

Editor's Portfolio

(To the Editor of Earnest Christianity.)

THE CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION.

REV. SIR,—In your excellent article on "Eastertide," &c., in the March number of *EARNEST CHRISTIANITY*, you introduce a stanza from Whittier, which I think is calculated to mislead those who are not sufficiently conversant with the subject. It is the third and fourth lines of the verse referred to, to which I take exception. The lines read thus,—

"Well may the sheeted dead come forth
To gaze upon a suffering God!"

Now it is evidently the design of the author of the above lines to give the idea that "many of the saints which slept arose" *at the time of the crucifixion*. But what saith the Scriptures? (Read Matt. 27:52, 53.) "And the graves were opened; and many of the bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after His resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." Here it is plainly stated that it was "*after his* (Christ's) *resurrection*" that the saints appeared. I cannot, therefore, see upon what authority the assertion is based that it was at the time of the crucifixion, and that they "gazed upon a suffering God." It will be observed, upon a little reflection, that a very serious error is involved in such a supposition, inasmuch as it flatly contradicts the plain declaration of St. Paul, that Christ was the "first-fruits of them that slept." *Vide* that incomparable chapter on the Resurrection, 1 Cor. 15.

I should like the above to appear in your magazine, believing as I do that the erroneous notion above referred to is already entertained by many persons, and ought to be refuted instead of confirmed. I may just add that I was under the same delusion, supposing that it all transpired at the time of the crucifixion of our Saviour, until I was undeceived, some time ago, by a hint in a conversation with our beloved and highly intelligent pastor, the Rev. Samuel Fear.

Very sincerely yours,

JAMES LAWSON.

Battersea, March 6th, 1873.

IN MEMORIAM.

The following verses in memory of the late Edward Jackson, Esq., by two different contributors, have been sent to us by a correspondent with a request for their insertion in *EARNEST CHRISTIANITY*. Believing that the memory of one so deservedly beloved ought to be perpetuated, we gladly give the verses a place in the "Editor's Portfolio:"—

I.

A city set upon a hill,
It calm and spotless lies
Above the haunts of evil men,
Beneath autumnal skies.

But winter snows begin to fall,
And blow the frosty breath;
Behold the snow-clad city now—
How beautiful in death!

A candle in a candlestick,
Not hidden from the sight,
But placed where all within may see
The brilliance of its light!

But soon the flickering light grew dim—
A harbinger of day;
"The Sun of Righteousness arose"—
The last spark died away!

A soul that trusted in the Lord,
Though trials came apace,
And happiness, and worldly gains,
To try the power of Grace.

A heart that rested on the Lord—
That loved as he had learned—
The chastened, yearning love of God—
The lambent flame that burned!

A mind that grew into the light,
Communing with the Lord—
That read the healing words of love,
And trusted on His word.

A hand that opened to the poor—
That healed many a grief;
The widow and the fatherless
Have blessed its kind relief.

A man, that, weary with the weight
Of three-score years and ten,
Turned to receive his just reward,
And left the paths of men.