



During the winter our mail was brought by men on snow-shoes with a dog train; they had to travel about 150 miles to a distant station, where they were met by other couriers, who exchanged bags with them and took them the remainder of the distance. The men go along at a jogging pace, and at night camp out in the snow.

## JUSTIN MARTYR,

OR SEEKING FOR HEAVENLY THINGS.\*

**E**ASTER day which comes this month is the queen of days. Heaviness may have endured through the long night of Lent, but joy has come on Easter morning. The whole wide world rejoices in the gladness of spring; the Church rejoices in her risen Lord. In some countries when one Christian meets another this morning, he says, "The Lord is risen," and is sure to receive for answer, "He is risen indeed." But whether spoken or not, these Easter words must echo, one would think, in the heart of every disciple of Christ. This is indeed the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. All nature sympathizes in our joy. The budding leaf, the opening flower, the sweet singing bird, the butterfly escaping from its prison-tomb,—all the fresh young life of spring rejoices before the Lord.

But we must not only rejoice at Easter with the unreasoning joy of inanimate things, we must search out the lessons of Easter and lay them to heart. The Gospel teaches us, by the example of Mary Magdalene, to seek for our risen Saviour; the Epistle warns us, if we be risen with Christ, to seek for things above—to set our affections on things above—on Heaven, not on earth.

Both these lessons are illustrated by the history of Justin Martyr, one of the fathers of the Church. He sought diligently for Christ ere

yet he knew whom he was seeking; and finding Him, he clave to Him, and gave up all on earth, even life itself, for Him.

Justin was born in Samaria, at Neapolis, the city which is called Sychar in the New Testament, and outside whose walls was Jacob's well. He was of a Greek family, and was brought up in pagan idolatry to worship such deities as Jupiter, Mercury and Diana. But from his childhood he had an earnest longing for truth, a yearning after the very

God, which no false creed could satisfy. He sought after Him if haply he might find Him; he studied poets, orators, historians, but all in vain. As soon, however, as he was his own master, he turned to the schools of Greek philosophy, hoping among them to satisfy his longing soul and hear of God. His first master was a Stoic, such as we read of in Acts xvii. 18. From him he heard much about overcoming the appetites and passions of our lower nature, and of pain being no evil, but not a word about Divine help in affecting this,—there was nothing about God in the instruction of the Stoic. So Justin left him and went to a Peripatetic philosopher, as he was called. He seemed a clever man, and had a reputation for learning, but seemed so eager about the price of his lessons, and so desirous to get all he could for them, that Justin thought he could not be a real lover of wisdom. So he went to a third, but was disappointed to find that he required his pupils to understand music, astronomy, and geography, before they entered on the study of Divine truth. Leaving him, therefore, he tried a fourth, under whom he was studying, when one day, for the sake of quiet and retirement, he went to walk alone by the sea-side. There he suddenly met an old man, whose noble and majestic appearance arrested his attention, and he gazed at him so earnestly that the stranger asked him why he did so. Justin answered that he could not but be astonished to meet any human being in so lonely a place; and so they fell into conversation, which Justin soon turned to the subject that filled his mind. He spoke of his long search after truth, and of his hope to find it by the study of philosophy; on which the aged man showed him plainly how mistaken were the principles on which the systems of pagan philosophy were built. "Who then," exclaimed Justin, "can set me in the right way?" The stranger answered this question by telling him of the prophets who bore testimony to the one true God and His Son Christ Jesus, and ended with these words, "As for thyself, above all things

\*From Stories for Every Sunday in the Christian Year, S. P. C. K.