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Editorial

THE DATE OF EASTER.

Everyone knows the significance of Easter, the greatest feast of the Ecclesiastical Year; but how many of us, we wonder, know why its date is constantly changing, and how it is computed?

In the early days of the Church, the Christians wished to celebrate the exact date of the Death and Resurrection of Christ; but in order to do so, they must know the exact calendar dates on which these events fell. Then arose the difficulty. It was known that our Lord died the day after the Pasch of the Jews, that is the day after the 14th Nizan, and rose on the 17th Nizan, according to the old Jewish method of reckoning time. But in those days there were in the vast Roman Empire many different calendars, the ones in more common use being the Julian, Egyptian, and Syro-Macedonian calendars. The former was based on the lunar year of 354 days, while the others were founded on the

solar year; so that the first days of the months and years in the Jewish calendar did not coincide with any fixed dates in the Roman; in the former, also, there was inserted every fourth year an intercalary month, and this, not according to any scientific method, but merely arbitrarily by command of one of the Jewish rulers. The date of Easter, therefore, could not be transposed to any corresponding date in either the Julian or Gregorian calendar; and several controversies resulted from the attempt of the different countries to settle the question, each according to its own calendar, some determining a fixed, and others a movable date for this feast.

It was a known fact that Christ rose on a Sunday, and consequently every Sunday of the year commemorates this event. For this reason Rome celebrated Easter on a Sunday, the first after the Jewish Pasch, or the 14th Nizan. This feast, however, as we have already mentioned, was constantly changing on the Julian and Gregorian calendars, so that the fast of the Resurrection in Rome was celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the Spring equinox, which there fell on March 25, in Alexandria, March 21, giving Easter a movable character ranging from March 22 to April 25. For this computus the Church claimed the authority of Sts. Peter and Paul, from a tradition which was supposed to have originated with these two saints. This, then, came to be almost universally accepted. Still we find some countries refusing to admit the Roman ruling, and in Gaul the date of the Crucifixion became fixed on March 25, and that of Easter on March 27. This, however, was only of short duration. Other countries, also, decided on fixed dates, until, in the year 325, the First Council of Nicaea decreed that the Roman practice should be observed throughout the Church.

The movable character of Easter gives rise to many inconveniences, and for years scientists and others have vainly sought to simplify the computus. We read recently of the introduction into the English House of Parliament, of a bill setting a fixed date for Easter. We wonder, if this is passed, will it be merely a local custom, or will it become universally accepted. If the former is the case, only further inconveniences will result; if the latter, the question arises, "Will the Church be willing to accept, also, this new ruling?" We venture the opinion that should the latter be the case, the Church will readily acquiesce, since it has always been her first thought, not to inconvenience her children, but to simplify matters for them, in as much as possible, and to avoid all unnecessary controversy. Whatever will be the outcome, it will at least give us food for thought.

S

AIRMAIL.

At the present time great sums of money are being spent by governments and business concerns in the development and improvement of modern equipment for the facilitation of industrial enterprises. The keynote of all these improvements is speed, speed in transportation, speed in communication, speed in operation, all tending to the saving of the precious second. Among the most practicable and serviceable of these modern time-saving appliances is the aeroplane; and especially is this true when this highly developed invention is used in the transportation of mails and passengers. In the large industrial centres of the world the aeroplane has become an established factor in the business man's calculations. Regular air service has been established between many of the large cities in America and in Europe. In fact, at the present time preparations are being made to establish a regular trans-oceanic service.

However, what interests us most is our own more local air service. The past winter has witnessed a decided forward step in the delivery of mainland mails to Prince Edward Island. The great boon which has been granted the Magdalen Islands by the establishment of the air mail service during the past winter, has also been extended to Prince Edward Island; and mails are now delivered in many cases a day in advance of what they formerly were. As yet, however, this service is only in its infancy, and many improvements are expected in the near future. A service, which at the present time is weekly, or at best bi-weekly, would be far more efficient if a daily schedule were followed. So in this age of advancement, it is but reasonable to expect the government to take the necessary means to provide such accommodation to its people on Prince Edward Island.

RED AND WHITE extends to all its Advertisers, Contributors, Subscribers, and to the Faculty and Students of St. Dunstan's, sincere wishes for a joyous Easter.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday. —Pope.

A solid and substantial greatness of the soul looks down with neglect on the censures and applauses of the multitude.

—Addison.

REVIEW.

It is noteworthy, and we think it proper to comment on the fact, that the two most important of Britain's Embassies are today held by Catholics. Sir Esme Howard has been at Washington some time, where he has proven his worth. Now the news comes that Sir William Tyrrell has received the appointment to Paris—a fitting crown for years of faithful but unostentatious service to the Empire. No man could better typify the standing principles of British policy. This work he is about to undertake is worthy of his high qualities and his wide experience. The task that confronts the British Ambassador at Paris is of a very special character, for today more than ever Paris is the nodal point of European diplomacy. We believe that the knowledge of men and affairs Sir William Tyrrell acquired as private secretary to Lord Grey has given him that tactful comprehensiveness so necessary to the view proper to the diplomat.

LORD ASQUITH

It is perhaps late to refer to the passing of one of Britain's great men. When we go back over forty years of history, we see a life more vivid, a career more extraordinary, than the obituaries convey, and a personality more interesting. The interest in Lord Asquith's career will not diminish, but will continue to grow. His rise has been compared to that of Pitt and Gladstone;; but it was even far more remarkable. Springing from small manufacturers in the West Riding of Yorkshire, he became a mirror of the intellectual aristocracy at Oxford. He was Prime Minister for a longer period than any man for the last hundred years; he led the House of Commons through crises and tumults with the command and composure of a Walpole; and then he led the Empire into a mightier war than Pitt, and laid the foundation of victory before his strange fall.

In the House he never spoke too often—self-possessed, self-controlled, clear-cut in countenance as in style, whenever he rose he was outstanding. He was quiet; he was always ready, and he was a student. Step by step he advanced until with Campbell Bannerman's death, 1908, the mantle of leadership fell on him, and he found himself at the head of the mightiest majority since the Reform Bill. Gladstone had never known such possibilities of power.

For eight momentous years he held the destiny of the Empire in his hand, until in the sombre days of 1916 the long pre-

miership came to an end, after a term more magnificent in its prestige, more unprecedented in its difficulties, and marking a far greater break in the course of national destinies, than any years since the period from 1832 to 1846. He never rose from his fall; he was spared nothing from the smiting hand of fate, for he lost his eldest son in the war, and was finally rejected by the constituency which he had represented for thirty long years.

Like Beaconsfield, he has finally evaded the Abbey, but he still remains an inseparable part of history, as it has been enacted during these troubled years of the first quarter of the 19th century. His name is forever in the roll of great Englishmen, and his quiet grave at Abingdon will never become obscure.

J.J.R.H.F.

O Risen Christ! O Easter Flower!
How dear Thy Grace has grown!
From east to west, with loving power,
Make all the world Thine own.

—Phillips Brooks.

Awake, thou wintry earth—
Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth
Your ancient gladness!
Christ is risen.

—Thomas Blackburn.

"Christ the Lord is risen today,"
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

—Charles Wesley.

O wad some pow'r the giftie gie us
To see ourselves as others see us!
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,
And foolish notion.

—Burns.

The flush of youth soon passes from the face;
The spells of fancy from the mind's depart;
The form may lose its symmetry, its grace,
But time can claim no victory o'er the heart.

—Mrs. Dinnies.