

Easter.



Easter comes to April's crest, With garland on her hair; And a gown of silk and vair; On her breast an amethyst— Fastened in a silver twist, With pale zovaleps faint and fair, In the rosy breast-knots there.

Fresh from off the rainbow stair Shine her little feet, made bare Of all shoes, for she has found God's green earth is holy ground. Delicate and debonnaire Windflowers, of coming 'ware, With faint sweetness take the air.

After her the blossomed pear Flings its flowers, the vetch and tare Know her, even as the rose In its bud her passing knows, Dreams her look of love and care, And, fast-shut, more lovely grows, Till June gather it to wear.

After her the West wind blows, And the rain before her goes, Companioned with flying mist; Fearless of their human foes, Comes shy and timid does, Ewes and lambs beside her pace, Looking in her lifted face.

All things in her sweetness share, All would stay her, and none dare Keep her here a fortnight's space. Seven days we see, of grace, Easter in this earthly place. Easter, kindling grass and clover, With the eyes that have seen God.

Live Easter Eggs.

Sam Lee was a great chicken-fancier, for a small boy, and like most people with a fad had no patience with the fads of others; so when one day he was telling his mother of a lovely brood of bantams he had seen ("Not much bigger than bumblebees, mother, honest!"), he was provoked when Grace came in with a basket of eggs to color for Easter, and took off his mother's attention by her questions.

"Easter eggs!" he scornfully said. "What good are they? You can't eat 'em! You can't hatch 'em! It's all just nonsense!"

Grace retorted hotly, and a quarrel seemed very near indeed; but just then grandma snapped her fingers sharply, in a funny way she had. Mother said, "There, another thought has struck grandma!" and they all laughed, and the "war-cloud" rolled away.

Easter morning, when Sam came to breakfast and found at every plate but his a pretty nest of moss and wild flowers holding three colored eggs, he wouldn't have owned to feeling neglected and left out, but he did! More than that, the family certainly looked at him with a queer smile, and grandma even left the table "smiling all over her face." Could it be they were smiling at his discomfiture? Sam plucked up pride, and even was generous enough to admire the baskets.

"When he went to his room to get ready for church, he saw the joke! There on his gas-fixture hung two large, handsome, egg-shaped Chinese lanterns, just what he had wanted.

"Ah!" said Sam, "there's where grandma's thought struck!"

He started to take them down, and heard a strange scrambling sound! Hastily opening them, out fluttered a tiny pair of silver bantams, and the little rooster flapped his wings and crowed!

"Hurray!" cried Sam, as he dashed downstairs to plant a resounding kiss on each of grandma's soft cheeks. "Those Easter eggs are something like!"—Lizzie E. Johnson.

Schoolboy's Tribute to Burroughs. How close that veteran friend of birds and animals and trees, John Burroughs, gets to the heart of mankind is illustrated by a letter which he recently received from a schoolboy. The letter, as printed in an article by Clifton Johnson in Outing is as follows: "I recently got one of your books through the mail, marked 'second-class matter.' But it isn't second-class matter. I have read it, and it is first-class matter. The binding and get-up may be second class, but the matter is first-class." The boy wrote to John Burroughs as he would write to any other boy friend whom he considered had been dealt with unjustly. He had read the book, and he knew and wanted to assure his friend that what he wrote was first-class matter in spite of what any postmaster general said.



The customs, traditions and superstitions connected with Easter are almost innumerable. Their origins are in many cases impossible to determine, because they evidently took place at a time when the season was still pagan in its character. Others, again, are directly connected with the Christian observance of the festival. The early Christians in many countries used to greet one another on Easter morning with the salutation: "Christ is risen." The reply to this was: "Christ is risen, indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." "This custom, it is said, is still observed in the Greek church.

The giving of eggs at Easter, or the spring festival, is one of the most widely known, as it is also one of the oldest, of the customs. From the remotest times the egg has stood to the Eastern nations as the symbol of the universe, and its breaking at that time has represented the opening of the new life of the year. When the custom was carried over into Christian practice the Easter eggs were usually sent to the priests to be blessed and sprinkled with holy water. In later times the coloring and decorating of the eggs was introduced, and in a royal

Children's Easter

It was the Saturday before Easter, and the children all ran out to the barn to hunt eggs, with Egypt, the tame crow, hopping after them. Nanny was sure there must be several dozen eggs in the hen house, Billy thought the haymow was the best place to find them, and Kitty said she had seen old Topknot flying out from Dobbin's manger. Egypt said nothing.



OUT IT CAME WITH A LOUD "OW!" but I rather think he knew as much about the nests as they did.

Egypt was a sly old fellow. He liked buttons and pennies, but he had the greatest fancy for pins. He would pull them out of every pin cushion in the house when he could get a chance, so you might search through room after room, and not come across a single pin. Nobody knew what he did with them all. He was fond of eggs, too, and I am afraid this was the reason that the children had such a long hunt for them, and found so few.

At last they climbed up the long ladder into the mow. The hay was piled almost to the roof and covered the windows. It was so dark that Nanny and Kitty were a little bit afraid, but Billy went first, floundering along in the hay, just as you wade through a snow drift.

"Guess there are nests on this beam," said Billy, "but it's so dark I can't see. I'll feel."



Through the long night of darkness and gloom We follow Thee unto the opened tomb, And, standing by its side, Behold life glorified, Know immortality, Because of Thee. Through the bright morning still we follow Thee, Our fears forgot, our faintest doubts shall flee. Let praises linger long, For death is conquered, Lo! the farthest skies Are filled with song! O heart, rejoice! Art blinded at the door Of thy safe tent? Thy Pilot went before, He leads thee in; then sing, "Ours is the victory, O suffering One, Because of Thee!" Homeless are yet He knew the darkened tomb, Homeless henceforth no more; In each glad heart His home, Wake! every flower of spring, And swell the Easter song, And every bird awing, The praise prolong!

roll of the time of Edward I., which is preserved in the Tower of London, there is an entry of 18d. for 400 eggs, to be used for Easter gifts.

In the last few years artificial eggs of candy, china and other materials, and egg-shaped articles of all kinds, have largely replaced the real eggs as Easter gifts. The shop windows each



"CHRIST IS RISEN!"

year at this season testify to the ingenuity expended in devising new and attractive objects in which the idea of the Easter egg shall be preserved. In Paris these Easter presents are generally given on the first day of Passion Week. All are emblematic of eggs, and are known as "oeufs de Paque," or "Paschal eggs."

In went Billy's hand, and out it came in a second, with a loud "Ow!"

"It's horns or yellow-jackets or something!" he screamed. "Fetch the barn lantern, Kit, and I'll knock 'em out!"

Kitty brought the lantern, and then ran to the other side of the barn, for fear of the yellow jackets. Billy held the lantern over his head and peeped in.

What did he see? Not horns, but pins. He had run his hand into Egypt's own little "hidy-hole," where the sly little rogue had laid away a whole pile of his favorite treasures. No wonder they pricked like horns. But what the queer old bird was saving them for I never knew.

Nature's Easter Girl. The gladness Easter-tide comes on, The sesame of spring; When birds begin to tune the voice, A summer's praise to sing.

The leaves upon the trees bud forth, The daffodils unfold; All nature opens like a bud, The sun floods earth with gold.

No more in this, our better age, Do maidens seek in dress, And costly bonnets to express Their Easter happiness.

The modern maid, with brimming health, Gives locks a saucy curl; Brings forth her hair and natty suit— She's Nature's Easter girl.

Origin of Easter Hats

To neglect the putting on of some entirely new article of dress on Easter Sunday was regarded by the English of olden times as sure to bring bad luck, and certainly this is one of the practices which has lost nothing with the increase of years. Only now it has been slightly altered, so that to have no new clothes to exhibit at the Easter parade is considered sufficiently bad luck in itself, without the fear of any further misfortunes that may result from it. After donning their new Easter garments the English country people dined off tansy pudding and bacon or tansy pudding and "good red herring," the tansy being the symbol of the bitter herbs commanded to be eaten at the Paschal feast.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEFT

Government Unearths Immense Shortage in Luzon Commissary Department.

OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS ARRESTED

List Includes a Contractor, Captain Barrows and Many Others—Some Supplies Located—Bacon, Flour, and Other Goods are Found.

MANILA, April 1.—Interest in the capture and fate of Aguinaldo is well-nigh overshadowed in Manila by sensational developments, present and prospective, of frauds in the commissary department. How widely these extend has not yet been ascertained, but enough is known to justify the belief that they are far-reaching.

Captain Fredrick J. Barrows of the Thirtieth Volunteer Infantry, quartermaster of the Department of Southern Luzon, together with seven commissary sergeants, several civilian clerks, a prominent governor contractor, the assistant manager of the Hotel Orient, the proprietors of three of the largest bakeries in Manila, a number of storekeepers and a number of other persons have been arrested. The investigation has scarcely begun, but thousands of sacks of flour, a quantity of bacon and wagonloads of other goods, all bearing government marks, have been found in the possession of unauthorized persons.

It is alleged that the contractor in question, who has been doing a business approximating \$100,000 per month, has spent huge sums in entertaining officers. A prominent commissary officer is accused of leading a scandalously immoral life. It is asserted that large quantities of stores have been lost or stolen in transit and also that there is a shortage in the commissary depot.

New scandals are developed daily. Illicit transactions have been traced back to June, 1900, and it is possible that there are others of earlier date. The exorbitant tariff on provisions makes the surreptitious removal of supplies immensely profitable. It is understood that other United States officers may be arrested.

Lieutenant Philip K. Sweet of the Forty-sixth Volunteer Infantry is prosecuting the investigation under the direction of Colonel Wilder, chief of police.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—It was said at both the White House and War department tonight that absolutely nothing had been received by the government regarding the alleged unearthing of crooked work on the part of any quartermasters and others in Luzon and the arrest of a number of persons in and out of the army for stealing property of the government or receiving stolen government property. General Corbin said furthermore that the government had no intimation of any sort that such developments might be expected. He was inclined, for this reason, to think the frauds against the government could hardly be so serious as reported, though admitting this opinion was based wholly on the lack of advices from the government. Captain Barrows, he said, was not the regular quartermaster for southern Luzon and must have been acting quartermaster there at the time of the arrests.

WILL ACCEPT SENATORSHIP.

Dietrich Stamps as False the Assertion That He Will Resign.

LINCOLN, Neb., April 1.—Relative to the numerous conflicting reports that have been circulated relative to the probable course he will pursue in accepting the senatorship Governor Dietrich tonight made the following statement: "The assertion that I will resign the senatorship to which I have been elected is absolutely false and entirely without foundation or reason. I shall accept the position and in all probability I shall resign the governorship within a short time."

Iowans Buy Nebraska Stock.

KANSAS CITY, April 1.—A sale of Shorthorn cattle from the herds of B. O. Cowin of New Point, Mo., T. B. Rankin of Tarkio, Mo., and T. G. Haggard of Western, Neb., began at the stock yards in this city today. The offerings include fifty-one head of fine cattle, all of which are in excellent breeding condition.

Rev. Stonehouse, of the London Missionary Society, has been murdered by brigands, fourteen miles east of Tien Tzia.

Movements of the Squadron.

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, April 1.—The North Atlantic squadron, Rear Admiral Farquhar commanding, arrived off San Juan. The United States special service vessel Uncas, Chief Boatwain J. W. McLaughlin, delivered the mails, and the squadron laid in all night, proceeding today for Culebra Island, where orders are expected by Admiral Farquhar directing the squadron to go to Venezuelan waters at once.

DIES FOR HIS COMRADES.

Commander Roper Suffocated in Attempting a Daring Rescue.

CAVITE, April 1.—At 7 o'clock this morning fire was discovered in the sail room of the United States gunboat Petrel, Lieutenant Commander Jesse Mims Roper commanding. The sail room is a small compartment adjoining the magazine. The heat was intense, the smoke suffocating and the flames difficult to extinguish. Lieutenant Commander Roper was the first to descend into the hold, but he was forced to return to the deck. Others then went down. Seaman Patrick Toner was prostrated and about to perish when Lieutenant Commander Roper endeavored to rescue him and was suffocated in the attempt.

Lieutenant Josiah Sluts McKean and Cadet Lewis suffered severely in bringing the body of Lieutenant Commander Roper to the deck.

Twenty-two of the crew were prostrated; Toner, Evans, Flaherty, Larsen, Cahay, Burton, Smith, Sullivan and Foraboon seriously, but all will recover. The contents of the sail room were destroyed, but the damage to the gunboat was slight. The origin of the fire has not been ascertained. Possibly it was a case of spontaneous combustion.

The death of Lieutenant Commander Roper is greatly deplored. His body will be sent to the United States April 5 by the Buffalo.

STAYS GOVERNOR TILL FALL

Dietrich Wants to Fulfill His Plan of Administration.

LINCOLN, Neb., April 1.—Senator-elect Dietrich announced definitely tonight that he would not resign as governor until late in the fall, probably not until after election, barring, of course, an extra session of congress, which he did not regard as probable. Governor Dietrich justified this action by saying that he had outlined a plan of state administration which he was anxious to put into effect, and in this he is upheld by Lieutenant Governor Savage.

Former Assistant Secretary of War Melk'ejohn, who had been a candidate in the senatorial contest, left this evening for Washington to conclude unfinished work at the War department. Mr. Melk'ejohn said he would continue to make his home at Fullerton, Neb., but would discontinue the practice of law. He gave no definite information of his plans after he concludes his mission at Washington. Friends assert that he has been tendered a position of responsibility with a land and manufacturing company in Mexico and that he has the offer under consideration. It is also said that a position awaits his acceptance in connection with some of the newly acquired island possessions, but in what capacity is not disclosed.

TO RELIEVE THE VOLUNTEERS.

Hustling Cavalry and Infantry Regulars to the Philippines.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 1.—The animal transport Arab sailed today for the Philippines with 670 horses for the cavalry already on the way to Manila. Tomorrow the Buford will sail with two troops of the First squadron of the Fifteenth cavalry, one company of the Tenth infantry and the depot battalion of the Fifth infantry. The Kilpatrick, scheduled to sail Friday, will carry the Third battalion of the Eleventh infantry and the two companies of the First infantry. On the 19th the transport Ohio will sail and on the 8th the Aztec is expected to get away. On April 15 the Logan probably will depart for Manila with two companies of the First infantry, the Third squadron of the Ninth cavalry, the second squadron of the Tenth cavalry and a battalion of the Eleventh infantry, now at Governor's Island and Fort Ethan Allen.

Col. McClure Quits.

PHILADELPHIA, April 1.—Colonel A. K. McClure today writes: "With this issue of the Philadelphia Times my connection with the editorial staff of the paper discontinues. It is not my wish or purpose to retire from journalistic work, but under existing conditions the responsible editorial direction of the Times should be in other hands. "A. K. MCCLURE."

Aguinaldo Likes the Place.

MANILA, April 1.—Aguinaldo continues to express himself as pleased with and impressed by the courteous treatment accorded him by General MacArthur. "I am a prisoner," said he today, "but I am treated like a guest."

Japs to Give Money.

LONDON, April 1.—Japan has made direct representations to St. Petersburg against the Manchurian convention, says a dispatch to the Times from Tokio, dated Saturday, "but the result is not yet known." "Japanese public opinion is very strong on the subject. The cabinet is prudent and pacific, but impressed by the national enthusiasm, which is certain to become uncontrollable if there is any undue yielding.

AN ALL-DAY SUNDAY SESSION.

Both Branches of the Nebraska Legislature Put in Long Hours.

After an all day's Sunday session extending far into the night both houses of the Nebraska state legislature, at 12.30 a. m., took a recess until 10 o'clock Monday morning, when the business of the twenty-seventh session will be finally concluded.

The two days and nights the houses and senate were at loggerheads over a few items of the claims appropriation bill, and it was to adjust these differences that Sabbath desecration became a necessity. Through the appointment and discharge of many conference committees and stubborn adoption and rejection of reports the objectionable claims were finally weeded out and an agreement reached between the two houses. Monday all that will be necessary will be for the presiding officers to sign the bill in the presence of a nominal quorum in either house, after which the gavel which rings the death knell of the session will fall.

The most important of the claim over which stubborn dispute occurred were the daily newspaper claims for the publication of constitutional amendments in 1895, amounting to some \$15,000. These were finally stricken out altogether. The claim of Dr. S. R. Towne in the sum of \$1,254.15, for services in the suppression of smallpox, disallowed.

The claim of Laura B. Taylor of Omaha for \$7,500 fees due her father, since deceased, for services as state weighmaster, compromised at \$1,000, to be paid the administrators of the estate of W. B. Taylor.

The claim of J. E. Hill for \$3,502.69 attorneys fees in the case of the state against Hill, disallowed.

The claim of Murphy & Swain for \$370 attorneys' fees in the case of Deering against Lang, allowed.

The claim of M. C. Dawes for \$366.67 as matron of the school for the blind at Nebraska City, allowed.

The claim of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Bostrom for \$447, for expenses as delegates to the Atlanta exposition, and a similar claim of J. E. Butler for \$189 as delegate to the Nashville exposition, disallowed.

The Laura B. Taylor and exposition claims were the ones over which the most obstinacy was exhibited, the senate insisting that they be rejected and the house that they be allowed. In the house Members Brown of Furnas, Whitmore of Hamilton and Sprecher of Colfax fought the allowing of these and other claims, just as determinedly as they were opposed in the senate by Crouse, Oleson and Martin. For a time so bitter did the opposition of the latter become that there was grave danger of the defeat of the measure in toto, the senate requesting the house that the bill be returned to it for further consideration. Had the house granted the request it is highly probable that the senate would have indefinitely postponed the bill.

Representative Ollis' freight rate bill, providing a reduction of 10 per cent in the rates charged for shipments of cattle, hogs and sheep, died a sad and lingering death in the senate. The first blow was struck in the forenoon. At the afternoon session Senators Weber and Miller tried in vain to call it back to life, but their ministrations were unavailing.

House roll 150, by Stockwell, empowering insurance companies to extend policies to cover personal property when temporarily removed from the territory in which insured, but in no instance shall insured property be removed beyond the limits of an adjoining county, was passed by the senate.

House roll 23, by Hathorn, to empower the governor to convey to him title to a quarter section of school land in Red Willow county. Crouse and Oleson voted against it on the ground that the legislature is limited from taking such action by section 5 of article 8 of the state constitution; was passed by the senate.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

A list of acts passed by the legislature up to and including March 31st have been signed by Governor Dietrich.

Governor Dietrich on the 31st signed eighteen bills. Among them was one by Loomis to make the warden of the state penitentiary the executioner of death penalties.

The house passed the bill providing for a state exhibit of the agricultural, industrial and educational resources of the state at the Pan-American exposition to be held in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., in the year 1901, and to provide for the appointment by the governor of a commissioner, who shall have charge of said state exhibit.

Immediately after the opening of the session in the house on the 30th Ollis of Valley moved to commit the Bartley bondsmen compromise bill to the committee of the whole for amendments, and was defeated by a rising vote of 15 to 12. This motion being lost the bill was read a third time and the roll called on its passage. Several members sent up written explanations of their votes, but no speeches were made either for or against the bill. The vote was 53 to 22 in favor of its passage.