

“THE OLD, OLD STORY.”

Behold two journeying by the way;
 Dismayed with grief they go;
The singing birds, the lambs at play,
The gladness of an April day
 Might not assuage their woe.

They speak together and are sad;
 Now this one, and now, that
Recalls a look, recounts a word—
Some saying of the Master’s, heard
 Whilst in their midst He sat.

A third wayfarer joins the two;
 Inquires their cause of woe:
His kind accost moves them to tell
What dreadful death their Lord befell,
 Now, just three days ago.—

“But we believed it had been He
 The kingdom should restore;
A prophet, great in word and deed,
With grace for every suppliant’s need—
 Flesh sick or spirit sore!

“Now, certain women of our band
 Went early to the grave
On this third morn; the place was bare,
And spake an angel watching there—
 ‘He’s risen Whom ye crave!’”

As father kind, this wayside Friend
 Now for their good did chide;
“O fools, and slow of heart,’ He said,
Must not the Christ have suffered,
 Must at men’s hands have died?”

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Then all the Scriptures opened He
 To their amazed gaze;
Perchance they saw the bruised Seed,
Isaiah’s Lamb, that Sufferer’s meed,—
 God’s slow-fulfilling ways.

And all they heard, they understood;
New gladness filled their breast;
And when the Stranger turned away,
“Night is at hand,” they eager pray,
 Abide with us and rest!”

Arrived within, they sit at meat;
 Now, wonder holds the two;
The Stranger takes the Master’s place,
He breaks the bread and speaks the grace—
 At last, their Lord they knew!

Instant He vanished from their sight:
 Dazed, each to other turned;
“Surely we knew it was the Lord!
Mark’dst how at every mighty word
 Our hearts within us burned?”

With haste they go to tell the rest,
 They, too, had seen the Lord!
Still, when two friends together walk,
Jesus, their theme, doth join the talk,
 And shew them all His Word.

CHARLOTTE M. MASON.