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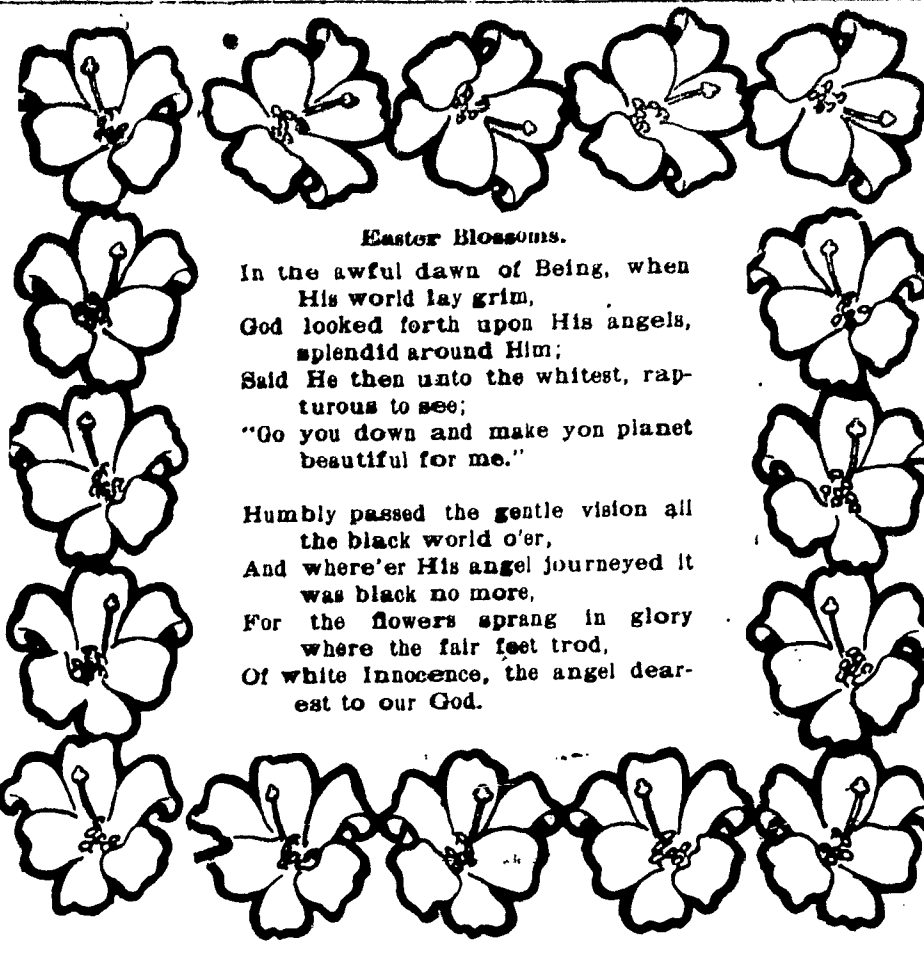
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PASSOVER CEREMONIES.
Many Obligations Entailed Upon Pious Israelites.

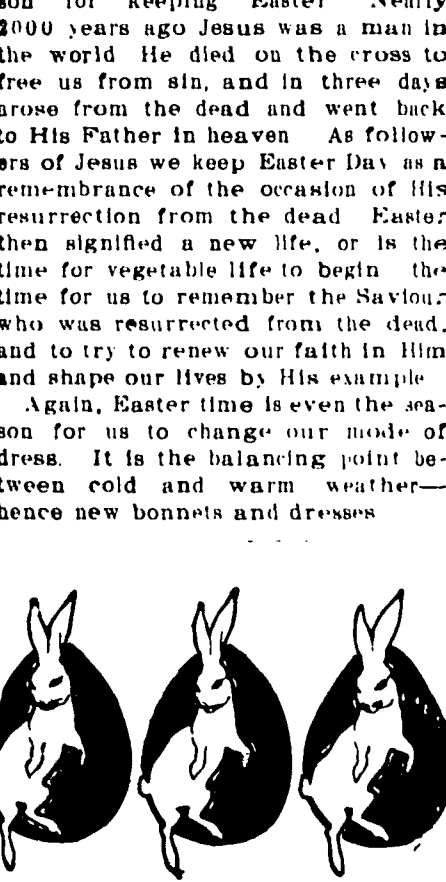
Date Back to the Time When the Jews Ceased to Exist as a Nation — Search for the Lost Master — Praise Offering Service.

THESE are many ancient ceremonies still observed in celebrating the Passover festival. The occurrences mentioned in connection with the bondage of the Israelites and their departure from Egypt, as narrated by ancient rites which date back to the dispersion of the Jews and to time when they ceased to have a national existence. The observance of Passover festival entails many obligations upon the pious Israelites. Attendance at the synagogue service and the prayers said in the family circle are not the only acts of devotion required by the religious authorities. The worshipper is expected to follow many Biblical and rabbinical commands even in his preparation for the festival. On the evening preceding the eve of Passover an interesting ceremony is observed by the very pious, which is highly characteristic of the conscientious endeavor of the strict Hebrew to observe literally the commandment that there shall not be any bread or "hametz" in his house. A search is made by the master of the house for any leaven that may have been overlooked in the general cleaning. He examines every closet and every nook and corner thereof, gathering anything that he finds suspicious or decidedly leavened. This he burns the next morning and before the noon hour.
 This ceremony is not as generally observed as the Haggadah or "Seder," which is the principal and all important domestic service. It is an exceedingly interesting ceremony, full of pathetic and historical reminiscences, and is held on the first two nights of the Passover, and is a family and social prayer meeting.
 When the family and guests have been seated around the festive table, which is profusely decorated with fruits, flowers and ornaments, the master of the house recites an introductory prayer in Hebrew and a welcome to the guests, but not before he commences the recital of the narrative of the departure from Egypt of the youngest child at table asks of the assembly:
 "Why is this night observed differently from any other? On this evening only unleavened bread is eaten, only bitter herbs are now spread before us, and we are all sitting differently from our usual custom, and are reclining positions."
 The inquiry of the youngest person at table concerning the reclining posture there taken is demanded because many are seated in reclining or comfortable easy chairs and because those who observe the custom with great precision lounge on pillows as a mark of grandeur and freedom. This Oriental mode of sitting while eating and drinking is true to the custom of Eastern nations, who always recline while at repast and take their meals lazily and with great languor.
 These questions are asked to introduce the narrative and are answered by the master of the house in the service which follows. With each portion of the narrative recited by the master of the house object lessons are exhibited. The bone of a lamb which had previously been roasted over the fire and which is shown among the paraphernalia, is shown to all present, to recall to the audience that the first born of the Hebrews were spared when those of the Egyptians were killed, for it will be remembered that among the most dramatic episodes mentioned in the Bible was the killing of the lamb at the exodus of the Israelites and the sprinkling of its blood upon the doorposts of their houses, and this ceremony is a reminder thereof.
 Another dish at table of which all partake is the "Haroset," a mixture of fruit, herbs and almonds made into a paste resembling and of the consistency of mortar. This is eaten in commemoration of the severity of the life in Egypt. The quotation from Exodus is recited, "That the Egyptians embittered their lives with cruel bondage and the mortar and brick, for all labor was inflicted upon them with rigor."
 The reason for eating unleavened bread is explained to be in commemoration of the rapid departure from Egypt, when there was not sufficient time given for the dough to rise because they were thrust out of Egypt and were not allowed to tarry.
 It is well known that the Israelite never warries in his expectation of the coming of the Messiah to lead his people back to Jerusalem. An ancient legend teaches him to expect His return on Passover night. At one period of the service the door is opened with great ceremony, and with the hope that, at that moment, He may enter therein. Throughout the service a wineglass has been filled for His welcome, and his spiritual presence is supposed to be with the worshipper.
 The Passover festival is not considered otherwise than a happy and glorious occasion among the Hebrews.



Easter Blossoms.
 In the awful dawn of Being, when His world lay grim, God looked forth upon His angels, splendid around Him; Said He then unto the whitest, rapturous to see; "Go you down and make yon planet bright for me."
 Humbly passed the gentle vision all the black world o'er, And where'er His angel journeyed it was black no more. For the flowers sprang in glory where the fair feet trod, Of white innocence, the angel dearest to our God.

Come Out, Easter Sunshine.
 Come out, Easter sunshine, From heavenly fields above And teach our hearts the joy, the peace Of heaven's enduring love.
 Stream out, Easter sunshine, And make the loved land bright And lead us from the shadows To lilies of the light. Frank L. Stanton.
 Happy Easter Time.
 Once again the joyous Easter occasion finds us alive and blessed with health and strength. We should be thankful. Time is here for all vegetable life to be refreshed, after the cold of the winter season. We should learn the lesson taught, and begin again to practice the good resolutions of the new year we may have broken.
 How did Easter originate? For a moment let us think about the reason for keeping Easter. Nearly 2000 years ago Jesus was a man in the world. He died on the cross to free us from sin, and in three days arose from the dead and went back to His Father in heaven. As followers of Jesus we keep Easter Day as a remembrance of the occasion of His resurrection from the dead. Easter then signified a new life, or is the time for vegetable life to begin the time for us to remember the Saviour who was resurrected from the dead, and to try to renew our faith in Him and shape our lives by His example.
 Again, Easter time is even the season for us to change our mode of dress. It is the balancing point between cold and warm weather—hence new bonnets and dresses.



RAIN AND MICROBES.
Effect of a Downpour Upon Waters of the Potomac River.
 A scientist of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, while examining the Potomac River, has made an interesting observation on the effect of rain in increasing the number of microbes in that stream. After a hard rain, lasting several days, it was found that the microbes were about six times as numerous in Potomac water as they were before the rain, and when fair weather set in again the number of microbes rapidly decreased. The increase, it is believed, came from both the air and the land, but in this case, fortunately, the microbes were all of harmless species.
 Cauterizing Seals.
 The surgeon's electric cauterizing wire has been used by the United States Fur Seal Commission with much success for branding female fur seals. A dynamo, driven by a gasoline engine, supplied the current, which heated a platinum wire to incandescence. By moving this once over the animal's body, the hair and fur were virtually mowed away. A second sweeping of the wire across the surface destroyed the cells so that no more fur can grow there. This destroys the value of the pelt, and this operates to prevent the killing of female seals at sea.
 Heating Power of Wood.
 Contrary to a widespread belief that hardwoods give more heat in burning than soft varieties, the scientists at Washington are contending that the greatest heating power is possessed by the wood of the linden, and almost equal to it. Then comes pine, hardly inferior to fir and linden; while hard oak possesses 8 per cent. less heating capacity than linden, and red beech 10 per cent. less.
 Deciding Their Fate.
 The audience at the theater at Namur decides the fate of debutantes on the stage by vote. The candidates usually appear in three different plays before it is decided whether they may continue or must retire.
 British Dividend Paying.
 In paying dividends, on Government stocks the British Government takes no account of fractions of a penny. In this way it makes about \$7,500 a year out of the investors in public funds.

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