

hearing of the other guests. It is distinctly stated that "she came up to Him, and said, Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me." There is something of irritation, perhaps of petulance here, but no flaming anger. It is as though she said, "Have you not seen that I am not getting on well? I cannot get the 'things' on the table as I should like to do. I am anxious for your sake to have everything go smoothly. Tell Mary to come and help me." It was simply the communication of the fact of her embarrassment to Jesus, coupled with a request that He would wake Mary from her dreaming and convey to her the intelligence that she was wanted. One loves to remember that Jesus was the sort of friend and guest who *could* be appealed to in such familiar fashion. There is nothing in the whole story which so fully assures us that Jesus was regarded as "one of the family" as these words which Martha spoke to Him. May we not believe that Jesus, instead of being vexed by them, was profoundly grateful for them?

The reply of Jesus comes like the cool breath of morning air into a close and stuffy room. "Martha, Martha," and His voice is very gentle, "thou art anxious and