

Practical Papers.

EASTERTIDE; OR, THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

BY THE EDITOR.

V.—THE BURIAL.

“ And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead : and calling the Centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the Centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.”—MARK xv. 42-5.

“ And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pounds. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden ; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day ; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.”—JOHN xix. 39-42.

“ And [they] rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus beheld where he was laid.”—MARK xv. 46, 47.

“ Rest of the weary ! Thou
Thyself art resting now,
Where lowly in thy sepulchre thou liest :
From out her deathly sleep
My soul doth start, to weep,
So sad a wonder, that thou, Saviour, diest !

“ Thy bitter anguish o'er,
To this dark tomb they bore
Thee, life of life—Thee, Lord of all creation !
The hollow rocky cave
Must serve Thee for a grave,
Who wast Thyself the Rock of our Salvation !”—FRANCE.



“ AND now when the even was come.” By “even” in this connection, is probably meant the interval between three o'clock and sunset. The Greek reads, — *Και ήδη ὀψίας γενομένης,*—literally, “And now even was approaching.” The Jews reckoned two evenings: one from the ninth hour, or three o'clock in the afternoon, until sunset; the other from sunset until dark. The supernatural darkness, we are informed, began at the sixth hour,—that is, the hour of noon,—and continued until the ninth hour, at which time Jesus gave up the ghost. Within the next three hours some disposition must be made of the bodies of those who had been crucified, for Jewish law (Deut. xxi. 23) forbade that they should remain on the crosses