March 20, 1913.

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t not to ask. Sabbath I set about preparthe anointing." She r from the ground, thy weary heart, bene Master here, he be of good comfort."



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March 20, 1913.

"Alas, what comfort, now he is gone?"

"I know not." The older woman's face was sad, but her eyes were illumined. "His power to help could reach across the grave, irresistible, to Lazarus, who heard and woke. May it not reach back across the grave to thee, to heal thy broken heart? And it may be ... She broke off abruptly, saying to herself as she turned to enter the house, "I will not raise her hopes, lest they be dashed again. But I cannot help the thought-did he not say to me those strange words, that he was the resurrection and the life? How could he be, if death has power to hold him? Ah, I know not. I will not think-my part is to prepare the spices, as I said. If they should not be needed-"

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The Sabbath was past. At the edge of the garden, the appointed meeting-place, the two Bethany sisters waited the coming of the other women. A great while before dawn they had risen up to set out upon the two-mile walk that separated them from the city. Lazarus remained behind; Jewish custom would not allow both men and women to perform together the funeral rites, so the women must go alone to do the last sad offices. In the dusk of the hour before dawn they had traversed the rocky path straight over the hill, a shorter way than the road, and made easy by an ascending series of flat limestone beds which served as steps. Looking back, they could see the light breaking over the eastern mountains. They passed the "house of stone" where Lazarus had lain-a rockhewn chamber where now maidenhair fern was beginning to cover the gray stone floor. Words out of the past rang in Martha's ears, spoken to her when her practical nature sought to interpose a doubt between the Master and his greatest work. "Said I not unto thee that if thou wouldest be-

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lieve, thou shouldst see the glory of God?" "Ah, Rabboni, if I might!" her heart cried out. But her lips kept silent for Mary's sake.

Through the shadows of the garden they could descry at last the fluttering of a woman's garments. It was Mary of Magdala, sorrowful, downcast, hopeless. No braver were the three who came after her—the other Mary, wife of Cleopas, and Salome, and Joanna. Together the dreary little group made their way through the dewy paths of Joseph's garden.

"It is where he would have loved to lie." The words of Mary of Bethanv broke the silence. "He loved a garden. Dost remember, Martha, how he loved our garden?"

A sob from Mary Magdalene hurried Martha into practical speech, to break the strain. "Didst thou tell me, sister, the tomb was closed?"

"Yea, verily—and a great stone rolled across its mouth."

Martha stood still, aghast. "And w o shall roll us away the stone?" she cried in discouragement. "Oh, foolish, not to have thought of that! We are not strong enough." Then in her heart an echo rang, "the glory of God"; and the thought followed it, "Perhaps there will be no need to roll it away." "Come," she sad to the others, who also had stood still at her words. "It may be one of the soldiers will use his strength for us. We will see."

Lord !'' she wailed. "Alas! they have taken him away." She turned aside from the rest, tears flooding her cheeks. "I must go seek for him," she said in a half whisper, and before they could stop her she had darted away among the trees of the garden.

"Poor soul!" cried Salome. "She is half mad with grief. All night she hath kept watch for dawn, weeping a passion of tears."

"Let us go nearer," said Martha quietly. "It may be some of the twelve has come before us to see the body." And in her heart the echo still rang, "Thou shalt see the glory of God." and the questioning thought, "Suppose he should be risen!"

So they drew nearer. Martha hurried ahead, down the two or three low steps; stooping, she looked into the small, low room. A single glance, and she turned back with bounding step, her face alight.

"There are angels there!" she cried; then, as she saw a look of doubt cross the other faces, "Look for yourselves," she urged. "Verily, he is risen. I felt death could not hold him."

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The women trembled, stooped, peered into the gloom. The brightness at its farther end showed that the tomb was empty.

"It is a dream," breathed Mary of Bethany. "Ah, how the light dazzles my eyes!"

Then out of the bright cloud came a voice: "Ye sorrowing ones, why seek ye the living among the dead? Jesus of Nazareth truly was crucified; but he is not here, for he is risen, as he said."

Wondering, affrighted, the women listened. "Go, tell his disciples," the voice went on, musical as of heaven. "It is a vision," murmured Salome. "It cannot be. Grief has turned our brains. It is a dream."

"B:t see!" cried Martha, "see where his body lay! The place is empty! That is no deception, no fruit of a disordered mind. And

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A turn in the walk among the trees brought them in sight of , the tomb. Mary of Bethany peered beneath her hand, to see whether the sight of her eyes was true.

"The tomb is open," she cried. "Wolves of priests! they could not suffer him to be at peace in death." It was Mary Magdalene who raised an exceeding bitter cry. "Alas, my



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