

# Practical Papers.

## EASTERTIDE; OR, THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

BY THE EDITOR.

### III.—THE TESTIMONIES HARMONIZED.



It will at once be perceived that there is considerable diversity in the accounts of the resurrection as given by the different Evangelists; but this diversity, so far from throwing discredit upon the sacred narrative, affords strong presumptive evidence of its truthfulness. When men combine to palm upon the world as history that which they know to be untrue, they are careful to make their accounts agree in the most minute particulars; but in the Gospels we have four distinct versions of the resurrection story, so different as to preclude all suspicion of collusion, and yet so much alike that we are forced to regard them as truthful records of one and the same occurrence. They are different, but not contradictory. Let us now endeavor to construct, out of these four narratives, one consecutive history. The following I believe to be the relative order of the events:—

1. *Joseph of Arimathea obtains the body of Jesus, and lays it in a new sepulchre.*—Mark xv. 42-45; John xix. 39-42; Mark xiv. 46-47.

2. *The Chief Priests obtain authority from Pilate to seal the sepulchre and set a watch.*—Matt. xxvii. 62-66.

3. *Early on the third day an earthquake occurs, and an angel descends and rolls away the stone from the sepulchre.*—Matt. xxviii. 2-4.

4. *Mary Magdalene goes ALONE to the sepulchre, before daylight, finds it empty, and goes at once to tell Peter and John.*—John xx. 1, 2.

5. *Peter and John go to the sepulchre, (probably followed by Mary Magdalene); they find it empty, and return home.*—John xx. 3-10.

6. *Mary Magdalene remains weeping at the sepulchre; she sees two angels.*—John xx. 11-14.

7. *Jesus appears to Mary, (John xx. 15-17). She hastens away and tells the other disciples (not Peter and John) what she had seen and heard.*—Mark xvi. 10, 11.

8. *The other women [Mary the mother of James, and Salome] now come to the sepulchre, and find the stone rolled away; they see an angel who testifies that Christ is risen.*—Mark xvi. 1-7.

9. *The women go to tell the disciples, and are met by Jesus.*—Matt. xxviii. 8-10.

10. *The testimony of the Roman soldiers.*—Matt. xxviii. 11-15.