

**Easter Thoughts.**

In the Oriental Church a special salutation is used for Easter morning. Men meeting on the street or at church say: 'Christ is risen!' The answer comes back: 'He is risen indeed!' The custom springs from recognition of a perpetual need for Christians to remind one another of the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 'Jesus has risen!' He has proved death impotent, and, with death, all other enemies of which death is the type. He has placed the supreme mark of power upon His promise to give life to His followers.

All Christians, but in especial degree those engaged in missionary work at home and abroad, need to make this meaning of Easter present and fruitful in their thoughts. Otherwise the possibility that life shall spring where death has been may lose power to dominate thought.

A few weeks ago we could see a phenomenal action by a country farmer. Ice covered the roads and thick snow the fields, but the farmer was driving a slowly moving team through the snow, and evenly distributing fertilizers upon that chill surface. In that man's house was a stir of preparation. They were mending harness, and clearing up, and putting in order plows, harrows, and other implements, though the soil was like rock in the grip of winter; they were getting ready seed for planting, though soil for planting could not be seen because of the snow and ice. The earth was cold and dead. The driving winds kept it so; the bare branches, rattling like skeletons, proclaimed the death unyielding. Yet these people prepared, as if pressed for time, to break up soil and plant seed. Here was an act of sublime faith, none the less notable because it is based on experience.

As the weeks go on this faith takes on a jubilant note in that farmer's house. The trees are still bare and dry, the winds are

still icy, the ground is yet cold. But one day the whole family runs at the call of the mother to see a bluebird! On another day the children go out, like Noah's dove, to search the land, and the whole house joins in their joy when they bring back handfuls of pussy-willows. These are tokens that their faith is not vain in the power of the sun and the reviving of what seems dead. These signs assure them that shortly the whole land will be filled with the beauty of growth, and they are glad.

Let this Easter time be to the seed-sowers of the Gospel of Christ a remembrance of Him who lives and has declared that He will give life to men. Let it be a reminder that the Sun of Righteousness can melt the coldest and most stony heart. Let it be a token that what He has said certainly comes to pass, so that there should be no question as to whether missions pay. His word proves that they are going to pay. Let this time be to us a parable of what we are bound to do in missions, although the frozen ground says that wintry fruitfulness is permanent. We are bound to go on with our provision for working the soil and sowing the seed because He who is Master has promised the harvest. Let it be a parable to us, too, concerning attention to the forerunners of the new life, that we may rejoice over them. The children go out seeking catkins because they know from experience that spring will come. Let us who believe in God and have had experience of His power in our missions at home and abroad watch for tokens of the awakening, telling one another, with joy, of every sign that it is near, and working our fields in trust that the awakening will end the dominion of death.

The lesson of Easter to Christians in respect to missions is: Believe, desire with joyful anticipation, and labor as those do who believe and anticipate. For Jesus Christ will bring to pass that great change which He came to earth to begin. He lives, and He will do it!—'Missionary Review of the World.'

**The Mills of God.**

The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small,  
So soft and slow the great wheels go, they scarcely move at all;  
But the souls of men fall into them, and are powdered into dust,  
And in the dust grow sweet white flowers—  
Love—Hope—Trust.

**Eagerness to Teach Others.**

A lady missionary in Uganda writes: 'So far as school is concerned the greatest event has been the teachers' examination. I have never in my life seen half the amount of excitement over an examination! All the candidate teachers for the women went up, and my ministrations were admitted by courtesy. The cramming beforehand was pathetic and comical, too. The teachers of the various classes of candidates had their pupils up for final revision as early as six o'clock some mornings. Wherever one went on Namirembe Hill one came across candidates, each with head propped by hands, studying her Gospels or Prayer Book, or whatever subject she felt "would have her" on the day; and I was besieged with questions as to Chinnereth, Tiberias, Gergesa, Gadara, and so on. Some of them were shaking with anxiety. And all this, be it known, in order that they might be declared fit to teach classes in preparation for baptism, and without a farthing of pay. The women were examined orally in groups of five or six each afternoon, till they were finished (there were about forty-five in all). They write so very slowly that this was the only way: all had the same questions, and were in honor bound not to tell; and they kept the secret nobly. "Now you must not tempt those who have been examined," said Miss Chidwick to those who were waiting. "Tempt them," said they, with fine scorn, "will they come within a mile of us?" Under fifty-five percent was "failure," and I am afraid some failed!'



THE WOMEN AT THE SEPULCHRE

—The 'Cottager and Artisan.'

**The Lord is Risen Indeed**

(By Richard Watson Gilder.)

'Why seek ye the living among the dead?  
He is not here, but is risen.'—Luke xxiv., 5-6.

When in the starry gloom  
They sought the Lord Christ's tomb,  
Two angels stood in sight,  
All dressed in dazzling white,  
Who unto the women said,  
'Why seek ye the living among the dead?'

O ye of this latter day,  
Who journey the self-same way  
Through morning's twilight gloom  
Back to the shadowy tomb;  
To you, as to them, was it said,  
'Why seek ye the living among the dead?'

The Lord is risen indeed,  
He is here for your love, for your need—  
Not in the grave, or the sky,  
But here where men live and die;  
And true the word that was said,  
'Why seek ye the living among the dead?'

—Selected.