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loved them. We know that he spent the greater part of his spare moments in their retired dwelling. It so happened, in the Providence of God, that their brother Lazarus fell sick, which terminated shortly after in his death. Jesus heard of the circumstance, and absented himself wisely, from the family, lest the lesson, it was His desire to teach them should be lost. The burial being over, He appeared, unexpectedly, at the house of the mourners to condole with them in this their bereavement; but their only cry was—"Lord! if *thou* hadst been here our brother had not died." There seemed not to be one ray of hope left? Not one gleam of sunshine, beyond what the last day should reveal. They remembered not the present Divine Power of Christ, but were occupied chiefly in thoughts of His human friendship; and looked forward, at the best, to the future resurrection day. Jesus addressed the sisters, and said—"Only *believe*, and thy brother shall rise again." They lacked faith, and it was to *increase* this that they were thus tried. The furnace was *needful* for them; without it they were in danger of perishing. Oh! the love and mercy of our Covenant God, in thus dealing with the children of men. We *think* we know what is best for us, but we make a great mistake; we should, if we had our choice, too frequently take *poison* instead of medicine to heal our sickness. The healer is fully acquainted with the diseases of our fallen nature, and knows how and when to apply the necessary remedies. Hence in the case of Mary and Martha, he waited for the suitable moment to arrive before attempting a cure. Faith was wanting; resignation was necessary; an unquestioning obedience was required, ere those living words could be spoken—"Lazarus, stand forth!" But as soon as these even in their elements, were recognized by the searcher of hearts, the wound was as quickly healed, as before it had been opened. The brother met once more with a sisters fond embrace, and all hearts were made happy!

Again: So great was the desire to see Jesus that large numbers followed Him out of the cities into desert places without having a thought of carrying bread for the sustenance of their bodies. On one such occasion, when the Master was surrounded by a flock of anxious listeners, and night-fall had well-nigh set in, the necessity of sending the company home suggested itself to the disciples, but the Good Shepherd who loved his sheep and cared for their *bodies* as well as their souls, ordered them to be seated and