

should have had him quietly conveyed away to some unknown place where he could have the care and nursing needed, and be secure from danger ?

Am I asked, What then can have become of him finally, since he did not preach any more in Palestine ? I reply : Since of course the sentence of death was still hanging over his head, so that he could not again appear openly in his own land, he may have gone into retirement. Where ? Possibly among the secluded Essenes near the Dead Sea, with whom we know he had much in common ; possibly into Arabia, where only a little later Paul went into retirement for some years ; or possibly into Egypt, where the Gospel story tells us he himself had lived for a time in his early life. So much then for the supposition that Jesus physically survived the crucifixion.

On the other hand, if his body actually died upon the cross (which seems to me somewhat the more likely) then the question still remains, What became of the body ? To this question several answers may be made.

One that perhaps has as much probability as any is this :—The Jewish authorities may have caused it to be removed, very early in the morning before the women reached the tomb ; thinking that if they could thus get the body away from his followers, he would sooner be forgotten, and the religious movement which he had started would more speedily die.

Or, the *Roman* authorities, knowing how many followers he had, and seeing the profound excitement which his death had caused, may have ordered the body removed, thinking that the possession and sight of the body by his followers would only prolong and perhaps increase the excitement, and possibly cause a riot ; and believing that the removal of the body to some place unknown would be the best way to allay the popular excitement.* Or, again, Joseph of Arimathea, in whose

*In this connection it may be worth while to call to mind, that after the battle of Khartoum, in the Soudan, when the Madhi had been killed