

The Festival of the Annunciation commemorates the promise of the coming of the Saviour, but a still greater event is celebrated this year in the same month, for Easter falls on the 31st of March. This festival of the Resurrection of Christ has been kept as the crowning feast of the year since very early ages. It is spoken of by ancient writers as "the most holy Feast," "the Great Day," "the Feast of Feasts," "the Queen of Festivals." The name Easter was in use as far back as the sixth century, and the Venerable Bede, the historian of the church in Britain, says that it is derived from the name of a pagan goddess, Eostre, or Ostera, whose festival came in the spring. Later writers say the name comes from a word meaning to arise. In old-English calendars Easter is called "the Again-rising of our Lord." Among Eastern Christians it is popularly called "the Bright Day."

This name connects it with the idea of sunrise, and of the Sun of Righteousness rising from the darkness of the grave. The French name for Easter, *Paques*, is derived evidently through the Latin *pascha* from the Hebrew name of the Pass-over festival, and Easter eggs are called "pasque" eggs in some parts of England.

Easter may fall upon any day from March 22nd to April 25th, inclusive. Its date is determined as follows: Easter Day is the first Sunday after the fourteenth day of the calendar moon which happens on or after the 21st of March.

Most of the popular customs connected with Easter tide, such as the sending of flowers and of eggs, rising to see the Easter sun dance, the wearing of new clothes, are typical of the release from bondage, the coming from darkness to light, the beginning of a new life—all that the Resurrection of Christ means to Christians. Flowers are the most obvious symbols of the Resurrection, and lilies especially stand for purity. The sending of eggs, often coloured, is one of the most wide-spread customs of the season among Christian nations.

A prayer to be said before eating eggs, and belonging to the early part of the seventeenth century runs thus:

"Bless, oh Lord, we beseech Thee, this thy creature of eggs, that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating it in thankfulness to Thee, on account of the Resurrection of our Lord." Originally, Easter eggs were coloured red, the colour of blood, in commemoration of our Lord's death and passion.

Another favorite symbol of the rising from the

grave is the butterfly, and the connection of ideas here is quite plain. Not so in the case of the hare, which appears so commonly upon Easter cards, and in different forms in the shop windows. This symbol seems to have been borrowed from Germany, but no perfectly satisfactory explanation of it is to be found. The Easter hare is supposed in German superstition to lay eggs, and to bring coloured eggs to good children on Easter morning.

Rockefeller's \$43,000,000.

One can get no idea of what \$43,000,000 means, but this is the amount set apart by John D. Rockefeller for the benefit of higher institutions of learning in the United States. Presumably each donation will mean the giving of more than as much more by other men and women of large wealth, so that \$100,000,000 will go to these institutions. It is said that the \$43,000,000 are so invested as to give an annual income of about \$6,000,000. This would mean the giving of \$100,000 a year to sixty different colleges. What a thought!—*N. E. Journal of Education*.

May we not look at it from another point of view. If the income were applied to creating or assisting teachers' pension funds, it would mean the giving of \$100,000 a year for that purpose to every state of the United States, and to every province of Canada. This would be a beginning at the right end. It is not that too much money is given to colleges, but that too little is given to improve the conditions of elementary schools and teachers. In Canada Sir William Macdonald has shown how wealth may be devoted wisely to raise the status of country schools and teachers, as well as to benefit colleges.

Says the University of New Brunswick *Monthly*: "What will our authorities do for the maintenance of the chair of chemistry? . . . Through the generosity of Sir William McDonald, and the goodwill of Dr. Brittain, we have enjoyed for more than two years a course in chemistry that has been thoroughly up-to-date. . . . We cannot speak too highly of the work of Dr. Brittain. His ability as a teacher, his range of knowledge of the subject, and the energy he has displayed mark him as the man we want. We undergraduates say that he is the kind of a professor that U. N. B. cannot afford to lose. No course has become more popular than this one, no lectures more eagerly listened to, and no laboratory work less laborious and more successfully conducted. No arrangement short of maintaining the present high standard will be welcomed by the student body."

Students are apt to be pretty good judges in matters of this kind, and in their estimate of the work of Dr. Brittain the REVIEW heartily agrees.