

first, came to Jesus by night and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury."

Now, what is the deduction of these two thoughts? Why, as Nicodemus, the rich man, gave the expensive spices with which to preserve Christ's body for the burial, and as Joseph of Arimathea, another rich man, gave Christ his sepulcher for the burial, therefore it means that all the rich men of the world and all the brains of the world shall yet stand by the empty tomb of Christ and declare him Lord of lords and King of kings. Oh, my friends, I am glad Christ's cradle was in a manger. That proves that Jesus came a Christ for the poor and the outcasts, the sorrowing and the afflicted. But I am also glad that Christ's dead body was wrapped in the spices of a Nicodemus and laid in the family vault of a Joseph. That symbolizes to me this other fact that some day all the mightiest men of earth shall yet acclaim him not only the risen Lord, but also their Redeemer and Friend. May that glorious day be not far distant! It is said that just over his study desk at Hawarden William E. Gladstone had these words framed and hung upon the wall: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee." So may all the great and honored men of this day find their perfect peace in a risen Lord, as Nicodemus and Joseph of olden times honored him at the sepulcher.

But as we approach a little nearer to the rifled sepulcher we find another startling fact. "The body of Christ is gone!" you say. Is that the startling fact? Oh, no. I expected to find the body gone. All historians have alluded to this one fact. I expected to find the body of Christ gone. Next I want to call your attention to the fact that the graveclothes were lying in the crypt, just as they were put there by Christ's friends when Jesus' body was laid away in the tomb. "How can these things be?" you ask. Then you realize that stones and doors and barred windows were no barriers for him. When Jesus arose on the first Easter morn