

SUNBEAM

Vol. XXVI.

TORONTO, APRIL 1, 1905.

No. 7.

ABOUT EASTER.

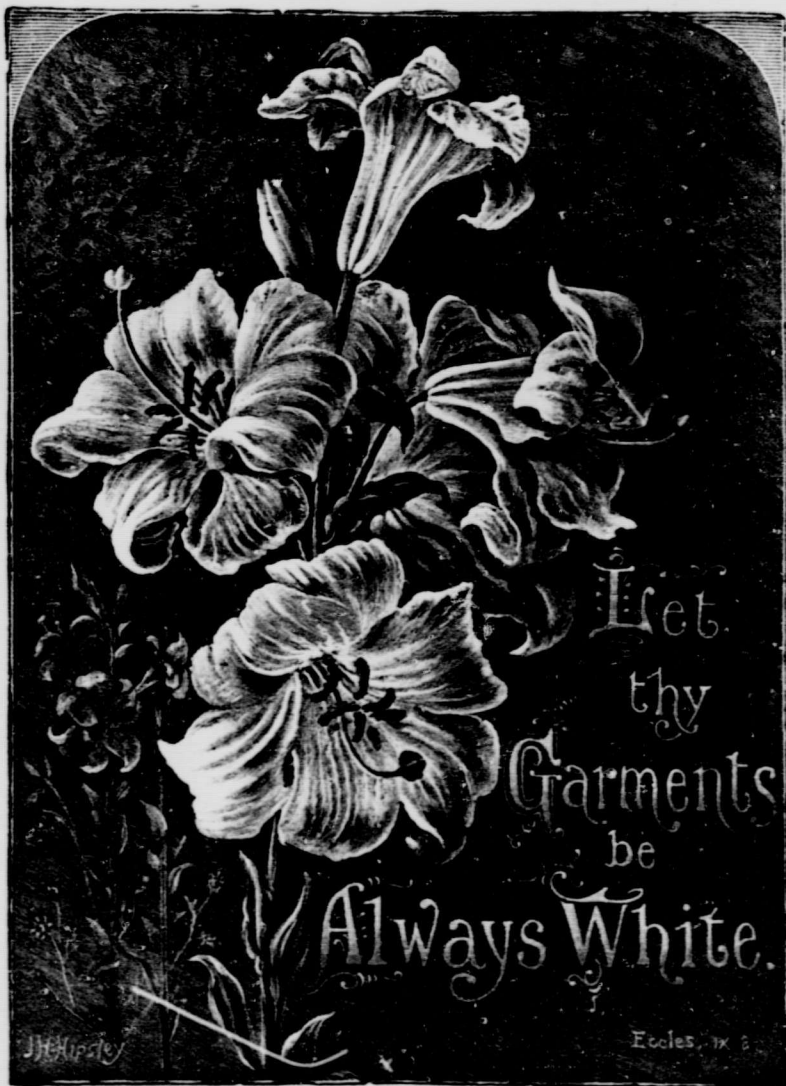
I wonder if all the boys and girls know what Easter means, and why we welcome the day with beautiful flowers and songs of rejoicing?

Do you remember that terrible night when the destroying angel smote with death the first-born in the homes of the Egyptians, but "passed over" the homes of the children of Israel?

In memory of that night and that deliverance the Jews have always kept the feast of the passover. It was at the time of this feast that Christ, "the Lamb of God," was crucified, and his disciples accordingly changed the Jewish feast into a Christian festival.

The Hebrew name for the festival comes from a word which meant "he passed over." The same word has grown into a great many different languages, all referring to the same thing. Among the French the day is known as Pâque. In Scotland it is Pasch, and in Holland it is Paschen.

Did you ever hear of Pasch eggs? These are Easter eggs, boiled so hard that you can play at ball with them. They are dyed with different colors and



EASTER CAROL.

Carols, Easter carols, the happy children sing,
 'Mid the Easter lilies,
 In their starry whiteness,
 In the Easter sunshine,
 Radiant in brightness,
 Easter, joyous Easter! the children's voices sing.

Carols, Easter carols, all hearts unite to sing,
 Death for ever vanquished,
 Hope for ever glorious,
 Earth the gate of heaven,
 Love and life victorious,
 Easter, blessed Easter! the children's voices sing!

often have inscriptions or landscapes traced upon them.

And now let me tell you how to dye them. Take a piece of wet rag, sprinkle it with logwood, cochineal, madder, or any dye; roll the egg in it, tie it up, and boil it for fifteen minutes; then take off the rag, and rub the egg with butter. Or, you may boil it in a solution of these dyes, and then, if you wish, trace some design upon it with a pen-knife; or you may warm the eggs, trace your pattern with the end of a tallow candle, and then boil it in the dye; the grease will make the tracery come out white.

The custom of boiling eggs and coloring them with bright-hued dyes at Easter is very ancient. The eggs were at first dyed scarlet, in memory of the blood of Christ. Will you remember this when you are coloring yours?

A good many curious customs have been observed in different parts of the world in connection with Easter. One of the most beautiful of these was practised by the early Christians, and is still followed in Russia by the members of the Greek Church. Early in