

Letters.

FROM A FRIEND VISITING NEW YORK.

256 West 24th Street, New York.

Dear Sister,—

I am spending a few weeks with my brother in New York, dwelling for the first time in a flat.

What most delights me here are the churches, and what would especially interest you, I think, is the embryo Cathedral, which, when finished, is to be surrounded by seven chapels in which services are to be held in various tongues. At present the crypt alone is complete, and there is a wonderful chancel of Tiffany glass, which I mistook for marble mosaic till enlightened.

The altar is in opaque white and gold, with medallions in mother-of-pearl of the evangelistic emblems; three steps lead up to it, typifying the Trinity; each step is emblazoned with an invocation in Latin. Twelve pillars of rich, dark colours, made of 1000 pieces of glass in designs, support the arches of like material and represent the twelve Apostles. Behind the reredos is a mosaic of two peacocks (emblems of eternity) plucking at a bunch of purple grapes; the vine twines upward, heart-shape, to a jewelled crown set with amethysts and surrounded by clusters of grapes, green at first and ripening to fulness as they ascend.

The reading-desk is of white and gold, supported by slender columns, and it is lighted by standard candlesticks of like colors.

Two round lamps, one of purple and the other of green, swing from the arch of the chancel.

The immense font is of Moorish arabesque, and behind it is a fresco of the Angel of the Resurrection; on the opposite side is one of Joseph of Arimathea by his tomb.

On the walls are hangings of tapestry depicting the life of Christ, each hanging, I understand, is valued at \$1,200. They were brought from Rome and are several hundreds of years old.

This wonderful chancel, which I have attempted so feebly to describe, cost \$50,000, and was an offering to the Church from a Mother in Memory of her only Son. The tapestries were presented by another wealthy person.

Money is very plentiful in New York. At St. Thomas' Church, where the congregations are large and very rich, \$23,000 is subscribed annually for the work in the East, or poor side of the city.