

The Easter Angels.

BY PHILLIPS BROOKS.

God hath sent his angels
To the east again,
Bringing joyful tidings
To the sons of men.

They who first at Christmas
Thronged the heavenly way,
Now beside the tomb door
Sit on Easter Day.

Angels sing his triumph,
As you sing his birth,
"Christ the Lord is risen,
Peace, good will on earth."

In the dreadful desert,
Where the Lord was tried,
There the faithful angels
Gathered at his side.

And when in the garden,
Grief and pain and care
Bowed him down with anguish,
They were with him there.

Yet the Christ they honour
Is the same Christ still,
Who, in light and darkness,
Did his Master's will.

And the tomb deserted,
Shineth like the sky,
Since he passed out from it,
Into victory.

God has still his angels
Helping at his word,
All his faithful children,
Like their faithful Lord.

Soothing them in sorrow,
Arming them in strife,
Opening wide the tomb doors,
Leading into life.

Father, send thine angels
Unto us, we pray;
Leave us not to wander
All along our way.

Let them guard and guide us,
Wheresoe'er we be,
Till our resurrection
Bring us home to thee.

LESSON NOTES.**SECOND QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON I.—APRIL 2.**THE RAISING OF LAZARUS.**

John 11. 32-45. Memory verses, 41-44.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am the resurrection and the life.—
John 11. 25.

OUTLINE.

1. Words of Inquiry, v. 32-37.
2. Words of Comfort, v. 38-40.
3. Words of Prayer, v. 41, 42.
4. Words of Command, v. 43-45.

Time.—A.D. 30.

Place.—Bethany, on the Mount of Olives.

Rulers.—Pilate in Jerusalem; Herod in Galilee.

LESSON HELPS.

32. "If thou hadst been here"—The same words Martha had uttered (verse 21). The grief of the sisters was great.

33. "Was troubled"—Partly by the grief of Mary, partly by the pretended grief of those who afterward sought to kill Lazarus (chap. 12. 10).

34. The question and answer of this verse are brief and to the point, for so does true grief express itself.

35. "Jesus wept"—His humanity was perfect, his sympathy was intense. His sympathy with human sorrow is a part of his nature, as is his union with divine strength.

37. "This man, which opened the eyes of the blind"—From one miracle they argue very properly that another is possible. He who can restore can surely prevent. Why was there not this prevention? (Read verse 4.)

38. "A cave"—A sepulchre, rather, that is, an artificial cave. A private burying place; and that fact, with the number of mourners and the very precious ointment, show that the family was one of some wealth.

40. "If thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God"—The value of faith and its great result is here seen. The glory of God was seen, not only in raising Lazarus, but in that fact as having the promise of the resurrection of Jesus.

41, 42. "And Jesus lifted up his eyes,

and said"—Notice the prayer. To whom spoken—the "Father." The feeling of Christ—gratitude; "I thank thee." "Thou hast heard"—At some previous time. "I knew"—But now let the people, by this utterance and by the miracle to follow, believe that thou hast sent me." A twofold purpose of the miracle: (1) To comfort the weeping sisters; and (2) To give proof of his divine mission.

43. "Lazarus, come forth"—He calls him by name as a friend calls a friend. "Hither, out," is the more expressive form of the Greek. The mighty power was not in the words, but through the words.

44. "Grave clothes"—The bandages which kept the linen sheet and spices about the corpse.

45. "Many . . . believed on him"—The wonder is all did not, but doubters always are found. The belief was in Christ as one divinely sent.

HOME READINGS.

M. Sickness of Lazarus.—John 11. 1-16.

Tu. Death and sorrow.—John 11. 17-31.

W. The raising of Lazarus.—John 11. 32-45.

Th. Testimony of witnesses.—John 12. 12-19.

F. Perfect through suffering.—Heb. 2. 9-18.

S. Certainty of resurrection.—1 Cor. 15. 50-58.

Su. Resurrection of Christ.—Matt. 28. 1-10.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Words of Inquiry, v. 32-37.
What did Mary do when she saw Jesus?

What effect had the miracle on the people.

What great truth does this miracle illustrate? Golden Text.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we shown—

1. The sympathy of Jesus?
2. The love of Jesus?
3. The power of Jesus?

EASTER AND THE ROBIN.

BY D. VIRGINIA FARLEY.

There is a pretty legend that associates the robin with the Easter festival, and explains why the robin's breast is red and its eggs coloured. Please listen, little ones, while I tell it to you.

When Pilate had delivered our Saviour to the Jews to crucify him, they mocked him shamefully in many ways; and, among other cruel indignities offered him, they "plaited a crown of thorns, and put it about his head." This crown, according to the legend, was still upon his head while he was ascending Calvary to die on the cross. Becoming much wearied with the journey he sank down to rest for a short time. A little bird—a robin—sitting about, alighted upon the crown of thorns and tried to lift it from our Redeemer's brow. The tiny creature's efforts were in vain, but ere it gave up a thorn impaled its breast.

"And thus 'tis sweetly said,
The robin has his silver vest
Incarnadined with red."

**Easter Day.**

The world itself keeps Easter Day,
For happy birds are singing;
And from the earth so cold and gray
The tiny blades are springing;
The seeds that in their graves have lain—
So silently abiding
The hour when spring-time's sun and
rain

Should call them from their hiding—
Now rise again to bud and bloom,
And fill the earth with gladness;
Gone are the days of wintry gloom;
Spring is no time for sadness.

Each tree and shrub the new life feels
Through every vein warm-glowing;
And buds burst forth—the promise sure
Of leaves and fruit soon growing;
The little streams—ice-bound so long—
Flow onward gaily singing,

Freed from their fetters, join their song
With Easter joy-bells ringing.

The Christ is risen,—as all things tell:
Then let all hearts warm-glowing,
From doubts and sorrows rise as well,
With love and faith o'erflowing,
Let Hope again rise from the tomb
Of earthly griefs and losses;
Life's blossoms spring from dust and
gloom,
And crowns are won by crosses.

What did she say to him?
Who had said the same words before?
Verse 21.

Why had Jesus delayed his coming?
Verse 4.

How was Jesus affected by Mary's grief?

What did he ask?

What reply was made?

How did Jesus show his love for Lazarus?

What did the Jews say of him?

What question did they ask about his power?

2. Words of Comfort, v. 38-40.

Where was the body of Lazarus laid?

What command did Jesus give?

Who objected? Why?

What did Jesus say to Martha?

3. Words of Prayer, v. 41, 42.

For what did Jesus give thanks?

To whom did he give thanks?

For whose sake did he give thanks?

4. Words of Command, v. 43-45.

What command did he then give?

What result followed Jesus' command?

What further order did Jesus give?

A beautiful tree grew quite near our Saviour's sepulchre, so the legend further tells us, and in the tree a robin had with much patience and labour built a nest. In the nest there were four white eggs—there was not one bit of colour about them.

When the robin, from its mossy nest in the stately tree, saw the body of our crucified Saviour laid in the sepulchre, its song of gladness at once changed to a song of sadness, and so continued until Easter morning. Then Christ, who was, and is, and shall ever be, "the resurrection and the life," came forth robed in the glory of the resurrection morning. As the sun rose in splendour over the eastern hills, the robin beheld the glorious wonder of "death swallowed up in victory." Again its song changed, and in sweetest, clearest notes it warbled: "He is risen indeed! He is risen indeed!" The white-robed angel that came from heaven to earth to roll the stone away from our Saviour's tomb heard the robin's joyous song and said: "Rejoice, rejoice, sweet bird; and be forever blest, thyself, thy eggs, and thy cosy home." And—

"Ever since that blessed night,
When death bowed down to the Lord of
Light,
The eggs of that sweet bird changed their
hue,
And burn with red and gold and blue,
Reminding mankind in their simple way
Of the holy marvel of Easter Day."

It was Early in the Morning.**CHILDREN'S EASTER HYMN.**

BY REV. G. W. TURNER.

It was early in the morning,
The first bright Easter morning,
That the dear Lord Jesus rose from the
grave in which he lay;
And in the morning quiet,
The holy angels by it
Sat waiting for the Maries to come along
the way.

The Maries came in sadness,
But the angels brought them gladness
When they said: "The Lord is risen; he
will never die again."
And soon he came to meet them—
With loving words to greet them—
Oh, that Sunday put an end to their sor-
row and their pain!

Now the angels, who sit keeping
Their watch while we lie sleeping,
Are glad to see us wake when the Sunday
morn is here;
For they know their Lord rejoices
To listen to our voices,
And the praises of the children to him
are always dear.

Then let us take our places
With gladness on our faces,
With hearts and voices ready our Sunday
hymns to sing;
For it is coming one day,
The best and brightest Sunday,
When all his children rise again to meet
their glorious King!

Steel rails now figure as the cheapest finished product in wrought iron or steel. A good lesson in the finances of modern industry is also afforded by them. To establish a steel-rail works, an expenditure of \$3,000,000 is required before a single rail can be turned out. The steel is made to conform to an accurate chemical composition—the most accurate in the ordinary range of technical operations.

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