

LONG time ago, as Easter approached, a little white Mayflower, that had been sleeping in the woods awake, and, smiling in the spring sunlight, prayed that it might be an Easter blossom. All winter it had dreamed of this, nestling cozily down in the warm soil at the foot of a great elm. One day the Mayflower saw a company of children out in the forest picking blossoms for Easter, and it fairly trembled with eagerness to be plucked and borne away to celebrate the great day upon which the Lord arose.

"Oh! Don't you wish they would come and take us also?" it whispered to the kindly fernfrond which had bent its tall head to shelter the little white blossom from the rollicking spring winds so often. The fernfrond waved its head decidedly, and said "No."

But the Mayflower was still eager to be carried off into the world away from the woods.

"Isn't this little white Mayflower a perfect darling!" exclaimed the boy who had plucked it, offering the blossom to the girl who stood nearest. "Pin it on your coat lapel and wear it, the prettiest little thing!"

But the girl shook her head, smiling. "No, I will not wear it," she said. "These wild flowers fade and droop so very quickly unless you treat them very tenderly indeed. And this particular little flower is so beautiful and perfect that I should like it for our church-to-morrow. See! We will lay it away in this cardboard box of mine, with some cool, wet ferns beneath and

their heads eagerly to drink it all in and to praise God also with smiling faces and sweet perfume, a lady with a pale face, which she tried hard to keep bright and cheerful, came and stood beside the big bowl of wild flowers for a few moments.

"Are they not beautiful?" she asked of the minister, who stood there with her. "And do you see that dear little white Mayflower. Doesn't it seem to bring all the sweetness of the wild wood right to one? How I wish I had that one flower, to take to my sick little girl at home! I do believe she would feel better all day for having seen it."

"Take it to her," said the minister, gently, drawing the startled blossom from among its fellows; "take it to her at once, dear Mrs. Bradley. You will just about have time to go home and get back into your place before the service commences, if you hurry a little."

The pale lady walked very quickly when she had left the church, and it hardly seemed a moment before she was standing beside the bed of the little sick girl, with the Mayflower in her hand.

"Oh, motherkins, how lovely! Where did you get it? And is it for me? It must have come right straight out of the woods!" the sick child cried, joyfully.

"Hurry back to church motherkins, or you'll be late," she added presently, when the flower had been placed in a tiny crystal vase and the table supporting it drawn very near to her bedside. "I wouldn't have you miss that service for anything in the world."

When the pale lady had left the room again, the child drew the table even nearer to her bedside, and all morning the Mayflower leaned over the edge of the vase and told her beautiful stories, in the wordless language which only children and flowers and a few others know, and understand, until the little sick girl forgot to be tired or impatient of her illness. The stories were all about the woods and the trees and the ferns and the flowers.

Long before the tales were finished the child felt her eyelids growing heavy and less feverish, just as if a gentle, cool hand had been lightly laid upon them, and when the pale lady came back from the morning service, bringing a great sheaf of odorous and perfect Easter lilies with her, the Mayflower was the only one of God's children awake in the room. And even its head was beginning to droop wearily.

It only lived until sunset, that little white blossom, for Mayflowers are as fragile as lovely, and they seldom live long away from the woods and the fields. Then the pale lady kissed the dead Mayflower tenderly and took it, all brown and withered, from the table by the bed, and she laid it softly away between the leaves of her Bible.

That Easter was the turning point of the little daughter's illness, and day by day she grew stronger until she was as well as anybody. "The Mayflower cured me," she often says to her mother. So every Easter the mother brings the little Mayflower out of the Bible and places it in the sunlight, where its dry petals seem to revive and again grow fragrant and tell stories of the flowering wilderness.—Ethel Maude Colson, in the Chicago Record.

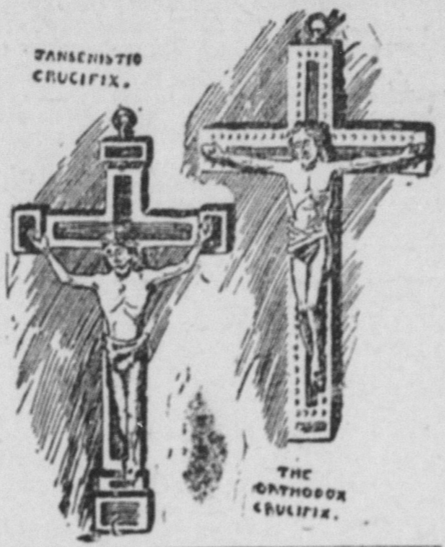
above it, and it will come out as fresh and bright as ever when we get home and are ready to take the flowers to the church."

The Mayflower was so pleased to hear that it was to help in decorating the church that it fairly trembled again with joyousness. When the box was opened late in the same afternoon, however, and it knew itself being transferred to a place near the altar, it grew very still.

Next morning, just when the sunshine was pouring in gloriously through the stained-glass windows and the organ began to send forth the softest, sweetest music imaginable, and all the wild blossoms were lifting

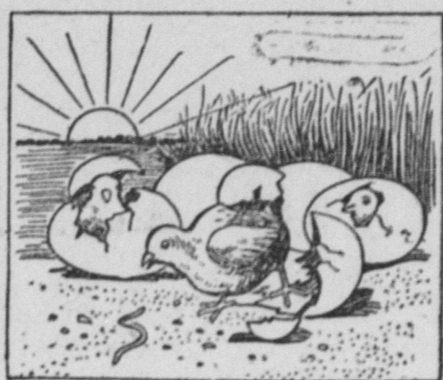


The cross is never so conspicuous in religious observance as during Holy Week. Draped in the emblems of mourning on Good Friday it is refulgent with glory and embowered with lilies on Easter morning. In the Roman Catholic world special honor is paid to the crucifix on Good Friday. The custom of venerating the cross on that day was first introduced when idolatry was overthrown. Before the crucifixion of the Divine Master the cross was regarded as a common instrument of capital punishment by the Romans. Death on the cross was considered so



dishonorable that only slaves were so executed. The crucifixion of Christ, however, led his followers to regard the cross with feelings of veneration. It finally became used as a public dec-

identified by the tablet containing an inscription in three languages, placed on it by order of Pontius Pilate. Pieces of the true cross are still extant in possession of dignitaries of the church. Of late years it has been somewhat of a fad to make collections of crucifixes, which are valued for their antique as well as historic worth. Many Episcopalians have evinced great interest in the subject. It is a great mistake to imagine every crucifix is what Catholics consider orthodox. There are three kinds—the Roman, the Jansenistic and the Pugin. The effigy of the Saviour is placed upon the cross according to the Jansenistic idea, which the Romans do not accept. The thorn-crowned head is placed below the beam of the cross and the hands extended far above it.



Suicide With Fire and Oil.

Canastota, N. Y. (Special).—William Welch and his wife, Mary, quarreled Saturday night. Sunday, after brooding over her trouble, Mrs. Welch saturated her clothing with coal oil, and going out of the house to avoid setting fire to it, applied a match to her dress. Persons going from church discovered her burned almost beyond recognition, but still conscious. They carried her to the house, but physicians could do nothing. Neighbors then gathered at the bedside and sang hymns until Mrs. Welch died.

A Life-Saving Plan.

Welch, W. Va. (Special).—After six months steady work the Norfolk and Western has about completed the big fan plant that is to furnish pure air for the deadly East End tunnel at Coaldale. The plant consists of three enormous fans, with two 200-horsepower engines to run them. The plant has cost over \$50,000 and will have to be kept in operation night and day constantly. Since the Norfolk and Western has been in operation through this section, a little less than twelve years, seven men have been asphyxiated in the East End tunnel and twice as many more have been carried out unconscious and within a few minutes of death.

Settled Their Differences.

Bristol, Tenn. (Special).—The contention between the Carter and Shields factions of the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke company and the Virginia Southwestern Railway were settled here. Cornelius Shields resigned as receiver and the appointment of Judge Archer A. Phleger as his successor was agreed upon. H. K. McHarg is retained as receiver. All the liens filed by the two sides have been withdrawn. Mr. Shields has, it is stated, accepted a position as vice-president and general manager of a large iron, coal and railroad company in Nova Scotia.

Illinois Lyncher Sentenced.

Galesburg, Ill. (Special).—Consternation prevails among those who Wednesday night led in the attempt to lynch Edward Jackson, the alleged murderer of Charles B. Rowe, because the Sheriff has sworn out a number of warrants. The first arrest was that of E. C. Gross, of Madisonville, Ohio, who during the riot, it is alleged, urged the crowd to kill the Sheriff. Gross was arraigned before Judge Post, who fined him \$100 and gave him a term of one year in the county jail. Gross has a wife and four children at Madisonville.

Woman and Child Suffocated.

New York (Special).—Fire in a large tenement house in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, caused the death of Mrs. Bessie Finkelstein, aged 26, wife of Nathan Finkelstein, and also the death of Benjamin Levy, the 5-year-old son of Moses Levy. The fatalities were caused by suffocation in the smoke which filled the building. The other tenants managed to escape with the help of the firemen and the police.

Squire M'Mullen Dead.

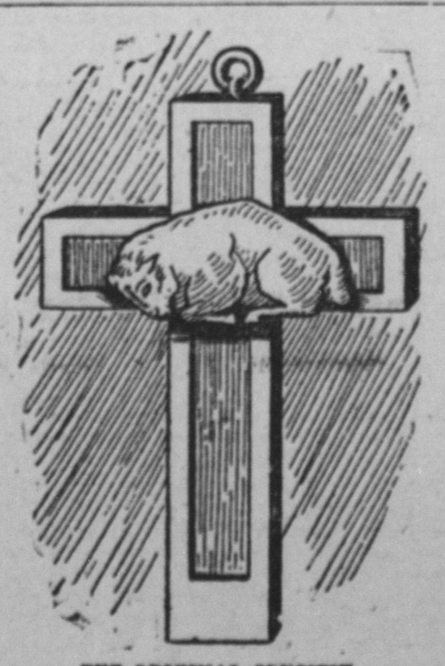
Philadelphia (Special).—William M'Mullen, better known as "Squire" M'Mullen, is dead. He was one of the most noted figures in Philadelphia politics and had been actively identified with the life and development of the city for more than half a century. He ruled the southern part of the city like an autocrat.

Sweden Adopts the Guillotine.

Stockholm, Sweden (By Cable).—The Riksdag has sanctioned guillotining instead of beheading with an ax in case of capital punishment.



oration, being introduced as such by Constantine in the third century. He placed a cross of gold and precious stones in the chief hall of his palace. The cross was used as a holy symbol long before the crucifix was introduced into the Christian world. Nearly four centuries elapsed before the



is affected by the younger and more modish sort of blacksmith, is re-enforced and padded at the knees for horseshoeing and such like work. This is an effeminacy disdained by the austere and hardy blacksmith of the old school. Though all aprons are slit up the middle to the thigh, they still continue to be sold unslit. It is because the manufacturers are not progressive. An apron costs \$1 and lasts about six months.—Philadelphia Record.

Easter Gossp.

Mrs. Hen—"He's awfully comin'! Why, his mother was a second-hand \$2.98 incubator."—Life.

RICHMOND HOTEL FIRE.

The Palatial Jefferson a Prey to the Flames.

SOUTH'S GREATEST CARAVANSARY.

The Greater Portion of the Magnificent Hotel Is in Ruins—No Lives Are Known to Have Been Lost, Although Several People Had Narrow Escapes, and the Guests Were Rescued With Difficulty.

Richmond, Va. (Special).—Richmond Friday night suffered her greatest disaster by fire since the burning of the Spotswood Hotel, on Christmas Eve, 1870. The Jefferson Hotel, the magnificent structure built and furnished by the late Lewis Ginter, at a cost of about \$1,000,000, is in ashes. No lives were lost.

The hotel was constructed of buff brick and granite foundation, and was regarded as semi-fireproof. It burned like tinder. The building covered half a block in the ultra-fashionable part of the city, fronting on West Main and Franklin streets.

The flames broke out in the upper part of the Main street side, spread with a tremendous rush, and soon that part of the building was a seething mass of fire. Alarm measures were taken to awaken and alarm the guests, and soon these were rushing through the corridors in mild confusion.

There were in the hotel many fine works of art, including in the Franklin street corner Valentine's marble statue of Jefferson.

Although the hour was late when the fire broke out, an immense crowd was attracted.

The guests who were driven out of the Main street portion and those in the Franklin street part took refuge in the lobbies of the latter, and there the scenes of distress and excitement beggared description.

Several persons were hurt by falling down stairs, etc. One man had his hip broken. No one perished in the flames.

The fire started in the linen room from a defective flue. Insurance is about \$650,000.

There was in the hotel a party from Montreal, Canada. None of these were hurt, but all lost their baggage. All the surrounding houses are filled with property taken from the hotel.

During the progress of the fire thousands of people gathered in the vicinity, and many women wept as they contemplated the work of destruction.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

General Trade Conditions.

New York (Special).—Dun's Weekly Review of Trade says: "The condition of general business is in most respects satisfactory. The dry goods trade, and particularly the cotton division, is gloomy, with further reductions in prices of staple goods this week, and demands failing to increase with the shading of quotations; but from every other department of business reports are cheerful and the outlook for a good spring retail turn-over is encouraging."

"There is little difficulty over collections in any direction and the mercantile demand for money from numerous quarters is proof of the confidence felt among manufacturers and jobbers. The labor situation is more tranquil.

"That bottom prices for wool have been reached at last is evidenced by the growing unwillingness of holders to make concessions, the greater activity of dealers and indications that purchases for speculation are of considerable volume. Transactions show a material gain at the leading markets, while shipments from Boston exceed those of preceding weeks.

It was not possible to maintain the small recovery late last week in raw cotton, and subsequent reaction established a new low record for the crop year.

"Wheat did not respond to rumors of damage, but found reason for strength in Atlantic exports, including flour in four weeks of 11,432,947 bushels against 6,678,762 in 1900.

"Failures for the week numbered 266 in the United States against 203 last year and 29 in Canada against 33 last year."

Bradstreets says: "Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week, aggregated 4,494,635 bushels, against 3,256,644 last week, and 2,962,349 in the corresponding week of 1900. Corn exports for the week aggregated 3,582,943 bushels against 2,605,084 last week, and 3,193,638 in this week a year ago."

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Baltimore.

Flour—Baltimore Best Patent... 4.75
High Grade Extra... 4.25
Cornmeal, per 100 pounds... 1.10-1.20
Hominy, per bbl... 2.60-2.70
Hominy Grits, per bbl... 2.60-2.70
Wheat—No. 2 red, 78½; steamer No. 2 red, 76½; sample lots, 70-78½. Western opened firmer; March, 77½.
Corn—Quote white nominally at 48-49, and yellow at 46-47; Cob corn, 2.40 per bbl.
Oats, white, No. 2, 32½-33½; white, No. 3, 31½-32½; white, No. 4, 30½-31½; white, ungraded, 30½-33; mixed, No. 2, 30½-32; mixed, No. 3, 29½-30; mixed, No. 4, 28½-29.
Rye—Quote: No. 2 rye in car lots, 57c, nominal; No. 3 rye, 55c; No. 2 Western rye, 58c. Bag lots, nearby, quotable at from 50-58c per bushel.
Mill Feed—\$20.50 per ton; medium, do, \$20.00.
Hay—Market quiet and about steady. No. 1 timothy, \$16.25-16.50; No. 2 timothy, \$15.75-16.00; No. 3 timothy, \$15.00-15.50; No. 1 clover, mixed, \$13.00-15.00; No. 2 clover mixed, \$15.00-14.50; No. 1 clover, \$14.00-14.50; No. 2 clover, \$12.50-13.50.
Cloverseed—New. Western clover, on spot, at 11c per lb, and choice do at 11½c.
Green Fruits and Vegetables.—Onions, per bushel, \$1.15-1.20. Cabbage, Danish, per ton, \$17.00-18.00; do, new Florida, per crate, \$1.50-1.75; do, Charleston, per crate, \$1.25-2.50. Celery, home grown, per bunch, 45c; do, Florida, per crate, \$2.25-2.50. Apples, per bbl, \$1.50-3.50. Oranges, Florida, per box, \$2.25-2.50.
Potatoes.—White, Maryland and Pennsylvania, per bushel, 45-48c; do, New York, primes, per bushel, 48-50c; do, Michigan and Ohio, per bushel, 45-48c; do, new, Bermuda, per bbl, \$4.00-5.00; do, new, Florida, per bbl, No. 1, \$4.00-5.00. Sweets, Eastern Shore, kiln dried, per bbl, \$1.00-1.25; do, Eastern Shore, kiln dried, per bbl, \$1.25-1.40.
Beans and Peas.—New York, marrow, choice hand picked, \$2.40-2.45; do do medium, do do, \$2.20-2.25; do do pea do do, \$2.15-2.25. Blackeye peas, per bushel, choice new, \$1.60.
Provisions.—The market is firm. Jobbing prices are as follows: Bulk shoulders, 8c; do short ribs, 8½c; do, clear sides, 9c; bacon rib sides, 9½c; do clear sides, 10½c; bacon shoulders, 8½c. Fat backs, 8c. Sugar cured hams, 10½c; sugar cured shoulders, 8½c. Hams—Small, 11½c; large, 11c; smoked skinned hams, 11½c; picnic hams, 8½c. Lard—Best refined, pure, in tierces, 8½c; in tubs, 9c per lb. Mess pork, per bbl, \$16.00.
Live Poultry.—Market firm. Quote: Hens, 10½-11c; old roosters, each, 25c; spring chickens, 10-12c; winter do, 2 lbs and under, 16-18c. Ducks, 10-12c. Turkeys, 10-14c. Geese, apiece, 50-65c.
Butter.—The market is steady. We quote: Creamery Separator... 22½-23
Creamery Gathered Cream... 20-21
Creamery Imitation... 18-19
Eggs.—Fresh laid eggs, 12½c.
Dressed Hogs.—Choice Western Maryland and Pennsylvania, light weights, per lb, 6½-6¾c; Southern Maryland and Virginia, per lb, 6½c. Calves—Strictly nice veal, per lb, 6a 5½c. Lambs and sheep.—Spring lambs, choice, 5½-6c per lb; poor, small stock, 5c per lb.
Philadelphia.
Wheat, firm, ½c higher; contract grade, March, 78-78½c. Corn, firm, ½c higher; No. 2 mixed, March, 47-47½c. Oats, steady; fair demand; No. 2 white, clipped, 33c. Butter, firm; fair demand; fancy Western creamery, 23½c; do prints, 22c; some lots, 23c; fancy nearby prints, 23c. Eggs, firm; good demand; fresh nearby, 13½c; do Western, 13½c; do Southwestern, 13½c; do Southern, 13c. Cheese, quiet but firm; New York full cream, fancy small, 12½c.
Live Stock.
Chicago, Ill.—Cattle—Receipts, 10,000 head, nominally steady; good to prime steers, \$5.00-6.00, fancy, up to \$6.25; poor to medium, \$3.75-4.00; stockers, and feeders, steady to firm, \$3.15-4.85; cows, \$2.70-4.40. Hogs, mixed and butchers', \$5.85-6.10.
East Liberty, Pa.—Cattle, steady; extra, \$5.50-6.50; prime, \$5.00-5.40; common, \$3.25-4.00. Hogs, steady; prime mediums and heavy hogs, \$6.25-6.50; best Yorkers, \$6.25-6.50; light do, \$6.10-6.15; pigs, \$5.00-6.00; skits, \$4.75-5.50; roughs, \$4.50-5.70. Sheep, steady; choice wethers, \$5.00-5.35.