

busy. She will not overdo the entertainment now, but she will not permit anything to be lacking. She is a woman with a genius and a passion for ministration. She will never lose that. And she knows that Jesus appreciates it. This world would be a far less comfortable world to live in were it not for the guild of Martha. But Mary, also, has a genius and a passion for ministration. Her specialty, as we have seen, is for the creation of "atmosphere." This was her contribution on the former occasion. And now again she creates an atmosphere and such an atmosphere as has filled the world with its fragrance. "Mary, therefore, took a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment."

We cannot think that either Martha or Lazarus would grudge the gift. They would view it with unqualified approval. Was it not a thank-offering for the reconstruction of the family circle that had been broken by the hand of Death? Lazarus would feel honoured by it more than if it had been poured upon himself. Martha's heart would leap with pride and gratitude to Mary for having conceived