

Baptist's standing. *The Son of God*. The Father's voice had spoken thus, Matt. 3 : 17. So He would be able to reveal the Father, ch. 1 : 18.

Light from the East

ELIAS—The narrative of Elijah's life and work has impressed itself on many very different types of people. Some Jews still set a vacant seat for him at every Passover. The Moslems have identified him with El Hadir, the Eternal Wanderer, who having drunk the water of life, retains everlasting youth. He was the guide of the Israelites at the Exodus, has now become the guardian of the seas, and appears every now and then to right the wrongs of men. The Greek Catholics make him the patron saint of mountains, and the Roman Catholics revere him as the founder

of the barefooted Carmelites. Some Protestants expect him to appear in person before the Redeemer returns.

BETHABARA—From the third century there has been difficulty about the site of this place. It is clear that the older reading was "Bethany," and the words, "beyond Jordan," were added to distinguish it from the village near Jerusalem. The traditional site is at the bathing place of the pilgrims across from Jericho. Another is the ford of Abârah, north-east of Bethshan, which is not far from Cana, and is the only place in Palestine where the name now occurs, and the road from it leads to the province of Batania (Bethany). But others find it at Bethnimrah, the ancient waters of Nimrim, about 13 miles east of the Jordan. It is a well-watered oasis on the edge of the Jordan valley.

APPLICATION

And he confessed, and denied not, v. 20. To take what does not belong to us is a common enough temptation. It may be another's money, or credit for work we Firm and Final have not done, or a position we do not deserve. In whatever form the temptation comes, it should be promptly rejected. There is always danger in dallying. A firm and final "No" is the only right answer.

Who art thou ? v. 22. It is doing and not mere talking that tells in the long run. The workman who is known by his faithful, efficient work will not lack employers who seek his services. Customers will throng the store of the merchant who has earned a reputation for honest goods and fair prices. The waiting room of the physician who has proved his skill will be crowded with patients. Never sulk because you think you are neglected. Do something that the world needs, and the path to your door will be well trodden.

I am the voice of one crying, v. 23. It is just as necessary to have the small places in the world's work well filled as the large ones. A

Blessed be
Drudgery

loose rivet in a boiler may cause an explosion that destroys life and property. There is no saying how great results may depend just upon our doing apparently trifling things as well as we can. Form the habit of looking upon

your daily work as an indispensable part of God's great plan, and you will find a glory even in drudgery.

Make straight the way of the Lord, v. 23. This is a sort of work that all may do in some small measure. All faithful living, all kindly dealing on the part of those who All can Help profess the name of Christ, is a making straight of His way into the hearts of those who have not known Him.

One . . . whom ye know not, v. 26. We are always on the edge of wonderful things. If we will but open our eyes, we shall see them.

The Harvest
of the Eye

Everyone knew that a sound will cause a wire to vibrate. One day a man with very wide open eyes perceived that the wire might be made to carry speech, and we had the telephone. That astounding substance radium was lying all along in the slag heap. A keen eye uncovered it and brought it forth. What new beauty and bliss there is to be found in our blessed Saviour, we shall only discover when we fix the eyes of our soul steadfastly upon Him as the Word directs.

Whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose, v. 27. Sometimes a great mountain peak towers far above the lesser hills that surround it. It is those who have climbed the lower heights who best realize how far they are still below that lofty summit. And it is

The Perfect
One