

LETTER FROM REV. MR. KIRBY.

Dear Children of the Palm Branch:—

I was almost ashamed to think I gave you so much trouble hunting up the bill of fare for Christmas supper, but since Helen Colter has so courageously accomplished it I feel somewhat relieved. The answer is about correct, but I would like Helen to look up Ezk. 3: 4, for the roll; Lev. 11: 6, for the hare; Jer. 17: 11, for the partridge; Ps. 105: 40, for the quails; Song of Solomon 2: 5 for the apples; and for the figs, Jer. 24: 2: for "eat, drink and be merry," Luke 15: 23.

I must thank Helen for her courage and trouble; she must have had a long hunt for some of "the game" to supply the table.

Our next important subject will be Easter, and I am sure by this time you are planning for something to raise some money to send the story of the Resurrection of Jesus to those who do not know about Him.

How we all love that story of the very first Easter morning! The women got there first and found the sepulchre empty. I wonder what they thought! Somebody has been and stolen Him away," was likely the first thought. How strange, we think, that they did not expect He would rise; they must have been very inattentive to His teaching, or they would have remembered something about His talk on His rising again.

But then we must not forget we look at this subject from the resurrection side, and they did not know as much as we do about that. Do we remember His teachings? Oh let us go to the new tomb, and look in this Easter that we may learn lessons of His love. How He loved us! He laid down His life for His enemies. "Surely he hath carried our sorrows! The chastisements of our peace was upon Him." "By His stripes we are healed."

Some years ago a certain man was brought under deep conviction for sin, but did not know how to find Jesus as his Saviour. He was taken very ill and he was expecting he would soon die; but he felt he dare not die without finding salvation. He sent for his pastor, but all he could say did not enlighten him, and he struggled on in daily fear of death. One Sunday morning a little girl was ushered into the vestry to speak to the minister after he had concluded his service.

"Please, sir," she said, "will you come and see father, he wants you very much to come."

"Oh," said the minister, "I don't know what I can say if I go, I have told him all I know."

However he went and as soon as he had shaken hands with the man he said, "Well, I have come, but I have nothing more to tell you than you have heard; but I will just read you the sermon I have been preaching this morning."

And he drew the manuscript from his pocket and said: "My text was Isaiah 53: 5, 'But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.'"

"Now these words," he began.

"Stop," said the sick man. "That will do." "Wounded, bruised," and he seemed to be repeating the words to himself. "Our transgression, our iniquity," and "with His stripes we are healed." "That will do, sir, that's what I want." "With His stripes we are healed."

Oh, children, won't you believe that? Go on Good Friday in thought to Calvary, and hear Him say, "It is finished." "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Don't let us send the gospel to the heathen and reject it ourselves, but come to Jesus NOW.

Read Isaiah 53, Luke 15, and Hymn 210 in the Church (Methodist) Hymn Book.

May God help us to teach everybody we can lessons of Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Your friend,

W. J. KIRBY.

Christ's Appearance to Mary.

AN EASTER EXERCISE FOR SEVEN CHILDREN.

FIRST.

But Mary stood without at the sepulchre, weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the sepulchre.

SECOND.

And there she saw two angels set,
In robes of white arrayed,
As if to guard the empty tomb,
Where Christ the Lord had laid.

THIRD.

And they say unto her, "Woman, why weepest thou?" She said unto them, "Because they have taken away my Lord and I know not where they have laid him."

FOURTH.

She turned and left the empty tomb
With eyes that scarce could see;
When lo! she saw her Saviour there,
But knew not that 'twas He.

FIFTH.

Jesus saith unto her, "Woman why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?" She, supposing him to be the gardener, said unto him, "Sir, if thou hast borne him hence tell me where thou hast laid him and I will take him away."

SIXTH.

"Mary!" the Master's voice replies
In tones so wondrous sweet,
"Master!" the mourning woman cries,
And turns her Lord to greet.

SEVENTH.

Jesus saith unto her, "Touch me not for I am not yet ascended unto my father. But go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend to my Father and your Father; to my God and your God."

ALL, IN CONCERT.

Christ the Lord is risen to-day;
He burst the bars of death away;
He rose triumphant from the grave;
He lives on high the lost to save;
By love's resistless power.

W. B.