

in the most beautiful of flower gardens we find the Satanic serpents wriggling, twisting, hissing, as the Roman guard was encamped about the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea from "black Friday" to Eastern morn. Oh, my friends, will you not strive to bring forth this risen Christ and let him make sin under the flash of his eye crouch and trample and die?

And, if it is important to let the risen Christ come forth to scatter sin out of the hearts of the human race, how much more important is it to let him come in touch with our own hearts and make us pure and true and good and noble and Christian! There is a beautiful legend told that many years ago a poor, blind pilgrim was journeying toward Jerusalem, the City of Peace. After he had been many days and weeks and months on his way he met another traveler going that way. This stranger said, "Friend, submit thyself to me, and I will guide thee to the City of Peace and give to thee whatsoever thou wilt ask." After the twain had journeyed on for some days more, at last the pilgrim, utterly wearied, turned and said, "Oh, good friend, thou who hast said that thou wilt do everything for me if I submit myself to thy will, open for me my blind eyes." The stranger said: "I will. 'Blind eyes, be ye opened!'" Instantly the blind man opened his eyes, and he saw that he had been walking along the edge of a precipice. And he saw that his guide was Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus, at this Eastertide we are pilgrims. We are journeying to the New Jerusalem, the City of Peace. We are journeying thither by the way of the garden, in the midst of which stands a rifled tomb. We are blinded by sin. We are lost, and we want a guide. Oh, thou Christ, who didst appear unto Mary Magdalene, come to our rescue! Open our blind eyes. Cry unto us as thou didst to the sinful woman of old: "Thy sins are forgiven thee. Go in peace." Grant us this prayer, O Jesus! And may thy angel who spoke to Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, speak to us in thy name the glorious message of our sins forever pardoned and forever past!