

FOR THE EASTER TABLE.

Something About its Decoration and Its Delicacies.

While many contend that Easter table decorations are most appropriately green and white, yellow has the voice of the majority, and with reason. Green and white have a good



cool look for mid-summer. Yellow, the sun color, is pre-eminently the note for Easter, typifying the return of light and life after a long winter in the garden beds usually.

The golden chalice crocus burns. The long narcissus blade appears, and daffodils, jonquils, tulips and all flowering currants repeat the same warm color.

In following out the scheme of yellow which finds its keynote in the yellow flowers in the centre of the table, delicate yellow shades should be used for the candies, the china and glass should be gold and white, a yellow



posy a floral box or nest of yellow eggs should stand at each place, white salads, confections, cakes, iced fruit and beverages can readily be made to repeat the color.

EASTER AND THE CHILDREN.

How the Little Folks Celebrate the Festival in Different Countries. All children do not celebrate Easter in the same way. Customs differ in many countries, but the meaning of the festival is the same everywhere. The Little Moravians.

A beautiful old custom in the Moravian Church, both in Europe and America, is to rise very early on Easter Sunday morning, and go to the "God's Acre" of the church, there to await the rising of the sun. "God's Acre," you know, is a beautiful name for a cemetery, which always used to be beside the church. Here beside the long rows and rows of the silent dead the people—children as well as adults—watch for the rising sun, the emblem of life and of the resurrection. As the sun rises, flooding the sky with light and the earth with warmth and gladness, the watchers greet it by singing some of the beautiful and curious old hymns that are an especial inheritance of these people.

A Russian "Good Morning."

In Russia the Church does not celebrate Easter the same time we do. There is a difference of twelve days between their calendar and ours. When the day they celebrate for Easter comes, the children all try to be the first awake. The victor watches the slow awakening of his brothers and sisters that he or she may be the first to offer the old greeting, consecrated by centuries of Russian custom—"Christ hath arisen!" "He hath risen, indeed!" is always the answer, after which joyful kisses are exchanged and the two wait to greet the next person they see. This goes on over the house, mother, father, children and servants alike. The words quoted above supplement the traditional "good morning" in Russia at Easter time. Even on the street one passerby exchanges this greeting with another. It does not matter whether they know each other or not. On Easter all Russians rejoice together, even if they have never seen each other before.

Why We Color Eggs at Easter.

The Syrian bulbul (nightingale) has the loveliest voice of all God's creatures and the saddest song ever heard. Shady coverts fringing the Jordan "fill shelters the bird that 'sings darkling.'" There is a legend that the bulbul sat in the olive tree in the garden of Joseph of Aramathea, and, the night before the Resurrection, through the darkness poured out her soul in sorrowing plaint above the still sleeper in the tomb wherein was never man laid. When the first Easter morning broke over the eastern hills the eggs in the nest of the brooding bird sparkled with gold, blue, orange and crimson; and so we color eggs at Easter for a memorial of the lone singer who sang by the Holy Sepulchre 1905 years ago. —From "The City of the King," by Mrs. Lew Wallace.

IMPERIAL EASTER EGGS.

Fortunes in Precious Stones that Stud the Splendid Gifts.

The Czar of Russia's Easter gifts to members of his family invariably take the form of Easter eggs cut from some precious metal and surmounted with the imperial crest set in jewels. The one he gives each year to the Czarina and the one he gives to his mother are filled with mechanical devices. One court jeweler devotes all most all his time to inventing and constructing new devices for these imperial eggs, but the precise nature of the toy is kept a profound secret from all except the Czar until after the gift has been presented.

The Czarina has now a large collection of these wonderful eggs, says the N. Y. World, which are so fashioned that they open at the touch of a spring hidden behind a cluster of jewels at the top. One contains a beautiful miniature of the Czar set in diamonds and studded with magnificent diamonds, the egg itself being of gold. Another, of crystal, contains miniatures of her daughters, each on a pivot which turns at a touch, and the whole egg is on a golden pedestal set with one great emerald worth a king's ransom.

One year the Czarina's Easter egg from her husband contained a model train of cars for the Siberian railroad, so constructed that they could be taken out and set going across the table. Each car was tiny but complete, and the train was an exact copy of the imperial train, not a decoration nor a screw missing, the dining-car furnished, and the chapel car with ikons and candles. Its like does not exist anywhere.

The Czar's Easter egg gifts to his mother often contain pictures of her palace in different parts of the Russian Empire. One year the surprise inside the egg was a copy of her childhood home in Denmark, at another time, pictures of her favorite Orion horses done in ebony.

The Czar generally gives the Grand Duchess Vladimir an egg filled with a jeweled animal, as this is one of her fads, and she has a large and immensely valuable collection. The jewels are set for the eyes of the animal, and are always rare and precious.

The Easter eggs presented to the Czar take an equal amount of planning from his family, as he enjoys the surprise of finding something novel in his eggs as much as the Czarina does. Perhaps the one which is the highest exponent of the jeweler's art is that containing an exact copy of a warship.

Easter's Changing Date.

Easter, the Sunday of great rejoicing, always comes when the moon is young. There was a learned council in A. D. 325, which decided on reckoning the feast by the moon. The result is that Easter calculations are most extraordinary, and once, in 1818, there was a mistake made, and Easter was kept on the wrong day. It was determined by the fathers that Easter should always fall on the first Sunday after the 14th day of the moon that happens to be shining at the time of the vernal equinox, that is when the sun crosses the line in the spring. And the date of the equinox was declared as March 21. You can see what an early Easter we should have if the moon should be fourteen days old on March 21, and if that day should be Saturday; thus the feast may be as early as March 22, and as late as April 25. But it will not fall on the 22d in this century, nor on the 23d until the year 1913. When the right day for Easter is finally found, it arranges a long series of feasts from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday. The name of Easter reminds us of ancient celebrations of the Saxons, when there was universal rejoicings over the reawakening of nature.

Long ago it was a time of thanksgiving and joy, lasting eight days; then it was cut down to three days, then two, and now we have only one. What a grand one it is thought! The sunshine seems merrier on this glad day, and the joy in every heart increased.



ON A SPRING MORNING.

Now the bright morning star, day's harbinger, Comes dancing from the east, and leads with her The flowery Spring, who from her green lap throws The yellow cowslip and the pale primrose. Hail bounteous Spring that doth inspire Mirth and youth and warm desire! Woods and groves are of thy dressing, Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing, Thus we salute thee with our early song And welcome thee, and wish thee long.

Americans Buy Easter Lilies.

The rise of the Easter lily is one of the most sensational features of greenhouse horticulture in America during the last quarter of a century. Our florists raise about five millions of Easter lilies a year. Assuming that only half of these plants are sold, says Country Life in America; that each one bears only two flowers (a good plant should have six to eight) and that the public pays 50 cents a bud, it would seem that the American people spend at least \$2,500,000 for Easter lilies every year.

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ONLY a short time now in which to select your Easter garment. Be on the safe side and let us fit you out to-day. Of course we will take care of your wants up to the last moment Saturday night, but it is better for you and us to make the selection now than later. Our stock is very complete, with all the desirable styles and materials to select from, and you are sure to find just what you desire at the right price. If you can possibly spare the time to-day, come and let us show the new.

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