

The Home

Easter Celebration.

In no place, except Rome, is Easter more elaborately celebrated than at Bethlehem, Pa. If no Christ arose, how did Easter originate?

At five o'clock the service begins in the church, which is not able to contain the thousands who assemble. It is not of long duration, and soon the worshippers issue from the great doors and form a procession and wend their way to the cemetery to the measured tones of the trombones. There, guided by the sacristans, they form a large hollow square, in the centre of which stand the ministers and choir.

Then the litany for Easter morning, instinct with faith and hope, is read in the gray of early dawn. While the service is in progress rosy shafts of light spring up the eastern sky, the mountain tops glow with marvelous hues, the valleys swim in seas of violet and green. Each minute the heavens grow brighter. In the west the paschal moon fades from sight. The glad songs of the birds are heard on every hand and suddenly, "in a moment," a great flood of golden sunlight bursts

from the graceful custom, so universal in France and Germany and more or less prevalent throughout the world, of offering eggs at the festival of Easter.

The Persians present each other with colored eggs on March 20 and following days, when they hold their great festival of the solar new year, and the Russians do the same at the festival of Easter.

At the feast of the Passover, Jewish women are wont to place hard eggs on a table prepared for that purpose, as emblematical of their departure from Egypt. To the philosophy and theology of the Egyptians, Persians and other heathen nations indeed, may perhaps be traced the practice of distributing and presenting eggs at Easter. Among these people an egg was regarded as emblematical of the universe, as well as renovation of man after the deluge.

With Christians it is a highly significant symbol; in an earthly sense it is the germ of fecundity and abundance and we wish our friends all the blessings contained within the slender shell when we offer this gift, whose fragility represents that of happiness here below; and then, in a spiritual sense it is symbolic, inasmuch as it retains within itself the elements of a future life and therefore is a most meet emblem of the resurrection of Christ. Selected.



HOME OF ANDREW MATHEWSON, CARMAN, MAN.

over the barrier of the eastern hills, transfiguring all the scene. The course sings with ringing voices the grand old hymns that rise like anthems to the praise of Him who is the resurrection and the life. After the bishop pronounces the benediction the vast throng slowly disperses.

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Easter Eggs.

The use of eggs at Easter was universal and is a custom far from being extinct. What can be more common place than an egg? And yet the egg, in all ages and in every country, has been the subject of poetical myths and legends. The ancient Egyptians believed that a mythical bird laid an egg on the lap of Isis, who hatched it in her bosom. He laid it full into the water and a bird, the lower portion of the shell formed the earth, the upper the sky, the bird whose body became the sun and the world, the moon, while the little figures of the gods, who were born of the egg, were the first of the human race.

The Greeks and Romans also believed that the first of the human race were born of the egg. They believed that a snake, the first of the human race, was born of the egg, and that the first of the human race were born of the egg.

Use of Old Papers.

The ordinary newspaper, so often thrown to one side, can be made very useful for household purposes.

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