

too much of angels—they pray to them, and Protestants often forget and ignore their ministry altogether, Heb. 1: 14. (3) "The eleven and all the rest" showed not only forgetfulness of the words of Jesus, but also unbelief, vs. 9-11. Their minds were pre-occupied with erroneous Jewish conceptions of the Messiah which displaced the truth. It is so now with many; they adopt, without searching the Scriptures, views of Christ and salvation which shut out the gospel. (4) Peter and John, in spite of unbelief, took the right course, and hastened to sift the matter. They ran to the sepulchre, v. 12, and John 20: 1-10. In their perplexity they are determined to look for evidence, and they speedily receive it. God always gives needed light to honest inquiring souls, Ps. 97: 11.

2. *The evidence of the resurrection of Jesus.*

(1) It was foretold by prophets and by Jesus Himself, Ps. 16: 10; compare Acts 2: 31 and 13: 32-35; Matt. 20: 18, 19; Mark 9: 31. (2) It was attested by the apostles. They were not present at His resurrection, but they had the closest intercourse with Him after it during forty days, John 20: 19, 20, 26; Acts 1: 2, 3; 4: 10, 33. (3) The unique testimony of Thomas. He refused to believe his ten fellow-apostles, and demanded personal investigation, the evidence of sight and touch, John 20: 24-28. (4) The added special testimony by the apostle Paul, 1 Cor. 15: 3-8. In addition to his having himself seen Jesus, over five hundred witnesses who had seen Him at once were accessible to him, and we may be certain that he questioned them, and sifted their evidence. He was learned and critical, and not originally biased in favor of the doctrine. Hence the peculiar value of his testimony. (5) Inferential evidence. Thus, the tomb was found empty on the third day. How did the body disappear? (a) Not by the hands of His disciples. They were too timid and weak to attempt its removal. They forsook Him and fled in Gethsemane, Matt. 26: 56. (b) His enemies did not remove the body. They did their utmost to retain it, Matt. 27: 62-66. Besides, had they had possession

of the body, they would have produced it and at once silenced all who declared that He had risen from the dead.

No fact in history is so strongly attested as the resurrection of Jesus.

3. *Its practical significance.* (a) When we accept it, we are logically bound to accept all that Jesus taught, and He set the seal of His approval upon the whole word of God, and declared that Moses and all the prophets testified of Him, Luke 24: 27. (b) The resurrection of Jesus is the ground of our sure hope of future life and glory, John 14: 19 ("Because I live, ye shall live also"); 1 Cor. 15: 12-20; Rev. 1: 18.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By the Editor

The Golden Text for this quarter is 1 Cor. 6: 14—"God hath both raised up the Lord, and will raise also up us by His own power." The lessons treat of the risen Saviour, and what His resurrection brings to men. To-day the whole Christian world is contemplating the resurrection and rejoicing in it. The keynote of their songs is Charles Wesley's Easter Hymn:

"Christ the Lord is risen to-day,

Sons of men and angels say:

Raise your joys and triumphs high;

Sing, ye heavens, and, earth, reply."

Are we sure of the fact which the Golden Text of this Easter lesson states so positively? Is Christ indeed risen from the dead? The lessons of the quarter are the answer.

Here we have:

1. *The errand of the women*, 1-3. Just what might be expected from their love. (Luke 23: 50-56.) How eager they are, yet how timid, "Who shall roll us away the stone?" No thoughts of a risen Christ. Intense surprise that the stone is rolled away and the body absent.

2. *The words of the angels*, 4-8. Heaven's message to the "much perplexed" women. The ministry of angels (see "Exposition," etc.) is interesting, but rather keep the class to the angels' two-fold message: (a) He is risen (Golden Text); (b) Remember what He Himself said. The first word startles