

EASTERTIDE.

BY THE REV. CANON TWELLS, M.A.,

Author of "At even, ere the sun was set."

"And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great."

THE dawn had not yet turn'd to day,
That saw three mournerson their way,
Intent amidst the silent gloom
To seek their Lord and Master's tomb,
But saying, sad in heart and tone,
"Oh! who shall roll away the stone?"

That stone was great, as well they knew,
But great their strength of purpose too:
Though full of fear, they turn'd not back,
For love was strong, if faith was slack:
And did not Heaven that love repay?
For lo! the stone was roll'd away!

O risen Lord! how oft we fear,
Though sure that Thou art ever near,
Some mighty hindrance there must be
To keep us back from love and Thee,
And say, distress'd, perplex'd, and lone,
"Ah! who shall roll away the stone?"

Yet nought on earth, and nought above,
And nought beneath can conquer love!
How vain the doubts that keep apart
Thy mercy and the yearning heart!
Our prayers are heard before we pray,
For see, the stone is roll'd away!

WAS THE RESURRECTION A FACT?

BY THE RIGHT REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL.

I.



AT the onset we make this historically important statement that, *with-in one generation* after the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the belief that He rose, with His own veritable body, from the tomb in

which He had been laid, had spread through the whole Christian Church, wheresoever we have any evidence of its existence, and, further, that it had been accepted after the death of the Founder, as the foundation of the whole Christian Society. It must ever be remembered that the Christian Church claims, and ever has claimed, as the cause of its renewed life and existence after the death of its Founder

and Lord, a belief not in a doctrine, but in a *fact*—the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Well, this fact was, within twenty-eight years of the Crucifixion, indisputably believed, and formed the foundation of all Christian teaching wheresoever the Gospel was preached. "Jesus and the Resurrection" was the theme and the substance of the evangelical message at the early date of which I speak. Within twenty-eight years of the Crucifixion. But how can we prove it? Thus, and by what every historical critic would admit the most unimpeachable form of evidence—by undisputed letters written by one who was alive during the whole period we are now considering, and whose education, culture, and highly-developed critical powers give him the greatest claims on our attention—St. Paul the Apostle. For this portion of the argument I am indebted to one of the most acute authors of our own day. There are four letters which are admitted by every competent critic, whether a believer or no, to be the genuine productions of the Apostle—the Epistle to the Galatians, the two Epistles to the Corinthians, and the Epistle to the Romans; and it is