

Has Studied Easter Customs in All Parts of the World

Miss Helen Mathews Laidlaw of St. Louis has seen Easter day celebrated in more different countries, perhaps, than any person on earth. In eighteen countries she has spent Easter, nineteen in England and Scotland he considered different countries.

To reassure those who may get an incorrect idea in regard to Miss Laidlaw's age it 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 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

gentry 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 in 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.

"One beautiful feature of the Spanish Easter is the choir of children in the processions. In the procession of 'Our Lady of the 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.

"The next Easter I spent in Mexico City—again among the Spanish—and

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 mottoes, 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.

"Rome, of course, is the center of the Easter celebration, and the ceremonies are more gorgeous even than at Jerusalem—where it was my luck to be last 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.

"It was the most impressive sight in the Christian world. The pope, seated in his sedia gestatoria, in vest-

WINS AND LOSES IN CHICAGO

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP THE ISSUE AT THE POLLS.

Victory for the Proposition, but Municipal Operation of Street Railways Is Defeated.

Chicago.—Chicago is opposed to municipal operation of street railways, but favors the issuance of Mueller law certificates. She also declares, under the public policy act, for speedy acquisition of the traction properties and again raises her voice against franchise extension. This is the net result of Tuesday's election so far as the traction question is concerned. The vote for municipal operation was 120,911; against, 110,260. As the Mueller law requires that the proposition that the city shall operate street railways shall be approved by not less than 60 per cent. of those voting on the question, the proposed municipal operation of street railways in Chicago was rejected by this vote, which lacked 17,791 votes of the requisite 60 per cent.

Milwaukee.—Sherburn H. Becker, the young Republican candidate for mayor of Milwaukee, was on Tuesday elected over David S. Rose, who has for the past eight years been the city's executive head.

Returns from all parts of the state show that William H. Timlin, of Milwaukee, has been elected associate justice of the state supreme court over Allen R. Bushnell, of Lancaster, Harry H. Grace, of Superior, and James O'Neill, of Neillsville, all non-partisans. The Dunn pocket ballot law was defeated. Gorman, the Democratic mayor of Kenosha, was reelected. At Madison, the Independent Democrat, Joseph C. Schubert, was successful, defeating the anti-saloon candidate of the Republicans, Leslie B. Rowley. Republicans carried Viroqua, Stoughton, Whitewater, Wauskegan, Tomah, Ripon, Portage, Marinette, Menominee and Baraboo. Democrats were victorious in Kenosha, Elroy, Columbus, Madison, Dodgeville, Fond du Lac, Beaver Dam, Neenah, Appleton and Eau Claire. Citizens' tickets were elected at Marshfield and Sturgeon Bay.

Detroit, Mich.—Except in the city of Grand Rapids, where George E. Ellis (rep.) was elected mayor by a plurality of 2,720 over Mayor E. F. Sweet (ind.) and Charles R. Sligh (dem.), the Independent and Democratic tickets seemed to have the advantage in the greater number of city elections Monday through the state of Michigan. The returns indicate that the people voted decisively in favor of having the next legislature make provision for the election of delegates to a constitutional convention to provide a substitute for the present constitution, which dates back to the year 1850.

Des Moines, Ia.—Returns from the municipal election in Dubuque indicate a Democratic landslide. Mayor Berk, who was a candidate for election for his fifth term, is defeated by a large majority by Henry Schunk. Democrats made slight gains in the Keokuk election, securing four aldermen out of the six chosen. They now control eight of the 12 members of the city council. Diamond, the Democratic candidate for assessor, was also elected.

HORROR IN GERMANY.

Hotel in the Black Forest Collapses—Fifty-Five Persons Killed—100 Injured.

Nagold, Black Forest, Germany.—Fifty-five persons were killed and 100 dangerously injured Thursday by the collapse of the hotel Zum Hirschen. The building had not been fully completed, and the catastrophe is attributed to the non-observance of proper precautions. The roof of the building had only been put in place during the morning, an event which, in accordance with German custom, was celebrated by a feast. The guests were reported to have engaged in a dance, and this, together with the large number of persons on the floor, probably caused the building to collapse.

Plot to Kill King.—Madrid.—The Spanish authorities have discovered an anarchist plot at Labritja, 29 miles from Seville, the notorious center of the "Black Hands," to assassinate the royal family during the visit of King Alfonso, the Dowager Queen Christina, and the sister of the king, the Infanta Maria Teresa, to Seville during holy week. The censorship prevents the sending of details regarding the conspiracy.

New Revolt in Santo Domingo.—Washington.—More trouble is reported from Santo Domingo in a cablegram received at the navy department Thursday from Commander Southernland, of the Yankee, at Santo Domingo. He says: "A revolution has broken out at Samana. The Paducah is there. The Dubuque is at Monte Christi. American interests are not involved."

Death of Ohio Jurist.—Toledo, O.—Allen W. Smaley, ex-judge of the common pleas court and for many years prominent in Democratic politics in Ohio, died at Bloomdale. His home was at Upper Sandusky. He was 70 years old.

Woman's Suffrage Bill Wins.—Providence, R. I.—The woman's suffrage bill, providing that women as well as men may participate in the election of presidential electors, has been passed by the state senate.

Many Killed.—St. Petersburg.—An attempt by the police to suppress a political meeting of peasants in the village of Sosurga, province of Vyata, led to a serious conflict, in the course of which three policemen were killed and ten wounded. The number of peasants killed or wounded is not known.

Woman Elected.—Whitewright, Tex.—Mrs. Nancy R. Wilcox was elected city secretary at Tuesday's election. She is the first woman elected to a municipal or state office in Texas.

Illinois News

Items gleaned for the convenience of our readers by special representatives in the State.

BIG CONCERN JOINS SHUTDOWN

Illinois Collieries Company Decides to Close Indefinitely.

The first important gain made by either side in the bituminous coal strike was reported Wednesday. Announcement was made that the Illinois Collieries company, employing 2,500 miners, has joined hands with the operators who are resisting an advance in wages and will close its mines indefinitely.

The company is one of the largest concerns in Illinois engaged in mining and is to a certain extent under the control of Francis L. Robbins and the Pittsburg Coal company. It was expected that the influence of Mr. Robbins, who espouses the miners' cause, would be sufficient to cause the company to sign the miners' scale.

It developed, however, that Mr. Robbins and the Pittsburg Coal company own only about thirty-five per cent. of the stock in the Illinois concern. The Pittsburg operator was overruled by the majority.

Smaller losses were reported to the Illinois operators. The Decatur Coal company, owning a mine at Decatur, signed the scale and the men were sent back to work. Three or four independent companies also began operations on the miners' conditions.

DENY MINERS THREATEN RIOTS

Business Men of Spring Valley Are Indignant Over Reports of Trouble.

Business men of Spring Valley are extremely indignant over news articles telegraphed from De Pue stating that the miners of that neighborhood were congregating on the streets and that riots and bloodshed were threatened. There is absolutely no truth in these statements. A mass-meeting of the miners and other citizens was held and the author of the stories in question was denounced bitterly. Conditions in Spring Valley are normal and quiet and the business men believe that the good judgment and integrity of the miners will prevent any disorder.

Boys Find Stolen Tobacco.

The parents of a number of boys living in Alton, while searching for a reason why their boys had so much of a certain brand of "scrap" tobacco, discovered that a heavy rain had revealed to the boys a cache made by thieves, who had stolen the tobacco from a freight car. When the flood filled the sewer, near by, the water washed out a large number of sacks of the tobacco. The sickness of the boys led to inquiry on the part of the parents, and some of the youths were found to have several dozen packages of the tobacco stored away.

Peoria Man Heir to \$200,000.

At Brockton, Mass., Master in Probate Warren Goodard filed his report of the estate of Susanna Murdock. By his finding about \$200,000 will go to Benjamin F. Ellis of Peoria, Ill. An heir to one-third of the whole estate would be Amiel Murdock, if living, but the master finds that he is dead, nothing having been heard of him since shortly after the civil war. Amiel Murdock's wife now lives in Chicago, but as she had no children she cannot receive any of the estate.

Food Inspection.

Illinois is behind many states in the matter of food inspection, according to Dr. T. J. Bryan, chief chemist of the Illinois state food commission, who has just returned from a tour of several states. Dr. Bryan declares the Illinois department is far below the standard of efficiency and that he will recommend many changes in the methods employed in his department. Dr. Bryan visited Massachusetts, Connecticut, Kentucky and New York.

Big Deal in Land.

The largest land deal which has been closed in St. Clair county in a number of years was made by Frank Puderer for the farm of the late George D. Thomas, which was purchased by John Koch, Sr., for \$20,145.69. The farm is located on the Shiloh on the Shiloh road, four miles east of Belleville.

Suicide at Soldiers' Home.

Samuel W. Miller, aged 63, an inmate of the Soldiers' home at Quincy, committed suicide by drowning in a lake at the home. He leaves a wife and five children at Aurora, Ill. It is reported that Miller received a letter informing him that his wife had applied for and had been granted one-half of his pension allowance.

Appendicitis Is Rife.

Melvin, a village of 400 population, has had an epidemic of appendicitis during the past six months, twenty-three operations having been performed.

To Build Summer Homes.

W. G. Arpe, of St. Louis, has purchased twelve acres in Okawville from J. J. Nusbaumer for \$1,800. Mr. Arpe will divide the land into city lots on which he and other St. Louis parties will erect summer cottages.

Former Mayor Is Dead.

E. H. Rood, who died in Chicago, aged 81, was four times mayor of Bloomington and held other public offices. He had resided at Bloomington for a half century and was prominent in commercial affairs.

Veteran Dies in Soldiers' Home.

Nicholas Ost died at the Danville (Ill.) soldiers' home, aged 80. The body was taken to the family home at Fosterburg for burial. Mr. Ost was a resident of Fosterburg for fifty years. He leaves three sons and two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Mother of Ten Is Dead.

Mrs. William Rush of Xenia, mother of ten children, three of them infants, was found dead in bed by her husband. She had retired in her usual good health.

INSANE HOSPITAL STAFF IS CUT

All Special Attendants and Two Physicians Dropped.

The trustees of the insane hospital, including B. E. Sunny, of Chicago, and J. M. Jones, of Milford, new members, at a meeting at Kankakee, voted to abolish the special attendant service at the institution. Fifteen attendants are affected—ten men and five women. The wages of the special attendants are paid by the relatives of the patients, and in return for their board and washing perform minor services for the state. It is said by the trustees that the change of policy was for the purpose of economy.

Dr. Beebe, of Chicago, and Dr. Francis Walls, of Chicago Heights, appointed members of the medical staff last October, were also discharged, together with Edward Joiner, of Chicago, of the clerical force and several others holding minor positions. Dr. Wall's dismissal came on the day of the funeral of his wife, who died on April 3.

The discharge of the special attendants may result in the disbanding of the hospital band, most of the members of which are in that class.

NEGRESS DIES AT AGE OF 123

Chicago Woman Displays Instance of Remarkable Longevity.

At the extraordinary age of 123 years, Mrs. Philo Rogers, a negro woman, died in Chicago. Mrs. Rogers was born in Missouri and reared a large family long before the first mutterings of the antislavery sentiment agitated New England. She was a grandmother when the Missouri compromise was an issue of the hour and had reached her three score years and ten when the emancipation proclamation liberated her from bondage.

Little of her early history is known, as all whom she had known in her ordinary lifetime long ago have been forgotten. She located in Chicago some years ago and was in good health until a short time ago. Then the weaknesses of her advanced age took effect and she failed steadily until her death.

FALLS TO DEATH FROM CUPOLA

Labor of Love Costs Churchman's Life at Jacksonville.

Louis Pechloeff fell to his death while working on the cupola of the German Lutheran church at Jacksonville. Pechloeff was engaged in a labor of love with a fellow member of the church and was fixing the cornice of the cupola. There are two cupolas on the roof and Pechloeff fell from the scaffold around the highest one, to the ridge of the lower one, and there his body was caught by the gutter ledge. His companion saw him stagger and fall and went to the rescue. He supported the body and called for assistance to remove the body. Apoplexy is supposed to have caused Pechloeff to fall.

Trainman Is Acquitted.

At Peoria "Jap" Smith was declared not guilty of manslaughter in connection with the wreck of the Santa Fe limited near Chillicothe, Jan. 29. Smith admitted negligence, but the defense produced testimony to show that the conductor of the train, George Wetherwax, had also been negligent. This negligence, it was shown, was subsequent to that of Smith's and the court ruled that it was the direct cause of the wreck and the loss of life incident to the catastrophe. The court ruled that the defense was good and the jury was ordered to find a verdict acquitting the defendant. Four persons were killed in the wreck, which occurred the day before the wreck on the Santa Fe at Laura, in which several persons were injured.

Potatoes Separate Couple.

Mrs. Frank Strong, who lives near Bonegap, has gone to Grayville, where she is being cared for by friends. She alleges that her husband abandoned her. Mrs. Strong says the separation is the sequel to a quarrel last spring as to how potatoes should be covered; the wife insisted that a harrow be used and Strong covered them with a plow.

Elks to Build Home.

Members of the Altan lodge of Elks have started a fund for the erection of a handsome home at Alton. At a recent meeting of the lodge the members gave over \$2,000, and a committee was appointed to secure additional subscriptions.

Engine His Means of Suicide.

J. H. Gould, of Corning, N. Y., 26 years old, committed suicide at Taylorville by throwing himself in front of a passenger train. He had been despondent because of his inability to find work.

Collects All the Taxes.

Henry Lunte, collector of Covington township, established a record for this county by collecting every cent of real and personal tax charged against his county, amounting to \$4,044.02. The commission on his work netted him \$88.

Attempts to Kill Benefactor.

Richard Washington, a paroled convict from Chester penitentiary, attempted to kill James Raymond at Jacksonville. Raymond went on Washington's parole paper in 1899.

Fruit and Truck Growers.

The Flora fruit and truck growers have formed an organization known as the Flora Fruit and Truck association, and the following officers have been elected: Moses McGrew, president; Albert Hinman, vice president; I. N. Holdaway, secretary and shipper; John Snyder, treasurer.

Washington County Farmers.

The convention of the farmers' unions of Washington county will be held in the court house at Nashville, April 12.

G. A. R. PLANS ENCAMPMENT

Arrangements Are Complete for Fortieth Annual Reunion.

Arrangements have been completed for the fortieth annual encampment of the Department of Illinois, Grand Army of the Republic, to be held at Galesburg May 22, 23 and 24. Governor Deneen and Commander-in-Chief Tanner of the Grand Army of the Republic have been invited to be the guests of the encampment. The program for the encampment is as follows:

Tuesday, May 22—Establishing headquarters. Meeting of the council of administration for the consideration of officers' reports. Open session of encampment with addresses of welcome and messages of courtesy.

Wednesday, May 23—Business session of the encampment. Grand annual parade of veterans. Camp fires and public receptions in the evening.

Thursday, May 24—Business session of the encampment, concluding with the election and installation of new officers. Adjournment.

Department Commander John C. Smith will preside at the encampment.

SMITH BANK CREDITORS MEET

Depositors Expect to Receive 40 Per Cent of Their Money.

Seven hundred and forty depositors of the defunct Tels Smith & Co.'s bank held a meeting at Pekin Wednesday. A statement from Trustee U. J. Albersson showed the bank's liabilities to be \$482,759 and assets of \$554,968. Of the assets \$267,290 is in the Pekin Flow company, which is said to be of little value. Other assets are \$81,000 of preferred stock in the Smith Wagon works and that concern's notes for \$20,000. But \$3,000 is due from other banks. The general impression is that depositors will not realize more than 40 per cent.

Babe Born on Train.

While a Big Four passenger train was held an hour at Muncie, near Urbana, a baby boy was born to Mrs. G. L. Bobyns, a young Kentucky woman who was traveling from Mayville, Ky., to join her husband. Not a passenger grumbled at the wait, and a big cheer went up from the group outside the coach when the announcement was made that "mother and child are doing well." When a physician said it was safe to move the train went on. It was stopped in Urbana near the home of the young mother, where the husband had his first look at his son. The child was christened "William Emery" in honor of Conductor William Von Weller and Operator Emery Peterson, who signally befriended the mother.

Republic Oil Quits State.

The Republic Oil company of Illinois, with headquarters in Chicago, will withdraw from the state, and its corporation papers will be canceled. Secretary of State Rose has received official notification of the proposed withdrawal, but the details were not given. A letter stated that the concern no longer will do business as a corporation in this state, and leave was asked to withdraw the incorporation papers, which will be allowed.

Draw Straws for Nomination.

Owing to the bitter and close contest between James R. Baker and J. L. Fidler for the republican nomination for sheriff of Douglas county the novel method of drawing straws was pursued to bring about the withdrawal of one of the aspirants. Mr. Baker drew the losing straw.

Threaten Pekin Bankers.

Creditors of the Ties-Smith & Co. bank, which closed its doors at Pekin recently, have served notice on the six members of the firm that unless they turn over all their property in settlement of claims against the bank warrants will be sworn out for their arrest.

Three Shot in Saloon.

In a shooting affray in a saloon at Divernon, near Springfield, Steve Fipof shot and probably fatally wounded Thomas Culosh of Sherman, and injured Frank Barto and Andy Pifo. Culosh and Fipof drew revolvers and commenced firing. Fipof was arrested.

Takes Poison in Saloon.

A well-dressed stranger entered a saloon in Springfield, sat down and drank a bottle of carbolic acid. A scrap of paper with the name of "Earl, Piano Player, Rock Island," may lead to the identification of the suicide.

Buys Coal Rights.

The Deering Coal company has taken 10,000 acres of coal rights in Fillmore township and vicinity in Montgomery county.

Robbers Beat Old Man.

Ernest Brent, aged 70, an alleged miser, was beaten and bound by robbers at his bachelor home in the country near Belleville. He was unconscious for hours and then dragged himself a mile to a neighbor's residence.

Elgin Boy Is Drowned.

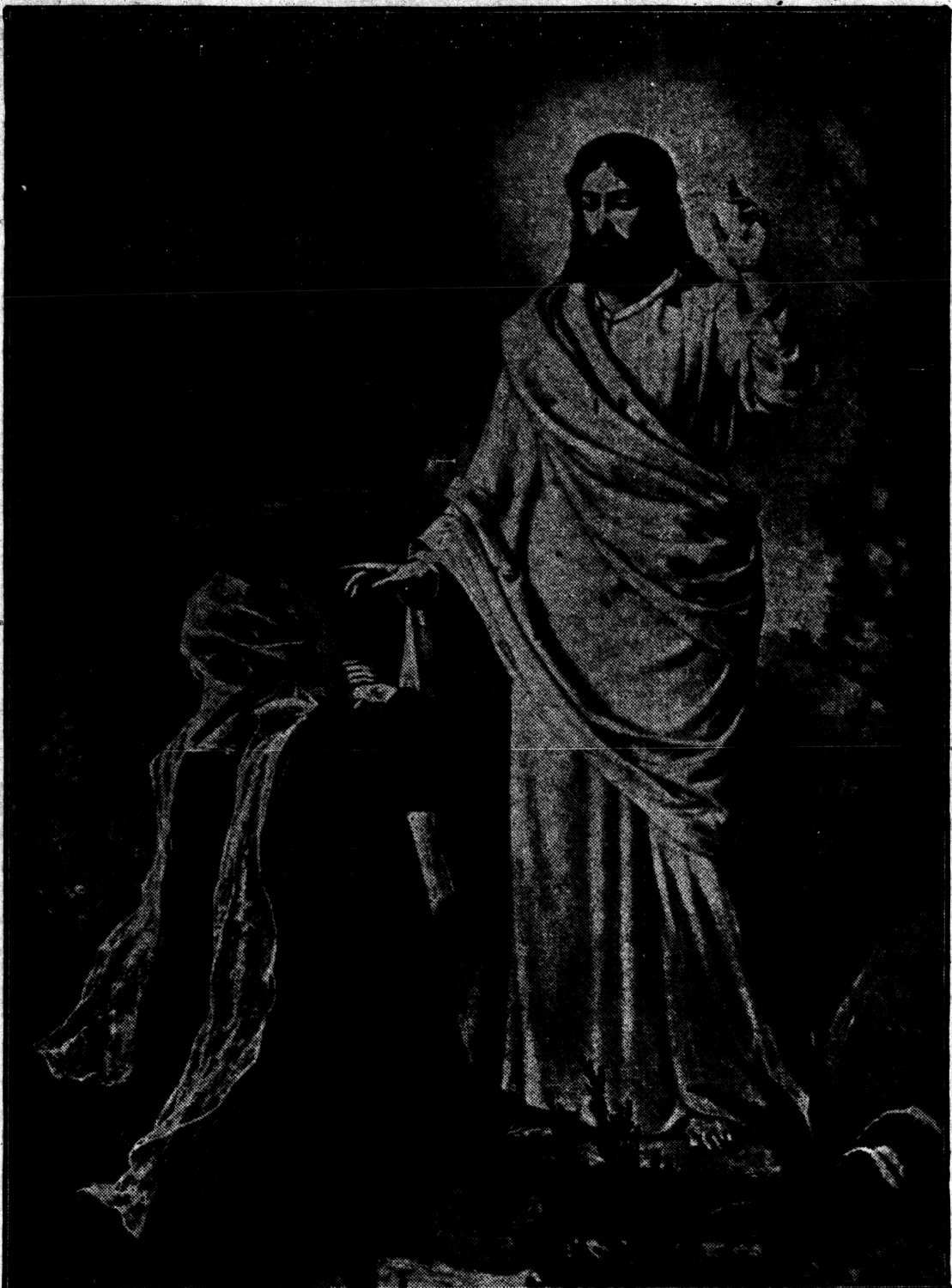
Andrew Bruner, the 12-year-old son of A. M. Bruner, state secretary of the Y. M. C. A., was drowned in the Fox river at Elgin. The boy was in a boat with four companions, and during their play the boat was upset.

Hospital for Insane Crowded.

Because of the overcrowded condition of the hospital for insane at Kankakee, and because Cook county has more than its share of patients confined there, the state authorities have ordered some of them removed to Bartonville.

Land Sells at \$110.

One of the most valuable tracts of land in White county, an eighty-acre farm in Phillips township, owned by C. E. Brown, was sold to John W. Brown at \$110 an acre.



"TOUCH ME NOT"

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.

"The Easter of 1886," says Miss Laidlaw, "was my first away from home, and I was that year in Seville. Perhaps the 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 pa-

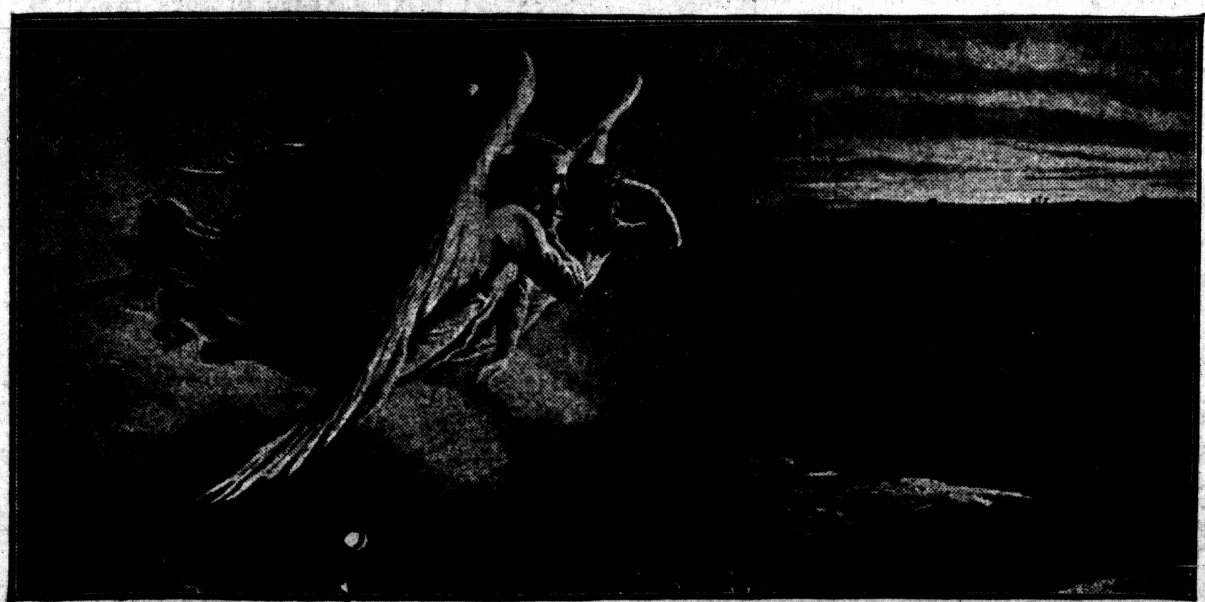
I saw a repetition of most of the Seville pageantry over again. The peddlers sold small effigies of Judas in the streets, and they were hanged everywhere. There was one Judas, twenty feet tall, hanging from a rope in the center of a business street, and I was afraid it was an advertisement.

"In Mexico the women do penance—and the men, too. They kneel for hours in the streets or creep on their knees for blocks, scourging 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 next Easter was in a glorious land—Austria Tyrol. We were at Swartzenberg, 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 wildly throughout the beautiful valley the famous Tyrolean

ments 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 of state 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 gayly 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."



The First Easter Dawn