

Decorating the Church for Easter

EVEN in the large cities the church that is decorated for the Easter season by a florist is in the minority. As is the custom in town and country, the women of the congregation still take the matter in their own hands and turn the church into a bower of blossoms with their own lilies and plants and other green and blooming things that they have bought or borrowed for the occasion.

But from the few churches that are regularly decorated by florists, many ideas, easy of adaptation, can be secured by the home decorator, so to speak; and they will tend to give a more pleasing decorative effect than that produced by the customary banking of flowers in crowded quarters around the pulpit.

Arches and shower effects will be a feature in church decoration this year. One of the prominent New York florists is making elaborate plans for the use of the apple blossom, which he will bring from the south in great quantities. The Japanese quince, one of the most rare and expensive of flowers, will also be added to the list of Easter favorites.

The apple blossoms will be used for a shower over the chancel. This shower will be made like an immense floral umbrella on a wire frame. The latter will be first covered with the piersoni fern, that sport of the Boston fern, which will be admirable because of its feathery fronds. A fringe of these ferns will hang from the umbrella circle the top and the inside of which will be covered with pure white apple blossoms. Long strands of smilax will extend from the points of the shower over the chancel to the side walls. These strands will be festooned with apple blossoms caught with pure white ribbon.

At the close of the service, when the choir is singing the last hymn and marching out, a unique ceremony will be observed. Four of the choir will take hold of the smilax ropes, which will be adjusted in such a way as to close the umbrella, and the shower of fragrant white petals will fall on the singers until all have passed out.

No church decoration would be complete on Easter without the Easter lily, the pure white chalice of which carry their message of the resurrection. This same church will have an immense arch over the altar, which will be composed entirely of great white lilies and southern smilax. The arch will be of such a height as not to interfere with the shower of apple blossoms. At the rear of the church, over the organ balcony, apple blossoms will be cascaded with southern smilax, and extend down the side of the balcony to the pillar in a shower of bloom.

One of the New York churches, noted for its richness of decoration at Easter time, will use nothing but lilies, crimson rambler roses, and palms for decoration. There will be a graduated row of arches, made of lilies and ferns, from the entrance to the altar down the center aisle. As the worshiper enters the church, the vista of the aisle will appear telescopic. On the gate of each pew a cluster of lilies and palm leaves will be attached with pure white ribbon.

The shower over the chancel will be made canopy shape, of Easter lilies, ferns and smilax. The ropes of smilax will be caught to the side walls and over the balcony. On each side of the altar will be what appears to be a cross made of crimson rambler roses, but which is a rose tree itself, growing in a pot, and trained

into the shape of a cross. The tiny blood red clusters give a touch of color that is striking and significant. Clusters of the rich red roses will appear on the walls, while the altar rail, chandeliers and pillars will be garlanded with them. The decoration of the rear balcony rail will consist entirely of lilies and a huge cross of red roses.

Another prominent church will use the Japanese quince as a banking for the pipe organ. As the latter is directly in front of the church, the results will be effective. Garlands and festoons of foliage and Easter lilies will be suspended from the very dome, with great shower bunches of lilies hanging at intervals over the altar. The font will be a mass of white lilies, and suspended from pillar to pillar will be festoons of smilax and Japanese quince blossoms.

A beautiful and characteristic effect will be in white and yellow. The pillars and walls of the chancel will be covered with white lilies tied with yellow ribbon. A somewhat similar idea will be carried out in white and green. In the latter case everything will be covered with white, while garlands of lilies and smilax will drape walls, pillars and pews. A large cross of smilax and lilies will be the prominent feature to the right of the chancel.

Another church will be more plainly adorned, simply having pyramids of white

lilies and palms. Large palms will be behind the altar, while above this will be, in large letters, the words, "He is risen," in smilax and lilies of the valley. A cross in the center of the chancel will be made of white lilies, and on either side, against the dark green background, will be a large panel of white lilies. A small lily cross will be fastened on the door of each pew.

An arch, which will extend quite across the chancel and be surmounted by a cross of crimson rambler roses, will be composed of lilies, jeweled against a green background. A portiere effect will be given to the chancel by stringing smilax in front of it and suspending from the ceiling and attaching a lily here and there, to look like a bell.

Electric lights will form part of the decoration of this church, which is of the approved twilight type. The electric light bulbs will have artificial lily shades, made of white silk. Festoons of these bulbs will be suspended from chandelier to chandelier and introduced wherever possible. Hidden, as they will be, in the heart of the lily blossom, the light will be subdued, and yet give a striking effect. A lighted cross will also be used above the pulpit.

A pleasing decorative scheme is the lavender and white one. Bells in these shades, made of immortelles or tissue paper, are suspended from white and lavender portieres. In using ascension lilies for shower arrangements, the stems, which are stiff and ungraceful, are broken off, enough be-

ing left, however, to secure them to ribbons of different lengths. Asparagus ferns and marguerites are useful for this purpose in connection with the lilies.

Where Life is Enjoyable

Denmark claims that there is not a single person in its domain who cannot read and write. On the northeast coast of New Guinea, the island of Kufaba, surrounded by a wall of coral 300 feet high on one side and from fifty to 100 feet on the other, maintains thirteen villages of natives, to whom war, crime and poverty have been unknown since the beginning of their traditions. The most peaceful and comfortable community in Europe is the commune of the Canton Vaud, in Switzerland. Nearly everyone is well off and there are no paupers.

Finland is a realm whose inhabitants are remarkable for their inviolate integrity. There are no banks and no safe deposits, for no such security is essential. You may leave your luggage anywhere for any length of time and be quite sure of finding it untouched on your return, and your purse full of money would be just as secure under similar circumstances. The Finns place their money and valuables in holes in the ground and cover them with a big leaf. Such treasure is sacredly respected by all who pass it, but, in the rare event of a man wishing to borrow of his neighbor during his absence, he will take only the smallest sum he requires and place a message in the hole telling of his urgent need, promising to repay the amount on a specified date. And he will invariably keep his word, for the Finn is inviolable in his independence.

Aneta park, near Delft, in Holland, is another Utopian example. A tract of ten acres has upon it 150 houses, each with its little garden and with certain common buildings and common grounds. The houses are occupied by the employees of a great distilling company, who form a corporation which owns the park. Each member owns shares in the corporation and pays rent for his house. The surplus, after all expenses have been paid, comes back to him as dividend. If he wishes to go away or if he dies his shares are bought up by the corporation and sold to the man who takes his place.

Poor Judgment

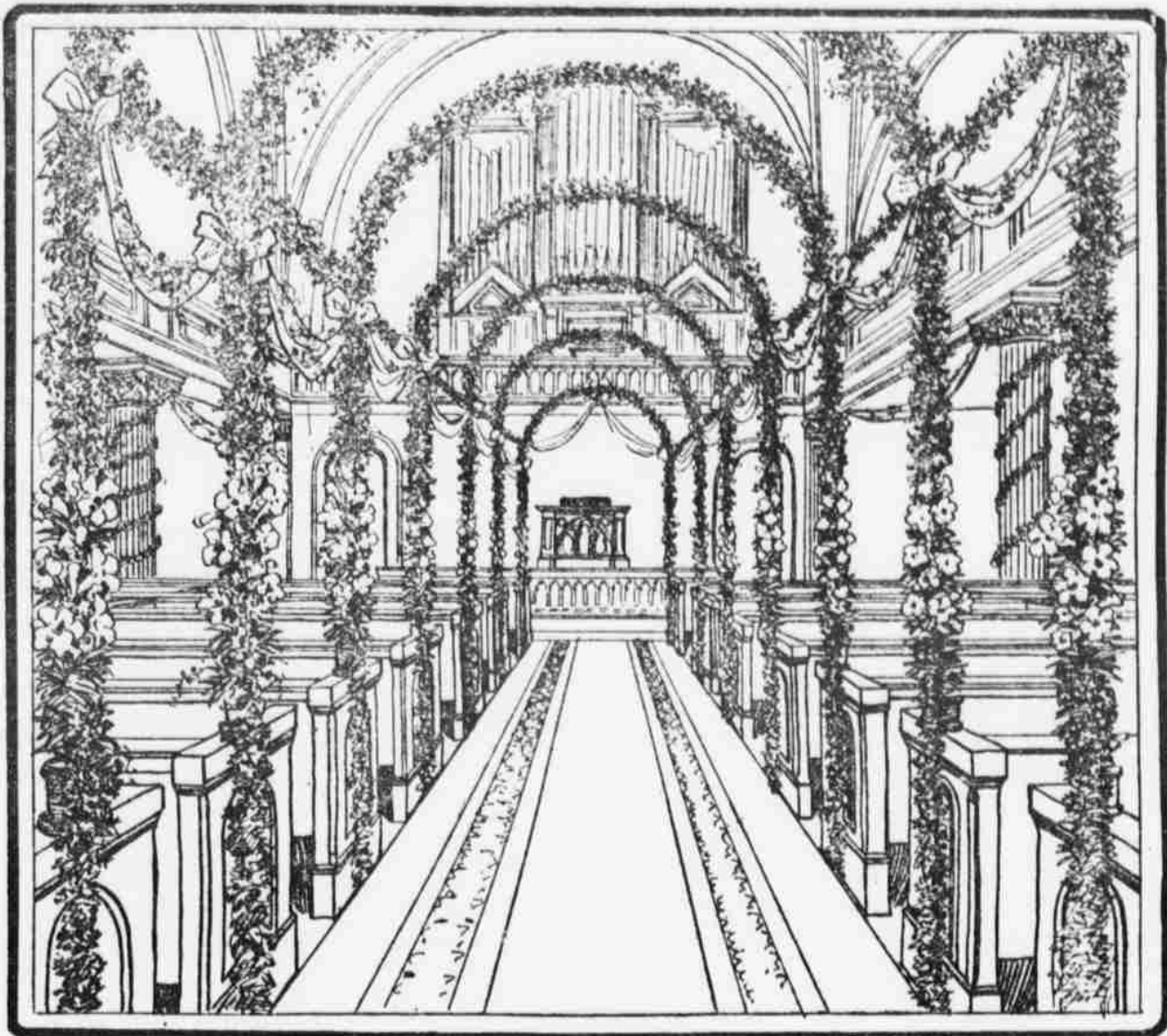
"Your proposal," sighed the young woman, gazing upon the man who knelt before her, "is very beautiful; but it sounds to me like the one Hector de Beauvilleine made to Geneva Collescourt in 'The Romance of Old Chizlewick Castle.'"

"It is," confessed the swain; "it is almost word for word the same proposal. You see, it seemed to me that it was the best form I ever had seen, so I adopted it."

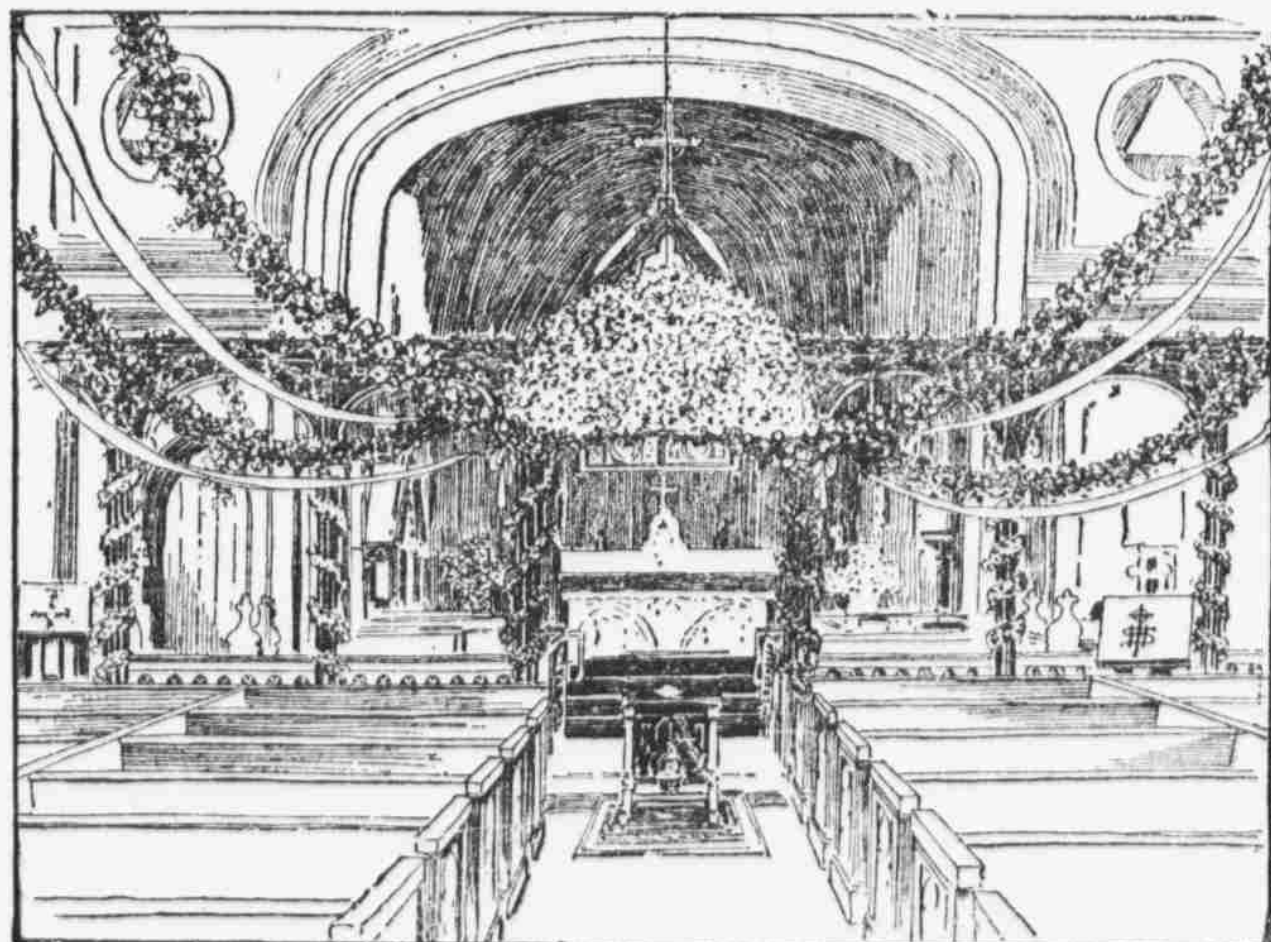
"Well, did you read the rest of the story?"

"No; only to see that she accepted him. That's as far as I read."

"You do not know, then, that Hector de Beauvilleine ran away with the cook, after stealing all of Geneva's jewels and money? Please go away. I shudder when I think of what I have escaped."—Judge.



A DECORATIVE SCHEME FOR THE BODY OF THE CHURCH.



A DECORATIVE SCHEME FOR THE CHANCEL, THE NATURE OF WHICH IS AN IMMENSE FLORAL UMBRELLA.