

founding her with the woman who had been a sinner, and who anointed Christ's feet in the house of Simon the Pharisee, but for this there is no ground except the heading of the seventh chapter of Luke in the Authorized Version.

THE OTHER MARY—Was the wife of Cleophas, a brother of Joseph, the reputed father

of Jesus, and the mother of James the Less and Joses. On the basis of John 19 : 25 she is held by some to have been a sister of Mary, the mother of Christ, and further, that both sisters being left widows, lived together. Two sisters, the one called Mary and the other Maria, are sometimes found in the same family among us.

APPLICATION

The first day of the week, v. 1. The Christian Sabbath is a fitting monument and proof of the best evidenced and most joyous

The Gladder Day event in the world's history, the resurrection of our blessed Lord. As it begins to dawn

toward that day, our thoughts should go back to that glad morning, when the bonds of the grave were broken, and death was vanquished. It is also a promise of the future, when the archangel's trump shall rend the tomb and the sea shall give up its dead, and "them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him," 1 Thess. 4 : 14. On the Lord's day we not only, like the Jews on their seventh day Sabbath, commemorate the rest after creation, but also joyfully celebrate our Saviour's return from the tomb. The Apostolic Church was guided by the Holy Spirit when it made the change.

Rolled back the stone from the door, v. 2. No obstacle is too formidable for God. Some have despairingly thought that this stone

Easy for God could never be rolled away, that from the grave there could be no return. But God has many resources which we cannot dream of, and we place our confidence in Him. These women knew that there was a stone at the grave and also a Roman guard, but they knew that there was a God above. The resurrection has some perplexing problems for man, but none for Omnipotence.

Fear not ye, v. 5. The other world had strange terrors for the pagan Roman guard. They naturally enough trembled at its

The Christian's Death disclosure. But for the believing women there was no cause of alarm. How often since have

Christians approached the grave with calm confidence, like Stephen declaring that he saw the heavens open, or like Samuel Ruther-

ford sighing for a well-tuned harp to sing his Redeemer's praise, or like Moody saying, "God is calling me."

He is risen, v. 6. The significance of this great announcement grows continually on the believing soul. It confirmed all Christ's claims, His divinity, His power to pardon, His position as Judge; all Christ's promises to hear our prayers, to give us peace, to send us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. It assures us that He whom we love no longer "sleeps in the lone Syrian town," but is with us always even unto the end of the world, as He said. The sun may be pouring its golden rays over a radiant and rejoicing world and yet be excluded by closed shutters from many a darkened room. Has Christ who arose so long ago and has been shining with increasing power upon mankind, arisen in our hearts and filled them with His glory?

As they went . . . Jesus met them, v. 9. If we too would meet our risen Lord, we must render Him the same immediate and implicit obedience. These women had

The Most Convincing Proof many convincing proofs that Christ was risen; there were the empty grave, the angel's announcement, His own prediction; but none of these equalled His own presence. After that there could be no shadow of a doubt. So have we many infallible proofs of the resurrection of Christ, this "best evidenced fact in history": the witnesses Paul cites (1 Cor. 15 : 5-8), the testimony of the Gospels, the belief of the Christian church, the Lord's Day, and many others; but none of them equal in value the soul's entering into the immediate presence of Christ through His Spirit. This happy experience is open to all, who, like the women in the Lesson, will obey Christ's commands.