

loved the Master the sisters felt it to be a mournful meeting. They could only pour out their grief to him, so little did they understand his coming. Not that they were without the hope of resurrection, but they thought of it merely as something to come in the future. "I know," said Martha, "that he shall rise again at the resurrection at the last day." She had understood the absence of Jesus, but not his presence! But what was our Lord's answer? Well has it been chosen for our "Golden Text:" "I am the resurrection and the life."

If the absence of Jesus left death free to come in, the presence of Jesus robbed him of his prey.

This is what the friends of Jesus have to look forward to now—not the resurrection, but the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is away from them now as regards his bodily presence, and during his absence they are exposed to disease and sorrow and death. But when he comes these shall be done away and the reign of death will be over, since he is the Resurrection. Just as surely as Martha and Mary had their brother restored to them, so when Jesus comes his friends shall be restored one to another.

But meanwhile—does he not care? Look at him with the company of mourners; look at him as they lead him to the grave of Lazarus. Look at his tears, listen to his groanings. What do they mean? They mean two things: (1) Compassion for the sorrowing. It is the tears of the mourners that draw forth his. (2) Indignation at the cause of sorrow. "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men." Rom. 5. 12. And he is still the same, full of indignation at sin and its ravages, and full of pity for sufferers. But those to whose relief he came at Bethany were his friends; and many of earth's sufferers are not his friends. What hope or help is there for them? Let us see.

3. *Life.* Jesus "the resurrection and the life." To be without Christ is to be without life, "dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. 2. 11. Yet there is hope for such. Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." By faith in Christ a soul passes "from death unto life," because he is "the life." And death cannot touch this life! "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Ver. 26.

But hundreds of years have passed and still no resurrection—Christ is not yet come. Why did he tarry in the case of Lazarus? Look at vers. 4, 15. It was for the fulfillment of his purposes for the glory of God and the good of his people. If he still tarrys it is for the same reason. When these purposes have been accomplished he will come.

### Herean Methods.

#### Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Describe the journey of Jesus from Bethabara to Bethany... Explain the burial customs of the Jews, "graveclothes," "sepulcher," the manner of mourning, etc.... Why did not Christ come sooner, and save Lazarus from dying? Why does he let us die?... Show the

contrast of character as seen in the conduct of Martha and of Mary.... The traits of Jesus in this lesson: 1. Foreknowledge; 2. Insight; 3. Sympathy; 4. Communion with God; 5. Power.... How did Christ use the assistance of others in the miracle?... One line of teaching finds in this miracle a parable of a soul's salvation. (See Additional Practical Lessons....) Another plan, to see in this a type of the resurrection, when Christ shall call his disciples out of their graves. This line of illustration is presented in the Analytical and Biblical Outline.

References. FREEMAN. Ver. 17: Rabbinical notions of soul and body, 808; Time for burial, 820.

### CATECHISM QUESTION.

37. What do you mean by the almightiness or omnipotence of God?

That God can do whatever he will.

I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withheld from thee.—Job xiii. 2

38. What do you mean by the omniscience of God?

That God knows all things, past and present and future.

### Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



This design symbolizes the crowning miracle of our Lord's ministry—the crown of life above the broken arrow of death.

SUGGESTION. A crown may easily be represented by an oval line, made with yellow or white chalk, like this—○. Or make a circle, and write the word "Crown" inside of it.

	JESUS WEPT.	
THIS	LOVING	
SAME	SYMPATHIZING	SAVIOUR
	COMPASSIONATE	
	ALL POWERFUL	
	CARES FOR ME!	

### Lesson Word-Pictures.

Why is the home at Bethany that Jesus loved so hushed and sad? Why, too, is the seat of Lazarus vacant day after day? If away, why is he not somewhere seen in the road, or somewhere in the fields? Why do Martha and Mary softly glide about with tearful eyes? And why do friends gather from Jerusalem, and all look at one another with such sorrowful faces? O if Jesus would only come and drive away this strange mystery clouding the Bethany home! But look! Martha leaves the sad group within, and hastening away, soon returns, in haste, with flushed features, and whispers some secret message to Mary. And Mary, she rises quickly and goes out eagerly, for the long-expected Master has come and calls for her. He receives her. There she is, bathing with tears the feet that she