

The Story of Eastertide in Music



FIXING OF EASTER Presented a VEXING PROBLEM

THAT Easter Sunday is what is known in ecclesiastical circles as a "movable feast," falling now upon one calendar date and again upon another, yet always at present upon a Sunday, is a fact casually accepted without doubt or inquiry practically the world over. Something of mystery, however, attaches to this chronological paradox that now and then perplexes the curious and the inquisitorial, declares a writer in the Kansas City Star.

The time of the Crucifixion is fixed as coincident with the Jewish Passover, or paschal feast, in the Jewish calendar month "Nisan," the month of the vernal equinox. The first obscurity in regard to the day arose from the Christian Gospels themselves. The Synoptic Gospels seemed to favor the day as the fifteenth of Nisan, that of St. John, the fourteenth. This established, by the preponderance of evidence, that the Crucifixion occurred on Friday, the day before the Jewish Sabbath. According to Matthew, the resurrection occurred "in the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week."

Ecclesiastical history preserves three distinct phases relating to the subsequent commemorative day which came to be known as Easter. Although the observance of Easter was at a very early period the practice of the Christian church, a serious difference as to the day for its observance soon arose between the Christians of Jewish and those of Gentile descent. With the Jewish Christians, who associated the death of Christ with the sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb at the Passover, which ended "on the fourteenth day of the moon at evening," the Easter festival followed the paschal tradition, no matter what day of the lunar month it chanced to fall upon. The Gentile Christians, on the other hand, following the Synoptic Gospels, identified the first day of the week, Sunday, as the day of Resurrection, and kept the preceding Friday as the anniversary of the Crucifixion. This was the phase of the controversy that characterized the first centuries of Christianity.

The second stage in the Easter controversy centers around the Council of Nice, A. D. 325, where so many doctrinal points were given authentic sanction. This council was summoned by Emperor Constantine. The decision of the council was that Easter was to be kept on Sunday throughout the Christian world. It was at this point that astronomical science entered into the controversy. The correct date of the Easter festival was to be calculated at Alexandria, the then home of astronomical science, and the Roman pontiff was to communicate the date to the churches. This arrangement fixed the date of Easter Sunday as the Sunday "following the fourteenth day of the paschal moon," and

Easter Time

Tis Easter time!
I sing again
Of love's redeeming grace
That opened wide the heavenly gates
To make for me a place,
And may I ever faithful be
Until I see His face.
'Tis Easter time!

I pray again
To know His blessed will,
And in my heart I hear again
His voice say, "Peace, be still";
For all the emptiness of life
He comes from heav'n to fill.
'Tis Easter time!

I live again—
The stone is rolled away
From every tomb of doubt and grief—
My night is turned to day,
And in my heart Christ reigns as king
This resurrection day!

defined the paschal moon as "the moon whose fourteenth day followed the spring equinox." But this ruling did not settle all difficulties. The third phase of the controversy arose from the divergent calendars and cycles in vogue in the Eastern and Western church centers. St. Augustine tells us that in the year 387 the churches of Gaul kept Easter on March 21, those of Italy on April 18, while the Egyptian Christians celebrated April 25 as Easter day. The British and Irish churches for a long time adhered to an ancient system of computation, though they observed Sunday as the Easter day.

With the adoption of the Metonic cycle as a guide, the formula for fixing the Easter date was determined as "the first Sunday which occurs after the first full moon, or, more accurately, after the first fourteenth day of the moon, following the 21st of March, which is the vernal equinox." As a result, the earliest possible date of Easter is March 22, the latest April 25.

Observance of Lent

THE observance of Lent began within 150 years after Christ's time, but there was no specified number of days of fasting. It was extended to about 40 days by the Fourth century and in the Eighth or Ninth century it was fixed to commence with Ash Wednesday and end with Easter Sunday. Forty days are thus observed, since fasting is not observed on the intervening Sundays.

EASTER RABBITS AND EGGS HAD PAGAN ORIGIN

EASTER, commemorating to Christian believers the resurrection of the Savior of Mankind, is almost universally observed as a time for joy and feasting. On Easter Sunday morning thousands of boys and girls will return home from Sunday school and church to hunt for Easter rabbits and eggs.

The origin of egg-rolling which most youngsters enjoy so much, says Pathfinder Magazine, is supposed to have begun centuries ago from the practice of farmers rolling eggs over their land to be sure of abundant yields at harvest time. This was because the egg was the pagan emblem of the germinating life of early spring. The children are told that the rabbits lay the eggs, and for that reason the latter are nearly always hidden away in nests or in flower beds in the yard and garden. The rabbit is another pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of



A Duet With Bunny Orchestra.

fertility. Modern people have lost knowledge of what these symbols mean, yet they have continued these old pagan customs.

As to the coloring of Easter eggs a religious encyclopedia says: "Because the use of eggs was forbidden during Lent, they were brought to the table on Easter day colored red to symbolize the Easter Joy. This custom is found not only in the Latin, but also in the Oriental churches. Christians are supposed to have adopted the egg-rolling custom to symbolize the resurrection and the eggs were colored red in allusion to the blood of redemption."

Easter Monday is always a gala day for the kiddies, if they have any unbroken eggs left, especially in this so for those youngsters in Washington. On that day thousands of them go to the White House and Capitol lawns to roll their vari-colored eggs.

MEMORY'S PART IN THE RECORDS OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Unpleasant things may be pleasantly remembered and, in a sense, gloried in. Among these are hardships overcome, dangers survived and sacrifices that bear fruit. So it was held by Aeneas, who assured his comrades that in days to come they would rejoice to recall their trials and tribulations. One can readily enough understand this. It is only the reasons that it is unpleasant to recall. There can be nothing painful in the recollection of difficulties mastered. An old philosopher was convinced that the gods rejoiced to see a good man in difficulties, for that involved a conflict in which it is possible for a strong character to triumph. What is pleasant to remember is loyalty to truth and right. Browning makes this very clear in one of his poems. The thing that stings is the recollection of failure and cowardice, falseness and pettiness. Shakespeare's counsel "to thine own self be true" cannot be improved on. A man's future, the point from which he looks back on his journey through life, is determined by what he does and thinks every day. If he would have happy recollections, he can have them, but only by filling his life with things which he would rejoice and be proud to remember. Memory may be one of life's blessings or one of its greatest curses. To return to the gloomy phase of the subject, Lady Macbeth suffered from and because of things "rooted in the memory," which is a very solemn thought. If evil is rooted in the memory it is very difficult to get rid of.—Indianapolis News.

Not an Easy Mark

Even if it ends in nothing more than target practice, an idea is something at which to shoot.—Toledo Blade.

CANADIAN BUTTER

The butter exports in 1933 from Canada amounted to about 4,000,000 pounds, most of which went to the British Isles.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets are best for liver, bowels and stomach. One little Pellet for a laxative—three for a cathartic.—Adv.

Real Bitterness

The worst disappointment you can experience is disappointment in yourself.

Your local dealer carries Ferry's Pure Bred Vegetable Seeds. Now only 5 cents a package. Adv.

Textbook's Short Life

The average life of a textbook used in the public schools is three years.

This Girl Knows...

YOU CAN DEPEND ON NR IT'S ALL-VEGETABLE...SAFE!

Bright Eyes... No Bad Skin

She learned long ago how often dull eyes, pimply skin, nervousness and lack of pep come from bowled sluggishness and constipation. Now NR (Nature's Remedy) is her secret of sparkling liveliness and vital health. No more ineffective partial relief for her—all-vegetable NR Tablets give thorough cleansing, gently stimulating the entire bowel. Millions take NR for thorough, effective relief from constipation and biliousness. Get a 25c box. All druggists. Pleasant—safe—and not habit-forming. **NR TO-NIGHT TOMORROW ALRIGHT**

TUMS

Quick relief for acid indigestion, heartburn. Only 10c.

Serious Objection

The one objection to being regarded as a great thinker is that you have to be dead too long.—Los Angeles Times.

SEE THIS CROSS

It Means the REAL ARTICLE



GENUINE ASPIRIN Of Bayer Manufacture

When you go to buy aspirin, just remember this: Every tablet of real aspirin of Bayer manufacture is stamped with this cross. No tablet without this cross is GENUINE Bayer Aspirin.

Remember this for your own protection. Tell your friends about it for their protection. Demand and get Genuine Bayer Aspirin.

Safe relief for headache, colds, sore throat, pains of rheumatism and neuritis, etc.

Genuine Bayer Aspirin Does Not Harm the Heart

Unequal Distribution If there is too much rice in the kitchen, there are starving people on the road.—Mencius.

Poor Sap Many a man has swapped a nest egg for a love nest.—Atlanta Constitution.

"I keep fit"

"...In these days of recovery... if I don't, someone else will have my job." How? "Well, I learned years ago that work... wear and tear... takes something out of men and women—particularly those who work indoors."

"I tore down those precious red-blood-cells faster than my good body could rebuild. A friend told me the story of that grand medicine S.S.S., Now at 4 P. M. I am fit to still 'carry on'."

If you feel weak... lack a keen appetite... or if your skin is pale... try S.S.S. Unless your case is exceptional, you should soon notice a pick up in your appetite... your color and skin should improve with increased strength and energy.

S.S.S. is not just a so-called tonic but a tonic specially designed to stimulate gastric secretions, and also having the mineral elements so very necessary in rebuilding the oxygen-carrying hemoglobin of the blood to enable you to "carry on" without exhaustion as you should naturally. At all drug stores.



GRAHAM MCNAMEE FAMOUS RADIO ANNOUNCER says: "I'll announce to the world that THE EDISON is a great Hotel!"

FROM \$2.50 daily **HOTEL EDISON** 47th ST. West of 5th Ave NEW YORK 1000 ROOMS EACH WITH BATH, RADIO AND CIRCULATING ICE WATER

Book Care If water is spilled on the leaf of a book, put the leaf between two blot- ters and iron first on one side, then on the other. The leaf will not then crinkle.

SHREW'S GOOD WORK

The short-tailed shrew, a high-strung delicate creature frequently inhabiting Japanese-beetle infested territory, in captivity, prefers grubs to other delicacies, such as raw beef, liverwurst, and squash seed. The shrew's ability to eat from 10 to 20 larvae at one sitting, the entomologists say, is a factor in keeping down the insect population.

Severe Itching Eruption on Baby's Face and Scalp

Cuticura Healed

"When baby was between two and three months old an eruption appeared on her face and scalp in small, red pimples which became inflamed with fluid and later formed a crust giving the skin a very disfiguring appearance. Due to the severe itching baby would scratch, causing bleeding. Not until she was five months old did hair grow on top of her head."

"A friend recommended Cuticura Soap and Ointment so I bought them. After two weeks there was a wonderful improvement, and with the use of one cake of Soap and one box of Ointment she was healed." (Signed) Mrs. W. R. Groves, Lincoln, Ga., Aug. 10, 1933.

Soap 25c. Ointment 25 and 50c. Talcum 25c. Sold everywhere. One sample each free. Address: "Cuticura Laboratories, Dept. R, Malden, Mass."—Adv.

Deafness HEAD NOISES **Leonard EAR OIL**

RUN IN BACK OF EAR—INSERT IN NOSTRILS

\$1.25 All Druggists. Descriptive folder on request. Also excellent for Temporary Deafness and Head Noises due to congestion caused by colds, flu and swimming. A. O. LEONARD, Inc. 79 Fifth Ave., New York City

CUT ME OUT

and mail me, with the coin or stamp and your name and address to **LOUIS & ANNE, Inc.**, 360 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago. I will bring you a generous sample of **Loray Face Powder** and **Loraine**, the marvelous all-purpose beauty cream. Also details how to make the most of **Lois's** work extra in your spare time.

DOCTOR'S ANSWERS To Questions

By S. C. Babcock, M. D.

Q. I am in a random condition due to a frequent bad cough and stomach trouble. What can I do to help this condition?

A.—This is not an unusual condition. You can help yourself by exercising to cross your stomach. Quick money and everybody a prospect. For sample set and more help send 10 cents NOW to **Inspirational Puzzles, P. O. Box 710, Pasadena, Calif.**

HOME TYPING

Articles, novels, poetry, etc. Story criticism, revision, collaboration. P. O. BOX 615, Lancaster, Pa.

GET IN on the Year's NEWEST

self-on-right deal—INSPIRATIONAL PUZZLES, successor to cross-word puzzles. Quick money and everybody a prospect. For sample set and more help send 10 cents NOW to **Inspirational Puzzles, P. O. Box 710, Pasadena, Calif.**

OLD AGE PENSION INFORMATION

Send stamp — Humboldt, Kan. **JUDGE LEHMAN**

HEADQUARTERS for SOUTHERNERS IN NEW YORK

Private tunnel from hotel to the Penn. Station

Many folks from below the Mason-Dixon line make The Martinique their headquarters in New York. One block from Empire State Building, Fifth Avenue, and the largest department stores.

Single, \$2 to \$3.50. Double, \$3 to \$5. None higher

Direction: American Hotels Corporation **GEORGE H. WARTMAN, Manager**

Hotel Martinique

Broadway at 32nd Street - New York

The Deeper Note in Easter Joy

EASTER lies beyond Calvary. Eliminate the cross, and the morning of faith and hope that came to a little group of men and women in Jerusalem has no meaning. Out of the experience of tragedy is developed the strength of confidence. Life grows in power through surviving catastrophe, declares S. J. Duncan Clark, in the Chicago Daily News.

The true spirit of Easter is less a light-hearted happiness than a resolute joy. It sings, but not with carefree abandon. There is a deeper note—a note that in some way transmutes pain and fear into glad triumph without wholly losing the memory of what lies behind or ignoring the road of struggle which lies before.

For Easter did not mean the end of conflict for those to whom it brought its quickening message. It meant rather an assurance of strength for whatever battles remained to be fought, whatever tasks had yet to be performed. It meant that the life and faith which had met the test of Calvary were equal to any other test that might have to be faced. Difficulties and hardships must still be encountered. The agony of martyrdom awaited many. Easter conveyed to them no promise of escape from these. Easter banished doubt, put an end to questioning about the outcome.

That is the assurance men need today. They want to know that endurance has justifying purpose; that the struggle is not futile; that there is possibility for the fruition of life's high and holy and immortal hopes. They want to know that when they hurl themselves against the battlements of some hideous wrong in human society, or wrestle with some dark evil in their own lives; when they choose the way of sacrifice rather than of selfish advantage, and set the high values of the spirit above material gain, they are putting a significance into life that is worth what it costs.

And the Easter story is the reassuring answer.

5 CENTS A PACKET IS ALL YOU PAY FOR **FERRY'S PUREBRED VEGETABLE SEEDS**

AT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD STORE

Every packet dated