

HAPPY DAYS

Vol. XXI

TORONTO, APRIL 7, 1906.

No. 7.

THE SEALED TOMB.

Our illustration represents well the Roman manner of sealing. The seal might be applied to any door, and when bearing the official stamp of the governor a violation of it by breaking it open was defiance against the authority and power of the Roman Government. The seal was not a lock, but consisted mainly of a cord taken across the door, and fastened at the ends with sealing-wax, impressed with the official seal.

It was in this manner that the tomb in which Jesus lay was sealed. The Jews, pretending to fear that the disciples would come by night and steal away the body of Jesus, asked that a guard be ordered for the tomb, and that the door be sealed. Pilate gave commandment as they requested, and "they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch."

But how vain were the seal and the guard of Roman soldiers, when the Lord shook the place, and the brightness of the angelic presence flashed upon them. For, "Behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and



"SEAING THE STONE."

sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men."

Jesus, the crucified Lord and Saviour, arose from the dead, and came forth from the grave alive. "Fear not ye," said the

tomb! With what sadness all who loved him spent that night and the succeeding day. Grief had settled down on many hearts who had learned to love the Prince of Peace. But, oh! the joy when it is announced on the morning of the third day that "He is not here, he is risen."

angel to the women who came to the tomb; "for he is risen, as he said. Come and see the place where the Lord lay." On this Easter Day we look again into the empty grave. And we look up also into heaven, and we see Jesus "sitting at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

EASTER JOYS.

What especially has afforded the world joy and peace? It was the resurrection of our Lord from the dead. There was joy on his advent, and angels joined in the glad refrain, "Glory to God in the highest!" There is a real joy also after Jesus suffered the agonies of the cross to see him come forth victor over death and the grave. How sad were all his disciples and friends to see him suffer and die! How dark the world as the Son of man expired on the cross!

What a solemn stillness brooded over the holy city as Joseph laid him in his rock-hewn