

were more prompt to remove the stones of inconsistency, ignorance, and temptation which lie over the spiritual graves of our friends, the power of Jesus would soon be manifested to quicken their souls.—*Patecost.*

A reunited family. When Jesus brought to life the son of the widow of Nain, the record says, "He gave him again to his mother." This foreshadows the glad day when Jesus shall give back to us our loved ones. F. D. Maurice says: "I cannot read this story of Lazarus without thinking that among those things in heaven and earth that are to be restored the sympathies and affections of the family are some of the chief. If in the resurrection 'they neither marry nor are given in marriage,' yet the old relationships, the old affections, are to have as new and higher life. What is sown in corruption is raised in incorruption. What is sown a natural relationship is raised a spiritual."

Heart Talks on the Lesson.

BY MRS. J. H. KNOWLES.

"He whom thou lovest is sick." "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." Sickness, mortal sickness, falls upon those whom Jesus loves. Sorrow, pain, bereavement, touch those who are the apple of his eye. Surely, then, it is wrong to say that such afflictions come from God's anger toward us, or his indifference to our happiness. The sisters thought love would bring the Lord without delay to avert that which seemed to them a great catastrophe. But he saw it in a very different light, and from a higher and truer spiritual outlook. He sent back the message that this sickness was not unto death, but for the glory of God. And yet Lazarus died and was buried. What a trial of faith! Trials of faith test most those whom Jesus loves best.

If only we can transfer this scene from Bethany to our own home, and make its teachings our own, what comfort will come to us from this lesson. Our Lord's understanding of the meaning of what we call death made him calm, and not at all hurried to get to his friend. He said, "I am glad I was not there, to the intent ye may believe."

Why did not these sisters rest quietly in the message sent by Jesus? I think they did, in a measure; their grief, I imagine, was softened by the thought of Jesus's love for them, and his power to help them; they had known him too well for this not to be so. But their faith was imperfect, like our own, and Jesus knew that the perfecting of their faith was the best thing he could do for them. And so he tested it. He sends to us his message through his word; we

only half believe, and so have only half comfort.

"Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?"

"Yea, Lord: I believe!" Martha answered, through her tears; but her dim faith saw only the far-away resurrection at the last day. Ages of separation stretched between her broken heart and her brother. But Jesus would make faith's vision so clear that death should vanish before it like mists in the sun, and the life eternal stand out as a blessed, present reality. Not only is there future life for that beloved one you say is sleeping in the grave; there is life now. Life in me is continuous. Death does not touch it. I am the resurrection and the life this day as we stand beside your brother's grave, as well as in that last great day. Believest thou this? O, the blessedness of knowing Jesus so well that even in the presence of great mysteries we can say, as Martha, "Yea, Lord!" Very soon her faith was fulfilled in sight. Her brother was with her again—the same Lazarus—sitting at the table, entering into the old household ways, loving his sisters with the old affection deepened and purified. Let us take the comfort of this strange, sweet romance of reality. It is as sweet and true for us as for Martha and Mary. Four days or four years, it matters not how long since they went away, our loved ones who believed in Jesus never died. A word from him could bring us together again in a moment.

The heavenly world is very near and very real, and there is not even a temporary separation between those who live because he lives there and those who live in him here. Believest thou this?

The Teachers' Meeting.

Draw a map illustrating the relative positions of Perea, Bethany, and Jerusalem.... State where Jesus was at the time of the lesson, and how he came to be there.... Have the lesson story graphically told, bringing to the front Jewish customs, such as manners, stone sepulchers, etc.... Ascertain the connection of this miracle with the death of Jesus.... Treat the lesson as a study of character: (1) Martha; (2) Mary; (3) The critical Jews; (4) The pained mourners. The family at Bethany is of itself a most entertaining and profitable study.... Traits and attributes of Jesus as shown in this lesson: (1) Knowledge; (2) Forethought; (3) Sympathy; (4) Courage; (5) Industry; (6) ———; (7) ———.... Or conduct the lesson, I. *As a picture of Christ*: (1) The High Priest, of whom all other priests were types, whose prayers in our behalf avail with God; (2) The Prophet of divinest comfort; (3) Incarnate Life; (4) The Anointed One, Christ, Mes-