

# She has seen Easter celebrated in eighteen different lands.

**M**ISS HELEN MATHEWS LAIDLAW of St. Louis has seen Easter day celebrated in more different countries, perhaps, than any person on earth. She will attend church in Jerusalem this Easter, making eighteen countries in which she has spent Easter, nineteen in England and Scotland be considered different countries.

To reassure those who may get an incorrect idea in regard to Miss Laidlaw's age I should be stated that she is but 31 years old, for she began her life of travel with her father, a writer and student since he retired from the ministry, before she was 12 years of age, and since then has visited practically every country on the earth.

Her Easter experiences, written at her father's request, to be read before a church organization, furnish a valuable



Effigy of Judas in a Mexican street

Judas in the streets, and they were hung everywhere. There was one Judas, 20 feet tall, hanging from a rope in the center of a business street, and I was afraid it was an advertisement.

"In Mexico the women do penance—and the men, too. They kneel for hours in the streets or creep on their knees for blocks, scouring themselves. I saw one comely girl, dressed in coarse clothes, with a crown of thorns pressed upon her brow, kneeling in the street, surrounded by a respectful crowd. Two men held her hands as she walked on her knees—strangers to her they were—and I learned later that her father was a wealthy man.

"The following year, 1888, I spent Easter in Turkey. In the morning I attended a little Christian chapel, then watched the Turks and Jews, and Greeks celebrate Easter. It is perhaps the strangest of all Easter, and the women of the harems look down upon turbulent streets. Everywhere in the streets the Greeks and the Jews sacrifice lambs. The official of the church grasped the lamb and suddenly plunged his knife into its throat. Then a Jew seized the struggling animal, placed his hand over the gushing wound, and ran as hard as he could to the mosque. The belief is that if he reaches the mosque before the animal dies the year will be a prosperous one, and if he falls all concerned will have bad luck. Everywhere cakes are baked, and the scent of bread, perfumed with incense because it has been ground in the mills of Turks and must be cleaned, fills the air. Feasting on the bodies of the lambs and the bread concludes the day—



The great cross in an Easter procession in Rome

unless the lamb had died before reaching the mosque. Then there are sorrow and prayers.

### Tyrolese Sing Easter Hymns.

"The next Easter was in a glorious land—Austria Tyrol. We were at Scharzenberg, only a few miles from Lake Constance and above the valley of the Rhine. The Easter ceremonies are entirely religious, and every form of worship known to the church is observed. Later in the day, while the bells rang widely throughout the beautiful valley, the famous Tyrolese singers came forth and wandered in bands from hamlet to hamlet in the valley, singing their famous carols until the mountains and glaciers echoed with the Easter hymns. At each house the singers call the people to the door, and eggs, colored and marked with notices, are passed out to them, and wine and cake served, while the people of the house carol with the singers. Everywhere the people wear flowers, covering themselves with them.

"Home, of course, is the center of the Easter celebration, and the ceremonies are more gorgeous even than at Jerusalem—where it is my luck to be this year. I witnessed one celebration at Rome, when the blessed Pope Leo led at mass in St. Peter's. The day opened with a salute of cannon from St. Angelo at 7 o'clock, and immediately the throng moved toward St. Peter's.

### Splendid Mass at St. Peter's.

"It was the most impressive sight in the Christian world. The pope, seated in his sedia gestatoria, in vestments blazing with gold and the triple crown upon his brow, was borne into St. Peter's. Great fans of ostrich feathers waved beside him and over him a canopy, richly embroidered in gold. The brilliant assemblage bowed during the stately mass, while the immense choir filled the cathedral with inspiring music. Later the pope was borne in his chair to the balcony, and, rising, blessed the immense crowds, gave benediction, and indulgences.

"In 1891 I was in Germany, and joined in the quaint games at Hamburg. The gifts of eggs, which the white hare is supposed to have brought during the night, begin early. At dawn the bells, which have been silent during passion week, break forth and ring wildly all day. The peasants say that the bells have gone to Rome during passion week and returned with a message from the pope for Easter. The gray-hued eggs are given everywhere, and none is refused. Every one must wear something new on Easter day for good luck, signifying that the beginning of Easter will mean many new things during the year.

"In one part of the city the 'Easter king' appeared, lead-

ing a procession, but this custom, once general, is dying out all over Europe.

"The story that is told to the German children on Easter is like the 'House That Jack Built,' and is from an old Jewish tale. The little kid slowly is eaten by a cat, which is eaten by a dog, which is eaten by a bull, and so on, signifying the nations that have persecuted Israel and themselves been destroyed.

### Green Twigs Sign of Proposal.

"My Easter in Russia was spent away in the south, because father was busy there with some investigations, and there, as among the Hungarians, I saw the queer custom of Easter used for proposals of marriage. Over the door of every house in which an unmarried girl lived her admirer placed a green twig. Then, approaching the door, he knocked. The father responded and found the admirer with a pitcher of water.

"You have a flower in your garden that I crave permission to water," said the admirer.

"I have a flower in my garden, but it grows by itself, without being watered," responded the father. "I thank you for the honor."

"Instead of going away the swain remained, watching until the daughter came forth. Then he threw water over her until she either agreed to wed him or bought her ransom in colored eggs.

"The Russian custom of kissing is general in the Black sea districts, and on Easter I was kissed and kissed by Turks, Russians, and Jews until I filled my hand with money and bought them off.

### Take Shoes if Without Eggs.

"One strange custom I found during my Easter in England, which I spent with papa's distant relatives in Northumberland. We went into the village to church early, both of us being ignorant of the customs, and, coming from church, a man stepped up and demanded an egg. I had none and told him so. Thereupon he knelt down and commenced to unlace my shoes. Papa laughed—it was horrid of him—and let that man take off my shoes and march away with them. Then papa hastily purchased eggs and paid the ransom. The women who demand eggs of men and are refused can grab the man's cap and keep it until he pays."

Miss Laidlaw spent Easter in Egypt, Scotland, Sweden, Japan, Switzerland, France, Holland, Portuguese Africa, Morocco, and Greece—and now is at the climax of the queer travelling, for she will stand this Easter Sunday beside the holy sepulcher.

Choir of Angels in procession of Our Lady of Angels, Seville

addition to the history of that strange, part pagan, part Christian, part Jewish holiday.

What Easter means to Christians everybody understands, but that the tribes of the earth, many of whom know little of Christianity, and more that oppose Christian teachings, celebrate the day is not so well known. The early Celts, the Egyptians, the Persians, the Turks, the early Aryans, celebrated the day, and it received its name from Eostre, goddess of the dawn, the celebration being in honor of the dawning of spring.

The Aryan celebrated by singing, dancing, and feasting, while the Semite observed the day with ritual, prayer, and fasting, and from these the Jews drew their feast of unleavened bread and the sacrifice of the Paschal lamb, forgetting the origin of the custom in the story of the Passover. The Christians saw a new meaning in the sacrifice when Christ was represented as the Paschal lamb.

This synopsis of the origin of the Easter celebration precedes Miss Laidlaw's story of her own experiences.

### Strange Mixture of Barbaric and Christian.

"The Easter of 1886," says Miss Laidlaw, "was my first away from home, and I was that year in Seville. Perhaps no Easter customs in the world are so strange a mixture of the barbaric and the Christian as in Spain, and the center of the celebration is Seville. The pomp and pageantry of the Roman Catholic services and processions are strangely mixed with other customs.

"The great Easter week parade is treated as a circus, and the floats representing the epochs of the life of Christ are surrounded by great crowds, that come from all the country round to see the procession and participate in the wine drinking and feasting that follow. The float representing Christ, taken by the Centurion, brings the crowds to their knees all along the route, and there are storms of jeers, hisses, and volleys of stones for Judas.

"The procession is led by a heavily cowed priest with a trumpet, five other priests, masked and garbed in black, with tall pointed caps, follow, and then the floats, on which much time and money are spent. The procession is impressive, but the services in the churches are more so. Then come feasting and merry making.

"The strange feature of the celebration in Seville is the intense exhibition of hatred for Judas. Every house has an

### An incident of Easter in Turkey

effigy of the betrayer hanging in front from a pole or from the balcony. The hotels and public buildings hang large effigies, and they are hissed and spat upon with mud all Easter day. The bullfight concludes the day—and, astounding as it may seem, there are some Spaniards who see a Christian significance in the death of the bull. The bullfight has become so confused with Easter that the ignorant make little distinction.

"One beautiful feature of the Spanish Easter is the choirs of children in the processions. In the procession of 'Our Lady of Angels' a hundred little girls in white, with white feathers in their beautiful black hair, paraded, singing. They were the 'angels' although they looked for all the world like our American Indian children.

### Spanish Customs in Mexico.

"The next Easter I spent in Mexico City—again among the Spanish—and saw a repetition of most of the Seville pageantry over again. The peddlers sold small effigies of

## FROM NEAR AND FAR

**SIGNBOARDS ALONG A JAPANESE RAILROAD.**

Even artistic Japan has not been able to escape the commercial temptation to border her railway lines with designs setting forth the excellence of various commodities. The placards of the extreme left advertise soap, and those that follow (taking them in order towards the right) are advertisements of the Japanese sauce, "soy"; of Diamond tooth powder, Tokio beer, a face powder, the Japanese wine, "saki"; a bicycle dealer, and a patent medicine. These occur on the railway between Kobe and Osaka.

**NAPOLEON AT ST. HELENA.** **WHERE'S THE PARROT?** **TEAR BOTTLE.**

From an old Japanese print published in Douglas Sladen's book, "More Queer Things About Japan." Napoleon is in chains surrounded by British soldiers in armor jeering at him. The picture gives an idea of the Japanese idea of Great Britain and European matters thirty years ago.

Follow the proper lines with a pencil or pen and make an outline drawing of a parrot on its perch talking angrily to a monkey.

Assyrian women of ancient days collected their tears in vessels.

**MOSQUITO'S FLIGHT.**

A French scientist has constructed an ingenious apparatus by which successive phases of an insect's flight can be photographed. These photographs were taken at intervals of 1-2000 of a second, but the actual exposure of each, or the duration of the electric spark by which it was taken, was only 1-2,000,000 of a second.

**LOCATION OF CARNEGIE'S LIBRARIES.**

On this map, which is from the World's Work, every dot represents a Carnegie library within the state where it appears.

**CLEVER DOG.**

Head of a cocker spaniel photographed by Miss Idaline Shepard, Sterling, Ill. "Curly" is owned by C. C. Woodworth, a railway postal clerk. He knows the whistle of the locomotive that haunts his master home every night, and that is the signal to meet him at the depot.

**TUBERCULOSIS AFFECTS THE POOR MOST.**

Tuberculosis Mortality	Income in Marks	Tuberculosis Mortality	Income in Marks
36.5	800-1,200	63.9	900-1,300
27.1	1,200-2,000	68.1	1,300-2,000
18.9	2,000-3,000	34.3	2,000-3,000
0.3	3,000-5,000	34.0	3,000-5,000
8.2	5,000-10,000	16.2	5,000-10,000
0.5	10,000-25,000	13.9	10,000-25,000
12.1	25,000-50,000	19.7	25,000-50,000

It is the poor who suffer from the terrible scourge, tuberculosis. It hardly worries the rich. It is a preventable disease, and the rich have the means to fight it. This is strikingly shown by a diagram received from Dr. Reinecke of Hamburg by a leading St. Louis specialist. It shows the relationship between tuberculosis and income, figured in marks. The German mark being worth about 25 cents. It is based on official figures. Among the poor over 63 per cent die from consumption when once affected. Among the rich not 20 per cent die, in some cases not 5 per cent. When a poor man gets consumption the chance of its killing him is six times greater than if he were comfortably well off.