



# THE LEGEND OF THE EASTER RABBIT.

**T**HE wonderful rabbit which lays the red, white and blue Easter eggs is one of the oldest of historic characters. In fact, wise men who have tried to trace the story to its source have gone back far beyond the earliest beginnings of written history only to find its big, woolly hairs sticking up through the mists of tradition and superstition.

But the strangest thing about the Easter rabbit is that you will find him in every part of the world—in Africa and Asia as well as in Europe and America—and if he is not laying Easter eggs he is doing something equally remarkable and noteworthy.

People who think the rabbit only a timid, stupid and commonplace member of society are entirely mistaken. They ought to read the volumes that have been written about him. And as for the children! Mother Goose may be more familiar where English is spoken, but the Easter rabbit is known to the little one in every language.

Not even the greatest students have ever been able to learn how it happens that the rabbit lays Easter eggs. All they know is that little children, and particularly little children in Germany, make, as their grandfathers did before them, warm nests of hay during Easter week, in which they find on Easter morning a lot of beautiful colored eggs, laid there, of course, by the Easter rabbit. Sometimes the Easter rabbit even leaves a little candy or china image of himself behind him in the midst of the eggs, by way of a card. But really no proof is needed. Years before the oldest man can remember it was always said that the rabbit laid the Easter eggs, and there is no more reason to doubt it now than there was then.

In St. Louis the shop windows are now crowded with Easter rabbits, and the Easter cards as often as not show the Easter rabbit's picture. Ask somebody why it is a rabbit instead of a woodchuck or any other animal. You will find nobody that can tell you. Nobody knows. All they can do is to make shrewd guesses at it.

ing continually in a mortar from which is made the water of life. Perhaps if our children will look carefully at the moon they, too, may be able to make out the shape of the rabbit which lays the Easter eggs.

And today in China at the time of the celebration of the great moon festival, which corresponds in season to Easter in Christian lands, the figure of

the rabbit is stamped on the moon cakes, which relatives and friends exchange among each other in the place of Easter cards.

In certain parts of England, even at the present time, much more is made of the Easter hare than in this country. In Leicestershire, for instance, there is a custom still in vogue called "the Easter hare pie scramble."

So many years ago that everybody has forgotten it a certain plot of ground was given to the rector of the parish perpetually on the condition that each year on Easter Monday he and his successor should contribute two hares or rabbit pies and a quantity of ale to be scrambled for by the villagers.

As late as 1892 the "hare pie scramble" was observed as a great festival, all the villagers turning out to march in procession behind the men carrying the hare pies, cut up into fragments. When they reached a spot known traditionally as "Hare Pie Bank" the sacks were emptied and all the crowd engaged in a fight or scramble for the pies, which are supposed to guarantee good luck to the possessor for the ensuing year.

So the children who credit the Easter rabbit with laying the Easter eggs are simply following a tradition so old that no man knows its beginning. And in every corner of the globe other little children, white, black, yellow or red are, in one way or another, paying allegiance to the same tradition.

Street car conductors are never beautiful. In fact, they are not even passing fare.

### An Easter Pie.

Many and quaint are the devices for Easter that are got up to amuse children. One of the newest designs is prepared in the following manner:

A deep tin pie plate is lined with crape paper. Any color may be used, but pink or yellow is the most effective.

Set the plate on a piece of paper cut round, but much larger than the plate. Fold the paper upright, pinching it in to make it set flatly against the sides of the tin. Tie a ribbon of same shade as paper tightly around to hold paper in place. Allow enough ribbon to tie



in two good-sized bows on either side of plate.

Then count as many little square or round boxes as there are children: fill with bon bons or favors, and to the top of box fasten by gineeing or sewing a small chicken or bird. These may be got at any Japanese store in various colors; yellow cotton chicks or black-birds. Place these in bottom of pan at regular intervals.

Over these lay a piece of Chinese tissue paper matching the crape paper. Where the chicks' heads come gently break the paper and pull the heads through.

### Easter Orange Bag.

This pretty Easter gift is made of shirred tissue paper, cut in fan shape. The pieces are bunched at one end and tied tightly with narrow white ribbon. A dozen tangerines are laid in this; then the ends are bunched and daintily tied with a golden cord.

### Easter in the New Century.

In the century just begun there will be 5217 Sundays. In that which we have hardly yet learned to speak of as the last Easter Sunday has occurred once on its earliest possible date—March 22, 1818—but this will not recur till the twenty-third century. The earliest Easter in the new century will be March 23, 1913. Easter Sunday will fall once on its latest day—April 25, in 1543. This also occurred once in the century just passed—in 1806. Ascension Day is practically al-



ways in May, but on three occasions in the past century it occurred in June, and in the new century this will happen four times.—Newcastle Chronicle.

### Hot Cross Buns.

"How many people are aware that the hot cross bun of Good Friday dates back thousands of years—to the very dawn of the human race?" writes S. P. Butler in the Woman's Home Companion, discussing "The Antiquity of Sacred Cakes." "Like many another rite or symbolism which figured in the religious ceremonies of the heathen world, it was adopted and invested with a holier meaning by the followers of the new faith. Buns known by that self-same name were used in the worship of the queen of heaven, Ishtar, or Astarte, as early as the days of Cecrops, founder of Athens, 1500 B. C."

### A German Plan.

If the wind is in the east on Easter Sunday it is considered in Germany to be a wise plan to draw water and wash in it, for then the wind cannot do any harm to the bather during the remainder of the year.

### An Easter Dinner.

For an Easter dinner no colorscheme can be more chaste and suitable than green and white. The fragrant lilies and hyacinths with masses of green are beautiful if one may have them; if not, a most artistic table can be had with the use of ferns alone. These range in price from five to ten cents per dozen, the best results being obtained with the long, slender varieties. Arrange a low, graceful centerpiece, and then at each place with two extra long ferns outline a wreath large enough to show outside the plate when placed. Curve the ferns symmetrically, crossing the stems at the bottom in style similar to the conventional empire wreath, and pin them flat invisibly to the tablecloth. A simple white place-card may be put in the center of the wreath. This decoration is novel and the effect is very charming.

### Painting Easter Eggs.

These clever artists are busily engaged in decorating eggs for their Easter celebration. The picture was reproduced from a postal card recently received by the Free Press from Berlin.

## KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

### PENSIONS GRANTED

To Establish Wholesale House on Co-Operative Basis—Old Landmarks Destroyed, Anti-Saloon League Beaten in Blair Co.

Pensions have been granted as follows: Jonathan S. Upton, Ridgway, \$6; Rudolph Sechler, Mt. Union, \$5; Philip Yost, Ingram, \$6; James H. Nye, Dewart, \$6; Justin M. Rossmann, Clintondale, \$6; Patrick Monaghan, Clintondale, \$8; William M. McQuiston, Clover, \$12; Clara H. Weaver, Trenton, \$8; Emaline Schuck, Greensburg, \$12; R. Myers, Barnesboro, \$10; William I. Miller, Beaver, \$3; Sarah A. Stevenson, New Bedford, \$8; Margaret E. Marks, McClintock, \$8.

The shaft of Ocean mine No. 2 at Herminie, has been completed, the tipples is nearly in readiness and if there is no accidents coal will be shipped by the middle of April. Ocean mine No. 1 was opened eight years. When both mines are running full 500 men will be employed at each, and the output of both mines will be 200 cars a day, all of which will go to New Jersey, and most of which will be shipped across the ocean for consumption in Europe.

The grocers and produce dealers of Washington are agitating the establishment of a wholesale house or co-operative house near a local station, with switch facilities, and to get makers throughout the city to join the enterprise, the concern to be capitalized at about \$100,000. Only stockholders will be supplied, and they on a basis of 5 per cent. above cost and carriage.

Business houses, covering nearly one-half square, were destroyed by fire at Bedford. The loss is about \$60,000. Several of the houses burned were old landmarks, having been built in Revolutionary times, and were a part of old Fort Bedford. One of the houses had been the headquarters of Gen. Washington and Col. Boquet.

The postoffice department is trying to unravel the disappearance of a letter containing checks and drafts to the amount of \$410, which T. S. Powell, a merchant of Hadley, Mercer County, claims to have registered at the Hadley postoffice. The letter was addressed to the Mercer County National Bank of Mercer.

Sammel H. Golden, colored, who admits he is 81 years of age, for over 50 years employed at the Monongahela house, Pittsburg, and three a widower, has taken a fourth wife in the person of Mrs. Emma A. Moray, a widow, 46 years old. Golden is very black while his new wife is nearly white, and is a remarkably handsome woman.

Noah Harrison, who lives near Sharon, has brought suit for divorce from his wife. Among other allegations he says: "She has caused me irretrievable losses. She boiled her false teeth until the rubber was dissolved and she got a \$200 note mixed up with some trash and burned it."

It is definitely settled that all merchant blast furnaces in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys and several in the Cleveland and Pittsburg districts will be merged into one corporation with a capital of between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000. The combined weekly output of the plants optioned is over 50,000 tons.

A party of 100 Dunkards from Juniata, Millin, Huntingdon, Bedford and Blair counties has migrated to North Dakota, where a large tract of farm land has been secured. They were joined by others at Chicago, and it is probable that about 500 will settle in North Dakota this year.

John G. McConahy and H. K. Gregory, attorneys for the estate of John Blovin, the murdered New Castle city treasurer, have begun an attack on the audit of school funds made by Expert Accountant William Marthens. They claim the audit was incomplete and incorrect.

A bitter legal contest in the Blair county court between the forces of the Anti-Saloon league and the Knights of the Royal Arch, the hotel men's organization, over the granting of liquor licenses, ended when the court granted 45 licenses, held over 4, and refused 12 applicants.

Mrs. Esmat Amlet, alleged to be a shoplifter, who was arrested here on the charge of stealing \$1,000 worth of goods from Berryman & Sons, Charleston, escaped from jail and is still at large. She was traced for twenty miles with bloodhounds, but eluded all pursuit.

Daisy Dawson, the 12-year-old daughter of Norris Dawson, of Conneville, died from fright. She was just recovering from an attack of typhoid fever. The house caught fire, and was at once filled with a shouting mob.

One of the largest coal land sales ever made in Washington county is being closed up. The block comprises about 10,000 acres, and is located in Somerset, South Strabane, West Bethlehem and Amwell townships. The prices paid average \$43 an acre.

An explosion at the works of the Cambria Powder Company, near Nineveh, demolished four of the 19 buildings constituting the plant, and entailed a loss of \$10,000. Four hundred kegs of powder went up and caused the damage.

It is believed that Lewis Lalue, whose mangled body was found on the railroad tracks near Uniontown, was robbed and murdered, his body being placed on the tracks to conceal the crime.

The family of Charles Burchfield, of Sharon, was made violently ill by eating canned beef supposed to have contained ptomaine poison. It is now thought they will all recover.

The Cambria Steel Company has awarded the contract for the construction of a new furnace at Johnstown of its water softening plant with a capacity of 1,440,000 gallons daily.

Mrs. Marie Hartman, of Elmira, N. Y., who was visiting Mrs. T. B. Curtis, at Pades, Mercer County, was frightened by an alarm clock and died of heart trouble in five minutes.

Judge Walling, of Erie, has handed down a decision upholding the legality of the law of the Knights of Macabees which pronounces policies void in case of suicide.

The income tax of India is levied on all incomes of £23 and upward.

## L. M. SNYDER, Practical Horse-Shoer and General Blacksmith.



Horse-shoeing done in the neatest manner and by the latest improved methods. Repairing of all kinds carefully and promptly done. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

**HORSE CLIPPING**  
Have just received a complete set of machine horse clippers of latest style '26 pattern and am prepared to do clipping in the best possible manner at reasonable rates. Jackson St. near Fifth, Reynoldsville, Pa.

## NOTICE

To All Who Want to Buy or Have a Carpet to be Woven.

I am ready to do it in a very short time and my work of the past few years recommends itself. I have bought an improvement for my loom, making it a four-harness (instead of two), but prices will stay the same for weaving as before, that is 10 cents a square yard, and I will weave it from 30 to 42 inches in width to fit your rooms at that price. I keep 21 colors of chain or hand (call or send for sample) and when I furnish chain, all of which is of the best 5-ply, for carpet 134 threads to the inch I charge only 20c. 15-thread for 22c.; and 18 threads to the inch 25c., which includes weaving and chain. For out-of-town people on 20 yards or over will pay freight one way. I also weave

## Stair Carpet and Rugs

of any kind. I have for sale some rugs, rag and split-warp carpet, which I will sell at a big reduction to get out of my way.

Yours Respectfully,  
**TEOFEEL DEMAY,**  
Box 358. Reynoldsville, Pa.

## AT YOUNG'S PLANING MILL

You will find  
**SASH, DOORS,**  
**FRAMES AND FINISH**  
of all kinds,  
**ROUGH - AND - DRESSED LUMBER,**  
**HIGH GRADE VARNISHES,**  
**LEAD AND OIL COLORS**  
In all shades,  
And also an over-stock of Nails which I will sell CHEAP.

J. V. YOUNG, Prop.

## Want Your Clothing to Fit?

Then you ought to go to  
**J. C. Froehlich,**  
MERCHANT TAILOR.

My line of samples are well worth anyone's time to call and inspect. Remember  
**All Work is Guaranteed.**

Cleaning, Repairing and Altering a Specialty.  
**J. C. FROEHLICH,**  
Near Centennial hall.

## First National Bank

OF REYNOLDSVILLE.  
Capital, \$50,000.  
Surplus, \$15,000.

C. Mitchell, President;  
Scott McClelland, Vice Pres.;  
John H. Kaucher, Cashier.

Directors:  
C. Mitchell, Scott McClelland, J. C. King,  
John H. Corbett, G. E. Brown,  
G. W. Fuller, J. H. Kaucher.

Does a general banking business and solicits the accounts of merchants, professional men, farmers, mechanics, miners, lumbermen and others, promising the most careful attention to the business of all persons.  
Safe Deposit Boxes for rent.  
First National Bank building, Nolan block  
**Fire Proof Vault.**

## Fire Insurance

SINCE 1878.  
NORWOOD G. PINNEY, Ag't.,  
Brookville, Pa.  
JOHN TRUDGEN, Solicitor,  
Reynoldsville, Pa.  
**SOLID INDEMNITY.**  
Twelve first-class companies represented.  
The oldest established Fire Insurance Agent in Jefferson county.  
All business will receive prompt attention.