thirdly, to the social element recently infused into our prison life. No feeling of treachery or vindictiveness manifests itself here, not even by the worst class of criminals we get.

INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The influence of social conditions upon the life of the individual are so various and complex that an exact analysis of their precise nature and extent is impossible; but for the purposes of this article those conditions may be divided into three general classifications, namely: political, economic and moral. Most obvious among crime-breeding political conditions is that state of political apathy or civic stagnation wherein multitudes of the middle classes become neglectful of their civic obligations. When right-minded persons cease to exert their influence in the public life of the community the worst elements of citizenship rapidly gain control, and the public offices are prostituted to the purposes of personal aggrandizement.

AN EARLY AND AN INEVITABLE RESULT.

It is true then that men lose respect for their public officials, and disrespect of the official functions and the laws which they represent is both an early and an inevitable result. These conditions, when allowed to remain unchecked, ultimately spread through all ranks of society, until the community is honey-combed with the corruption that flowers in its public representatives. Such a state of society not only offers no incentive to honesty, but it places a positive premium upon vice. Out of such unclean political conditions others flow as from a fountain. Opinions which engender a contempt for the rights of property naturally arise.

THE DOCTRINE OF ROB ROY.

The spectacle afforded of men grown rich through privileges filched from the community does not inspire a lofty regard for the paramount sacredness of property rights in general, and those who do not think correctly become easy converts to the doctrine of Rob Roy, that

"They should take who hath the power,
And they should keep who can!"
Improper administration of crim-



Give It to Them—

This trial tube—watch their teeth improve

If you prefer, let your children make this test. Let them brush their teeth a few days in this modern way. Then look and see what film removal means. This is a way to whiter, cleaner, safer teeth. Millions now employ it. Leading dentists everywhere advise it. Let someone in your home this week show the benefits it brings.

Why teeth look dingy

Your teeth are coated with a viscous film. You can feel it with your tongue. It clings to teeth, gets between the teeth and stays. It dims and may ruin teeth.

Ordinary tooth pastes do not effectively combat it. So film-coats have been almost universal.

Film absorbs stains, making the teeth look dingy. Film is the basis of tartar. It holds food substance which ferments and forms acids. It holds the acids in contact with the teeth to cause decay. Germs breed by millions in it. They

with tartar, are the chief cause of pyorrhea. Thus most tooth troubles are now traced to film, and, despite the tooth brush, they have constantly increased.

Must remove it daily

Dental science has long been seeking a daily film combatant. Now two effective methods have been found. Authorities have proved them by many careful tests.

A new-day tooth paste has been perfected, to comply with modern requirements. And these two film combatants are embodied in it. The name of the tooth paste is Pepsodent.

Millions of people of some far races now employ it daily, largely for dental advice.

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—By Bud Fisher.



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