EXAMPLES OF MOSES AND CHRIST EXERCISED INFLUENCE IN ESTABLISHING LENT

Word "Lent" Itself Is Teutonic, In Use Since Anglo-Saxon Period And Generally Used In Reference To Latin Term "Quad Ra Gesima."

(By Nancy Hanks)

Millions of followers of the Christian faith over the world are upon the threshold of the Easter festival, the most imoprtant occasion in the Christian calendar.

"If Christ be not risen from the dead, then is our preaching vain," said Paul, and the whole Christian structure rests upon the resurrection as its foundation. Without the resur rection th e hope of humanity is gone, for only in a living Christ is there salvation.

The death and resurrection of Christ are primarily involved in the keeping of the Lenten season, which is observed formally by the older branches of the Christian church. The different churches very in their practices in the observance of the forty days preceding Easter, but the spirit prompting the observance is the same in all. Some of the Protestant churches do not observe Lent, but many ministers find it a propitious time for evangelistic effort, and in recent years some vey successful evangelistic campaigns have been waged by Protestants in the large cities during the season of Lent.

The history of Lent has many interesting passages. The severe rules of the fast prescribed in the early days have been greatly relaxed during the centuries, as far as they apply to physical observance.

Since the earliest times in religious history fasting at times has been a custom. The patriarchs had great mournings and the ancient Israelites had devotional fasts for the expiation of sins. Moses passed forty days on Mount Horeb in fasting and after Israel was defeated at Ai, Joshua and the elders remained prostrate before the ark from morning until evening without eating. Christ spent forty days in the wilderness in fasting, but however prevailed the custom it does not appear that either Jewish legislation or Christ Himself, either by command or example, ever designated any certain period for fasting.

It is certain, however, that the examples of Moses, Elias and Christ exercised a great influence upon the establishment of the Lenten season in the Christian Church, and that observance of the period of forty days was evolved from their examples. Modern scolarship rejects the claim that Lent was of apostolic institution, although some of the early fathers contended that it was. While the apostles fasted at seasons and enjoined the practice upon others, the specific Lenten observance was evolved after apostolic times.

In the Catholic Encyclopedia, which is the principal authority upon Catholic history and teachings, some interesting facts are recited about this season, which, whatever its exact origin, has been religiously observed everry year for at least 1700 years.

The word Lent itself is a Teutonic word, which has been in use since the Anglo-Saxon period, and is generally used in preference to the Latin term "Quadragesima," meaning the "Forty days." The forty-day observance of "Lent" is not mentioned by the pre-Nicene fathers, but St. Athanasius of Alexandria, after traveling over Europe wrote in 3399 that a fast was generally practiced in Europe and he enjoined upon the Alexandrians to do likewise, "to the end that while all the world is fasting, we who are in Egypt should not become a laughing stock as the only people who do not fast, but take our pleasures in these days."

As the centuries passed, there was great diversity in the practices of keeping Lent, but from the earliest times there was a prohibition against the eating of meat, and it was deemed especially pious to refrain from eating eggs or fruit with a hard covering. In the beginning there was no prohibition against the "Lacticinia," but St. Gregory in writing to St. Augustine from England laid down the rule: "We abstain from flesh meat and from all things from flesh, eggs, milk and cheese." There were special dispensations for eating these products, however, and many churches were built with the gifts for these dispensations. Thus a steeple in the cathedral at Rouen was known as "The Butter Tower." The custom of giving Easter eggs, so much enjoyed by the children of today, arose from the prohibition of eggs. The eggs were blessed and given to the children.

Although in the early Middle Ages the rules of the fast were very strict, with only one light meal on week days and that in the evenings, and no flesh on Sundays, the rules began to be less rigid a little later. It became the custom to break the fast at three o'clock in the afternoon or the period called "nome." Charlemagne is said to have taken his Lenten repast at two o'clock in the afternoon. Gradually the time was moved up to midday, as nome was a period rather than an hour, and the repast was eventually taken at twelve o'clock and the word "nome" is perpetuated in our word "noon."

The collation was introduced in the Ninth century when the council at Aix-la-Chapelle sanctioned that concession. It began with allowing in monasteries a draught of water to the inmates at evening after a day of labor. From this the much larger indulgences were developed. The principle that a small quantity of food, but not taken as a regular meal, did not break the fast, was adopted by Thimas Aquinas, the celebrated Dominican theologian, and in the course of centuries taking of food not to exceed eight ounces became recognized as a lawful custom of the church. It took the name of the "collation" because it was first taken in the monasteries at the hour at which the "Collationes" of Abbot Caisson were read aloud to the brethren.

In modern times the Catholic Church prescribes rules more lenient, especially for the working people who are not prohibited from eating flesh meat except on Fridays, Ash Wednesdays and Saturday of Holy week, and soldiers and sailors in active service are dispensed from the law of abstinance except on Ash Wednesday, and several other holy days.

Aside from the fasting as an observance of the Lenten season the Catholic church conducts special services at stated times and the fundameintal doctrines of the church are preached and other ceremonies carried out. It is the desire that all should refrain from all pleasures during this fortyday period and keep their minds and hearts upon spiritual things.

The other churches that observe Lent dispense with the fast but stress the period as a time for self-examination and prayer, and reconsecration to Christ. Their members also dispense with ordinary worldly pleasures during the Lenten season and observe it as a period of extra religious effort.

KNOEBEL WOMAN IMPROVED.

Mrs. I. W. Wright, who has been quite ill at her home near Knoebel, is reported as being much improved.

STORK VISITS KINGSVILLE COUPLE.

The stork visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Byer, at Kingsville, leaving a fine baby girl.

PERRY HALL FOLKS MOVE NEAR CAMP CHAPEL.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Richardson, of Perry Hall, are now occupying the property near Camp Chapel, owned by Mr. Frederick Gambrill.

MISS MARGERY EVERES WEDS KENITH JONES.

Miss Margery Everes, of Perry Hall, became the bride of Mr. Kenith Jones, of Bradshaw, recently.

SUMMERFIELD HAS NEW RAILROAD STATION.

A new station has been erected at Summerfield by the "Maw & Pa" Railroad.

"THE RESURRECTION MESSAGE" AT HEREFORD TOMORROW.

Tomorrow (Easter Sunday) the B. Y. P. U. of Hereford Baptist Church will present "The Resurrection Message."

SEWING CLUB ENTERTAINED.

Miss Edlu Hale entertained the Priscilla Sewing Club at her Hereford home on Thursday last.

PREACHES FIRST SERMON.

Rev. Mr. Banes preached his first sermon in the Hereford M. E. Church on Sunday last and will occupy the pulpit there tomorrow (Easter Sunday).

MACHINES COLLIDE NEAR PIKESVILLE.

John W. Streaker, of Baltimore city, and Charles Boyer, of Halethorpe, were summoned to appear before Magistrate McGraw at the Pikesville Police Station following a collision of their automobiles at Reisterstown road and Slade Ave.

TWENTY-EIGHT CONFIRMED AT CATONSVILLE.

At Salem Lutheran Church, Catonsville, 28 boys and girls were confirmed by the Rev. John C. Bowers.

RECEIVERS APPOINTED FOR BENTLEY PAPER MILLS.

An order was passed in the Circuit Court at Towson by Judge Walter W. Preston, appointing Paul Y. Waters receiver for the Bentley Paper Mills, Inc. The order was passed on a bill filed by Louis A. Dieter, who alleges that the defendant is indebted to him to the amount of $50,250. The defendant, by its attorney, Wendell D. Allen, filed an answer admitting that the company is insolvent and consenting to the appointment of the receiver, whose bond was fixed at $5000. The mills are located at Freeland.

FOREIGNER KIND'A GOT NAMES MIXED A BIT.

Marshal of Police Stansbury was standing at the door of his office in the Court House talking to a man when a foreigner walked up.

Where is de Oliphant's Court," he inquired.

Realizing that the chap was evidently looking for the Orphans' Court, the Marshal escorted him to the door of the room bearing same.

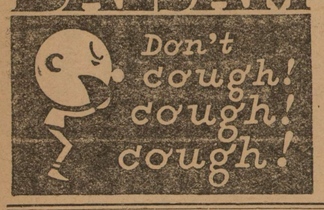
"Tanks," said the stranger. "Kin you now direct me to der Circus Court?"

LANSDOWNE TO HAVE CARNIVAL JULY 21 TO 26.

On July 21 to 26 the annual carnival of the Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Association No. 1, Inc., will be held.

Andrew Stevens has been named general chairman of the affair, with Henry Mofman as assistant chairman. Other members of the committee are: Leon Woolford, Wm. Tabler, Charles Ruhl and Charles F. Waltz.

KEMP'S BALSAM



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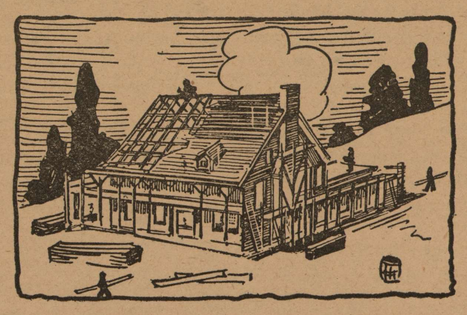

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31x4 .....$15.90
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33x4 .....$18.05
32x4½ .....(See Above)
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33x5 ..... 28.15

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