

to seek it, at first sight of him mind joyously answered "He yet lives! He has arisen! He stands beside you!" And it never afterwards doubted it.

You will not fail to see the drift of these remarks. We can easily furnish abundant historical proof of the resurrection. It is a fact which can scarcely be doubted. But mere facts do not always convict us to the extent of moving us. There may still be a lurking suspicion that in some way these facts may yet be altered. If in our hearts, however, there exists an intense longing that the facts might be just as they are reported to be we unhesitatingly receive them and treasure them. So in regard to the resurrection. Before the historical statements have weight with us, or powerfully influence us, we must, like Mary, have deep down in our hearts a devoted love for Jesus—a love that sorrowed to see him buried, and rejoiced to see him again upon the earth—a love that will compel reason to accept facts though it cannot understand why they should be so; a love so overpowering in its nature that it easily compels reason to accept the supernatural; a love that leads to Jesus' grave and, having found Him, asks no curious questions for the joy of possessing Him once more.

2. She saw the empty tomb. This is the point at which difficulty arises. The life, death and burial of Jesus are matters of history. They are facts which may be found in historical works outside the Bible. But when we go a step further and try to account for the empty tomb or to even assert that it was found empty, we are in a region of controversy and opposing theories. Standing with Mary at the empty tomb we can think of only three ways in which it could have been emptied:—

(1.) By the enemies of Jesus. They could easily have removed his body had they felt so inclined. But instead of wishing to do so, they took every precaution to keep the body in the tomb. Besides, if they had removed it they would scarcely have kept silence while the Apostles were so boldly and so emphatically preaching about the resurrection. Within six weeks after the resurrection, Peter was declaring it as one of