

The Church Guardian

—: EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR:—

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CALENDAR FOR APRIL.

APRIL 7—6th Sunday in Lent. Palm Sunday.
[Notice of Holy Week Days.]

- " 8—Monday before Easter.
- " 9—Tuesday before Easter.
- " 10—Wednesday before Easter.
- " 11—Thursday before Easter.
- " 12—GOOD FRIDAY. Pr. Pss., M. 22, 40, 54; E. 69, 88.
- " 13—Easter Even.
- " 14—EASTER DAY.—(Pr. Pss., M. 2, 57, 111; E. 113, 114, 118 Pr. Anthem instead of *Venite*. Atha. Cr. Pr. Pref. in Com. office till 21st April. [Notice of Monday and Tuesday])
- " 15—Monday in Easter Week.
- " 16—Tuesday in Easter Week.
- " 21—1st Sunday after Easter. [Notice of St. Mark]
- " 25—ST MARK (Evangelist and Martyr.
- " 29—2nd Sunday after Easter. [Notice of St. Philip and St. James.]

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

EASTER THOUGHTS.

Fix your thoughts in thankfulness on the fact which the Church keeps in memory at this season. Think what we owe to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In it we see the pledge and assurance of our resurrection. If Christ had not risen—if the Resurrection were not true—then we should be as St. Paul tells us "of all men most miserable," because we ourselves could have no certain hope of rising again. We should lay the bodies of our departed friends in the ground without any expectation of meeting again; whereas now we can commit them to the earth in sure and certain hope of a joyful "Resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Were it not for the revelation of this blessed truth, we should, when we came to die, close our eyes upon the scene of this world only to open them on an eternity of certain misery. Blessed be God! the Resurrection has changed all this. We know that the faithful after they are released from the body "rest in peace," secure in the home of Paradise, and we know that we ourselves, if we live here in God's fear, shall be gathered at last to repose forever in the bosom of His love. The Resurrection of Jesus is the pledge of all this to us, because it shows us that the Father accepted His death as the perfect offering for sin, and raised Him from the dead in token of His completed victory. Can we then do otherwise than rejoice at Easter-tide?

Rejoice then with the fullest measure of Christian joy. Let your hearts glow with love and thanksgiving, as you think of the joys which Jesus has purchased for you by His pas-

sion and sealed to you by His Resurrection. You have "sown in tears," now is your time, so far as may be in this world, to "reap in joy." Raise your hearts then in exultant thanksgiving to "the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the Blood of the everlasting covenant." "Out of prison He cometh to reign"—the Lord Jesus has burst the "prison" of the tomb, and He now comes forth as the true King of His people, radiant in the Beauty and Glory of His Risen Body. Oh! then, let us go forth to meet Him, and hail His Resurrection with joyous hymns of praise. "The Lord is Risen," and in His rising He has set free our imprisoned souls and bodies, and therefore, as we think of Satan's empire scattered and broken by the might of our conquering Lord, let us rejoice with "joy unspeakable," and keep the Feast of His Resurrection with hearts inflamed with divine love, and penetrated with a sense of the deepest and most abiding thanksgiving. "Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!—Selected.

"BECAUSE I LIVE YE SHALL LIVE ALSO."
John XIV: 19.

Jesus my Redeemer lives,
Christ my trust is dead no more;
In the strength this knowledge gives
Shall not all my fears be o'er;
Calm, though death's long night be fraught
Still with many an anxious thought?

Jesus my Redeemer lives,
And His life I soon shall see;
Bright the hope this promise gives;
"Where I am there ye shall be."
Shall I fear then? Can the Head
Rise and leave the members dead?

—From the German.

EASTER.

Well may we begin Easter thoughts with words of one of the psalmists, "Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God." For the birth of the Church or city of God, could not have been, without the Resurrection of Christ. "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. But now is Christ risen from the dead. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

As Christianity has changed the very aspect of nature, so also the name of Easter. Eostre was the Anglo Saxon goddess of spring; the resurrection of Christ occurred in the Spring; Eostre (heathen goddess) got changed to Easter, the brightest Spring that ever dawned—the springing of Christ from the tomb. The Romance-nations of Europe, French, Spanish Italian, etc., give it the name of Pasquo, from the paschal or passover feast. But as Good Friday is Saxon so is Easter; and as the English language is growing rapidly, it will soon be the language of all nations who will have their Good Friday and Easter.

While there is no trace of the celebration of any day in the New Testament save the Lord's day, very soon the day of the Crucifixion was commemorated by the Church, as well as the day of Resurrection; and as we reflect about the benefits thereof it is a pleasure to know our fore-fathers did it. And as we meet on Sunday to celebrate this great event, we are doing what Christians have done for many centuries and what so many millions of Christians are doing at the same time as we.

There are many difficulties in the way of

belief; we underrate them not. But the evangelists and apostles never spoke doubtfully; their certitude never wavered; "we speak that we do know and testify to that we have seen," so Christ spoke and so did the new Testament writers. They bore witness to the fact Christ was crucified; They bore witness that they saw him after his death and burial, saw him not once but again and yet again. They saw him and talked with him and ate with him and handled him. Never for a moment did they speak as doubtful of the fact. They bore testimony to it, though it cost them dismissal from the synagogue, cost them shame and poverty and imprisonment and death. They never faltered. Christ they said had risen from the dead.

On this as a fact, the Christian religion was propagated. If it be a fact the rise and progress of Christianity can be easily accounted for; if no fact but only imagination, then we have to account for the rise and progress of Christianity without one basis of fact to sustain it; as wonderful a miracle, or more wonderful than the Resurrection itself.

As the Resurrection of our Lord, proves the truth of Christianity in its board outlines, so also it demonstrates the coming resurrection of all who believe in him. A man joined to Christ in a love stronger than life itself, what is to become of such a man, if Christ has risen and is alive to-day? If he be dead with Christ, he must live with him, which can only be (if he is to be a complete man both in body and soul) by a resurrection. How it is to be accomplished we know not. The seed we sow is not like the plant that springs from it. But in some way the resurrection body will have been connected with our present bodies; as they are buried in the earth, or burnt into ashes, they are the seed from which the new and better and higher and nobler body is to spring.—St. Andrew's Rubric.

EASTER BELLS.

By CECILIA HAVERGAL (Mrs. F. B. Grant.)

Ring the Easter Bells to day—
Christ is risen, the Angels say!
Death no more His Form may hide,
Heaven's Gate he opens wide
He is risen!
The Crucified!

Ring the Bells of Easter Peace!
Bid all sin and discord cease;
Jesus rose to make us one,
'Neath the blessed Easter Sun.
He is risen!
Our peace is won!

Ring the Bells of Easter Joy;
Nothing should our pleasure cloy
Jesus rose to make us bright,
And to conquer Death and Night.
He is risen!
Our Easter Light!

Ring the Easter Bells again!
Waken with their glad refrain,
Echoes of the Eastern Love,
Sent to us from God above.
He is risen!
Our Easter Dove!

THREE points about the Resurrection. How the Apostles knew the fact and the time and manner of declaring it. They knew it along with two other supernatural events of which they had indubitable evidence. The descent of the Holy Spirit certified itself by the miracle wrought in them of the gift of tongues. They stood about our Lord on the hill-side in the bright open day and saw that Body leave the earth and ascend. They were in the closed