

# UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA REVIEW

Vol. XII.

OTTAWA, ONT., MARCH, 1910.

No. 6

*Entered at the Post Office at Ottawa, Ont., as Second-Class Matter.*

## EASTERTIDE.

**E**ASTER ("Queen of Feasts") occupied the first place among Christian festivals; and the *motif* of its observance is found in the exultant utterance of St. Paul: "Now is Christ risen" (1 Cor. XV, 20). The word Easter is found only among the Germanic peoples; for all other branches of the human family call the Feast by some modification of the Hebrew-Greek term, *pascha*. Hence the French word, *pâques*; the Italian, *pasqua*; the Spanish, *pascua*. In Spain and Italy the word is identified with a "solemnity," and is extended to other festivals, e.g., Spanish, *Pascua florida*, Palm Sunday; *Pascua de la natividad*, The Nativity. In some parts of France First Communion is called *pâques*, whatever time of the year it is administered.

Pasch is the Aramaic form of the Hebrew word, *pesach* ("the passing," or passover). This solemnity was instituted to commemorate the deliverance of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt, and it was celebrated on the 14th of *Nisan* — the first month of the Jewish New Year. The origin of the word Easter is uncertain; but it is curious to note that it has been preserved amongst Germanic peoples rather than the Biblical term, *Pasch*. According to the "Edda" (Icelandic Saga) *Eostra* was the name of the goddess of Dawn, who opened the rosy portals of Valhalla to receive Baldur (the Sun-god), whose brow supplied man-