

## EASTER THOUGHTS.

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GOD has taken care to fence round the death of Christ with evidences which no skeptic can gainsay. The cross was reared in the very midst of the ages, when men with sharpened intellects had begun to weigh evidence, and to guard against fraud; when the schools had fostered an inquisitive spirit, and when there was a general avarice for knowledge. There was history when Christ was crucified, and that history records the fact from the pens of writers who were unfriendly to Messiah's claims. Even men's evil passions were made to subserve the purposes of the Divine attestation. The imperious Roman and the jealous and cruel Jew were equally interested in the frustration of imposture, and they join with swarthy Cyrenian and cultured Greek in witness of the death of Jesus. The soldier who pierced Him bears testimony as important as if Providence, and not malignity had poised his spear; and the sepulchre hewn out of the rock, with its quiet clay and rich embalmments, with its imperial signet and its pomp of guards, authenticates, so that all the world may receive it, that Christ did actually die. The resurrection rests upon evidence equally, and if possible more convincing. Sophistry itself might well be silenced before the vast accumulation of testimony which crowds around the forsaken tomb. It is right therefore that we should comfort ourselves as we stand by the grave of Jesus—a grave now emptied of its tenant—with the expectation of the blessings which His death was undertaken to procure.

During the time of His incarnate life, His announcement of His coming fate, and of the purpose of expiation which it involved, fell often upon the ears of His disciples like a startling rain; and on several occasions, He taught them to anticipate His resurrection as the completion of His work, and which was to vindicate His character and approve Him to have come down from heaven. And we too, upon whom there has come fuller light from the descent of the Spirit and from the fulfilment of the interpreting years—we too may rejoice in this Easter-tide, even with exceeding joy. Jesus is risen!—then there has come