



AN EASTER SONG

A song of sunshine through the rain,
Of spring across the snow;
A balm to heal the hurts of pain,
A peace surpassing woe.
Lift up your heads, ye sorrowing ones,
And be ye glad of heart,
For Calvary and Easter Day,
Earth's saddest day and gladdest day,
Were just one day apart!

With shudder of despair and loss
The world's deep heart was wrung,
As, lifted high upon His cross,
The Lord of Glory hung—
When rocks were rent, and ghostly
Forms
Stole forth in street and mart;
But Calvary and Easter Day,
Earth's blackest day and whitest day,
Were just one day apart.
—Susan Coolidge.



Symbol of Glad Easter

All Nations and All Peoples Have Connected the Egg with the Creation or Renewal of Life.



FOR days the shop windows have spoken eloquently though mutely of the advent of the great spring festival which in some form or other the classes and masses of the people are observing. Easter lilies and tulips, violets and hyacinths all have spoken of the birth of a new year, of the springing forth of buds and blossoms, of the thrilling of bird songs, of the breaking of ice-bound waters, of the passing of winter, and of the return of the sun, bringing with it seedtime, and the birth of new hopes and desires, symbolized in the celebration of Easter.

And everywhere the egg, symbolic of the universe and of life, of the springing forth from the germ of new forces and powers, has been in evidence. The Egyptians, the Jews, the Persians and Hindus, the Syrians, the Burmese, the Chinese, the Australians, the Hawaiians—all have connected the egg with the creation or renewal of life.

Hawaii, the islanders declare, was a great egg which some mammoth bird dropped as it passed over the seas. The Egyptians regarded the egg as a sacred emblem of the renovation of mankind after the flood, and the Jews used it as a type of their departure from the land of the Egyptians, and with the Paschal lamb it was a part of the Passover feast.

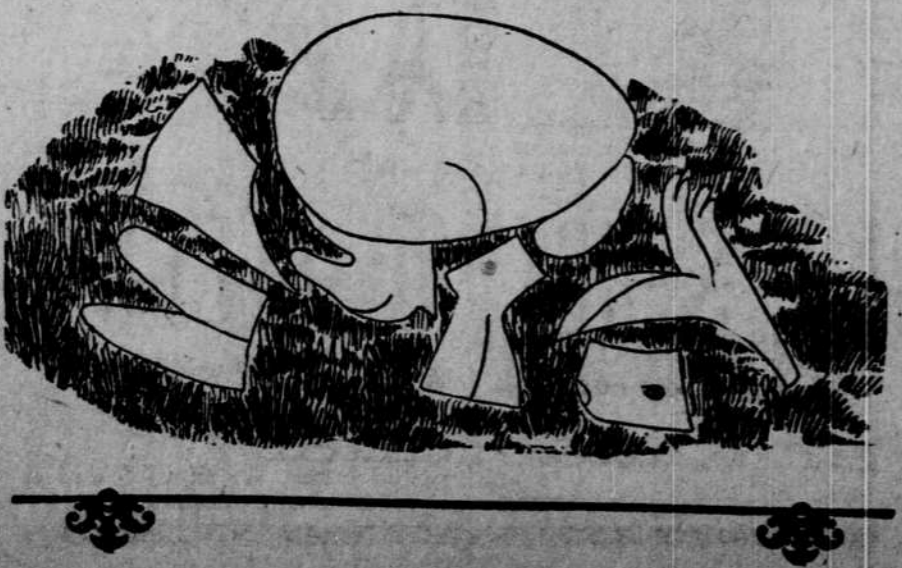
The early Christians were, of course, Jewish, and when they began to observe Easter as a Christian feast gave to the egg as a part of the ceremonial of the season a new significance, that of the resurrection from the dead. Eggs were forbidden during Lent, and so naturally accumulated, as the hens did not stop laying. Eating them on Easter day signified that fasting time was over and feasting begun, so they were connected with joy just as were the bells which, ushered during the period preceding Easter day, broke into joyous pealing at its dawn.

The name for Easter in the romance languages—paques in French, pasqua in Italian, and pasqua in Spanish—comes through the Latin pascha, from the Chaldean form of the Hebrew name for the Passover festival. Hence the eggs are pace, pashe, paschal, or pasque eggs, as well as Easter eggs.

When the early Christians began to observe Easter as a Christian festival a controversy as to the time of its observance, known as the Paschal controversy, and extending from the second to the fourth centuries, arose. The Eastern churches kept it at the same time as the Jewish Passover, the 14th day of the Jewish lunar month of Nisan, which most often corresponds to our month of April, though sometimes synchronous with March. The Western churches thought that it should be identified with Sunday, and observed it on the Sunday following the 14th day of Nisan. At the beginning of the fourth century, the Emperor Constantine succeeded in having a canon passed by the ecumenical council of Nice, fixing and making uniform the date of its observance, though as the rules laid down by this council for the date of its observance made it necessary to reconcile three periods, with no common measure, namely, the week, the lunar month and the solar year, the determination of Easter was for a long time a matter requiring great nicety of calculation.

BUNNY AND THE EGG.

DIRECTIONS.
CUT OUT THE EGG AND THE SEVEN PARTS. WHEN PROPERLY PUT TOGETHER WILL MAKE BUNNY.



SEE WHAT YOU BUY

DO NOT TAKE THE CATALOGUE STATEMENT FOR IT.

CASE OF A MAIL-ORDER BUGGY

The Purchaser Was Ashamed to Use It and Sold It to His Hired Man—It Pays to Buy at Home.

(Copyright, by Alfred C. Clark.)
The East End of London is an example of what the city does for humanity in creating poverty, misery, disease, drunkenness and crime. Jefferson was right when he said: "Great cities are great sores upon the body politic." Is it any wonder that lovers of their kind are horror-stricken at the grinding of these gigantic mills whose grist is the bodies and souls of men?

But there is another movement connected with this current setting cityward which, like it, is full of grave menace to the welfare of humanity. This is the dry rot now invading thousands of villages and towns. It is not lack of capital or business energy in the towns, or discrimination in freights or exhaustion of the soil in the surrounding country that is bringing about this change, but a new and dangerous form of competition, and the caprices of those who buy. Go into these towns and you will find them at a standstill or going backward. Inquire of their business men or commercial travelers and you will learn that business is not as good as formerly and that the prospect is for a continued shrinkage in trade. An observant commercial traveler said to the writer: "I believe the day of the village and town is over. The big fish are everywhere eating up the little fish. A few small lines of business that cannot be done by mail, such as



The mail-order habit will cut the limb of local prosperity from the tree of national life and drop you and your community into the bottomless pit of business stagnation. Are you wielding the saw that means certain disaster to you and your community?

barbering, blacksmithing or the serving of soft drinks and ice cream may survive, but such lines of trade cannot sustain a decent town." The cause of this widespread loss of business is the aggressive and destructive competition of the catalogue houses in the big cities. It has been possible for 40 years or more to buy of some houses in the cities, if one felt that the merchants of his town were exacting too much profit, but this effort of the mail order houses to cut the retailer altogether is a new thing, the growth of the past few years. Starting with a few lines of trade, this form of competition has come to cover almost everything that can be sold in a country town and it is even asserted that a savings bank department is to be added by one of the catalogue houses.

The claim that the mail order houses of Chicago are doing an annual business of over \$200,000,000 may seem large, but one house alone has sold goods to the amount of \$29,000,000 in the past six months and is now incubating a new plan to increase its enormous business by selling shares of stock to thousands of people in the hope of making them regular customers.

The skillfully worded advertisement and the big catalogue, with its pictures of articles in a hundred lines of trade, are very alluring to buyers, most of whom are not familiar with prices and qualities. Some of the articles below the usual prices are of an inferior quality, while the average price is usually fully up to what would be paid to the home dealer. As was shown last winter in a speech in congress, articles for the mail order trade are often misbranded at the request of the mail order people with deliberate intent to deceive. One of the instances given by this congressman was of some thousands of finger rings stamped "fourteen carats" when they were in reality only ten.

The buyer who orders from his catalogue, or from an advertisement, does not see the articles until they come and is often disappointed in the quality of the most of them, but there is no redress as there would be if he bought at home. He does not like to own that he is disappointed, so he makes the best of it and tries to persuade himself that he has saved money. In many instances he is not well enough informed in values to know that he could have bought as cheaply and selected much more satisfactorily at home. On a rural route with which I am familiar and over which most of the incoming letters are from mail order houses and the outgoing ones carry back money orders, lives a friend of mine who bought a watch from the catalogue at what he considered a rare bargain. The watch came, to be sure, but it did not go, that is at the right speed, and, although money enough was spent on it to bring the price up to a good figure, it was no better as a

timekeeper than that famous watch of Capt. Cuttle's. Another friend bought a buggy at \$34 and was elated over his purchase until it came and he saw that the top was a very ordinary article of oil cloth, instead of leather, and he was so ashamed of it that he sold it at a loss to his hired man and bought a better one in a neighboring town. A lady and her two daughters bought shoes from the catalogue and when asked why they had trouble with their feet said it was because of ill-fitting shoes. But such instances of the bad effects of buying "sight unseen" are daily occurring all over the country. It is only natural and inevitable that such things should happen.

Let us see what will be the effect of this formidable diversion of trade, if carried to its logical conclusion. Nearly all the business houses of the smaller towns will become bankrupt, the value of town property will decline, churches and schools will receive a feeble support and the towns, instead of being centers of business and social activity, will almost cease to exist. The country in general will become like many portions of the south where the large plantations, by getting their supplies in the cities, have kept the neighboring towns down to the cross-roads type—dreary, unpainted little places of a half dozen ramshackle houses. The evil effects of this loss of trade and destruction of the value of town property will react upon the value of farm property by cutting off the home market. They will add to the taxes on lands by reducing taxable values in the towns. Surely it is not to the interest of anybody, except the bloated corporations carrying on the mail order business, to see the towns and villages fall into decay. A live town is not only of value to the lands surrounding it, but its well stocked business houses are a convenience and a benefit to the buyer. Even if money could, in the long run, be saved by ordering everything from the city, the inconvenience

BUREAU SAVES THE DOWNCAST FROM SUICIDE

REMARKABLE WORK DONE BY THE SALVATION ARMY IN NEW YORK.

AID FOR FAILURES IN LIFE'S STRUGGLE

Hope, Cheer and Material Aid Given All Who Apply to This Unique Organization—Officer in Charge Tells of the Work Done in One Day, Characteristic of the Twenty-Four Hours—Gen. Booth Talks of Causes Which Led to the Formation of Plan to Check Self-Destruction.

New York—Busy? There isn't a busier place in all the city. Messengers hurry in and out with sheaves of telegrams; postmen bring special delivery letters; officers in uniform escort grave looking persons hither and thither. There are conferences in small offices and then talks with a man with epaulettes who sits at a large roll-top desk. Clerks, stenographers and typewriters have their part in the multiple activities.

There is so much life that it seems hard to realize that the business carried on concerns self-destruction, for



Using Persuasion.

This is the anti-suicide bureau of the Salvation Army.

This institution carries on its work by letter and by telegraph. It is a correspondence school of adversity, a repository of all trouble. Its patrons who call in person are treated with as much deference as though they had opened an account in a broker's office and the connection was likely to be enduring and profitable.

General William Booth devised the anti-suicide bureau in London, and the New York establishment is a development of it, worked out in accordance with conditions peculiar to the metropolis of the western world.

Most persons who talk mournfully to their friends about not being long for this world are short on resolution when the time comes for them to make good the threats they have made concerning shuffling off this mortal coil with their own hands.

Don't Talk of Suicide. The men and women who silently give way to despair are those who are prone to take their own lives without ever saying a word about it in advance. The anti-suicide bureau gives them a chance to tell their troubles in strictest confidence and to receive help and encouragement at a time when they would not bare their secrets either to acquaintances or friends on account of pride.

First of all to present himself to the consideration of the bureau was a youth who said that at times he was so overcome with the inclination to seek "the open door" that he could not resist it. Once he had jumped off a ferryboat and on another occasion a bridge had formed a convenient point of vantage from which he had sought a watery grave. Whenever things were going against him the impulse beset him. He was out of employment and the feeling had obsessed him. What should he do? The answer to that was easy. The bureau found employment for him and he is now cheerful and happy.

There called a few minutes later a man well known in the business world, who said he could hardly blame men who were unfortunate from yielding to the inclination toward self-destruction, for he himself, although he had wealth and everything, from a worldly point of view, which he could wish, and was connected with the church, found there were times when he had felt almost irresistibly impelled to take his own life. Such

DEATH VALLEY'S BLOOM

Springtime Turns Dreaded Spot Into One of the Most Beautiful on the Earth.

Think, if you will, of a long, low valley, lying between two lofty ranges of barren mountains—a white glistening sink for a miserable desert river—the whole overlaid with a thick black pall of wind and sand and ashes from the dead craters that fringe its borders; add all the heat and horrid fumes of Gehenna, and you have some idea of Death Valley in summer, says the San Francisco Chronicle.

Wash these mountains clean with three months of almost continual cloudbursts and rain, rim in their feet with the whole edge of the valley with foot deep grasses, lush and green as any that ever flourished Sierran cleng, sprinkle the white waste with green sprigs of mesquite all aglow with myriad blossoms, arch over all an Adriatic sky, cooled with the balmy breeze, and you have pictured Death Valley at the beginning of

periods of depression had come to him when he was suffering from slight illness. He could not account for the tendency in any way, but by the application of the powers of his will and by devotion to religion he had at last mastered it.

All Strictly Confidential.

It is the rule of the bureau that everything connected with its work should be strictly confidential, and all telegrams and letters are handled with every precaution to insure secrecy.

Col. Holland, however, who has charge of the work in New York, by way of illustrating the matter in which the bureau was conducted, gave a reporter a synopsis of one day's work.

No. 1 on that day was a baker out of employment. He was brooding over his misfortune and meditating finding some sequestered nook in which he could blow out his brains with a revolver. The bureau induced him to surrender the weapon, which was fully loaded. Temporary employment as an elevator man was provided for him, and he is interested in his occupation. The bureau, meanwhile, is trying to get him work more suited to his training.

For No. 2 there seemed to be little which could be done in New York. He was an elevator pilot, who was threatened with consumption. The bureau is arranging to have him sent west to some dryer climate, where he may be able to gain strength, for at present he is hardly strong enough to do any work.

Fearing Bankruptcy.

Prescribing for case No. 3 was rather expensive, as it was that of a business man 65 years old, who was troubled for fear that his capital would not be sufficient to tide him over a dull season. He was also suffering from the stress and worry incident to a business venture, so that he was on the point of suicide. The colonel was not prepared to assist him with the somewhat large sum he required, but dissuaded him from doing anything rash and counseled moderation and self-control.

It is a story which is often told in industrial life which found its counterpart in the case of No. 4, a white-haired man of 60, who was a carpenter. He had been forced out of employment in several places by younger men who could work more rapidly, and he had lost jobs until he saw nothing for him but the almshouse or the river. He was told of an opportunity where he could make fair wages and work more slowly, although he could not expect to keep pace with younger men. He was comforted and reassured and has abandoned his idea of self-destruction.

Had Been Dishonest.

No. 5 had committed a breach of trust, but although he had been disowned by the relative who was affected financially, it was not likely that he would be prosecuted. He was overcome with remorse and was about to take his own life when his notice was attracted to the anti-suicide bureau. His money was all gone and he was out of a job, but as he is young and a skilled workman, no trouble was found in getting a good position for him. He has gone to



Colonel Holland Talking to a Prospective Suicide.

work in an endeavor to gradually pay back the money which disappeared through his peculations.

No. 6 was a paper-hanger, whose trouble was due to lack of employment. Although he was past middle life he was found to be active and proficient. The officers found that he was so overwhelmed with despair that it took an hour and a half's talk to bring him around to face life again.

Robbers had deprived No. 7, a man of 53, of all he had, and he was about to take his own life when the thought occurred to him that perhaps he might gain strength and resolution if he talked the matter over with the anti-suicide bureau. Within an hour or so after he had told of his predicament he found employment as an elevator pilot in a lofty building through the efforts of the army.

Employment was also found that day for No. 8, a young foreigner who had come to this country with a small sum of money, which had disappeared.

lieve, the step is taken in the struggle to be good—in the vain effort to master some hated evil—with the sense of utter helplessness. No one is at hand with sufficient sympathy or sense to understand them, to whom the bleeding heart can be laid bare. So the fatal step is taken. Suicide, in 90 cases out of 100, must be the triumph of despair.

"But I will not argue about causes. Can anything be done to prevent the suicidal tide from rising? This is the practical question. And it seems to me that we must supply the friendless with a friend, the broken in heart with comfort, the dazed, bewildered creatures with a guide, the momentarily-maddened slaves of folly with thought and hopes that will steady them, and, above all, lead them to the arms of Him who is still saying, 'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'"

The Scotch seldom kiss.

The bureau gave him help and arranged for his return to Europe on a cattle steamship, on which he was to work his way.

There were four other cases that day, but they were mostly those of men who seemed to be more interested in a night's lodging than anything else, and they, too, had their reward.

Meet Individual Cases. It is difficult to prescribe accurately for all the cases which come up before them, but the officers of the bureau have to vary the remedies to meet individual cases.

Practically the same tactics are pursued in the women's department of the bureau, which is under the supervision of Brigadier Bovill. Women of all ages who are tired and despondent have been received and aided. Among them are widows who have been left with families dependent upon them.

Attention was recently called to that of a woman who was the support of five small children. Her body was found by her five-year-old daughter hanging by a rope in a closet. The child gave the alarm and a man rushed in from the street and cut the woman down. Before she died she uttered the one word "Tired."

"We could have helped that woman," said Col. Holland, "if she had told us of her troubles, for we could have temporarily taken charge of two or three or all of the children for that matter, in our Cherry Tree Home, in Spring Valley." We could have also taken care of her and kept her with them there in the country until she gathered health and strength. Then she could have returned to the city with one or two of the children and left the others to be cared for by the Salvation Army.

Col. Holland said that many of the men who were despondent through lack of employment were American mechanics who were deprived of a chance to gain a livelihood through the loss of a finger or a portion of the hand.

"We have special arrangements," said he, "for caring for those who are handicapped in that way, and often they can find occupations suited to them in which the defects would not seriously interfere."

Back of the anti-suicide bureau is the whole organization of the Salvation Army, which has homes, asylums, farms and colonies, in which it can help the unfortunate, as well as schools and training bureaus. It also conducts employment agencies and is in touch with many large firms and corporations. Its connections with hospitals and with the medical profession is also close, so that it can arrange quickly for the treatment of physical ills which so often drive men and women to the verge of self-destruction.

General Booth's Idea.

Gen. Booth, in his public address upon the situation, says the causes of suicide are almost without number.

"But further back," he adds, "in the string of causes for this melancholy transaction I should say there too frequently lies a sense of failure in the struggle of life; especially is this the case with those who have come down in the world. With many, I be-