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# THE PRODIGAL JUDGE

By VAUGHAN KESTER.



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## THE PRODIGAL JUDGE

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If You Miss It You'll Regret It

IF YOU READ the opening chapters you will await each succeeding number with an increasing interest, and wish for more of it

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT of

this intensely interesting story will be found in these columns in a short time, followed up by a weekly supply as our space permits.



## The Easter Festival

By Lena M. McCauley

THE world itself keeps Easter Day," begins an old carol in recognition that Easter is a festival of spring. While the Christian faith accepts it as a movable feast depending on the time of the paschal moon, it is always within the period when nature is awaking from winter to a renewal of life. Each day the sun rises earlier, its warmth drawing the frost from the ground. As if by magic the dull fields are veiled in tender green and the flowers bud in the sheltered places.

In the first days of human history the cave man rubbed dry sticks together to steal fire from the sun. When the spring melted the ice of winter, he bowed more profoundly to the great luminary in the sky as it appeared in the east, and later when he built his altars he renewed the fires when the sun turned northward. The word Easter is from the Saxon "Eostre," the name of the goddess of spring. "Eoster" lived in the east with the rising sun. She was the most gentle of all the deities of the pagan world. As she tripped across the meadows the grass came out, the flowers blossomed, the ice was broken in the brooks, and the streams sang merrily. All the earth rejoiced, for the fairer seasons of the year were at hand.

Significant of Resurrection. Each year Eostre was born again significant of the resurrection from the dead of the Christian faith. The young plants awake to life from dry seeds, the chicks from the eggs, and everywhere in nature the springtide under the spell of Eostre became lovely after the winter's sleep.

The Romans adopted the Saxon Eostre as their goddess Aurora. When the Christian fathers were naming the feasts of the church it was a wise thought that brought the old nature worship and the Easter resurrection into harmony.

The Emperor Constantine, at the beginning of the fourth century, resolved to fix the time of Easter that it should not conflict with the Jewish Passover. To prevent disputes, he made the rules which were accepted at the Council of Nice in 325 A. D. The twenty-first day of March was known as the Vernal Equinox, the next full moon was the moon of Nisan, or the Jewish Passover, and the Lord's Day following was Easter Day. But if the full moon happened on a Sunday, Easter Day was the Sunday after that.

Old Easter customs, while differing widely according to religions and localities, had some things in common. The Easter flower has always been sacred to altars. Today we speak of the Easter lily, meaning the St. Joseph lily, and in other parts of the world the daffodil, or the narcissus, or the calla lily may be regarded as the Easter lily. The Easter egg is generally treasured and the Easter candle is a sacred fire, the egg pertaining to the resurrection of life, and the fire to eternal life.

The return of the sun at the vernal equinox was an occasion for rejoicing among the pagans in general, especially the wandering tribes who studied the skies, the Druids, and wild northern peoples. The fire worshippers of Persia, living on the high arid plateaux at this season, rose more reverently with the dawn and spread their rugs to kneel in adoration awaiting the token in the east of the source of light and life. The Easter eggs as symbols of the gods of good and evil, Ormuzd and Adrilman, were popular in Persia and gayly colored. They were

exchanged as gifts, even solemn dignitaries carrying them about in their voluminous robes and presenting them to friends.

Easter Symbols Universal. The colored Easter eggs, as gay as the Easter flowers in the fields, are universal. In Russia and in Paris, and in fact today in all large cities of the world, imitation eggs are made of confectionery, and jewelers go so far as to make eggs of gold and silver and to set them with gems for the Easter trade.

The Christian church introduced the most beautiful celebrations of all Easter is the inspiring feast of the year and its celebration means a renewal of faith. Even in remote parts of the world, where priests and their little flocks assemble, the Easter lights burn on the altars and faithful congregations sing Easter carols with joy.

The most solemn celebration of all is that held in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher at Jerusalem. Pilgrims assemble from every corner of Christendom, and ascend the Via Dolorosa chanting prayers. Many attend the feet-washing ceremonies, and throngs haste to the church where devotion keeps them waiting from Good Friday until Saturday afternoon, when the Patriarch with unlighted torch enters the gloom of the sepulcher.

They watch with bated breath for his return. No light flickers in the darkness, then suddenly a blaze flames up, the torch is on fire and with a shout of thanksgiving the multitude breaks into singing a glorious hymn of thanksgiving. Those nearest the altar eagerly snatch fire from the torch, candle after candle is lighted until every taper in the church is burning. The worshippers rise, the gloom is dispelled, and they go forth into the gray of the morning greeting one another, "Christ is arisen!" meeting the reply, "He is arisen indeed!"

Ceremonies at Rome. The festival ceremonies at Rome are most splendid. The Pope officiates at mass on that day and St. Peter's is filled with cardinals, prelates, and dignitaries from all parts of the world. The day is ushered in by firing cannon from the Castle of St. Angelo. The magnificent basilica is richly decorated, altars are newly ornamented, the lights around St. Peter's tomb are burning, and the Pope is seated in his chair of state in vestments ablaze with gold.

Easter carols are sung in all Christian lands. Some of the most beautiful are those from the Tyrol, where singers go from house to house. Spain gives way to joy in fetes, and gifts are made to the Virgin, who is adorned with her best robes and jewels at this time. Russians enjoy a gift tree, like our Christmas tree, while jeweled Easter eggs are exchanged in the imperial household.

The Easter carol of the Christian church is sacred history and nature worship together. One of the favorite begins:

"Let the merry church-bells ring,  
Hence with tears and sighing,  
Frost and cold have fled with spring,  
Life hath conquered dying,  
Flowers are smiling, fields are gay,  
Sunny is the weather,  
With our rising Lord today,  
All things rise together."

Another carol is "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done," while many have the refrain of "Alleluia." Wherever there are chimes of bells they are rung joyously in celebration.

There is a mystery about the origin of the Easter rabbit of Germany. Egg-hunting in the forest, where grown people have hidden the colored eggs, is as popular as egg-rolling is on the White House grounds in Washington. In some places doves are liberated at Easter, and it is quite general to fill Easter baskets with flowers, or cakes, and to make visits to renew good will among friends.

A great deal of beautiful music has been written for the Easter services, which have become elaborate occasions in the churches. Many carols that are sung have been handed down by tradition and repeated from father to son. They frequently tell the New Testament story of the first Christian, Easter morning when Christ rose from the tomb, and gave all human beings faith in immortality.

## RIVER ON RAMPAGE

TO MARK MERIDIAN ROAD FROM WINNIPEG TO THE GULF.

### NEWS FROM OVER THE STATE

What is Going on Here and There That is of Interest to the Readers Throughout Nebraska and Vicinity.

North Bend—The Platte river is inundating adjoining low fields here and there between Fremont and North Bend, and water is flowing in the ditches along the Union Pacific track. For the first time since the flood five years ago the old channel between Murphys and Fremont is carrying water. Several farmers have left their homes and the dozen families residing on Fremont island have sought places of safety.

#### To Mark Meridian Road.

Stromsburg—The Meridian road, extending from Winnipeg, Canada, to the Gulf, passes through Stromsburg, and at a meeting of the commercial club a committee was appointed to put in place road marks made for this purpose by the Meridian road association.

#### Dedicate New Bell.

Fremont—At St. Patrick's church Saturday morning services dedicating a new \$600 bell, presented by Mrs. Julia Archer in memory of her late husband, were held. The services were led by Rev. Father J. J. O'Sullivan. The bell will be rung for the first time on Easter Sunday morning.

#### Crime on the Increase.

Valentine—Prevalence and increase of the crime of cattle stealing, a large amount of brawling and petty assaults, unnecessary handling of firearms, petty thievery, and quarrels, litigation and crime arising from the hideously incorrect system of surveys of public lands in Cherry county were among the cases which the grand jury of this county was called upon to investigate.

#### Supposed Lost Boy Heard From.

Broken Bow—Albert Baker, who was reported lost in a storm near Lander, Wyo., several weeks ago, has written to his parents here that he is alive and well. Baker says he was in ignorance of the anxiety caused over his disappearance, having been on a Wyoming ranch, forty miles from a railroad, and being unable to communicate with the outer world.

#### Harbinger of Spring.

Exeter—M. S. Rasmussen, a rural carrier, brought a small grasshopper to town the other day. It was found and captured while out enjoying the sun. He is being exhibited as a proof that spring is here.

### NEWS FROM THE STATE HOUSE.

Louis Leonard of University Place has been appointed by the governor guard at the penitentiary. This makes the second new guard appointed since the outbreak of three convicts bent on escape.

The two hundred and fifty prisoners at the penitentiary who have not been at work since the trouble following the escape of three convicts a couple of weeks ago were given exercise in the prison yard Thursday morning.

Governor Aldrich has received a request from ten members of a grand jury that convened at Alliance to institute ouster proceedings against Mayor Fred W. Harris and Chief of Police John B. Hunsacker and Night Marshal Floyd R. Donovan of Alliance.

The German-Russian Family society of Lincoln has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state. The object of the society, according to the articles, is to pay death benefits to members and to provide literary, social, musical and dramatic entertainment for members.

State Game Warden Henry V. Miller has received word that the grand jury of Saunders county has returned an indictment against Dick Sutton and his oldest son, Tom Andrews and Alfred Larson, for shooting and killing a deer near Wahoo last fall. The indicted men have given bonds in the sum of \$500 to appear for trial.

James Walsh of Omaha, who recently tried to present to the governor a fine specimen of the chinook salmon from the Campbell river, British Columbia, and who failed through the ignorance of cold storage men who cut off the head and tail of the fish, succeeded in his second presentation. The fish given to the governor will be presented to the university museum to be mounted. It weighs forty-five pounds and was caught by Mr. Walsh last summer and has since been in cold storage.

State Oil Inspector Husenetter has reported the collection of \$2,813.40 in fees during the month of February. He paid to the state treasurer \$2,596.66, expended \$1,216.74 for salaries and expenses and has \$1,200 on hand.

State Land Commissioner Cowles and Adjutant General Phelps held a conference in regard to the list of new articles of kitchen and dining room furniture needed at the penitentiary. "The state will not buy Haviland china for the convicts' dining-table, but will probably replace granite ware with aluminum trimmed with gold," remarked Mr. Cowles.



Dark.  
Hewitt—It is pretty cloudy.  
Jewett—Yes, a sort of brunette day.

ONLY ONE "BROMO QUININE."  
That is LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for the signature of F. W. GILDAY. Used the World over to cure a Cold in One Day. 25c.

The commanding intellect should have the command and be king—Schiller.

There is nothing heavenly about war,—or Dyspepsia. The world is outgrowing the first, and Garfield Tea will conquer Dyspepsia.

#### In Chicago.

Ella—What do you think of him?  
Stella—He's too mean to pay alimony—even a dollar down and a dollar a month.

#### A Frequent Type.

"Spoonleigh is a connoisseur of happiness."  
"How do you define a connoisseur of happiness?"  
"A person who knows how to be happy but can't."

#### Means to Enjoy Closing Years.

Having made a million dollars by the practice of law since he quit politics, former Congressman and Governor Frank S. Black, aged fifty-eight, has confirmed the reports that he has retired. "After a certain point is reached it isn't money a man should work for, but time. You can't defy human nature," he says.

#### Such Is Life.

Dugan—Oh my, oh my! Isn't Casey put'n on grand airs wid his new automobile? An' over in the old country I dare say he went barefooted.  
Ryan—Fah, not be his own accounts. He says he had a turnout over there that attracted great attention.

Dugan—Av course; an evicton always does.

#### All in the Same Boat.

My aunt has a beautiful parrot, which, like many others of its species, is addicted to profanity. To break the bird of this habit, my aunt would "duck" him in water every time he would swear. On an April day he had received the accustomed ducking. Now, it happened that a brood of newly hatched chickens had been drenched in a shower of rain and auntie brought them into the house and placed them in the kitchen to dry, beneath the parrot, who was drying his feathers. He seemed much interested and gazed intently at the little chicks for some time, and then exclaimed: "D—n'd little fools; been swear'ng, too!"

#### SHE QUIT COFFEE

And Much Good Came From It.

It is hard to believe that coffee will put a person in such a condition as it did a woman of Apple Creek, O. She tells her own story:

"I did not believe coffee caused my trouble, and frequently said I liked it so well I would not quit drinking it, even if it took my life, but I was a miserable sufferer from heart trouble and nervous prostration for four years.

"I was scarcely able to go around at all. Had no energy, and did not care for anything. Was emaciated and had a constant pain around my heart until I thought I could not endure it. I felt as though I was liable to die any time.

"Frequently I had nervous chills and the least excitement would drive sleep away, and any little noise would upset me terribly. I was gradually getting worse until finally one day, it came over me, and I asked myself what is the use of being sick all the time and buying medicine so that I can indulge myself in coffee?"

"So I thought I would see if I could quit drinking coffee, and got some Postum to help me quit. I made it strictly according to directions, and I want to tell you that change was the greatest step in my life. It was easy to quit coffee because I had the Postum which I like better than I liked the old coffee. One by one the old troubles left, until now I am in splendid health, nerves steady, heart all right, and the pain all gone. Never have any more nervous chills, don't take any medicine, can do all my household work, and have done a great deal besides.

"My sister-in-law, who visited me this summer had been an invalid for some time, much as I was. I got her to quit coffee and drink Postum. She gained five pounds in three weeks, and I never saw such a change in anyone's health."

"There's a reason."  
"Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest."