

**CHRIST AMONG  
THE  
CATTLE: A SERMON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649338030

Christ Among the Cattle: A Sermon by Frederic Rowland Marvin

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Cover @ 2017

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**FREDERIC ROWLAND MARVIN**

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CHRIST AMONG THE CATTLE



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# Christ Among the Cattle

A SERMON

PREACHED IN

The First Congregational Church

PORTLAND, OREGON

BY

FREDERIC ROWLAND MARVIN

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FIFTH EDITION

REVISED AND CORRECTED

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PAPRAETS BOOK COMPANY

TROY, NEW YORK

1908

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
P 205833  
ASTOR - LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS  
1909

**H**E sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.—*Psalm CIV. 10-12.*

**B**EHOLD the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.—*Matthew VI. 26.*

Among the noblest in the land,  
Though he may count himself the least,  
That man I honor and revere  
Who without favor, without feat,  
In the great city dares to stand  
The friend of every friendless beast.

—LONGFELLOW.





## CHRIST AMONG THE CATTLE

**I**T is a significant fact that our Saviour was cradled in a manger, and that Mary, crowded out from the inn or caravansary, found shelter with the beasts of burden and cattle of the field, and brought forth the Prince of Peace in a common stable. It was literally true, as we sing at Christmas-time—

*“Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.”*

Nothing in our Saviour's life is without its lesson of divine wisdom, and we may study the circumstances of His birth, sure of finding at every point ample reward for our industry.

I call attention to “Christ among the Cattle.” Why was our Savior cradled

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in a manger? Why was He, whose advent had been the exalted theme of prophet and psalmist, denied the honor so readily accorded children of a royal line? Excellent reasons have been advanced, and yet one of great importance seems to have been overlooked. Was not our Saviour's advent associated with beasts of the stall to teach us lessons of respect for and kindness toward the animal world?

The dictates of the human heart and of religion are agreed that kindness to animals is a sacred duty, and that we ought

"Never to mix our pleasure or our pride  
With sorrow of the meanest thing that feels."

We read in Scripture, "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." The angel of the Lord rebuked the