

THE RISEN CHRIST

Easter Always Anniversary of Deliverance of Wonderful Message of Hope.

THE joy of the Christian soul is expressed at Easter in such a volume of song as rises upon no other day of the year. In the wealth of flowers that adorn altars, in the music of choirs and the praise of the children in their exercises are found the manifestation of the joy of hearts overflowing with the happiness of a renewed hope of life. It is the anniversary of the deliverance of the greatest message of hope the world has ever received, summed up in the three little words: "He Is Risen." It is the Christian "victory day"—Easter.

Most men everywhere at all times have had some sort of idea of immortality. It seems to be an inherent quality in humankind. The doctrine of the resurrection is not an entirely new one. Even the pagan before us had a glimpse of the truth and was moved to recognize it in his own way. Nature herself proclaims the doctrine and in every bursting bud of spring-time and the new songs of the birds we read a confirmation of our belief in a future life. Nature rejoices along with men in a realization of the glory of life, for that which was dead is alive again.

Brought Light to World.

But while we see in nature the symbols of the great truth of the resurrection and delight in the pleasing processes of the breaking forth of new life in the natural world, the Christian has something deeper and more firm than nature upon which to base his belief of immortality. The materialist may seek to read his future in the natural world, but the Christian derives his chief hope from a different source, a source no less than the message from God himself. When Jesus broke the bonds of death and became "the first fruits of them that sleep" He at the same time became the hope of all humanity. Before Him, the way was dark and shrouded in mystery, but on that first Easter morning He threw a flood of light upon the gates of eternity, which illumined the way for all and settled the question of immortality forever.

It is but natural that the anniversary of such a day should be celebrated with various manifestations of joy, but amid the songs and the flowers and the pageantry of our celebrations the great motive of the day should not be lost sight of. Things that minister to the esthetic sense should not be allowed to overshadow the appeal of the truth. If Easter brings no

heartening message to a soul wearied with worldly cares, no new inspiration to take hold of the things worth while with a firmer grip, no new feeling of citizenship in the eternal, our songs and flowers and pomp and pageantry, however beautiful, are of momentary value.

Divine Easter Message.

The message that Easter brings to the individual has a very direct bearing upon his life, for what one believes about the future life may largely determine his character, and

even his eternal destiny. One may even go further and say what a nation believes about the hereafter determines the character of its government in its practical dealing at home and abroad, and the character of the national life. The man or nation that is not restrained by the feeling that there is another world in which there will be a higher justice and a continued life of some sort, is dangerous.

Passing over the strictly religious element in the resurrection of Christ, momentarily, let us remember that history was made on that first Easter morning. When the devoted women went down to the tomb of the Lord upon their mission of love, it was given to them to hear the announcement from an angel that was to turn the tide of history and to give impetus to the movement of uplifting men that is still gathering force today. Jesus was a great teacher and He gave to the world His best principles and precepts. But there have been other good teachers of morals and religion, and who knows but that His teachings would not have perished with Him if He had not risen from the dead and become the living inspiration for the millions who were to come after him. Herein lies the distinctive difference between Christ and other teachers and between Christianity and other codes of morals and religion. Christian worship is directed toward a person and does not consist in veneration of a dead leader and slavish adherence to a rule of life or set of regulations. Above all Christianity is not

Eggs at Easter.

The use of Easter eggs is common to all Christendom, and seems to be a symbolic tradition of the primitive church. It is explained in various ways. The most probable theory is that because of the phenomenon of hatching, it was chosen as a symbol of the resurrection. At first the Easter eggs were taken to the temple and blessed by the priest, and then distributed to one's friends and family. But after awhile they came to stand merely for a festival, when they could eat the eggs that had been denied them during Lent. It is impossible to say when the first mention is made of

RABBIT AS EASTER SYMBOL

With the Egg, It Has Always Been Associated as Appropriate to the Season.

Easter originally was an oriental feast in honor of the coming spring, or the rebirth of the year. The rabbit is noted for its prolific offspring, and that animal was chosen as an Easter



symbol because it typified the fruitfulness of nature. The egg was selected as an emblem of Easter celebration because it contains the germ of life and is therefore typical of the revival of life at the beginning of the growing season. The lily bulb, like the egg, contains the germ of life and means of growing within itself, and accordingly is appropriate, carrying as it does the additional symbol of purity.

a philosophy, but a life, drawing its inspiration from a living Christ, and having a universal appeal because it speaks the language of love.

Religion Imperishable.

Such a religion can not be "beaten." It has all the qualities of the imperishable, and so long as the church maintains steadfast its belief in the resurrection it can not be conquered by all the hosts of evil.

The resurrection of Christ was the supreme victory of the ages, and not even was the overwhelming defeat of the Hun hosts battling on the western front a greater one. For we may say that if Jesus Christ had not lived and died as He did and had not risen from the dead and had not inspired the men of the great free nations of the world with the love of humanity, of human brotherhood and justice, there would be none to sacrifice themselves today against the most powerfully organized system of greed and inhumanity the world has

known.

The hope inspired by the resurrection of Christ has lifted the nations gradually but surely out of the welter of selfishness. If there were no future we might as well not make the sacrifices, and the strongest might go his way as in the brute world.

Not since the early days of the church has the doctrine of the resurrection and the future life been so strongly vindicated as in the present time when millions of free men voluntarily gave up their lives for the great Christian principles underlying the establishment of free nations. Rushing in to do their duty, they calmly trusted the future to God. Fatalism could never make the fight for liberty and justice that civilization is making today. Only the Christianity of the resurrected Christ is capable of inspiring the effort.

It was a great day for the world when the angelic choir announced to shepherds the birth of the Savior, but it was a greater day when this same Savior rose victorious over the grave and gave to mankind the hope that has carried them onward and upward and will continue to bear them as they approach to the perfection of their Master.

Only One Possible Life Giver.

It is certain that a strong belief in the resurrection was the chief strength of the early church and its preaching encouraged the early converts to endure all things. "A dead Christ might have been a teacher and wonder worker, and remembered and loved as such but only a Risen and Living Christ could be the Savior, the Life and the Life Giver to all men."

THE SEPULCHRE

By Annie Johnson Flint

"The third day he shall rise again... So they... made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone... He is not here; for he is risen, as he said." —Matthew 28: 10; 27: 66; 28: 6.

The Man had died on the cross, And they laid him in the tomb; The Living Stone in the stone, The Rock in the rock-hewn room; They left him alone with Death, And sealed the stone at the door; They made the sepulchre sure, And set their watch before.

"Lest his friends should steal him away, And say that he rose," they said, But Life escaped from Death, And the God-man rose from the dead.

The skeptical minds of men Still think the sepulchre sure, But Christ had said, "I will arise," And the counsels of God endure.

Still his disciples go

To carry the wondrous word: "The Lord is risen indeed!" "We know, we have seen and heard," And the tomb men think so sure, With the seal of their scorn on the door,— The place where the Lord once lay,— Is empty forevermore.

—Sunday School Times.

Personal Easter Gift.

The giving of photographs at the Easter-tide is a custom that is becoming established in America, although the idea seems to have come from abroad. The idea is to "go and get took." Then send the photograph to your friends with a little note of Easter greeting.

Pretty Custom of Giving Easter Eggs Is Centuries Old

THE CUSTOM of giving eggs as Easter presents, though very ancient and widely popular in Europe, is comparatively new in this country. It has had remarkable developments within the last few years.

Thus, an American millionaire gave his small son a pony-carriage made in the shape of an egg, on wheels, covered on the outside with white lacquer and lined on the inside with white satin.

A South African diamond king not long ago had an Easter egg made to hold the trousseau of his bride. It was nine feet long.

Not less extraordinary was an Easter egg made by a Paris establishment for a Spanish infant. Though



of no great size, it cost \$4,000, being of white enamel and containing a mechanical bifi that sang a dozen songs from popular operas.

Confectioners in American cities at Easter time sell immense numbers of candy eggs, as well as egg-shaped boxes, satin-covered or otherwise designed, for holding bonbons.

Eggs of silver and gold are made to contain gifts; and the jewelers offer beautiful jewel boxes shaped like eggs, for Easter presents, some of them ornamented with precious stones.

The ornamentation of Easter eggs with elaborate designs and figures of saints was an important branch of art in the monasteries of the middle ages. These were real eggs, and after being blessed, were eaten on Easter Sunday.

The ancient Egyptian looked upon the egg as a symbol of the creation. Among the Israelites of old it was regarded as emblematic of their emergence from bondage. The Christians adopted it was symbolic of the Resurrection.

Victory Liberty Loan Medal



This is an official photographic reproduction of the Victory Liberty Loan medal which will be given by the United States Treasury Department to all members of local committees who render conspicuous service in the loan campaign which will be launched April 21. The medals will be about the size of a half-dollar. They are made from German cannon captured by American troops at Chateau Thierry. On one side of the medal is a reproduction of the United States Treasury building with the inscription, "Victory Liberty Loan." On the other side, with a space left blank for the owner's name, is the cert. fraction of participation in the bond campaign.

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