

ancient Israel as the Passover for many centufies before the birth of Jesus Christ. It was based upon the events which took place when the Hebrews were saved from the destruction which was visited upon the Egyptians, as given in Exodus 12:27. The first Christians, being in the main Jews, continued for a long time to observe the Passover as well as other ancient ceremonies. But gradually these early followers

Eventually there arose a difference of opinion between the Christians of Hebrew descent and those of Gentile descent as to the time when these ceremonies should be celebrated. Those of Hebrew descent declared that the day of the death of Jesus should be the date of the ending of the paschal fast, which in Hebrew rites always was on the fourteenth day of the moon in the evening. Therefore the Easter festival, which followed, might fall on any day of the week. Those of Gentile descent, however, wanted the first day of the week, Sunday, to be the first day of the resurrection festival. Thus the Friday preceding would be observed as the date of the crucifixion without paying any attention to the day of the month.

ians of Jewish descent and those of Gentile descent continued. Not being able to decide the recurrence of Easter, the council of the early Christian church finally appealed to the astronomers in Alexandria, Egypt, for aid. However, the scientists were not of much assistance, for they had no lunar tables such as we now have, computed by master mathematicians. They attempted to make rules, but the variations of the full moon in reference to the year would not cause Easter to fall on Sunday any more than any other day. All wanted it to come on Sunday. so each nation celebrated to suit itself so that it would come on that day. Thus in A. D. 387 the Gauls celebrated Easter on March 21, in Italy it fell on April 18, and in Egypt it fell on April 25.

Eventually the selection of a certain Sunday was definitely fixed in the Sixth century A. D. It was designated as the Sunday between the fifteenth and twenty-first days of the moon in the first month of the Jewish lunar years. It was directed that the computation should be made according to the tables of Victorius of Acquitaine, introduced in 457 A. D. Because of the fact that Britain had ceased to be a part of the Roman empire, the Sixth century decree did not affect the British church at first, and It continued to calculate Easter on a basis previously approved at Rome. The matter was finally disposed of at a synod held at Whitby in Yorkshire in 664 A. D., after which the clergy of the British Isles conformed to the general practice of the

western church. Accordingly Easter is now observed by both the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches on the first Sunday after the full moon (or fourteenth day of the moon) on or next after March 21. So it cannot be earlier than March 22 nor later than April 25. Thus it is possible for the astronomers and mathematicians to tell in advance on what dates Easter will come each year, and they are now known for more than a century in advance. Thus, too, we know how often it is that young America will be confronted with the problem that confronts them this year-that of celebrating on the same day two occasions which are at the opposite poles in character even though they trace back to a similar origin. @ by Western Newspaper Union.

1. These youngsters aren't likely to be taking part in any April Fool pranks on Easter day. They're having fun of a different kind

2. This could be either an April Fool Joke or an Easter symbol. It would be a better Easter symbol if it looked more like an Easter lily than a calla lily. But it isn't either. It's a Hollywood star wearing a strikingly original costume, so if you think it's a real lily, the joke's on you.

3. Can rabbits lay Easter eggs and, if so, is that little bunny responsible for such a big egg? Or is it just another April Fool joke? The young lady in the picture is wondering!

4. Don't be deceived by the wise look on the face of this Easter rabbit! He's probably thinking up a joke to play on Easter day which is also April Fools' day this year.

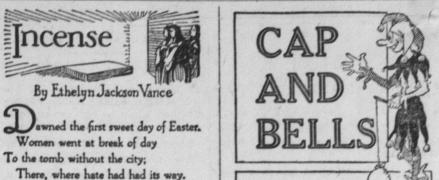
of the cross began to substitute the Christ for the paschal lamb of Israel in the Passover ceremonies.

For 325 years the difficulty between the Christ-

in 1610. It was proclaimed to enfold "all the mysteries of the Passion." The ten colored parts of the floral envelope, says Balley, to an ardent fancy represented the ten apostles present at the Crucifixion. The inner fringes became the Crown of Thorns, the five stamens the Five Wounds, or else the hammers that drove in the Three Nails (in that case represented by the three styles). The vine's colling tendrils were the cords or scourges, while the leaves, with their "fingers," might have been the hands of Christ's tormentors. That this natural manifestation of Christian belief should have been hidden in the New world's untrodden jungles astounded Europe. And not long ago even Dutch Reformed households would as soon have lacked Paas lilles

of conversion.

as passion vines at Easter.



Woman's heart by God created

First to hasten to the tomb.

For her work, a heart with room; Last to leave the foot of Calvary,

She, whom Birth has crowned its usher,

That from Death removed the sting.

Mingled sweetness breathed above, And the yearning hearts of women

Poured the fragrance of their love.

BLOSSOMS

Easter Time

HEN an old Dutch resident

declares, of an April morn-

ing, that "the Paas lilies by

the stoop are out," he is not

referring to the American

pasque flower or to Easter

liles, but to the beloved,

hardy, common daffodil, Nar-

cissus pseudo-narcissus, called also the

Lent lily. That they are not lilies,

but, like all narcissi, members of the

amaryllis family, did not concern our

gardeners, says a writer in the New

York Herald Tribune, who knew but

a score or so species of a flower that

in at least three centuries of cultiva-

tion has multiplied with such beauti-

ful confusion that even botanists do

not agree about it, while simple visi-

tors to the flower show are driven to

adopt the plan of calling daffodils, nar-

cissi and jonquils all "narcissus,"

which is right and safe if not specific.

The Modern Easter Lily.

Modern methods of cold storage

have made the best-known Paschal

flower, once truly the Bermuda Easter

lily, an all-year adornment. The Amer-

ican pasque flower is a wild anemone

which keeps to the northern central

states and is not familiar here. The

pasque flower of Europe is also an

anemone, and it is possible that the

poppy-flowered anemone of Mediter-

ranean meadows-red, blue and pur-

ple like those local florists are selling

today-was the gorgeous bloom to

which Christ pointed when he admired

"the lilles of the field." In Mexico

the poinsettia is often called flor de

Pascua. The "Easter cactus" (Schlum-

bergera) belongs to homy old kitchen

windows. But the flower most appro-

priate of all to Easter is too rarely

seen since grandma's conservatory

Braving death each life to bring,

First received the wondrous message

Flowers in that holy garden,

We of God are truly honored,

Ours of life a sacred part;

Let us on our knees accord Him

Incense of a grateful heart.

TICKLING THE PALATE

"This duck is certainly enough to tickle the palate," the boarder told his landlady. The woman beamed. "I'm very glad you like my cooking," she replied.

The boarder looked squarely at her. "I didn't say I liked your cooking," he quickly replied. "I said that this duck is enough to tickle the palate, I was referring to the feathers you left on it."-London Answers.

Lacks Finesse

Mrs. E. C. M. writes: "Albert, aged three and a half, was disobedient, and I said to him, 'If you don't behave, you'll get spanked. You would not like that, would you?

"'I wouldn't like daddy to spank me,' was the response.

""Why not?" "'He doesn't know how. He hurts." -Boston Transcript.

Stretching It

"Now, what about some elastic?" suggested the commercial traveler who was getting an order from an Aberdeen shopkeeper.

Na, na," said the Aberdonian. "I'm for nae mair o' it. I couldna measure a yaird o' your last consignment wi'oot the stuff snapping." -Montreal Star.

Forgetful

Forgetful Husband (to friend)-I want you to help me. I promised to meet my wife at one o'clock for luncheon, and I can't remember where. Would you mind ringing her up at our house and asking her where I am likely to be about that time Royal Arcanum Bulletin.

FAIRLY WARNED



Mr. Piper-May I have your daugh-

Her Dad-Yes, if you can support her. Remember that my auto goes with her.

Advanced Lessons Young Wife-Going out again? Two

years ago you said I was your whole world. Husband-Yes; it is surprising

how much geography you can learn in two years-Berlin Lustige Blaet-

Names

"How did you like the reception?" "Very much," answered Miss Cayenne. "Not only was it noteworthy because of the distinguished people present, but it was interesting because of several who were prominently listed among those absent."

Dead Letter Baritone

"Yessah, Ah's a great singah." "Wheah did you-all learn to sing?" "Ah graduated from a correspondence school."

"Boy, you sho' lost lots of 'yo mail."-Florida Times-Union.

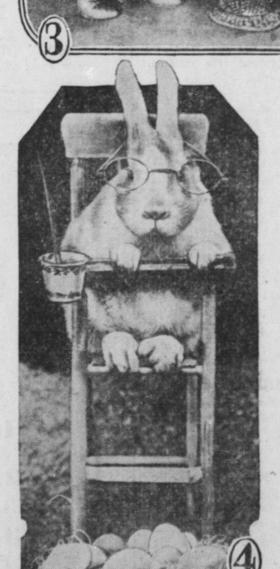
She Tried

"How can you let your wife go round saying she made a man of you? My wife could never do that." "No, but she told my wife she did her best."

Proof

"Rastus, are you a married man?" "No, sah, boss, Ah earns mah own living."-London Tit-Bits.





From the Orient the custom came into western Europe many centuries ago. The ancient Romans took delight in planning all sorts of practical jokes in connection with their feast of the Saturnalia and more particularly in playing harmless, though often very humiliating jokes, on each other at the time of the athletic tournament, held in honor of Neptune, around April 1. One solemn antiquarian has declared that the first big April Fool joke in history was the time the Romans invited the Sabines to attend this Neptune celebration and then carried off by force the Sabine women. Just as April Fools' day had its origin in pagan

Easter Sunday in that year came on April 2. It

didn't get back on the eleven-year rotation until

1923 when Easter Sunday and April Fools' day coincided. That happens again this year and

will happen again 11 years from now in 1945.

seem utterly inconsistent, so far as the essential

spirit of each is concerned, it is interesting to

note that, historically, they trace back to simi-

lar origins-religious festivals among the an-

cients celebrating the coming of spring. Although

we moderns have changed the form and the

meaning of these festivals, we have retained some

of the very same symbols which those ancients

The celebration of April Fools' day is usually

traced back to the festal rites of the period of

the vernal equinox in Persia. It was the day

when the Persian New Year began and was very

close to the old English New Year's day of

March 25. The sun was then entering into the

sign of the frisky and playful Aries, so it was

appropriate that on that day the "season of rur-

al sports and vernal delights" began. In India

there was a similar celebration on March 31.

called the Huli festival, which was a time for a

general holiday and many jests, including the

practice of sending people on long and fruitless

errands.

Although Easter Sunday and April Fools' day

festivals, from which it has departed a long way, so did Easter have such an origin, The Christian peoples of the world, of course, celebrate it as the anniversary of the resurrection. of Christ, but in some of its elements, including that essential one of a resurrection, it traces far tack beyond the beginning of the Christian era to the religious rites of several different ancient peoples. It is associated with the worship of Astarte, a goddess of the Phoenicians, Isis of the Egyptians, Diana of the Greeks and Romans and Eostre of the Teutons,

In fact, there are some who say that we get the name of Easter from this Teutonic goddess, Eostre, who was worshipped in the spring, although others claim that it is derived from the word "east," one of the four cardinal points, It is also the cardinal point which has always been most important in all religious ceremonies of all races and creeds. This is because it is the part of the heavens where the sun is seen to rise-the sun, bringer of light and heat, the very giver of life itself. The most primitive intelligence of the most primitive man recognized the fact that the sun and life were inseparably associated and it was only natural that when he came to worship the thing which was greater than he, he should turn to the East whence came that greater and higher thing which he recognized as being the life-giving power.

The symbols which we have retained from these pagan festivals to associate with our celebration of Easter include the white Illy, the rabbit and the egg. The Greeks and Romans prized the white lily above all other flowers and in their earlier civilizations it had already come to symbolize purity and virtue, hence an appropriate symbol for a festival celebrating renewed

The association of the rabbit or hare with Easter has its foundations in the ancient belief in European and Asiatic countries that the hare is the symbol for the moon. The moon is the "open-eyed watcher of the night," and the hare is a nocturnal animal. The young of the hare are born with their eyes open and are said never to close them. Since the date of Easter is governed by the moon, it is easily seen how the rabbit, which is the symbol for the moon, came to be an Easter symbol also.

As for the egg, the Egyptians regarded it as an emblem of the recreation of things and of men's regeneration and associated it with the worship of their goddess, Isis, as did the Phoenicians, the Greeks, Romans and Teutons with their goddesses who were the objects of their veneration in spring festivals.

Then, too, the egg with its life germ destined to produce a living creature when warmed by the mother hen is easily associated with the idea of the earth blossoming forth under the warm rays of the sun in the spring, both closely akin to the general idea of resurrection. Since the resurrection of Christ occurred in the spring, it is easy to see how the symbols of the egg and all revived life in the springtime came to be associated with this event in the history of Christianity. The egg as a symbol was taken over by the Hebrews as an emblem of their delivery from bondage and next the early Christians took it over as their symbol of the resur-

rection, Mention of the Hebrews makes appropriate at this point comment on the fact that the festival now known as Easter was celebrated by