

OUR SECOND MARY IS MARY OF CLEOPHAS OR CLOPAS.

She was one of the three Marys who stood at the Cross and visited the tomb. Scripture distinguishes her from the other Marys by telling us the name of her husband, as also by declaring that she was the sister of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Cleophas died before our Lord's Ministry began even as also did Joseph, so that it is quite likely the widowed sisters lived together. This Mary had seven children—four sons and three daughters. You will recall the occasion when the Jews said of Jesus, "Is not this the Carpenter's Son? and are not his brethren called James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all here with us?" Some have argued from this that Christ was not the only child of the Virgin Mary—that He had brothers and sisters. But it was the commonest thing in those times to designate all blood relations "brothers and sisters," especially cousins. And what was more natural when we remember that the two families probably lived together? Jesus was an only child—our hearts are glad to be assured of that by the voice of tradition. These "brothers and sisters," alluded to by the Jews, were really the cousins of Christ, children of Mary and Cleophas.

Now of these four sons, we positively know that three of them became missionaries, and probably the fourth. James and Joseph were of the original Twelve, the former becoming Bishop of Jerusalem; and history tells us that he was succeeded in that office by his brother Simon. Mary, therefore, gave three of her children to the mission field. As her husband died when the children were comparatively young, their training was almost entirely in her hands. To her must be given the credit and honour of having sent them into this splendid work. She is therefore **the type of the sending missionary.**

My dear friends, if we cannot become missionaries ourselves, is there any one we can send or help to go? Or can we influence someone to offer himself? It is a terrible thing if some life is ready to outpour itself and we stop or check the outflow.

Mothers, I have a word for you to-day. The little lad whom God has given you, are you ready to teach him the heroism of missions? The curly-headed boy of your dreams and hopes, have you ever whispered to him of the Master's service? The biographies of missionaries tell us in wonder words of the mother's influ-