



The Widow and her Son.

One day Jesus went on foot towards Judea. It is called a city by the evangelist; but it was usual in those times to apply the term *city* to very small places. Jesus always travelled on foot. Do you ask why he did not ride? Because he had not the means of riding to call his own. He had no property. He had no horses and carriages. He had not where to lay his head. He was poor. Do you ask why he was poor? It was that we might be rich. Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor. No one of his followers should ever complain of being poor. No one should ever complain of being obliged to go on foot, while others ride in their carriages. If any one is disposed to complain, let him remember Jesus.

As Jesus drew near the village, he saw a great number of people coming slowly towards him. It was a funeral. They were bearing the body of a dead man upon a bier. He was a young man, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. She was a desolate and broken-hearted mourner. Jesus saw her weeping as she followed the remains of her son to the grave. He pitied her. He said unto her, "Weep not." He touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. He commanded the dead to arise; "and he that was dead sat up and began to speak." Jesus delivered him to his mother. How happy must

she have been. How thankful must she have felt.

A little boy was once reading this narrative, and he said he thought that this widow must have been a very good woman. What made him think so? He thought Christ would not have restored her son to life if she had not been a good woman. But I wish to know if Christ never pities any but good people. It would be a sad thing for all of us if this were the case. But it is not. Jesus pities sinners. The widow may have been a pious woman; but the fact that Jesus pitied her, and restored her son to life, does not prove that she was. It proves that Christ was very tender-hearted: and we ought to pity all those who are in suffering. Our pity ought to lead us to relieve them, so far as it is in our power. Some persons when they witness suffering, are only concerned to turn away from the sight of it. They do not try to relieve it. That is not what Christ did. He said unto the woman, "Weep not;"—and then he did something adapted to dry up her tears. He raised her son to life. We must express our love in deeds as well as words.

Christ has done more for a great many mothers, than he did for this widow. He has converted a great many mothers' sons. It is a greater blessing to deliver the soul from spiritual death, than to deliver the body from