

**EASTER.**

It is interesting to trace the history of popular customs and mark their peculiar significance in different ages. There is in the human mind a blind deference for old established customs, which causes them to be continued from generation to generation, until often their original meaning is lost and a new interpretation given, each age adding to or diminishing from the original idea. The church festival known as Easter is among the most interesting, historically, of any in the calendar. Though now a day to which a Christian significance is attached, yet it had its origin in the mythology of antiquity.

Throughout all Christian countries before the Reformation Easter was sacredly kept. More importance was attached to it than to Christmas. Feasts and emblematic ceremonies were continued for several days; both public and private entertainments were given, and many curious customs were introduced.

**IN ENGLAND**

it was the custom to light all the churches on Easter evening with the Paschal taper, a large wax candle constructed for the purpose. On Good Friday, three days previous to Easter, a large box was constructed to represent the sepulchre. In it was placed the Host, and men were employed to watch by it day and night, in remembrance of the soldiers who watched by the sepulchre of Christ. On Easter morning the Host was taken out and exhibited by the priest and Christ was said to have arisen. The following items from a church warden's account book in England, previous to 1560, will suggest some of the customs in those days:

Paid for the Sepulchre, for divers nayles and glues, 9d.; paid for making of same sepulchre, 4s.; also paid for a dish of pewter for the Paskale, 8d.; paid to Roger Broch for watching of the Sepulchre, 8d.; paid for 3 great garlands for the Crosses of lavender of roses, and 3 dozen other garlands for the quire, 3s.; paid for making a Judas for the Paskale, 4s.

These show that the church made use of various emblems and ceremonies to impress the mind with the facts concerning the Resurrection. There were also many curious emblems and strange superstitions connected with the day. It was believed that on the morning of Easter the sun at rising was seen to dance, and it became a popular custom to go into the fields before sunrise in order to witness this wonderful phenomenon.

**"EGGS AND HERBS."**

at Easter were sacredly consecrated by the priest and eaten by the people, and homes and churches were decorated with flowers. The flowers were probably intended as emblems of the Resurrection, having just risen from the earth where winter had buried them. The egg were also said to be an emblem of life—the coming out of a living object from its shell was also a fit emblem of the Resurrection.

Eggs, therefore, became of great importance, and many were the curious customs and superstitions concerning them. "On Easter Eve and Easter day each family sent great chargers of eggs to the church to get them blessed," which ceremony the priests performed by repeating some appointed prayers, marking with the sign of the cross and sprinkling with holy water. The eggs thus blessed were supposed to have the power of sanctifying the body. They were placed in the centre of the table which was decorated with flowers and herbs, and were eaten with meats and other food. They were often colored and ornamented. The red color most common, was supposed to be an emblem of Christ's blood. The practice of painting figures and flowers, or gilding them arose from the joy occasioned by returning to this favorite food after a long abstinence;—for in the early church, and even now in the Italian Church, no eggs are eaten during Lent.

**Anciently in the**

**GREEK AND RUSSIAN CHURCH**

eggs were used at Easter: In Russia the season was set apart for visiting—and in Sweden also. In each of these countries friends went from house to house, making calls and exchanging ornamented eggs; when friends met, one said, "Christ has risen." "He is risen indeed," replied the other. They then kissed each other and exchanged eggs. That form of salutation is still in use in Sweden.

There was in the early church a custom of eating tansy or bitter herbs during Easter season, and a kind of bread was made called 'tansy cakes.' These were eaten with eggs. Tansy cakes were offered as prizes to young men and women who in sport held foot races, to which assembled great numbers of people to witness the contest, and the victor was rewarded with the cakes. These are a few of the curious practices and superstitions concerning Easter, as a Christian Church Holiday; but it will be equally interesting to trace these customs to another source and find for them another significance.

In old Saxon mythology there was th

Goddess of Spring. In her honor a festival was held about the time of the vernal equinox. It was kept by eating eggs and exchanging them as tokens of friendship and in memory of the coming of life after the death of winter. This goddess of spring was named Eastre, and from her comes the word Easter. The expression in Acts, xii: 4, "after Easter," alludes to this festival—but should have been translated Passover. The resurrection of Christ is said to have taken place during this feast. The Jewish feast which occurs at this time—and with which our Christian festival is a compromise—was kept in commemoration of their coming out of Egypt, and at that feast eggs were eaten and exchanged, and to the Jews they were emblems of the coming out of the Hebrews. Bitter herbs were also used at the Passover with unleavened bread, and from this Jewish custom the tansy cake in English observance was derived.

**THE PERSIANS**

have a feast on the twenty-first of March, which is the beginning of their new year. They also use eggs, but they say they are emblematic of the beginning of the life at new year. But there is still greater antiquity for the custom. Even in Egypt, two thousand years before our era, there was the feast of the harvests, celebrated with all the characteristics of the Christian festival of the present day. In Egypt the grain was sown in November and the crops were gathered in March. At the commencement of the harvest all Egypt was jubilant. Earth had brought its vegetation into perfect life—the life of the plants which had been hidden in her had matured, and to a people who symbolized everything, there could be no better symbol chosen to represent hidden life than an egg. Eggs therefore became an especial article of food and were eaten with herbs.

The Hebrews came out of Egypt during this season. The Passover was instituted by Moses in commemoration of that event. The ceremonies introduced were similar to those of the Egyptians, and the feast occurs at the same time of the year. Hence the Egyptian Harvest Feast, the Hebrew Passover, and the Christian Easter are the same.

In the Christian calendar Easter is the Sunday following the full moon which occurs on or after the 21st of March; but if the 21st of March occurs on Sunday, Easter is the Sunday following. Consequently this year Easter is April 13th.

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**ALL the Modern Patterns—Cheapest—Best Workmanship—Promptly delivered.**  
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**LARGEST STOCK—Greatest Variety—Best Quality—Cheapest in every grade. Call and examine.**  
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**BEST MATERIAL—Hair, Flock, Excelsior, Straw.**  
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**THE Subscriber has on hand, fresh from the Mines (under cover),**  
200 Tons ROUND COAL, at \$3.25 per ton.  
200 " NUT " " 2.70 "  
40 " BLACKSMITH (Old Albion Mines), at \$3.00 per ton.  
**TERMS—CASH.**  
JOHN HUGHES, Water Street.  
Dec. 13, 1878—wkly 3m

**THE place to get your Printing done is at the EXAMINER Printing Room**

**Great Cash Sale**

—OF—  
**DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, ETC.**

**The Whole Stock in Trade OF THE LATE ROBERT ORR,**

—TO BE—  
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Dress Goods, Shawls, Mantles, Millinery, Silks, Velvets, Hosiery, Gloves, Linens, Winceys, Shirtings, Sheetings,

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**Readymade Clothing**  
Hats, Caps, Linders and Drawers, Scarfs, &c.

**Cotton Warp, Small Wares, &c.**

The above Stock must be cleared out from this date, and our Customers, and the public generally, can depend upon getting Bargains.

**John McPhee,**  
Administrator.  
Charlottetown, Feb. 4, 1879.

**Molasses. Molasses.**

The subscriber offers for sale low,  
**20 Puns. MOLASSES, } Bright Retailing.  
20 Bbls. do }  
B. WILSON HIGGS.  
Ch'town, March 31, 1879.—6m**

**VESSELS FOR CHARTER**

**PARTIES** requiring vessels of any size to load Potatoes, Grain, Lumber, &c., &c., can be supplied at lowest rates, by  
F. S. HANFORD & CO.,  
Water Street.  
Ch'town, April 7, 1879—3m

**MAIL NOTICE.**

**MAILS** to be forwarded via Cape Traverse will be closed at this Office daily—Sundays excepted—at 3 o'clock p. m.  
The mail for Great Britain, by Canadian Packet sailing from Halifax on Saturdays, will be closed here on Wednesdays at 3 o'clock, p. m.  
The mail for Great Britain via New York will be closed on Thursdays at 3 o'clock, p. m.  
Mails for all places West of Charlottetown receiving Mails by Railway Train or Postal Car, will be closed daily at 7 o'clock, a. m.  
Mails for Georgetown and Souris East, also for all places on the route to those points, will be closed daily at 2 o'clock, p. m.  
Post Office open from 8, a. m., till 8, p. m.  
A. A. MACDONALD,  
Postmaster.

Post Office, Charlottetown, }  
April 2, 1879. }

**COAL!**

**100 Tons Round "ACADIA MINES,"** and a smaller lot of NUT, at our usual low prices.  
**Wright & MacGowan,**  
QUEEN'S WHARF  
Ch'town, Feb. 8, 1879—law for 2m

**WANTED.**

**A PURCHASER** for a small but comfortable Stock of Household Furniture, Carpets, Bedding, Crockery and Glassware, and everything required for house-keeping on a moderate scale.  
The house in which the above is contained is pleasantly situated, and will be let on reasonable terms.  
Address P. O. Box 103, Charlottetown.  
March 27, '79.—2w

**FREEHOLD FARM FOR SALE.**

**TO BE SOLD,** by private contract, that valuable FARM of 50 acres of excellent Land, situate at Graham's Road, Township No. 20, now in possession of Aeneas Brennan. This well-known Farm is eligibly situated in the immediate vicinity of Churches, Schools and Mills, and is in a good state of cultivation. For terms and particulars apply at the office of Longworth & Shaw, Solicitors, Ch'town.  
F. S. LONGWORTH.  
Ch'town, Dec. 23, 1878—

**Executors' Notice.**

**THE** undersigned Executors of the Estate of Ralph Brecken Peake, late of Charlottetown, in the Province of Prince Edward Island, merchant, deceased, hereby notify all persons indebted to the said Estate to make immediate payment to them; and all persons having any claims against the said Estate are hereby required to render the same to the undersigned, duly attested, within one year from date.

Dated this twenty-first day of January A. D., 1879.

EDWARD J. HODGSON,  
GEORGE W. DEBLOIS,  
THOS. HANDRAHAN,  
Executors.

Jan. 21, 1879. r g 3m

**FLOUR!**

**200** bbls. "GREENHOLM,"  
**100** bbls. "CAMLACHIE,"  
**100** bbls. "NORVAL."

A consignment for sale at a bargain, for cash.

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Queen's Wharf.

February 8, 1878—law for 2m

**ROPE.**

**SIX TONS MANILLA,**

different sizes, at Factory Prices.

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February 18, 878—law for 2m



**THE Greatest Medical Discovery since the Creation of Man, or since the Commencement of the Christian Era.**

There never has been a time when the healing of so many different diseases has been caused by outward application as the present. It is an undisputed fact that over half of the entire population of the globe resort to the use of ordinary plasters.

**DR. MELVIN'S CAPSICUM POROUS PLASTERS** are acknowledged by all who have used them, to act quicker than any other plaster they ever before tried, and that one of these plasters will do more real service than a hundred of the ordinary kind. All other plasters are slow of action, and require to be worn continually to effect a cure; but with these it is entirely different: the instant one is applied the patient will feel its effect.

**MANUFACTURED BY THE**

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Lowell, Mass., U. S. A.,  
**G. E. MITCHELL, Proprietor,**  
Manufacturers of Plasters and Plaster Compounds  
**W. R. WATSON, Agent**  
December 7 1877

**NIGHT SOIL.**

**REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL,** from 8 o'clock, p. m., to 6 o'clock, a. m., at a cheaper rate than any man in the city. Citizens, take notice that Gordon has no more right in removing night soil than we have.  
**WILLIAM BYERS,**  
**THOMAS ROBERTSON.**  
Ch'town, March 3, 1879.

**FOR SALE,**

**THE HOUSE** and Premises occupied by the Subscriber, at the head of Queen Street. For further particulars apply to the owner on the Premises, or to **ALEXANDER BROWN, Esq.**  
**DONALD MCKENZIE.**  
Ch'town, Feb. 3, 1879—2aw

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Send for handsome Illustrated Price List.  
**ROBERT YOUNG,**  
South Side Queen Square,  
Sole Agent for P. E. Island.  
Ch'town, March 18, 1878—2aw tf

**No. 35 Water St.,**

**Charlottetown.**

**Prince Edward Island Branch**

—OF THE—

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**FIRE AND LIFE**

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Nine-Tenths of the Profits of the Life Assurance Business are divided every Five Years. The Tables of Rates are moderate.

Fire Insurances effected on nearly every description of Property, at the LOWEST RATES of Premium, corresponding to the nature of the risk.

Losses settled with promptitude and liberality.

**G. W. DEBLOIS,**  
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Dec. 14.

**Valuable Freehold Farm**

**FOR SALE.**

**THE** Charlottetown Cemetery Company are prepared to sell, on very favorable terms, all that portion of their well-known Farm, beautifully situated on the north side of the Back Royalty Road, and extending from the Malpeque Road to near the Railway track, containing about FIFTY ACRES OF EXCELLENT LAND.

The premises are all under cultivation, and have thereon a good Dwelling House, large Barn, Stables, and a fine Orchard. A fine Spruce Hedge surrounds a great part of the property.

Immediate possession will be given.

For further particulars, apply to John Ingham or H. J. Cundall, Esq's.

By order of the Board,  
F. W. HALES, Sec'y.

Ch'town, Feb. 20, 1879—dly oaw

**CATARRH.**

**Constitutional Catarrh Remedy CURES CATARRH.**

Hear what a Reverend Gentleman says of the Constitutional Remedy.

T. J. B. HARDING, Esq., Brockville, Ont.:

DEAR SIR—It is now two years since your "Constitutional Catarrh Remedy" was introduced to me. I have waited this long to see if the cure would remain permanent before doing this, my duty, to you, as at first the happy effects seemed to me to be "too good to be true."

I was afflicted in my head for years before I suspected it to be Catarrh. In reading in your Circular I saw my case described in many particulars. The inward "drop" from the head had become very disagreeable, and a choking sensation often preventing me from lying long. I would feel like smothering and be compelled to sit up in the bed. My health and spirits were seriously affected. When your agent came to Walkertown in August, 1876, I secured three bottles. Before I had used a quarter of the contents of one bottle I found decided relief, and when I had used two bottles and a third, I quit taking it, feeling quite cured of that ailment, and have not used any since until of late I have taken some for a cold in my head.

A sense of duty to sufferers from that loathsome disease, Catarrh, prompts me to send you this Certificate, unsolicited, with leave to make what use of it you may see proper. Yours truly,

**W. TINDALL,** Methodist Minister.  
Port Elgin, Ont., Aug. 24, 1878.

Ask for Littlefield's Constitutional Catarrh Remedy and take no other.

T. J. B. HARDING, Dominion Agent, Brockville, Ont.

For sale by all Druggists at only one Dollar per bottle.

**BUY IT. . . . TRY IT.**

**FISH.**

**100 Quintals Prime Codfish**

**CHEAP FOR CASH.**

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February 8, 1878—law for 2m