

# THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWS STORY.

The International Sunday School Lesson for April 16 is an Easter Lesson.—John 20: 19-31.

By William T. Ellis.

A woman once told the most sensational and important news in the world. Had modern newspapers existed at the time, and had the editors been alert to their task, every daily would have run the story in display type on the first page as the surpassing news of the day. Most of the members of the news staff would have been assigned to cover it. All the antecedent facts would have been dug up. The woman herself would have been overwhelmed with interviewers. Her personal responsibility would have been investigated. The city's greatest authorities upon the general theme of her story would have been called upon for signed statements of their views. A diagram of the place of the story would have been printed. The editorial writers would have made the news the theme of

their leader for days in succession. In a word, the earthshaking story of this one woman, subsequently corroborated by many other witnesses, was at the time more important, and has continued to be so, than the report of any battle or political overturn or fate of king or emperor, or of any discovery or adventure. When Mary of Magdala announced, "I have seen the Master!" she set her own day and the centuries by the ears. Hers it was to give the first clear testimony to the bodily resurrection from the dead, the fact of supreme importance to all people everywhere. As a reward for woman's being "last at the cross, and first at the tomb," it was given to her to be the bearer of the tidings that changes everybody's attitude toward existence and conduct.

Behaviour is controlled by belief; the truth of the resurrection is the greatest single factor in shaping Christian character.

### The Real Meaning of Easter.

What that one woman said at the first Easter underlies everything that is worth saying about the Easter which the world celebrates in this year of our Lord, 1922. All the talk about new millinery and new clothes and holiday-making is but faintly symbolic of the newness wrapped up in the message of Mary.

For Easter really means that the dead live again; that the grave is not our goal; that man is born for two worlds; that the power of death, and of all the sin it symbolizes, is broken; and that our immortal spirits, which are our true selves, are meant by God to be victorious over all the defeats and limitations of the flesh. It is the greatest of crowns that is thus placed upon the human brow by the news of the resurrection of Jesus; who pledged His own life as a token that His friends should live as He lives.

Despite all that the ancients believed about the possibility of a continued existence after death; and despite the poets' "intimations of immortality"; and despite all the beautiful Eastern symbolism of nature, the simple fact remains that our one real warrant for a belief in a resurrection is the word of Mary of Magdala and her fellow-witnesses of the risen Jesus. "Natural religion" does not give us the hope of the resurrection of our dear dead and of ourselves: only the revelation of the New Testament does so. Easter beauty and Easter music simply re-echo the Book's triumphant cry, "He is risen. The Lord is risen indeed!"

### Elbowing Out a King.

In the ordinary course of International Lessons in Old Testament history which we have been following the reforms and rebuilding by good King Josiah. But the Lesson Committee, recognizing the paramount importance of the Resurrection Story, provide this Easter Lesson as optional. Judah's King Josiah is of small consequence alongside of the King of Life. The portion of the evidence assigned for special study is as follows: I quote from the Weymouth translation; for the sake of its freshness:—

"On that same first day of the week, when it was evening and, for fear of the Jews, the doors of the house where the disciples were, were locked, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said unto them, 'Peace be to you!'"

"Having said this He showed them His hands and also His side; and the disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Master. A second time, therefore, He said unto them, 'Peace be to you! As the Father sent Me, I also now send you.'" "Having said this, He breathed upon them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you remit the sins of any persons, they remain remitted unto them. If you bind fast the sins of any, they remain bound.'" "Thomas, one of the twelve—sur-

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ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

Who is recovering from illness at Atlantic City, with his daughter, Mrs. Gilbert Grosvenor, of Washington.

named "The Twin"—was not among them when Jesus came. So the rest of the disciples told him.

"We have seen the Master!"

"His reply was:

"Unless I see in His hands the wound made by the nails and put my finger into the wound, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe it."

"A week later the disciples were again the house, and Thomas was with them, when Jesus came—though the doors were locked—and stood in their midst, and said:

"Peace be to you."

"Then He said to Thomas.

"Bring your finger here and feel my hands; bring your hand and put it into my side; and do not be ready to disbelieve, but to believe."

"My Lord and my God!" replied Thomas.

"Because you have seen me," replied Jesus, "you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

"There were also a great number of other signs which Jesus performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are recorded in order that you may believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and that, through believing, you may have Life through His name."

"Believe Your Beliefs: Doubt Your Doubts."

Months ago I heard a clergyman preach a "liberal" and, as he thought, a "scholarly" sermon on the resurrection, wherein he denied categorically that Jesus had really risen from the dead. He had been reading rationalistic theories upon the subject; and the most inexcusable of his glaring mistakes was that he had failed to read what the New Testament clearly says upon the resurrection. This was a neglect of the evidence in the case of which no good lawyer or journal-

But can I boast, 'I see?'"

Perhaps there walks a spirit

Close by who glistens me,—

"A spirit who hears me tapping

The five-sensed cane of mind

Amid such unguessed glories—

That I am worse than blind."

This present Eastertide finds the world agog over the wonder of the radiophone. Learned and ignorant, rich and poor, the great and the commonplace, are enthralled by the mystery and by the possibilities of wireless. Factories are unable to supply the demand for radio outfits. Day and night the upper ether is filled with song and story and sermon and speech and music and news, which the currents above the earth carry to limitless regions. This thousand miles from shore hearing morning's paper told of a ship told a programme broadcasted from Newark, N. J. What a jolt for the materialists who will believe only what they can see and understand! A writer in the World's Work suggests that the voices spoken into space through the radiophone are carried out on the limitless sea of ether-waves into endless ages of time: so that they may almost be called eternal.

All this seems beyond the natural order. It is like the opening of a peep-hole into God's unrevealed world, which 'eye hath not seen, nor ear heard.' Intimations of the spiritual possibilities involved make it easy for even an unimaginative person to conceive the powers of the free life beyond the grave which God has prepared for those who love Him.

There is a spiritual body, and reaping hook.

there is a natural body," said the Apostle. Are we yet to learn anew that one is as real as the other? For answer, we turn back to the sublime story which Mary shouted to her friends, that Jesus, once dead, was alive again. All the glorious possibilities of the resurrection life are dependent upon the resurrection fact. Immortality is the greatest reason for mortality. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above."

### MAJ.-GEN. WILSON ILL

Medical Adviser in Attendance at Atlantic City.

Atlantic City, N. J., April 12.—General E. W. Wilson, of Montreal, is critically ill at the Marlborough-Blenheim. General Wilson came to Atlantic City on March 28th to recuperate from an intestinal operation. Ten days ago complications set in. Dr. F. S. Patch, of Montreal, was summoned five days ago and has been in constant attendance. General Wilson is in his sixties, and on account of his weakened condition considerable anxiety is felt for him.

### Solomon Up-to-Date.

A case came before a Police Court involving the ownership of an eight-day clock.

After listening to both sides, the magistrate turned to the prosecutor, "You get the clock," he said gravely.

"And what do I get?" asked the guilty thief.

"You get the eight days," replied the "beak."

A bad reaper never got a good

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