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Easter In Cyprus

EASTER is a great time in the eastern church, and Cyprus preserves many peculiar methods of celebrating it, notably the method of entwining the small fronds of a large palm leaf into fantastic patterns, resembling in shape the same motifs of sacred trees on ancient Cypriot vases. Good Friday is also celebrated in a picturesque way.

At Larnaca, says an English writer, it saw the procession moving slowly through the Mas Latrie street. In the evening the street was overcrowded. At the central point of the procession walked the bishop under a purple canopy, richly bossed with gold, surrounded by his clergy in all their splendor. The priests were followed by the "epitaphion," or the sepulcher of Jesus Christ. Half a dozen of the prominent citizens carried a bier covered with a black pall and decorated with myrtle, red roses, white orange blossoms, lilies and other flowers in various colors and containing a life size wooden statue of Christ painted in colors after the traditional Byzantine style. It was illuminated by the light of many thick wax candles and pitch torches carried in the procession.

With the black silhouette of a Turkish mosque in the background a night scene of fairy-like appearance is produced, surpassing the efforts of any Christmas pantomime. Indeed, the orthodox Greeks in the near east as well as those of Cyprus are accustomed to celebrate Easter much more than Christmas, probably because Easter is preceded by a strict fast lasting fifty days. On Saturday evening everybody goes to church for a four hours service, where the congregation kisses the images of Christ and the Virgin. Shortly before midnight a "diakonos" mounts the pulpit and reads the story of the crucifixion. At the same moment the bells begin ringing joyously to announce the opening of Easter Sunday, and every one rushes off home to feast on the good things, wonderful cakes and an assortment of wines, from which they have abstained for the previous fifty days.

ROMANCE OF GASOLINE

At One Time it Was the Infant Terror of the Oil Industry.

Gasoline first compelled public attention in the role of the little demon in the kerosene or coal oil lamp. In this capacity it kept the coroner and the insurance adjuster working overtime.

When crude oil was first discovered in the Pennsylvania district the public received it as a cure-all for diseases instead of a fuel or an illuminant.

Then it was discovered that by subjecting it to distillation a certain portion of it could be used for lighting purposes, to supplant candles and lamps using whale oil and vegetable oils.

But it was found that a considerable fraction—about 20-per cent—of this oil had so low a boiling point, was so volatile and explosive that it was extremely dangerous in lamps. At the sign of the coal oil lamp of that pioneer period fires and explosions were the prevailing program.

It was soon seen by the refiners that if kerosene was to become a popular illuminant the "light boiling point fraction" must be taken off the top and disposed of in some other way. For a considerable time it was turned into the nearest streams and allowed to dispose of itself by evaporation, but experience proved that this was a decidedly dangerous method of disposal. The refiners were forced to recognize the fact that in some way they must find a legitimate commercial outlet for this volatile fluid, which was so explosive that it could not be dumped without great peril to life and property.

Under the pressure of this economic necessity, about 1875, a man named Hull, who was in touch with the Cleveland refineries, invented a vapor stove, which was the father of the gasoline stove of today. For a time this furnished a very considerable outlet. A considerable quantity of gasoline was also consumed at this period in street lamps and out of door lighting systems.

About 1903 the motorcar, with its internal combustion engine, appeared on the scene—just in time to rescue gasoline consumption from a decided setback, due to the fact that gas had come into general use for lighting and heating purposes and was able, on account of its greater cheapness and safety, to push gasoline out of competition to a great extent.

Gasoline has, in short, pushed King Kerosene from the throne. The outcast, the infant terror of the oil industry, has now become the czar of the whole empire of petroleum commerce, and there are few who do not pause at the sign of the garage pump to pay him tribute. Forrest Crissey in Saturday Evening Post.

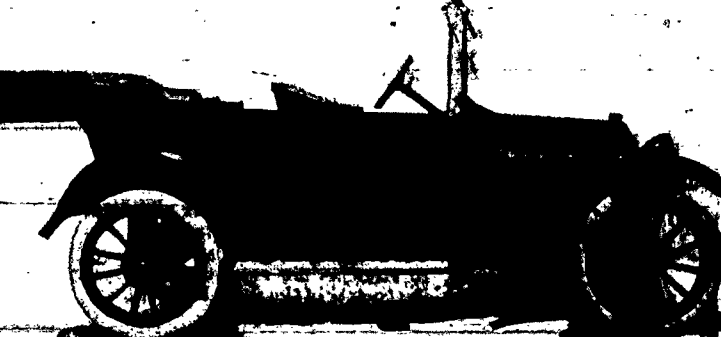
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Appropriate Easter Offerings

In the Big Easter Booth you will find a display of Easter cards and booklets of unusual beauty.

There are also Roman Catholic Prayer Books, Rosaries and devotional books.

A table of gift books in special Easter binding is also worthy of notice.

In the Recreation Store are chicks, ducks, rabbits and other novelties which will delight the children.

The Art Sections offer seeds, bulbs, flower bowls, vases and artificial flowers besides many other novelties.

The Candy Section has chocolate eggs, and special boxes of the famous Vandun Brown and Whitmans.

The Picture Section has a special showing of framed Madonnas.

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Resurrection

WAY back last summer nature prompted the caterpillar to seek out its place, weave its tiny web and go to sleep there. Perhaps could the humble caterpillar have thought about it he would have wondered and maybe rebelled because he was forced to do this inexplicable thing. He had been very happy in his tiny way.

Life seemed very good to him out there in the sunshine of last summer, and he could not understand why he should have to give up all this and weave a web in a remote corner and go to sleep.

But you, who see the chrysalis there in the spring sunshine know that he had to do this in order that he might progress to the higher, better and happier life of the butterfly.

The caterpillar had to die that the butterfly could be born. Death had to apparently triumph for a little while that the ultimate and far greater triumph of life and evolution might be the more complete.

And here we have in a humble but none the less effective phase the story of the resurrection, the passing of life into death, that it may emerge the greater and more perfect life.

Chimes of Easter

AFTER Nature's long, cold night, Wrapped in icy sheets of white—

Ne'er a flower, or bird to sing— Nature wakes, and, lo, 'tis spring! And the church bells sweetly chime, Welcoming the Easter time.

Tiny shoots of green appear— Fragile children, pale with fear, Needing all the love and care Of the warm sun shining there. And the church bells sweetly chime, Welcoming the Easter time.

Pussy willows show their fur. You can almost hear them purr Out their welcome to the spring. Joining with the birds that sing. And the church bells sweetly chime, Welcoming the Easter time.

Oh, the smell of warm, moist earth! Oh, the magic of the birth Of the tiny ferns and flowers! Soon to glorify the hours! And that mystery sublime That the bells so sweetly chime! —Martha Coleman Sherman.

The Great Day in Russia. To the members of the Greek Orthodox church Easter is the greatest day in the ecclesiastical and secular calendars. Especially is this true in Russia. What Christmas gifts are to Americans and persons of other nationalities Easter gifts are to Russians. At Easter the Russians celebrate not only the miraculous resurrection of Christ and the consequent spiritual freedom from the bonds of sin, but the festival also suggests to them in a very eloquent manner the resurrection of the whole earth and the release of all the agencies of nature from the enthrallment of winter.

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Old Moon Beliefs

The health, growth and development of children and animals were years ago supposed to be influenced by the moon. If the sign was right at the time of birth they would be well formed and intellectual, but if it was wrong there was no telling what sort of creatures they would become. Every worthless fellow, every dog, rooting hog, fence jumping cow or kicking horse was believed to have been born under an unfavorable phase of the queen of night. Queer people or those who were of hateful disposition were children of the dark moon, with the sign below the heart.

Cuba's Silent Forests

Silence reigns in the vast forests of Cuba. Says a traveler: "No beast crashes through the undergrowth, no bird sings in the branches, no wind sighs through the mighty tops. The living creatures of that world glance noiselessly through the air or glide stealthily through the heavy sound deadening verdure." Cuba has practically no song birds. They are merely gaudy creatures of the ballroom. She is happy also in having no venomous snakes and few pests of any sort.

The Trials of Life

If you do not bring any strain to bear upon timber one kind is as good as another. A splinter of broom is as good as the best ash if you put no weight upon it. The only thing which shows the relative excellence of the different sorts is a pressure brought to bear upon them. Lead is as good as steel so long as it is not subject to any trial of strength. And it is when men are tried in life that what they are is made to appear.

He Got Her

"It's so long since you called upon me," said the girl as she came down to the young man in the parlor, "that I was beginning to think you were forgetting me."

"I am for getting you," replied the smart youth, "and that's why I've called tonight. Can I have you?"

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