

It has been alleged that the Jews had no clear conception of the resurrection, but Canon Tristram quotes the following passage from the Jewish prayer-book, which there is every reason to believe was in use long before the time of our Lord :

"Thou, O Lord, art mighty forever ; thou quickenest the dead ; thou art strong to save ; thou sustaineest the living by thy mercy ; thou quickenest the dead by thy great compassion ; thou makest good thy faithfulness to them that sleep in the dust ; thou art faithful to quicken the dead. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who quickenest the dead." Such benedictions show how strongly, he adds, the belief in a future life and a resurrection to come was impressed on the Jewish mind, even though it may not occupy a prominent place in the Old Testament Scriptures.

Like the marriage festivities, says Dr. Trumbull, the funeral ceremonies are often continued through seven days and nights, and as feastings and rejoicings are the main features of the marriage celebration, so feastings and wailings are the prominent characteristics of the funeral week. When the patriarch Job was mourning his dead, his friends, as in duty bound, "made an appointment together to come to bemoan him and to comfort him"—with a hearty wailing. And when they were in sight of him "they lifted up their voice, and wept ; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a word unto him, for they saw that his grief was very great."

Mrs. Rogers, as quoted by Dr. Trumbull, describes one of those lamentations which she witnessed near Nazareth in Palestine, as follows : Presently an especial lamen-

tation was commenced, to which I was invited to respond. I was still seated at the end of the room near to the widow. The women on my left hand, led by a celebrated professional mourner (the Oriental soprano), sang these



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eulogistic words with vigour and energy :

"We saw him in the midst of the company of riders,
Riding bravely on his horse, the horse he loved."

The women on the opposite side of the room answered in a lower and more plaintive key, beating their breasts mournfully :

"Alas ! No more shall we see him
In the midst of the company of riders,
Bravely riding on his horse, the horse he loved."

The first singers sang :