

THE ACCURSED EASTER EGG.

An Ancient Belief Which Was Confidently Held.

Angels From Heaven Would Supply With Eggs the Homes of the Worthy and Faithful.

Several centuries ago it was generally believed that on Easter morning, at the sound of sweet bells chiming through the sunlit air, fair angels with azure wings descended from heaven, bearing baskets of eggs, which they placed in the homes of faithful and worthy persons.

Sometimes, however, the evil one slipped into the basket an accursed egg, which could not be distinguished from the others.

Such a one forms the story of an ancient legend of France:

There lived in a village a widow, with a dear and beautiful daughter, named Jeanne, who was beloved for her many virtues by both rich and poor. She used to visit the hovels of the unfortunate and the sick, to relieve their troubles and care for their distresses, for which she received their blessings and devotion.

One Easter morning, when returning from early mass, Jeanne met an old beggar woman, who asked for alms.

Jeanne gave her what she had, and the stranger peered through her ragged hood at the pretty young girl, saying:

"Beautiful damsel, do not disdain the gift of a poor beggar. Take this egg, and before this day 12 months a young and handsome nobleman will ask for you in marriage. You will become a great lady. On your wedding day I command you to break this egg. It contains a nuptial present."

Not far from this village rose the turrets of an old castle, which had long remained untenanted, but within this year a young knight arrived at its gates, proclaimed himself heir to the estate, and returned its bare and shabby rooms.

The lord of the castle chanced one day to see Jeanne, and, dazzled by her beauty, sought her mother, saying that Sir Robert de Volpac asked for her hand in marriage.

The day was arranged for the wedding, which was celebrated in the chapel of the castle in the presence of the bridegroom's aristocratic friends.

When the feast was ended and all the guests had departed, the bells of the tower tolled out the 12 booming strokes of midnight.

The bride and bridegroom went to their beautiful room, and Jeanne, taking her arm from that of her husband, walked over to a carved oak chest and brought out a casket which she had ordered to be placed there.

Her husband watched her movements with great curiosity, and when she said:

"My dear lord, I have promised to break this egg on my wedding day," and told him its history, he begged her to wait until morning.

Jeanne, however, would not listen to his entreaty, and lifted the egg from its place. It was burning hot. With a cry she let it fall, and it broke.

An enormous toad leaped out of the broken shell, vomiting flames, which set fire to the curtains, and the wicked tongues of fire soon spread from wall to wall, until the whole castle was enveloped.

The next day there was nothing left but a heap of ashes, for the entire castle burned, and all its inmates perished, through the gift of that fatal Easter egg from the hands of an evil spirit.—Boston Globe.

The Self-Made Man.

Notwithstanding the self-made man does not reflect unadulterated credit upon his maker, he is himself fully convinced that he is the perfect article.

Even if, as may sometimes be the case, he is conscious of a few imperfections, he refers them to his parents, who were responsible for the man in the rough, so to speak, before he began to mold himself into the ideal creature that you now behold and therefore not chargeable to his account.

It is a constant wonder to him that others with no worse material than he had to found himself upon should have turned out such inferior pieces of work, and it is natural, therefore, that he should condemn the droves of failures that he sees about him.

But happily for him he only observes others sufficiently to exalt his own greatness by comparison. His best hold and his strong suit is introspection. By looking within he has ever before his mental vision an object that swells

his bosom with pride to look upon, and he makes the most of the show, which, being a continuous performance, keeps him ever busy and always supremely happy.

To others he may seem a sublime egotist and a conceited ass, but what is that to him? How are these underlings either to recognize or appreciate grandeur which it is impossible to conceive or to understand?

So he goes through the world worshipping his creator incensed in an armor of self-sufficiency which is impervious to the slings and arrows of the cynical or the contemptuous.

If he could see himself as others see him, he might discover many shortcomings and possibly some glaring defects, but he has no use for other's eyes. His own are good enough for his purpose, which is to admire his own handiwork.

He is a continual satisfaction to himself and is happy, and to others he is not without its use. He gives them something to laugh at and some thing, besides, to avoid copying. In fact, who knows how much worse the world would be and how less amusing were it not for the self-made man?

So, on the whole, we owe the self-made man a great debt for his workmanship, and therefore let us thank him for his achievement.—Boston Transcript.

PERSONALITIES.

M. Isopy, Lamartine's barber, is still alive in France at the age of 92.

Bird S. Coler, comptroller of New York city, is a prominent worker in a Methodist Episcopal Sunday school.

George Gould is said to be, with his sister Helen, the most democratic members of his family, a thing which is considerably shocked the Castellanes.

John Percival Smith is the smallest man in the United States army. He is stationed at Columbus, O., is five feet in height and weighs 108 pounds.

President Steyn of the Orange Free State first met Miss Frazer, who became his wife, on board ship when she was 12 years old, and their romance began at that time.

The little daughter of Harry and Alice Havey, Charlotte Genevieve, of Franklin, Me., could boast of five living grandmothers among her ancestry if her infant lips could frame the words.

Casimir Zaleski, who died in Warsaw the other day, was the oldest lawyer and newspaper editor in Poland. He was also noted for receiving the largest fee ever given a Polish lawyer—150,000 rubles.

Rev. Dr. W. R. Richard of Plainfield, N. J., was married recently. When the bride cut the cake, she found in the bottom of it a bag containing \$1500, which had been contributed by the parishioners.

Embassador Choate was recently asked by a distinguished English nobleman, "To what station in your country does Mr. Vanderbilt belong?" He answered, "To the Grand Central station, New York."

Miss Annie Peck, the woman mountain climber, wears in her trips above the clouds a man's suit of duck canvas, with leggings of the same material and stout boots of the regulation mountaineer description.

Lord Dupdonald, one of the heroes of the Acton Homes fight in South Africa, has a curious notion that a military peer should never take part in the debates of the house of lords while holding the queen's commission, and he never broke his rule.

Sir William Walrond, the chief "whip" of the present British ministry, has as his chief duty to watch the attendance of the house of commons so as to know whether, if a division comes, he will have enough men to give the government a majority.

Thomas Yates of Toledo, is the only American citizen who took part in the famous charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava. He was in the Seventeenth lanciers and maintained that the charge was ordered out of Lord Lucan's insane jealousy of Lord Cardigan.

Henry Frick, whose suit against Andrew Carnegie is attracting much attention, is of Swiss descent. His father was a Swiss farmer, who lived in Westmoreland county, Pa. His mother was a German, a daughter of Abraham Oberholt, once a well known Pennsylvania distiller.

Gleanings.

A common sight in Cape Colony is a herd of ostriches accompanying a railway train as it speeds on its way.

A New Yorker who was in Kimberley recently was cured of homesickness by a familiar sight, nothing else than an old Broadway horse car, still bearing the legend, "Battery to Central Park."

A young man who was struck by lightning in Berlin a few weeks ago remained unconscious a long time, but shouted in his delirium that he was in hell and begged to have the devil taken away.

Thomas H. Gilbert, jr., of Orono, Me., lately cut in Onawa a pine tree that contained 3200 feet and is claimed to be the largest pine or tree of any kind ever cut for lumber on record in the New England states.

A new method of preserving telegraph poles is to surround the portion in the ground with an earthenware pipe like a drainpipe. Into the space between the pole and the pipe is poured a mixture of sand and resin.

There are well known families in Devonshire, England, the Carews and

the Careys, and it is said that the members of the Carew family pronounce the name "Care;" while the Careys call themselves Carew.

The Wounded in War.

Army doctors look out for good news even more eagerly than the general in command of the forces, for they know that it makes the difference between life and death to many of their patients. Nothing hinders the recovery of the wounded so much as depression of spirits and anxiety. And when they hear that things are going badly at the front many of them who are on the turning point grow worse and die.

On the other hand, the news of a great victory will pull a man out of the jaws of death. This fact was very noticeable when both British and French wounded were congregated at Antwerp during the Waterloo campaign. When news of Napoleon's complete defeat reached the hospital, the French began to die at about twice the rate of the British troops.—London Globe.

Chinese Criminal Law.

Hsiu is guilty of hushing up for money the murder of one of his sons. Another son brought the case to light, and it was held that the father might benefit and be excused, while the son, on the other hand, was sentenced to 1000 blows and three years' transportation for denouncing his brother's murderer, because in doing so he had brought his father into danger of the law.

A father who buried his son alive was let off because the boy abused him, and it is quite permissible for a father to strangle his daughter if she misbehaves.—Notes on Chinese Law by E. Alabaster.

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Grand Charity Ball at Palace Grand, May 24. c23

Same old price, 25 cents, for drinks at the Regina.

Best Canadian rye at the Regina.

Notice.

H. J. Miller, call at Nugget office; important. p21

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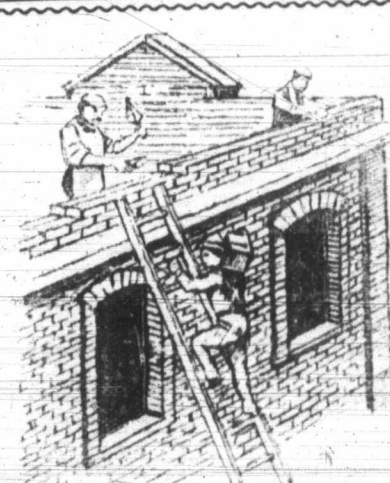
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