

### Sealing the Sepulchre.

"Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch, go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch." (Matt. 27:62-66.)

The chief of the Jews were foolishly apprehensive that the disciples, frightened and scattered when Jesus was crucified, would afterward come and steal his body from the sepulchre, so as to make it appear that he had risen from the dead. So Pilate gave them permission to use a detachment of Roman soldiers, who were stationed in the castle of Antonia, right by the temple, to stand as a guard for the tomb. In addition to this, that there might be no possible interference, they put a seal upon the tomb. This was a very simple arrangement in itself, but when it represented the great power of the Roman government, and was guarded by the ever-vigilant Roman soldiers, it was as strong as the heaviest iron bolts that could be made. The sealing consisted simply of a cord with an end laid upon the stone which covered the mouth of the sepulchre, and the other against the wall above, each end being then fastened with a seal of wax or soft clay. To break this seal was to set at defiance all the might of Roman authority. But little did Roman might or Jewish hate avail against the power of God, when early on the morning of the third day "there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow, and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men."

Our frontispiece gives a vivid illustration of the sealing of the tomb. In the foreground are some of the Jewish hierarchs, priests or other members of the sanhedrim. Attending is a body of chosen Roman guards, who are to keep watch over the grave.

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### Temperance in the Schools.

IN no way can the temperance reform be more efficiently promoted than by the training of the young in uncompromising temperance principles. We rejoice that this is being done to so large an extent in the Sunday-schools of the country. At the last International Sunday-school Convention in Louisville, a memorial from the Women's Christian Temperance Union, requesting the appointing of a Temperance Lesson every quarter, was carried by a very large majority, notwithstanding the opposition of a number of very influential persons. This year that recommendation comes into force, and in all the lesson helps in Christendom, and in nearly every Sunday-school, special prominence shall be given at least four times each year to this great reform. The influence of this on teachers and taught cannot but be very marked and very salutary.

In addition to this, our own Church takes very strong ground on the temperance question,