

CHURCHES IN EASTER GARB

Millions Spent for Decorations Appropriate to the Great Festival.

BOWERS OF PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Beautiful Spectacles, Extraneous Music, Throngs of Participants and Sightseers—Poor Churches Run Up Big Bills.

Easter is conceded to be the most brilliant of the many church festivals celebrated in American cities, surpassing even Christmas in lavishness of musical programs, extravagance of decoration and point of attendance.

Millions of dollars are spent each year for Easter lilies and all other, yet paradoxically, the more wealthy the congregation the less the money which is paid out by the treasurer. This is due to the general custom of making Easter Sunday the occasion of memorial to the dead. In fashionable churches like St. Bartholomew's, New York, where the Vanderbilts worship, the floral decorations will represent several thousand dollars, but of this sum only the potted plants are paid for by the committee in charge, and these are merely rented for the day. The flowers are sent by the Vanderbilts, in memory of those of their family who have died in the church. Sometimes these memorials come in the form of set pieces, such as pillows, lamps and other funeral offerings, but so skillfully are they arranged by the decorators that the work, when completed, shows only an admirably massed channel of green and white.

How the Decoration is Done.

Bermuda lilies, hyacinths, white azaleas, narcissus and lilies of the valley are the most popular flowers for decorative purposes, but even white roses and carnations are not despised when the prices of all flowers soar skyward.

The work of decoration begins on Saturday afternoon and is generally in the hands of professional decorators and florists, assisted or hindered, as the case may be, by a committee of the church people. In the Episcopal churches the committee consists of what is known as the altar guild, while in the Catholic churches the work is done by the sisterhoods. The ceremony is accomplished with much reverence and those who make the rounds of Catholic churches at this time have an opportunity to study the exquisite workmanship in the laces used in decorating the altars, which can never be seen during the crush of Easter Sunday. The finest laces owned by a church are reserved for the Easter service, and often the walls have to be draped with the lace on the various altars are worth a small fortune in themselves.

At the conclusion of the last service on Sunday the flowers are removed, and they are sorted for distribution by a committee. In churches where the altars are formed to minister to the sick, these workers have first right to the flowers, and the rest are distributed to the various hospitals. The palms and ferns rented by the florists are removed on Monday unless the week following Easter is to be marked by a number of church weddings, in which case arrangements are frequently made for the decorations to stand.

Decorations in These Cities.

A florist who has stores in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia states that fully \$200,000 will be spent in church decorations in New York churches, \$150,000 in Chicago churches and a like sum in Philadelphia.

This includes all sorts and conditions of congregations, from the mission chapel where an expenditure of \$25 or \$50 is made, after most mature deliberation, to the St. George's, where J. Pierpont Morgan will spend \$100,000 for Easter decorations, and where the chancel will be completely hidden by lilies and azaleas at \$5 a plant, hyacinths at half the price and cut flowers beside which the decorations at a ball or dinner sink into financial insignificance.

The Wealthy Church's Easy Task.

The wealthier the church, the more simple does the choir master find the problem of arranging the Easter music. His singers are kept up to the highest possible standard for every service, and he makes a special effort for Easter Sunday, except an appropriate selection of music. So strictly are his singers drilled for chorus work that the introduction of additional voices would injure, not improve, the ensemble work. Chorus singers in wealthy churches are paid enough to make their regular attendance an object.

Students of singing make up the majority of these choirs and the standard of music demanded in a congregation of wealth is such that it could not be improved for special occasions. Moreover, no soloists are also the best obtainable, for the choir master has but a little plan except the actual musical numbers.

Even here much latitude is denied him. Certain hymns and choruses are demanded at this day, including the triumphant "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia," and the magnificent chorus, "The Messiah." It is a daring soloist who will let to sing a new aria pushed by some surprising publisher when a member of the congregation who contributes her hundred dollars to the church fund.

Each year to the support of the choir sends word that it would like to know "What My Redeemer Liveth" sung at the morning service. The choir masters admit that the new Easter music is ephemeral, and what was placed on the market last year will not be heard in the churches next Sunday.

Several of the fashionable churches have a harpist or cellist, or both, throughout the year, and these may be augmented by other stringed instruments for Easter, otherwise the choir remains as usual.

Grand Opera Stars Sing Graciously.

On the other hand, the choir master who is compelled to economize and stint the year around is expected to make more or less of a spurge on Easter. He is allowed funds to secure a noted soloist or two, perhaps a harpist. It is in regard to the latter that he has most trouble. There are not enough harpists in the average city to supply the demand for this great festival of music. They are engaged long in advance and are paid a much higher figure than the soloists. A satisfactory soloist can be secured for \$20, but higher prices are sometimes paid for "names." For instance, if a good light opera company is playing at one of the theaters the tenor or basso may be secured for the Easter solos at a church. When a grand opera singer is heard his or her solo is an offering, without money and without price, to the church.

Where the choir master must reorganize his workers on a more elaborate scale for this one day, his task is arduous and involves long and tedious rehearsals, even though the music selected is of the lightest order.

In churches where boy choirs are employed, the old English music, notably that written by John Stainer, is selected as lending itself more easily to the choral style of the English church. If a choir master inclines to the work of American composers, he selects the Easter music written by Horatio Parker, Arthur Foote, or George W. Chadwick.

Why Easter Music is Disappointing.

In speaking of Easter music a noted choir master said: "The occasional churchgoer who imagines he is hearing especially fine music when he attends the Easter service is greatly mistaken. Frankly, I am always more dissatisfied with our music on that day than on any other Sunday of the year. The great thing in the church, particularly that restless tide of sightseers which comes and goes, distracts the singers, and the heavy air, which roasts over the entire church, destroys the purity of tone. This comes partially from the large number of people in the body of the church and partly from the heavy odors of the flowers massed in the chancel. My choir is necessarily packed into the midst of this perfume, and I have known young women to faint under its powerful influence."

Then, too, my fingers work their hardest on this day, because we have an extra service, beginning a full choral service at 7 o'clock in the morning. Very often members of my choir living at a distance have a light breakfast before coming to the church, take a second breakfast after the first service, and even eat their midday meal at a nearby restaurant. By the close of the afternoon service they are exhausted.

"At churches which have only two services the strain is lighter, but I must reiterate that the average choir is not heard at its best on this day. There is something in the air besides flowers, perhaps it is general excitement, which creeps into the music and makes it less ecclesiastical than it should be on this, the most solemn and beautiful of church festivals."

Armies of Sightseers.

Despite this frank admission of weakness in Easter music, the average sightseer will sail forth Easter Sunday with the unshaken expectation of hearing something quite out of the ordinary. There will be thousands of him struggling for entrance into the fashionable churches of every denomination.

To protect parishioners against the Easter invaders, the former are admitted at a single entrance, where they file past men connected with the congregation who know its members by sight. The other entrances to the church remain closed to the general public until five or ten minutes before the service is to begin. After this, regular parishioners must take their chances with the seething mob which is risking its Easter finery to gain an entrance, for then no pews are reserved. Other churches issue cards, which are distributed not only to parishioners but to privileged individuals to whom the courtesy is considered due.

In the very large edifices in the larger cities, and especially in New York, only those well in the front hear the Easter sermon, for there is a perpetual stream of sightseers, coming and going. To the American accustomed to the congregation's remaining seated during the entire service, the despatched throng seems distinctly irrelevant.

Change of Revenue Agents.

Internal Revenue Agent George H. Wheelock has been temporarily transferred to Lynchburg, Va., to take the place of the revenue agent there, who is disabled from duty because of sickness. Mr. Wheelock will be succeeded here by Revenue Agent J. E. Reed of Milwaukee, Wis. The latter arrived today to take charge and Mr. Wheelock departs this afternoon for his new field of duty.

ECLIPSE OF PASCHAL MOON

Novel Astronomical Condition that is Set to Next Saturday.

EASTER SUNDAY INVOLVED IN EVENT

Father Rigge of Creighton Observatory Gives a Short Preliminary Description of an Interesting Exhibition.

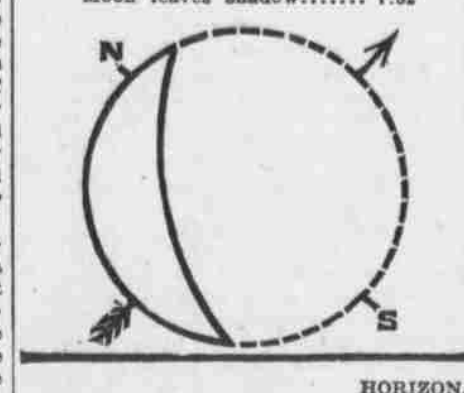
Next Saturday evening there will be an eclipse of the moon. Compared with that good total eclipse which we saw on October 16 the present eclipse might be tabbed as a failure. And that for several reasons. First, the present eclipse is not total, although it is so nearly total that 97 per cent of the moon's diameter is immersed in the earth's shadow. The sight would yet be worth the seeing were it not for the second reason, that the moon is well on her way out of the shadow before rising above the horizon of Omaha.

And here the third circumstance comes in to mar the impressiveness of the phenomenon, in that the moon rises a few minutes before the sun sets. The abundance of daylight at that time will therefore detract much from the moon's visibility.

On account of these adverse conditions very few people in the city will notice the eclipse at all. There is, however, another side to the story, and those of our readers who are astronomically inclined will find several points to interest them in the present eclipse.

First, the appearance of the moon at the time of its rising will be a very unusual sight. If we look at the line of bluffs across the river at a point about 10 degrees to the south of east we shall see at about 6:31 p. m. a peculiar looking luminous finger pointing directly upward, and although moving obliquely upward toward the right, seeming to rise perpendicularly from behind the hills. This finger will rapidly curve away toward the right, and when completely above the horizon will present the appearance indicated in the drawing. A slight acquaintance with the phases of the moon will tell us that the moon must always appear bounded by a semicircle on one side.

Moon rises..... 6:31
Sun sets..... 6:58
Moon leaves shadow..... 7:52



HORIZON.

and by a semi-eclipse on the other. At the time of an eclipse, however, both bounding curves are parts of unequal circles, so that the moon's appearance is very much altered.

Thirdly, as the moon rises next Saturday night four minutes before the sun sets, we shall have the very unique sight of both luminaries just above and as it were resting on the horizon, the one a full round red ball and the other a peculiar silvery truncated crescent, diametrically opposite. While the full outline of the moon's disk is often visible during an eclipse, as it was so well last October, it is most likely that this will not be the case in the coming eclipse on account of the daylight.

Fourthly, the moon to be eclipsed next Saturday is the Paschal moon, that is, the moon which this year determines the date of Easter. Without entering at present into the construction of the calendar, it will suffice for our purpose to remember that Easter is celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon of spring. There are, therefore, three conditions imposed upon the date of this feast: first, it must occur in spring; second, after the first full moon of spring, and third, on a Sunday. The first condition is an easy one to practice, because the beginning of spring has been fixed upon the 21st of March, and the leap years have been so disposed that in the course of time this date shall never vary. The second condition, the date of the full moon, is a very difficult one in theory, but in practice it has been so much simplified that any person of average intelligence can, after a little study and by the observation of a few rules, find the date of the first full moon of spring, and by its means determine the date of Easter for any year whatever. As to the third condition, that of the Sunday, it is to be observed that Easter is never celebrated on the day of the full moon itself when that day happens to be a Sunday, but always on the Sunday following the full moon.

These three conditions, therefore, determine the date of Easter and fix it upon the Sunday following the first full moon of spring. When this full moon falls upon the 21st of March itself, and the day following is Sunday, the 22nd of March is the earliest date of Easter. This happens rarely, only thirty times in six centuries. The last time was in 1818 and the next will not be until 2285.

When the full moon occurs on the 20th of March, that is on the day before the beginning of spring, we must wait until the 18th of April in order to have the first full moon of spring. When this day is a Sunday we must wait another week until the 26th of April, the latest possible date, in order to celebrate Easter. This latest date of Easter occurs forty-six times in 6,000 years. The last time was in 1889 and the next will be 1943.

WILLIAM F. RIGGE, S. J.,
Creighton University Observatory.

RELIGIOUS.

Archbishop William Henry Elder, the third oldest Catholic prelate in the world, celebrated the 84th anniversary of his birth last Sunday.

Rev. Dr. William Burt, head of the American mission among Italians, has been knighted by King Victor Emmanuel in recognition of his successful efforts for the education of Italian children.

Archbishop Kater of Milwaukee is at St. Agnes' hospital in Fond du Lac for medical treatment and a much-needed rest from the duties of his office. His physician, Dr. P. S. Wiley, gives assurance that his sickness is not of a serious nature.

Rev. T. H. McMichael, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Cleveland, has been chosen president of Monmouth college, chosen president of Monmouth college. He was president for nineteen years. He graduated from the institution in 1888.

Leo XIII has great faith in Prof. Mazzoni, who has in his house a portrait of the pope, with this inscription: "Praefatus viro, Gaetano Mazzoni, Medico Chirurgico, arte eximio, manu strenuo, prole de nobis merito, Leo XIII." The professor, it will be remembered, died not long ago that the pope would easily reach his 100th year and more.

The Syrian Protestant college at Beirut, an American non-sectarian institution, has 67 students in medicine, pharmacy, commerce, arts or architecture. Twenty-eight of the forty-five professors are Americans and English is the principal medium of instruction. The institution wishes samples of American manufactures and commercial literature. Its students come from Turkey, Greece, Persia, Egypt and the Sudan.

"Haste thee nymph, and bring with thee, Jest and youthful Jollity"—Milton; and a bottle of Cook's Imperial Extra Dry Champagne.

Easter Offerings

You will find an investigation of the values in this department very remunerative for you. We have arranged for tomorrow a series of specials—each one a money saving value—and you cannot afford to miss seeing them—our assortments are almost unlimited. LIBERAL CREDIT if you want it.



Easter Millinery

Our millinery department fairly gleams with the world of loveliness in ladies' headwear, that is now awaiting your critical inspection.

We have left nothing undone in our efforts to make this department of interest to every woman in Omaha. Pattern hats from the world's fashion centers, as well as hundreds of our own creations, are now on display. Our prices will please you. Courteous salesladies in attendance.

One of our smartest models, made of pleated chiffon, the pleated underlaid trimmed with lace medallions, the crown made of poppies and leaves. Pretty and effective. Buy of ribbon with ornamental bow of hat. Black and colors—special at.....

3.98

Five hundred elegant and stylish spring hats, copies of the latest styles of French models and a large line of exclusive creations that will surprise and please you. These hats will be offered tomorrow at the special price of.....

6.50

Big line of ready to wear hats, in blacks and colors, some hand made and entirely new, on sale tomorrow at \$2.98 and entirely.....

1.50

Waist Dept.

A WAIST ASSORTMENT HERE AT 49c, that you will marvel at—about 65 dozen in all, bought at a price. We will give you the benefit of this purchase, worth \$1.00—

at.....

49c

AT \$1.50 we are selling a beautifully tailored Madras Waist, extreme broad shoulder effect; front and back laid in tucks—new tab collar—front of waist and collar neatly embroidered—new full pouch sleeve—two-inch cuff. This waist is worth \$2.50—

ask to see them at.....

1.50

\$5.95 FOR \$7.50 NEW SILK WAISTS—In peau de soie, taffeta and china silk—25 beautiful styles, in all the new evening shades, including black—extra special for this sale.....

5.95

Stoves and Ranges

STAR ESTATE STEEL RANGES on sale during Easter week—\$29.50 on the terms of \$1.00 per week.

TWO-BURNER DANGLER GASOLINE STOVES—Guaranteed, during Easter week—\$2.75.

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