

To Him, as to us, and infinitely more than to us, was death a release from captivity and blindness, an entering into the conscious possession of His hidden inheritance.

Now could He speak to His Father, and now could He speak to His brethren; nearer to their weakness in His Glory and His Strength than when He was closer in His infirmities. For though they were still hemmed in by the wall of an earthly body, there was no corresponding barrier on His side, and the Glorified Christ passed through the closed doors of their flesh and met their spirit face to face. The barrier was now on their side only, not on His.

In this revelation then, this shining forth to the disciples of a soul, no longer shrouded in the mortality of death, but translucent in its body of glory—was the true secret of the Resurrection.

In what manner, in what degree, it is not given us to know, but the disciples, with a throb of astounded joy, came singly and collectively to the knowledge that He was still there, in the very midst of them all; and, oh! far more! in the very centre of each one—speaking soul to soul, heart to heart—"closer than breathing and nearer than hands and feet."

And, hard on the sense of His yet living presence, came the breathless hope and apprehension of their own essential deathlessness. "Where I am there shall you be also;" this was the word that echoed in their ears and hearts. New and unfathomable experiences were striving within them, new possibilities were dimly suggesting themselves, and, in all, the figure of Christ stood out, of Christ the personal and human friend, so infinitely greater than themselves, and yet now, as before, one with them. His rights were their rights, and His glory was their glory.

The gropings of those last few days, in which He walked and spoke, and ate with them, are now explained by the issue to which they have been conducted. Promises and assurances are no longer needed, for His continued life and intimate presence are a sufficient pledge.

What they dreaded was to be left orphans, to be abandoned in mid-career, when they had started on a journey which they would never have undertaken in their own strength.

But now they know that even death cannot remove Him from their midst, and while He remains they are safe. If they do not know everything at once they know enough to prosecute their journey, and He will guide them step by step.

To us it may seem a matter of envy to have been of those "who saw and touched and handled Him" in the wanderings through Galilee; but to them Easter Day was the dawn of a higher