

The Dawn of Tomorrow

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Old Easter

Observances

Easter is the greatest festival of the Christian Church, because the resurrection of Christ therein commemorated implies the restoration of life to the world which sin has ruined, whilst it is faith in the Resurrection which has converted so much of the world to Christ.

"If Christ be not risen," declares Paul in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, "then is our preaching vain and your faith is also vain. But Christ is risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterwards they that are Christ's at His coming."

The First Easter Day

The date of Easter Day is fixed by what is called the "calendar moon," and it cannot fall earlier than March 22, or later than April 25. It is the opinion of many Biblical authorities that the first Easter Day fell on April 17. If that computation be correct, we are this year commemorating the festival somewhere near the actual date.

From Britain's Early Records

The name Easter, according to "The Venerable Bede," whose historical works cover a wide range and are invaluable in the outline they give of the early records of Britain, is derived from Eostre, a Saxon goddess, whose festival was observed in the spring; but it is quite possible that it originates from the Saxon verb, "oster," which signifies "to rise." Of course, it is comparatively easy for our Christian forefathers to imbue the "Festival of Eostre" with a sacred significance—joy at the awakening of nature from the dead of winter readily lending itself to translation into joy at the Resurrection of our Lord from the tomb.

Seemingly Dead, Yet Alive

One of the most popular observances associated with the festival is the honor paid to the homely egg at Eastertide, as an emblem of the resurrection — "that which is seemingly dead being yet alive."

In olden times eggs were strictly forbidden as food during Lent, but they were invariably brought to the breakfast table on Easter morning, colored red to symbolize the joy at the Resurrection.

In the days before the Reformation they were solemnly blessed in the churches with the following prayer: "Bless, O God, 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."

It is interesting to note in this prayer the use of the word "creature," in its original and literal sense.

MOTHER'S FAITH IN HODGES REASON FOR SUCCESS

CHICAGO, Ill. — A mother's respect for her 14-year-old son's judgment and her belief that he would some day be an outstanding musician is the reason why Johnny Hodges is one of the present day great saxophonists, so writes Johnny in the April issue of TAN.

When Johnny was 14 he had been taking piano lessons for two years. He loved music but was bored with the piano and naturally, was not making progress with the instrument. He pleaded with his mother so long and hard until she realized that he was sincere. After shopping around for a few days she found a brass sax that suited Johnny's fancy and bought it for \$65. He took to it like a duck takes to water and from the very beginning he and his sax were inseparable. His mother proudly told friends that her son would soon be a great musician.

Within six months she twice allowed him to trade in his sax for more expensive ones.

Within a year her faith in Johnny paid off. He was being billed around Boston as the "Boy Wonder" sax player. Backstage he could always depend upon her beaming face to give him support. By the time he was 17, his mother figured that he had enough sense to take care of himself and allowed him to go to New England for the summer.

Later, with mother's blessing, he went to New York where he landed a spot in Chick Webb's outfit and then to Duke Ellington's band where he remained for 23 years.

A few years ago he decided to form his own band. Mother was there to give her moral support. Today she lives with Johnny, his wife and children without the slightest in-law conflict, and it makes him "real proud" to hear her boast to her grandchildren: "Now when my Johnny was a little boy . . ."

"Without her patience and understanding I realize that I would never be where I am today. I'm most thankful for having the kind of mother that Katie Hodges was and is," he writes almost prayerfully in TAN.

JACKIE ROBINSON CENSURED FOR COCKINESS AND FALSE HUMILITY

New York, March 10 — Jackie Robinson, whose life story was published in Look Magazine last month, was criticized sharply by a Negro minister of his own faith today.

The Rev. Delaney Smith of Owensboro, Kentucky, disputed Jackie's claim that "he is bored because he was the first Negro to crack the color line in organized baseball," in a letter to the editor published in the current issue of Look Magazine.

The Rev. Dr. Smith accused Robinson of becoming "cocky and smart" after his position in the majors became reasonably secure.

"That is the real reason for Jackie's public disfavor and poor press copy," Dr. Smith said.

"Other Negro players have shown their ire without incurring the wrath of the fans," he concluded.

EASTER GREETINGS



Lenten Reflections

Special resources for the summer from a distance and thus have the to come, — this is nature's motto every year. Winter by winter trees and every form of vegetation fill trunk and branch with sap, so that foliage may be bright and abundant; so that blossoms shall be rich in perfume and beget fruit in perfection. Up in the mountains snow is secreted in every nook and crevice.

Then when the spring-time sun shines out in its strength, there are fountains high above the plains to gladden every valley with refreshing stream; our cities have their unfailing supply of water for lawn and household needs; autumn fields stand so thick with corn that they laugh and sing.

Why should not man have a replenishing time like this for his true usefulness on earth? He needs it, as we all must know. The Church as a good Spiritual Mother provides for this necessity of the spirit. She bids us come apart each Lententide from worldly distractions, as much as possible, and get near the Good Master. Like vegetation in winter we all should store up vigor of soul, that our living be nobler and more useful to the world.

The world's great painters and sculptors, so it is said of them, attain no success, unless from time to time they get away from their studios, look at their artistic ideals

from a distance and thus have the calmness, the corrected vision of life, and the renewed vigor their work demands. It is just the same with us all in the characters we are carving out for ourselves in the workshop of human life. Would we not amend many an error of thought and action; would we not bring out many a trait in us a little more strongly and gracefully, if only we would draw high each Lententide to the Great Exemplar, and get ore of His grace and spiritual beauty in our souls? Then how differently many things would look to us! How better would be our heart's ideal! And how grander would be the fabric we should all strive to create of ourselves!

"I was afraid and went away and hid thy talent in the earth." —Matt. 25: 25.

Our Lord's story of the talents is still pertinent. How easily we deceive ourselves in thinking what great things we would do if we possessed the larger abilities of our more favored friends. "If I had had his money . . . If I had his knowledge and experience . . . If I had the opportunity he has" . . . Let each one fill out the long list of things that would be accomplished if he possessed the talents of some one else. Our influence may be small,

Negro Rights

Leader Dies

New York, March 22 —(AP) — Walter White, ardent champion of Negro rights, died yesterday after a life of devotion to improving the lot of American Negroes. He was 61.

White's career was climaxed by the United States Supreme Court's ban against segregation in public schools last year. He had been a determined fighter against segregation and despite ill health had been in the front ranks of those pressing the suit that finally resulted in the Supreme Court ruling.

Since 1931 White had been executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. White himself was fair-skinned, blonde and blue-eyed. He was not recognizable as a Negro but insisted that he was one.

He tackled Negro problems with vast energy and became a bitter and caustic foe of white supremacy. Governor Herman Talmadge of Georgia denounced him as a "professional agitator."

Our opportunity limited, our resources not great, but are we using the talents we DO possess? People say they would teach in the Church school if they knew enough. One wonders. Others suggest how generous they would be if they possessed the larger wealth of some of their friends. One wonders again. Who of us can be sure what he would do if he were someone else?

The world is suffering today from the cowardice of one-talented people who are afraid to use such gifts as they do possess. Not possessing brilliance, they depreciate what plain faithful mediocrity can do. Let us unearth our buried talents during these six weeks and let our "light shine before men."

What a wider appreciation of life we always get from the work we do! It is when the mechanic is busy with his tools that he sees how his work can be done in better ways. This is the secret of nearly all the useful inventions of the ages. Activity opens up a whole vista of thought before one. Through his experiments in his laboratory Edison saw visions of how the weird power of electricity could be put to practical devices and work soon made the vision a reality.

Precisely the same is it in the realm of religious advancement. — When we are doing good works, we see other deeds of beneficence still before us. When we stop to appreciate what service others are rendering to the world, we have an enlarged vision of what good deeds really are, and we are spurred on to nobler effort ourselves.

A Lent spent in striving for a broadened charity and a broadened view of life cannot fail to be a blessing to our own souls; nor can it fail to be a season which the world will hail with delight.