

## PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL, 1899.

LUKE 24th.

**B**UT they constrained Him saying "Abide with us"—oh, how well for them and for us that they constrained Him! Well for them because of the blessing gained—well for us because of the knowledge of the blessing possible to be gained. He was made manifest to them in the blessing and breaking of the bread. And their eyes were opened and they knew Him and He vanished out of their sight. What a revelation to their once sad but now rejoicing hearts. Jesus Himself! and still feeling the power of that divine influence which had rested upon them while walking and talking together they turned to one another and said: "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us by the way and while He opened to us the Scriptures."

Dear young friends, do we want to walk and talk with Jesus, by the way, as his disciples did? How shall we do it? You say it would be an easy thing if He were living here again on the earth, but would it be? Let us think—you and I might be left out if for any reason we could not take that long journey to Jerusalem. The heathen have local deities, confined to place and time and special purpose—gods many and lords many—but our God has passed into the Heavens, there to plead our cause as no other advocate could ever plead, and thence, by the agency of His Holy Spirit He will come to dwell in every individual heart and home—if we invite Him. The disciples did not understand this then, but they did after that blessed experience at Pentecost.

The disciples were sad before Jesus came to them because they were mourning a dead Christ, not rejoicing in a living one. Are we making the same mistake? There is danger of it. O let us trust this living, loving Christ more and more!

What were the conditions on which Jesus revealed Himself to them? First they had left all and followed Him—

lacking as they were in faith they loved Him and their lives were devoted to His service. Are we willing to leave all and follow Him? They were willing to be instructed. If we open the Scriptures ourselves He will open them still wider and show us "Jesus Himself," in every page

What was it that made the disciples such noble witnesses and examples of His power to save? Was it not the face to face and heart to heart companionship of the strong Son of God? And this companionship is offered to us! Are we ready for it? "How can two walk together except they be agreed." Shall we not enter into solemn covenant with Him and say, "Saviour, take me, I come to Thee just as I am, walk with me, talk with me, reveal Thyself to me, so shall I become one whom Thou canst use for Thy glory.

Sorrow is divine! Sorrow is grand and great! Sorrow is wise and far-seeing! What are the natures that cannot suffer? Who values them? From the fat oyster over which the tide mud rises and falls without one pulse upon its fishy ear, to the hero who stands with quivering nerve parting with wife and child for home and country—all the way up is an ascending scale, marked by increasing power to suffer.

And when we go up, up above all earthly values, up above principalities and powers to find by what emblem the Eternal God chooses to reveal Himself, we behold "in the midst of the Throne, a Lamb as it had been slain."

*Mrs. Stowe in "Minister's Wooing."*

We are exceedingly glad that we have at length succeeded in securing two talented young ladies, who are known as excellent Band workers, to furnish us with the Field Studies and Suggested Programmes for the remainder of the year. Our best thanks are due to both of these kind young ladies.

We are very sorry that the notice re Mission Band envelopes did not reach us in time for the March number. We had no idea that they had been issued.

We have no Mission Band, but the paper goes to houses where there are children. We appreciate the Palm Branch and do a little home mission work, by individually paying for copies to be sent to poor children. I mark the name on each copy, then hand them to wife of postmaster at Rosedale, who distributes them through the F. O. with other mail. I mention the method of distribution, for where there is a Christian woman in a post office, or one who would take the papers and distribute quietly at Sunday School, it seems to me that many Auxiliaries where there are no Mission Bands might profitably take papers at club rates.

Yours,

L. M.

"O hearts of love! O souls that turn  
 Like sunflowers, to the pure and best!  
 To you the truth is manifest:  
 For they the mind of Christ discern  
 Who lean, like John, upon His breast."