

their fulfillment to make them plain. (2) *We are fortunate in being able to study the Old Testament in the light of the New.*

10. Then the disciples. Peter and John. *Went away again.* To ponder and to talk over what they had seen. *Unto their own home.* From this account we should infer that one at least of the disciples, probably John, lived near by, in Jerusalem.

11, 12. But Mary stood without. She probably reached the tomb just after the two disciples had left it. *She stood down.* The entrance was so low that she could not otherwise look within the sepulcher. *Seeth two angels.* This was a vision granted to Mary, as she seems to have shown peculiar earnestness in her service toward the dead body of Jesus. (3) *Who shall say but that these messengers sitting unseen about God's people often than we know?* Sitting. As the two cherubim on the lid of the ark of the covenant. They had been there watching over his body, and they remained there for a while, now that he was risen.

13. Woman, why weepest thou? (4) *Heavenly beings are concerned about earthly sorrows, for earth and heaven are close together.* She saith unto them. In most instances the manifestation of angels filled those who saw them with fear. But Mary Magdalene was too deeply absorbed with her own sorrows to notice the glory of these celestial visitors. They have taken away my Lord. The one overwhelming thought is that the body of Jesus is gone; and her one great desire is to recover it. (5) *Have not we as strong motives to love our Saviour as had this woman?*

14. She turned herself back. Perhaps she had the consciousness that some one was near her; perhaps a shadow from the form standing behind her fell across her path. *Saw Jesus standing.* This was the risen Saviour's first appearance, and Mary's privilege in witnessing it was greater than she then knew. *Knew not that it was Jesus.* Her eyes were held from recognizing him, as were those of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus a little later on the same day. (6) *How often our Saviour is near, when we know him not.*

15. Whom seekest thou? He saw her tears and

knew their cause; he knew too whom she was seeking; yet he would hear her tell him. (7) *So God chooses to have us tell him all our wants, which he knows even better than we do.* *Supposing him to be the gardener.* It was an early hour for a stranger to be in the garden, and the thought crosses her mind that he may be the one who has removed the body dearest to her. *I will take him away.* Without a thought that it will be an impossible burden, she offers herself to take the body of Jesus. (8) *Love sees no difficulties in its path which it cannot overcome.*

16. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. The first utterance of the risen Saviour is one of sympathy; his second, one of recognition. The sleep of death has not effaced the memory of his friends. (9) *May we not believe that we too, after our resurrection, will know those whom we knew before?* *Rabboni.* A Hebrew word meaning "my master."

17. Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended. These words have given rise to much discussion, and many meanings have been suggested for them. The best seems to be that it was not a prohibition from touching him (which he permitted to the other women and commanded Thomas), but rather means, "Do not cling to me, as if you might not see me again. I am not yet ascended, and you will have other opportunities of meeting me." Notice that although John does not give an account of the ascension, he makes several allusions to it as a fact well known. *Go to my brethren.* It is significant and encouraging to know that the risen Christ proclaims anew his brotherhood to men. (10) *We have not only a King, but also a Brother, on the heavenly throne.* *Say unto them.* She became thereby the first missionary, bearing tidings of a risen Saviour. *My father... your father.* Heaven was henceforth to be considered their home as well as his, and God their Father.

18. Mary Magdalene. A year ago possessed of demons, now a messenger of Christ. *Told the disciples.* Her testimony was soon strengthened by that of the other women, to whom Jesus appeared a few minutes afterward; by Peter, who saw the Lord on the same day; and by the two disciples from Emmaus, who had walked with him on the road.

HOME READINGS.

- M.* Jesus risen. John 20. 1-18.
Tu. The resurrection foretold. Psa. 16. 1-11.
W. The first at the sepulcher. Mark 16. 1-8.
Th. Victory over death. 1 Cor. 15. 43-58.
F. Declaring his name. Psa. 22. 30-31.
S. Brought from the grave. Psa. 30. 1-12.
S. Raised by the Lord. Hosea 6. 1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. Luke 24. 34.

LESSON HYMNS.

- No. 176, Dominion Hymnal.
Mary to the Saviour's tomb
Hasted as the early dawn.
No. 177, Dominion Hymnal.
"Christ, the Lord, is risen to-day!"
Sons of men and angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens; thou earth, reply.

- No. 178, Dominion Hymnal.
Golden harps are sounding,
Angel voices ring.

TIME.—The resurrection morn. Easter. The first Lord's day.

PLACE.—Near Jerusalem. In Joseph's garden. It is not certainly known where this place was.

RULERS.—Same as before.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Victory over death.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. *Mary and the Disciples*, v. 1-10.
Which of the disciples last saw Jesus alive?

Which of the disciples first saw him alive from the dead?

Who saw him before any of the disciples?
What reason was there why these three should be thus visiting his tomb?

What evidence was there that Mary returned to the tomb with Peter and John?

What did John believe? ver. 8.
How were the different temperaments of Peter and John and Mary displayed?

2. *Mary and the Lord*, v. 11-18.
How was Mary's loving devotion first rewarded?

What was the second reward of her love?
What difference between the terms by which the angels and the Saviour addressed her?

What was Mary's purpose in remaining thus at the tomb?

What probable act of Mary did Jesus arrest by his words, "Touch me not?"

What was to be Mary's peculiar honor? ver. 17.
Why did Jesus say, "Touch me not?"

Practical Teachings.

- Mary Magdalene had been healed by Jesus of a terrible possession of devils. See how she loved him.
- Peter had denied him in the face of the world. See how his repentance moved him to get near his Lord's grave.
- John had always been the beloved disciple. See how love brings belief.
- The stone was rolled away when Mary reached the tomb. All her anxiety had been vain. It is so always.
- Jesus wants no idle worship which wastes time in formal acts. He wants us to go unto his brethren and say to them the words of life.

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

- Mary and the Disciples*, v. 1-10.
Who came first to the sepulcher?
At what time of day?
What did Mary see?