

**AUXILIUM
INFIRMORUM**

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Auxilium infirmorum by R. Eaton

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INFIRMORUM**

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

THESE papers were for the most part written some years ago, to help one who at length crowned a painful illness of eight years' duration by a death precious in the sight of God. They are now published in her memory, and at her request, for she wished that what had proved of use to her, might help others also. They make no attempt at system or completeness, and merely seek to illustrate some of the phases and trials of the times of sickness, and to encourage those who suffer and mourn to make all things work together for good, exercising in fullest measure the difficult apostleship of pain entrusted to them by our Lord.

R. E.

THE ORATORY,
BIRMINGHAM,

Feast of All Saints, 1908.

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Auxilium Infirmorum

I

At Break of Day

WHEN the long night-watch of the first Holy Saturday drew to its close, the holy women, laden with sweet and carefully prepared spices, started out to embalm the body of our Divine Lord. It was a work of love for which there had been no time in the darkness of Good Friday night, but now that the great Sabbath day is over, they go with joy to fulfil their task. On the way to the holy sepulchre an obstacle, apparently insuperable to the performance of what they so ardently desired, came to their minds. "Who shall roll us back the

stone from the mouth of the tomb?" they ask, for they cannot roll it back themselves, as it is very great. Generous souls! they had not reckoned with their difficulties, nor summoned others to help them! Yet, looking, they saw the stone rolled back in the light of the sun now risen, and emblems of victory around on every side, and angels from heaven to speak words of comfort to them.

This is among the loveliest and greatest of the Gospel scenes; is there any light from it for the sick and desolate at break of day? Let us see.

The break of day is a time of mingled joy and sorrow to the sick; of joy that the long, still night is over, of sorrow or anxiety because another day of pain and weariness has perchance to be faced. "I am glad the night is over," you say, "but how shall I get through to-day?" Yet you are quite ready to work for our Lord; if He calls you to it, you will not refuse. Set forth, then, on your journey, now that the sun has risen, laden with the spices

of your pains both of mind and body, made sweet by your good-will and generosity, to anoint the Body of the Lord Jesus—yes, to anoint the Church, which is His Body, to enrich her and heal her wounds, by bringing many a blessing on her children.

Make this morning-offering to our Lord with all the joy and generous love of the holy women; be not affrighted by the great stone of your weakness, which seems to prevent your doing anything for our Lord. That shall surely be rolled away in due time by His strong hand, for He chooses weakness to confound the strong and to put down the mighty from their seat. How grand a beginning you have thus made to your day!

To-day shall indeed be an Easter Day of victory for you, and all around shall be seen the emblems of your victory over nature, over self, over sin, over difficulty. It shall be a day full of faith and hope in God, full of trust that out of darkness He brings light, out of weakness strength, out