

the presence of Life. The "strong man armed" had for four days kept his place, but the "Stronger than he" was now come. The chamber of death might be opened, for death no longer was sovereign there. Where light comes, the darkness must flee away; and where the Life comes, death can have no place. At his bidding the spirit returns to the body, no longer a diseased and suffering body, no longer a corrupt and decaying body, but one sound and whole. And he who had been death's victim and captive goes back rescued and free to his home and his family, and to the service of the Lord.

But Christ no longer raises the dead. Is he no longer present on earth? This world is truly the place of death—is it without the presence of life? Christ has gone back to heaven, but he is still with us by his spirit, and the work of the spirit is to raise dead souls. Everywhere this wonderful work is going on, and shall go on until Christ our Life shall again in his bodily presence appear among us; and then "all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth."

What do we know of the spiritual resurrection? This is the point that should be pressed home by the teacher. It will be useful to refer to any known cases of those who have risen from the sleep and death of sin to new life in Christ, and such may be supplemented by any striking instances within the knowledge of the teacher. Let the idea once be forcibly put before the children that others have risen, and the way is made for the question, "Have you risen?" which they should ponder in their own hearts. No matter how strange the idea of a new life may seem, no matter how unable the mind may appear to receive the "things of the spirit," this personal appeal may be the taking away of the stone, which shall be followed by the call that should bid them "come forth!" And to what? To a life which is to the old life as light to darkness, health to sickness, purity to corruption; a life which is eternal, beginning here and perfected in heaven. Are there any who believe they have risen, yet realize little of such a life? It is as though they chose to remain in the place of the dead, instead of accepting from the hand of the Deliverer all the privileges of the living. His word is, "Loose him, and let him go;" and none need remain in darkness and bondage if they will but trust that word, "I am the Life." Pride, tem-

per, every sin that besets us, is of the kingdom of death and the promise of Christ is, "I will redeem from death." (Golden Text.) Let us take hence the question, "Believest thou this?"

If we know what the spiritual resurrection is, death is no longer an enemy to us. He can but do as Lord's bidding; and we may look forward with joyful expectation to the time when "death shall be swallowed up in victory," and he who once wept by Lazarus' grave "will wipe away tears from off all faces." (Isaiah 25. 8.)

'or Senior Scholars.

I. TEMES FOR BIBLE READINGS.

1. THE GAVE A VICTOR. John 11. 31, 34, 38, 39; Mark 5. 35; Luke 7. 12; Rom. 5. 12.

2. THE TENDERNES OF JESUS. John 11. 33, 35, 36; Mark 5. 41, 43; Luke 7. 13; 19. 41; Matt. 23. 37.

3. THE PRAYERS OF JESUS. John 11. 41, 42; Matt. 11. 25, 26; Mark 14. 35; John 17. 20.

4. UNBELIEF IN BELIEVERS. John 11. 39; 1 Thess. 3. 10; Mark 5. ; Matt. 14. 31; Acts 12. 15.

5. INCREASE OF FAITH. John 11. 45; Luke 7. 16; 17. 5; 2 Thess. 1. 3; Mark 5. 36.

6. THE VOICE OF JESUS. John 11. 40, 43; Mark. 5. 41; Luke 7. 14; Matt. 27. 46; John 5. 25.

7. THE GRAVE VANQUISHED. John 11. 44; Mark 5. 42; Luke 7. 15; John 5. 28, 29; 1 Cor. 15. 35.

2. SEED THOUGHTS.

1. If it was the will of Jesus that Lazarus should not die, why did he suffer it?

2. Did he not know where they had laid him?

3. What admission of the Jews is there in ver. 37?

4. Why did Jesus weep?

5. Why, or on what account, did he groan?

6. Why did not Jesus command the stone away from the door?

7. How did Martha show her unbelief?

8. What does Jesus mean by saying, *Thou hast heard me*?

9. What does Jesus allude to in the expression, *I said it*?

10. What does he signify in saying, *Because of the people*?