



BETHANY.— On the eastern side of the Mount of Olives, and but a half an hour's walk from Jerusalem, is the town of Bethany the house of dates, so called because of the tall date palm trees which once grew among the little white dwellings. The Arabic name is El-Azariyeh—the place of Lazarus. The palms are all gone now. It is now and always has been a poor small mountain hamlet with nothing to charm except its seclusion and nothing to interest the Christian world save its associations. It is made sacred as the place where our Redeemer rested and prayed, and where no noisy crowd broke in upon His meditations. Lazarus, probably a rich man, lived there with his two sisters, Martha and Mary. Jesus was invited to abide with them on one occasion, and always afterward on his visits to Jerusalem made a home at the vine-clad cottage of Lazarus. "There," says Fortier, "no sound of the busy world followed him in the quiet home of Martha, and in some lonely room of Bethany's secluded dell

he rested and prayed." It was here that Mary sat at the feet of Jesus. It was here that Martha, tired of "much serving," said, "Master, dost thou not care that my sister leave me to work alone?" It was then that Jesus warned Martha against undue anxiety, and exalted Mary's choice of the good part never to be taken from her. It was here that Martha met Jesus when he came at the time of the death of Lazarus and where the great miracle was wrought.

"They led him to the cave—
The rocky bed where now in darkness slept
Their brother and his friend—then at the grave
They paused, for Jesus wept.
And there he cried Come forth, and Lazarus lived again."