

FISHIN'

Don't ye talk to me of work!
I'm just join' fishin'.
Where the speckled beauties lurk.
Round the pools a-swishin'.
Ne'er a thought have I of care,
Sittin' on a green bank there,
Drinkin' in the soft June air,
Void of all ambition!

I don't care much what I ketch.
Long as I am anglin'.
What I carry, what I fetch,
On my string a-danglin'.
Makes no difference to me—
Some or none, whichever it be—
While I'm off there wholly free
From all scenes of wranglin'.

Fishin' ain't jest ketchin' fish
In a pond or river—
Though a fresh trout on a dish
Makes ye sort o' shiver—
Fishin's settin' on some spot
Where it's neither cold nor hot,
Without thinkin' on your lot—
Fortune, love or liver.

Fishin's gettin' far away
From all noise an' flurry;
Gettin' off where you can play
Nobin's in a hurry.

There to sorter loaf, and set,
Blind to all the things that fret;
And forgettin' all regret,
Quarrels, cares and worry.

Yessir—I'll give up ambition,
And for fame and fortune wishin',
Any day to go a-fishin'!

—John Kendrick Bangs, in Harper's Weekly.

Easter is Older than Christianity.

Easter is much older than Christianity. The very name by which we know the day is identical with that of the ancient Saxon goddess of spring, Easter or Eostre. The Anglo-Saxon name for April is Easter month. Taking advantage of the coincidence of the Christian festival in point of time with that of the yearly feast in honor of the Saxon goddess, the early missionaries gave a Christian meaning to the observance of the day, but it has ever retained its ancient name. Easter was at one time called the Christian passover, because the Jewish passover occurs about the same date, and the early converts from Judaism celebrated Easter and the passover as one festival.

"The primitive Christians," we are told, "when they met on this day saluted each other with the words, 'Christ is arisen,' to which answer was made, 'Christ is arisen, indeed, and hath appeared unto Simon.'" This custom is still observed in the Greek church.

"Indeed," to quote a foreign writer, "all the ceremonies attending the observance of Easter were at first exceedingly simple, but in the early part of the fourth century a decided change was brought about.

"Constantine, naturally vain and fond of parade, signalized his love of display by celebrating this festival with extraordinary pomp. Vigils or night watches were instituted on Easter eve, at which people remained in the churches until midnight. The tapers, which it was customary to burn at this time, did not satisfy his majesty, but huge pillars of wax were used instead, and not only in the churches, but all over the city, were they placed so that their brilliancy at night should rival the light of day.

"Easter Sunday was observed with most elaborate ceremonies, the Pope officiating at mass, with every imposing accessory that could be devised."

Not kneeling in token of humility, but standing erect with arms outstretched and faces looking to heaven to express triumphant peace, the early Christians prayed during the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost, and no songs but those of joy and gratitude were heard. Between Easter and Pentecost the time was considered the most auspicious in the whole year for lovenaking and marriages, and those two holy days were the best on which to baptize children.

Of all the Easter customs, that of coloring and making presents of eggs seems the only distinctive one that has found a place in our time and country.

Some Gifts for Easter.

Easter tide each succeeding year becomes more and more a season of gift-giving and good cheer; indeed, there can be no better opportunity for exchanging tokens of affection and remembrance than at the great feast of the Resurrection, so in harmony with the opening of spring.

The well and strong should not forget the weariness and monotony in the lives of the shut-in invalid. I should like to tell you of a charming Easter gift that a thoughtful woman originated for the amusement of an invalid friend.

It was an "Easter gift-bag." It was daintily made of strong blue denim, with the initials of the friend embroidered in white on one side, while on the other side a graceful spray of Easter lilies was embroidered; the bag was finished by a draw ribbon and bow, and was filled with gifts and letters from friends in many States, each gift being daintily wrapped and marked with the giver's name.

The packages were tied with narrow ribbons of different colors; each one, with a bow attached, was left hanging from the bag. Gifts suitable for special days, such as the recipient's birthday and the several holidays, had tiny cards attached to the ribbons.

A letter sent with the bag contained a list of rules for drawing the packages. All white ribbons were to be drawn one by one on Sunday mornings through the year, beginning with the one marked for Easter. One card attached to a rose-pink ribbon was marked:

"Draw me when you feel unusually depressed"; attached to this ribbon was a letter full of cheer and nonsense from a lively friend. Another card, fastened to a sunshine-tinted ribbon read: "When you feel as though you would never smile again pull me out"; attached to this ribbon was an envelope full of bright and witty anecdotes.

One envelope contained pictures of foreign lands and bits of interesting experiences of travel. It seemed to the invalid that the gifts contained in that wonderful and seemingly elastic bag were never-ending. It cheered her monotonous hours more than any other pleasure that had ever come to her, and she felt that although shut in she was not forgotten by the outside world.—Ladies Home Journal.

FROM INDIA.

By One on Medical Duty in that Far Eastern Country. A Treasure Hunt at the Commissioner's Home. Queer Customs Among Patients. Plenty of Babies, Etc.

JHANSI, MARCH 6th, 1913.

Dear Home Folk:

A group of native "coolie" women have just gone past draped in red and bearing on their heads great baskets of dried manure. I judge they are on their way to the servant's quarters and Sunday is just as good as any other day to sell their wares. Curiously enough these women seem incomplete—the inevitable baby is lacking. Some one remarked the other day that one never sees an Indian woman without a baby. We have come to the conclusion here that when our nurses become careless we are going to marry them, as it is the only cure for their trouble; they need babies to make them realize the importance of living and taking responsibility.

We have two visitors here just now, Miss D., who is taking a rest, and Miss S., who came out last year but whose health has failed and she is already ordered home and will leave on Wednesday for Bombay, to sail Saturday for New York. She did not like India and so I guess will be much happier back at her own home. It seems rather bad that she did not make up her mind to stay at home before she started.

I must tell you about the "Treasure Hunt" to which the Commissioner's wife invited us last week. Could you have seen Miss McL., the trained nurse and "yours truly," you would sure have thought "indeed all men are mad" and the care of Indian "logue" the last thing to be considered. All the inhabitants of this station were invited and the "at home" was held in a very beautiful natural garden. The hostess, having gotten us there in all our finery, started us off in couples, with a list of directions to find various treasures. You know this country is "jungly" but you perhaps don't remember that there are various meanings to that word. In this section it means country "that's no good for nothing," covered with low thorny bushes and spear-grass, that would make even a saint feel like swearing. It was through such a place that, in the enthusiasm of getting something for nothing, one hundred and fifty human idiots raced like lost souls, gibbering over supposed clues like our prototype, the ape, never seeming to see the torn frock, cut shoe, and battered leg calf, until having demonstrated our right to be called foolish, we straggled back to the starting place and rejoiced over the few who had come out victors. She, who won second prize, a poor girl in worldly goods, tore a new shoe so badly as to make it impossible for future use, received a silver purse. One can carry a silver purse so nicely while walking bare-foot. But we did have a good time.

This is two days later and I am alone, the rest of the household being away for the day. It seems strange but I rather like it. You should have seen my dinner tonight; I had soup, poached egg on toast, cabbage with mayonnaise dressing, jam tarts, salted peanuts and fudge. Did you ever hear of such a jumble? I wanted the first three things and did not care what came afterward, so the cook finished it up.

Another touch of human nature came to light today. One of my patients is a tiny boy and I am not sure that he is going to live, so his father is allowed to stay with him constantly, as well as his mother. There is a young woman in one of the other wards who decided she would have her (as we supposed) husband, visit her at any and all times and when we scolded she said "if one can have it why not both?" She is not at all sick but is waiting for a minor operation. Well, I talked and explained and she got madder and madder, so finally I said, "tell your husband I want to see him." Then she began to quiet down and when I insisted, confessed that her husband was not in Jhansi just now and upon being pressed to know who the man was who was calling upon her, I learned he was a brother-in-law.

I have just been sent for to go to the hospital and strange as it may seem, this time it was an insane woman, and as we have no accommodations for such patients there was nothing to do but wait until her friends could be sent for and she gotten away, so that it was midnight when I got back home. Somehow, although I do not believe she was really insane, these Indian women have absolutely no self-control nor reasoning powers and when they dislike anything, instead of saying so, they simply start to scream and throw themselves about in the most violent manner. This woman was beating her head against the bed-rail and pulling at her mouth, and dragging at her hair until I had to chloroform her to keep her quiet. If education helps them to become easier to deal with, I hope it will be given them very soon.

The warm weather is still with us and could you be here you would surely enjoy every minute. The hollyhocks and nasturtiums are running a race to see which will win in brilliancy and size of flowers, and all the other common garden flowers are there looking on. If only the gardeners were of any use what a splendid result you would have. The trees that lost their leaves such a short time ago are beginning to bud, just as those at home do, but I think I miss the true spring-time, when after a long bare winter season we have the pleasure of seeing everything start afresh. Here trees will be bare for a short time, then begin to grow new leaves, etc., and it seems like a continual performance.

(Continued next week.)

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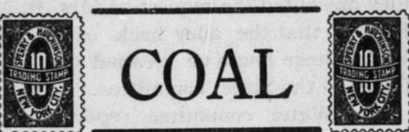
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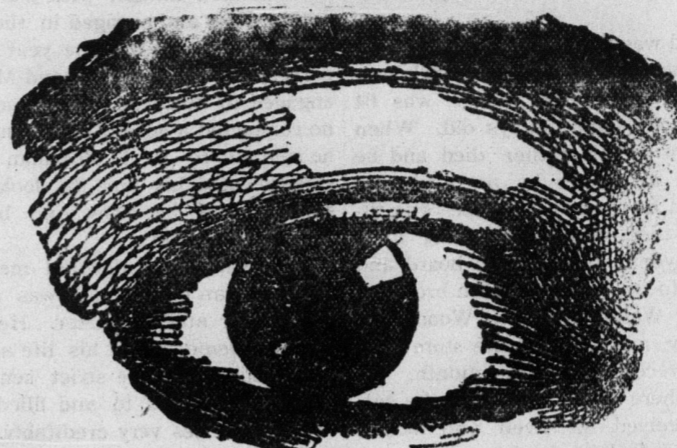
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