

I

**"COME down, Hermas, come down !
The night is past. It is time to be
stirring. Christ is born to-day. Peace
be with you in His name. Make
haste and come down !"**

A little group of young men were standing in a street of Antioch, in the dusk of early morning, fifteen hundred years ago. It was a class of candidates who had nearly finished their two years of training for the Christian church. They had come to call their fellow-student Hermas from his lodging.

Their voices rang out cheerily through the cool air. They were full of that glad sense of life which the