

For the Quiet Hour

"Christ's Easter Message."

AND he said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day;

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

And ye are witnesses of these things.—St. Luke 24:46-48.

"Have You Decided?"

CHRISTIANITY is not some great overpowering emotion which sweeps into the heart with an irresistible power; it is a question calling for earnest consideration and calm decision on the part of each individual. Just as a man sits down and counts the cost of a house when he wishes to build, so he must decide whether or not he can afford to invest his life in the world and its passing pleasures, when there is offered to him a partnership with Jesus Christ, with inducement for future gain.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock," the Master says, and "if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Did you ever stop to think that the special responsibility of opening the heart-door is ours alone? We must make the decision. Outside He waits for admittance, knocking, pleading for a place within; but He will never force an entrance, nor come as an unwelcome, uninvited guest.

"Dirty Business."

GOSSIP is a dirty business and you cannot handle dirt without becoming more or less besmirched.

Gossip is a pestilence; gossip is a contagious fever that, like a chronic disease, eventually becomes incurable.

The news hunger of the gossip is seldom satisfied and, surprising as it is, cannot always be legitimately (if we may use the word) appeased; so that eventually the practice of extraordinary exaggeration becomes an obsession, and the gossip is himself harder hit than the



victim of his unwholesome interest.

Unhappiness, in many forms, befalls many people as the result of gossip; and there is this to remember: that the gossip is often a victim of his own mean practices, at the hands of other gossippers.

How abominable is the habit of gossip, and how destructive, since it works injuriously both ways, on the victim and on its dispenser.

Let us cultivate the habit of speaking well of our neighbors.

"We Plead Christ's Righteousness."

NO man ever lived who could truthfully come pleading his own worthiness as a reason why God should hear and answer his petition. But all men may come pleading the righteous life and the spilt blood of Him, who, while being the Son of God and the Creator of the universe, was yet the Son of man—who was born of a woman, was tempted as we are tempted, suffered as we suffer, and died for our sins on the cross, that we might have His righteousness imputed to us, and His life bestowed on us.

"Easter Song."

Snowdrops! lift your timid heads,
All the earth is waking;
Field and forest, brown and dead,
Into life are waking.
Snowdrops! rise and tell the story
How He rose, the Lord of glory.

Lilies! lilies! Easter calls!
Rise to meet the dawning
Of the blessed light that falls
Through the Easter morning;
Ring your bells and tell the story
How He rose, the Lord of glory.

Waken, sleeping butterflies!
Burst your narrow prison!
Spread your golden wings and rise,
For the Lord is risen;
Spread your wings and tell the story
How He rose, the Lord of glory.

"Forgiveness and Kindness."

FORGIVENESS, persisted in; kindness, persisted in, are like a habit. They become easier day by day.

"Blessings Passed on to Others."

AN aged minister died. It was found that he had tied up his written sermons and piled them neatly away. On the top he had written, "Where has the influence of all the sermons I have preached gone?" Below this question he had written the word "Over," and turning the cardboard they found the answer, somewhat in this form: "Where are the last year's sun rays? They have gone into the fruits and grains and vegetables to feed mankind. Where are last year's raindrops? Forgotten, of course, but they did their gracious and refreshing work, the influence of which abides. The Christian sermons once preached have gone into lives to make them better, nobler, more Christlike, and more fitted for heaven." We are happy that other lives besides those of pastors have their gracious influences living somewhere. If we but remembered this, how anxious we would be to extend our helpfulness.

For He is risen.