

his low-bred adherents were keeping the passover (a thing that surprised me, for he had been described as lawless) I heard him speak to his attendants in these words:—‘I say unto you, he that receives whomsoever I send receives me;’ and then immediately followed this saying, ‘he that receives me receives him that sent me.’ I listened, studied, pondered, wondered. What was meant I could not tell; but there was something so sweet, so sacred, so dignified, so winning in the speaker’s words that I was compelled to bear them in mind, although my prejudice against him was rooted. And while I still stood and meditated, the same speaker addressing the same persons, said, ‘when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all the truth . . . he will glorify ME.’ All this was mysterious to me.

‘But what added marvel to the mystery was a saying I afterward heard him utter to these vulgar followers of his; ‘whose soever sins you remit, they are remitted to them.’ The first and abiding thought of my heart was, ‘who is this that speaks blasphemy’—a saying that my religious guides and pastors had put into my mind.

‘Stirring events now happened in the city. Such a time had never been known. People were agitated and startled. My masters, long on the out-look to put down the famed associate of publicans and sinners, were at length as they conceived successful. They made an easy bargain with one Judas by a bribe to have the celebrated Nazarene placed in their power. My heart was with the multitude. I shouted and was glad. Every friend of Jesus was terror-stricken. The most forward of them, Simon, captain of the net-tackle and chief fish peddler, who once with great impiety as I thought said to Jesus, ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,’ even he now quailed in the presence of the hard-faced soldiers and high-headed ambassadors who derided the wonder-working deceiver. So awe-inspiring was the scene, nay, so terrifying, that the daring Simon who had confessed him to be the Son of God now confessed that he did not know him!

‘My brethren the Pharisees gave Jesus a trial. A trial?—! He had three trials. Caiaphas, high priest of ‘our religion,’ in full Council assembled, tried and condemned him; Herod, not the kindest king, tried and found in him no capital offence; Pilate, the governor, gave him a trial and then addressing his accusers the priests and elders, spoke in these notable words, ‘You have brought this man to me, as perverting the people: and, behold, I, having examined him BEFORE