

Golden Text—But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. —1 Corinthians 15 : 20.



11 But Ma'ry stood without at the sepulchre weeping : and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre,

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Je'sus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou ? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Je'sus standing, and knew not that it was Je'sus.

15 Je'sus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou ? whom seekest thou ? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Je'sus saith unto her, Ma'ry. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabbo'ni ; which is to say, Master.

17 Je'sus saith unto her, Touch me not ; for I am not yet ascended to my Father : but go to my brethren, and say unto them,

I ascend unto my Father, and your Father ; and to my God and your God.

18 Ma'ry Magdale'ne came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. 19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Je'sus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. 21 Then said Je'sus to them again, Peace be unto you : as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost : 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them ; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Before Jesus was put to death He had promised the disciples that He should rise again upon the third day ; but in their grief and sorrow for all that had been done they had everyone forgotten His words.

But the Saviour did arise, even as He said. The first person to see Him after He became alive was Mary Magdalene, who, with the other women, came to the grave very early in the morning of the first day of the week, for the purpose of laying sweet spices beside their Master's body. Finding the grave empty, the women ran in surprise to tell the disciples what had happened, but Mary Magdalene remained behind in the garden.

As she stood weeping besides the grave, she bent down and peered into the sepulchre, which was like a small room cut out of the

solid rock. Through her tears Mary saw that the grave was bright with heavenly light, and that two angels in white were sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. The angels spoke to Mary, asking why she wept : "Because," she answered, "they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him." As she turned round, she saw someone standing beside her whom she did not know, and who asked the same question as the angels, saying, "Woman, why weepest thou?"

Thinking it must be the gardener and that he would perhaps know what had become of the body of Jesus, Mary answered, "Sir, if thou hast borne Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away." The Stranger, who was none other