Heartsease.

Ascensiontide.

"I pray thee let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."

Such was the petition addressed to the Prophet Elijah by his faithful follower before he was taken up to Heaven by the fiery chariot of the Lord, and we, the followers of Him Whose glorious Ascension we now celebrate, as we join with His whole Church in earnest prayer for the fuller outpouring of His Holy Spirit, may we not do well to ponder the answer given to a like request by the prophet of old?

"Thou hast asked a hard thing"—so the olden answer runs. To us are given by our Blessed Lord Himself the most glorious promises, but in the condition attached to Elijah's answer surely there is much of deeper meaning for us: "Nevertheless, if thou see Me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so."

Standing on the Mount of Ascension, gazing upwards unto the clear blue sky, or returning to our homes to fulfil our daily duty, waiting for the Promise of the Father in the midst of appointed services of prayer and praise, as the longing cry goes up half-unconsciously, "We would see Jesus," do we never hear in solemn warning the voice of His great Forerunner, "There standeth One among you Whom ye know not"?

We never know what we miss by our blindness and ignorance when our Lord still comes to His Own, and His Own receive Him not. We learn from our Lord's Own words that even the Righteous who have ministered to Him will say in amazement at the Last Day, "Lord, when saw we Thee?" Though He, "Jesus Christ, the Same yesterday, to-day and for ever," dwells always with us, hidden in the lives of those around us. It may be that "when we shall see Him there is no beauty that we should desire Him," for no eyes but those of the pure in heart may see "the King in His Beauty."

We may, unknowingly, see Him first in those living and working all around us in the humblest ways, and may not recognize Him any more than she did, who was the first to see Him on His Resurrection morning, when she "supposed Him to be the Gardener."

Or it may be that He "appears in another Form," and our "eyes are holden that we do not know Him," when we meet Him in someone who travels with us on our homeward way, and makes our hearts burn within us, as they open to us the Scriptures by their teaching and example.

We may see Him in those to whom we render unquestioning obedience, and "know not that it is Jesus" until the manifold resulting blessings begin to waken the dim perception, "It is the Lord."

We may see Him again in one living near us upon whose features has been impressed by years of wearing pain the "Image of