

He cast seven devils, to be her companion at the Cross. By sending her away with John, our Lord made it clear that she was in no way associated with His atoning work; and when He ascended, we leave her still among His friends, praying with them, which, despite all later teaching, was her only "rapture," her sufficient "coronation."

A Mother's Influence.

To her illustrious Son she gave her best, transmitting to Him in full measure the native vigor of her strong character. Jesus was brought up as a gentleman, considerate of others, yet able to rebuke all liberties. Simon the Pharisee might be rich, and our Lord longed to win his heart; but Simon must not forget the usual courtesies of a host, merely because Jesus was a missionary without private means. Like His mother, our Lord insisted on things being done right. The thousands must be fed, but they must sit in ranks, there must be no scramble, and scrupulous care must be taken to avoid waste. Her very flash of anger against Him when He was a Boy is, as it were, reflected back in that astounding capacity for indignation which enabled Him, in His turn, to clear the Temple of money-changers, confound the scribes and Pharisees with His terrible rhetoric, and cow His accusers with a glance. Yet in His public work He never consulted her; nor did she once, like the mother of Zebedee's children, use her position to seek from Him a blessing, whether for her own sons or anyone else. We left her praying with the disciples, not receiving their prayers, nor is there the slightest hint that she ever aspired to Christ's special majesty, or now approaches Him on our behalf with inter-