

surrection. To begin with, they regard the story of the holy women who had visited the sepulchre as an idle tale. When Jesus Christ appeared to them and said, "Behold My Hands and My Feet, that it is I Myself; handle Me, and see; a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see Me have," they did not even then believe; it was not till He ate before them that they believed in the reality of His corporal presence. —*Abbé Freppel.*

THE ADOPTION OF SONS.

We often miss the great meaning of what God teaches in the Bible by taking texts alone, without looking at the whole passage of which they are a part. Most mistakes about truth come from this careless or wilful way of reading, and there is much loss of light and comfort and warning. S. Paul gives us some wonderful words in the 3rd chapter of the Epistle to the Galatians, at the 26th and 27th verses: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." These words are often quoted; but their right and full meaning is lost, unless their place in the apostle's argument is clearly seen. S. Paul is urging that a new state of things has come since Christ has lived and died, and gone up on high to be Head over all things to His Church. He points out that Christians are not under "the law," but under "the faith," for which "the law" prepared; and they have a new relationship to God through Christ, whose life is made one with theirs, and that living in the faith of Jesus Christ they re-

ceive grace to be well-pleasing to their divine Father.

The Revised version gives the words more as St. Paul wrote them: "For ye are all Sons of Christ, by faith, in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ." There is a comma before and after the words "by faith," so that we have the statement, "Ye are all Sons of God in Christ Jesus," meaning that the union with Him, which was not given to men in the time of "the law," but which is ours in the time of the Gospel, makes us the Sons of God. It is as members of Christ that we can call God Father.

The words which follow tell us how we were made one with Christ, and they tell of something that was done at a fixed time that we can look back upon. As many of us as were baptised into Christ, that is, made one with Him by the Spirit's work in God's Sacrament of Baptism, did put on Christ, that is, did put on His holy nature, which is the nature of God, and is able to change our whole being till it is like that of Christ.

Here is our great dignity under the Gospel. Our baptism was no mere outward form of admission into a society of people who hold certain truths and own certain claims of God upon them. It was an inward work by which God's Spirit, who can work in what ways and by what means He wills, joined us sons of men to the Only-begotten Son of God. "In Christ Jesus" we are all Sons of God. We have not, as if we were still under the law, to hope and try by anything we can think, or feel, or do, to become Sons of God. That high place has been