

NATURE STUDY

GOD'S (Greatest) GIFT
The Garden Tomb—Resurrection.
Mrs. Thos. S. Sharp

"Because I live, ye shall live also." Easter is the Festival of Life."
"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here." A young man sitting on the right side (evidently on the right side of the court) said unto them, doubtless pointing to the empty tomb, "Behold, the place where they laid Him!"
Mary "sees the stone taken out of the tomb." She turned back immediately, supposing the body had been stolen.
John "stooping from the side,— sees lying the linen cloths"—the same verb as used for Mary, just an ordinary sight, ordinary looking. He did not go into the real tomb, the sepulchre itself. He simply looked from the level.
Peter "went into the tomb and views the cloths lying"—a different verb, meaning "gazes," not a casual look, but a deliberate look, the look of one who is tak-

ing in the scene and something of its significance. Morgan says, "looked critically and carefully." Also, "the napkin, not lying with the linen cloths, but apart, rolled up and put in a separate wrapping. In those tombs the head was slightly elevated, the stone being cut in such a way as to make a kind of pillow for the head—the "napkin in a place by itself," not confused with the body clothes, but on the very spot where the head rested. It was also "wrapped" or rolled "together," the head being removed, it had collapsed, and was shrunken, not unfolded, no fastenings unloosed. The cloths "lying by themselves," so lying as to suggest the body. The body had vanished! The natural body merged into the spiritual.

Then John descended into the sepulchre where Peter was, and when he saw, he understood the meaning of it and believed. So the other disciples—then went in, and saw and believed." A Greek scholar has stated that this verb "tends to indicate a sight which is also intelligence." John was the first to believe that Jesus had risen! He sets forth the bas-

is of his own conviction—the presence and the arrangement of the grave clothes—in the first paragraph of his account, of the resurrection. "All the wisdom of the world is powerless to overthrow this argument."
There are three very important points in this story. The grave clothes testify that Jesus had died. Grave clothes without a body testify that Jesus had departed. But, grave clothes in the order in which they were "lying" show positively that no man took him away. Bishop Nicholson remarked: "What is the historical argument? First, that Jesus had really died and was buried, the Jews, the Romans, and the disciples were equally satisfied. Secondly, that on the third morning His body was missing from the tomb, all were agreed. Thirdly, that it was not taken away by His disciples, was evident to all in the impossibility of their breaking through and overpowering the guard." The disciples would not have taken off His grave clothes because of reverence. His foes would not have done so because of inconvenience and haste. No enemies would have re-arranged these in such a way as to suggest that He had risen—the very thing all wished to avoid! Men were hired to keep down that report!

The triumph in our risen Christ! "He is risen!" There is no other way to account for the fact.

"We are planted together with Him in death." (Rom. 6:5). "We shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection"—planted as the corn of wheat that is cast into the ground, to spring up,—the "redemption of our body." (Rom. 8: 23.)

Peter, in Acts 2:33, says: "He hath poured forth thus, which ye see and hear." The historical testimony was to be witnesses of the Resurrection (Acts 1:22). The Christian Church was born in faith in our Lord's Resurrection. (1 Cor. 15: 3-8; 9:1.)

De Wetle has said: "The fact of the resurrection can no more be brought into doubt by honest historical evidence than the assassination of Caesar," and Eder-sheine: "The resurrection of Christ may unresistingly be pronounced the best established fact in history."

Dr. Broadus, our beloved Southern Baptist minister, wrote: "If we do not know that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead, we do not know anything historical whatever."
Edmund Presense, an eminent French Protestant theologian, stated: "The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the church,

and if, in this foundation of its faith, the church has been mistaken, then she must needs lay herself by the side of the mortal remains not of a man, but of a religion."
From historical records in know that the sect called Christian came into existence during the reign of Tiberius Caesar, and that it was their belief that Jesus had risen from the dead that caused the beginning of the Christian faith. The "records" (the N. T.) were because of their faith and of what they had witnessed. Had there been no resurrection, there would have been no New Testament and no church. If every detail had not fulfilled all prophecy our Lord's claims to Messiahship would fall—there would be no gospel (good tidings) to preach to guilty sinners. Can you not see the Guiding Hand of God at the Supper, at the Seizure, at the Trial, at the Cross, at the Tomb?
It was fitting that the Supreme Sacrifice of the Ages should have been made at this time. At sunset on Nisan 15th, about the time that Joseph and Nicodemus departed from the tomb, according to Lev. 23. A great crowd followed members of the Sanhedrin for this was the day when the barley sheaf of first-fruits was to be waved before Jehovah by the High Priest. They went through the east gate of the city across the Kidron to a barley field on Mount Ollivet. There, three men would "reap" the barley which some representative of the Sanhedrin had already tied together. Just enough to make three pecks and three pints of grain, was reaped. They would then thresh the grain—the "first-fruits" of the field! The next day the High Priest would wave these "first-fruits" before the Lord as a pledge of all the harvest that was to come. "Christ, the first-fruit, afterwards they that are Christ's at His coming. This is the pledge of the resurrection of all those who believe on Him." (The resurrection occurred on Nisan 17th, the anniversary of the resting of the Ark on Ararat—the 7th month then, later called the "mouth.")
"Up from the grave He arose With a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose a victor from the dar' domain And He lives forever with His saints to reign."
"He is risen! "The Lord is risen indeed!" (Copyrighted 1946 for the Black Mountain News)

More Wheat For Europe
President Truman's request for an additional 25 per cent reduction in the amount of wheat used for domestic purposes by Americans means that, whether rationing is reinstated by the government or not, we are in for a period of food shortages that will be worse than any we experienced during the war.
With meat, butter, margarine, salad oils, and soap almost entirely absent in the stores, we are already being more severely rationed than we were when the Germans and Japs were still fighting and every item that the home folks could do without was being sent overseas.
When we take a 25 per cent cut out of our present wheat supply we shall have a scarcity of bread, which was one food article that was always plentiful when it was hard to get anything else.
One cold, hard fact that the American people have been unwilling to face is that the world is starving.
When we sit down daily to three good meals that provide us with 3,500 calories and make us the best fed people in the world, we try to shut our minds to the unpleasant memory that at the same moment literally millions of people in other nations are fighting like animals for scraps of food.
An eyewitness description by an army sergeant as quoted by Representative Claire Booth Luce in the House might help us to realize what some of our fellow-men are suffering:
"I personally," says this sergeant, "saw little children and, yes, even grown men and women, hanging around our mess halls to beg what was left over in our mess kits."
"We didn't have much to eat ourselves, but they had nothing."
"They would wait outside near the garbage cans holding tin cans in their hands. When a fellow came out with a few scraps left in his mess kit, they would mob and mill around him like a pack of hungry wolves waiting for the kill."
"They would actually fight over who was to get the scraps. I have seen men beat up women and little children in a fight over who was going to get a piece of bread left over in a GI's mess kit."
"Many is the time I have seen people dig into garbage cans in hope of finding something edible."
We Americans find it impossible even to imagine such conditions. We read that people in

China are eating grass and clay, but that is far from our well-stocked refrigerators, and we groan because we can't get a sirloin steak or have butter, which has not been seen in Europe for years. Many a German child eight years old has never tasted butter.
But President Truman is not asking us to send sirloin steaks and butter to these starving people. He asks only for plain bread—just enough to sustain life.
It has been estimated that almost enough waste is found in American garbage cans to provide what the President asks us to contribute to keep these people above the level of starvation.—Editorial from the Charlotte Observer.

McDowell Child Injured When Struck By Auto

Charles Holmes, eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Holmes, is a patient in the Marion General Hospital as a result of head injuries which Chief of Police Ossie Sutton said he was informed occurred when the boy was struck by a car driven by Ogle Stevens. Chief Sutton said the accident occurred about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, near Hemphill's store and Broyhill Furniture company and that investigation indicated it was "unavoidable."

Naturalists say cheetahs, which resemble leopards, have been noted traveling 70 miles an hour.

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