

Practical Papers.

EASTERTIDE; OR, THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

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VII.—THE RESURRECTION.

“In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.”—Matt. xxviii. 1-4.

“Jesus is risen! triumphant anthems sing!
Thus from the winter mounts the sprightly spring;
Thus does the sun from night's black shades return;
And thus the single bird wings from th' Arabian urn.
Jesus is risen! He shall the world restore!
Awake, ye dead! dull sinners, sleep no more!”—WESLEY.



NOTE of time is sounded by the Evangelists in regard to the first visit to the sepulchre on the morning of the resurrection. Matthew says: “In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.” Mark says it was “very early in the morning, . . . at the rising of the sun;” while John says it was “early, when it was yet dark.” Although there is a slight variation in regard to the precise hour at which Mary Magdalene came to the sepulchre, the Evangelists are all perfectly agreed in the statement, that when she came she found the stone rolled away and the Saviour gone. It is evident, therefore, that the earthquake, the coming forth of Jesus, and the flight of the soldiers, took place before the dawn of day, and before any of the women arrived at the sepulchre.

Our last visit to the tomb of Jesus was made when the jealous priests and Pharisees went on the Sabbath to seal the stone. Let us visit it again at this quiet midnight hour. We pass along the silent streets,—the same through which, but two days ago, a fierce multitude rushed and struggled, while in the midst a weak and uncomplaining sufferer bowed beneath the cruel burden of a cross,—and out through the gate on the road leading to Damascus. A short