

# HAPPY DAYS

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AFTER THE CRUCIFIXION.

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How sad must have been the heart of Mary, the mother of Christ, when she turned away from the cross where Jesus had died. Other mothers would be tucking their little one into bed that night, just as she once did when Jesus was a little child. But now he had died the death of shame upon the cross between two thieves. The women who had loved him were looking back where the three crosses stood on the hill of Golgotha. They did not know that in three days their dead would rise again.

## AN UNFAIR TRIAL.

It was still very early in the morning when the high priest and the chief Jews

brought Jesus to the house of Pilate, the Roman governor. All through the night following his arrest, these Jews, who hated the Saviour so, had questioned and mocked and cruelly treated him, trying to get him to say something for which they could have him put to death.

When the priests and Jews led Jesus before Pilate, the Governor asked, "What has this man done?" Then the Jews answered, "He pretends to be a king, and so he is an enemy of Caesar, the Roman king, and should be put to death." Pilate questioned Jesus over and over again, but he could see that Jesus was a good man, who had not done any crime. So three times he came out to speak to the chief priests and the Jews, saying to them,

"I cannot find any fault in this man."

But the chief priests and the Pharisees kept going through the great crowd which had gathered, telling them things to make them hate Jesus, so that they shouted angrily, "Put him to death! crucify him!" until Pilate said, "Very well, but you must take the blame of his death," and the crowd cried, "We will take it all."

Then Pilate let his soldiers take Jesus and beat him cruelly with whips. After this dreadful beating the rough Roman soldiers put clothes on him such as a king would wear, because they knew that the Jews had said that Jesus claimed to be a king. They made a crown from the sharp-pointed twigs of a thornbush, put it on his head, and gave him a stick for