

**EMBLEMS  
FROM EDEN**

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Emblems from Eden by James Hamilton

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**JAMES HAMILTON**

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# EMBLEMS FROM EDEN.

BY

JAMES HAMILTON, D.D., F.L.S.

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NEW YORK:  
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No. 285 BROADWAY.

1858.

(RECAP)

A FEW of the following Illustrations have already appeared in a more fugitive form; and, now that they are gathered together, they are submitted to the indulgent perusal of those who find pleasure in the symbolical teaching of Scripture, and to whom Nature herself is more dear since they found a key to her language in the Lively Oracles.

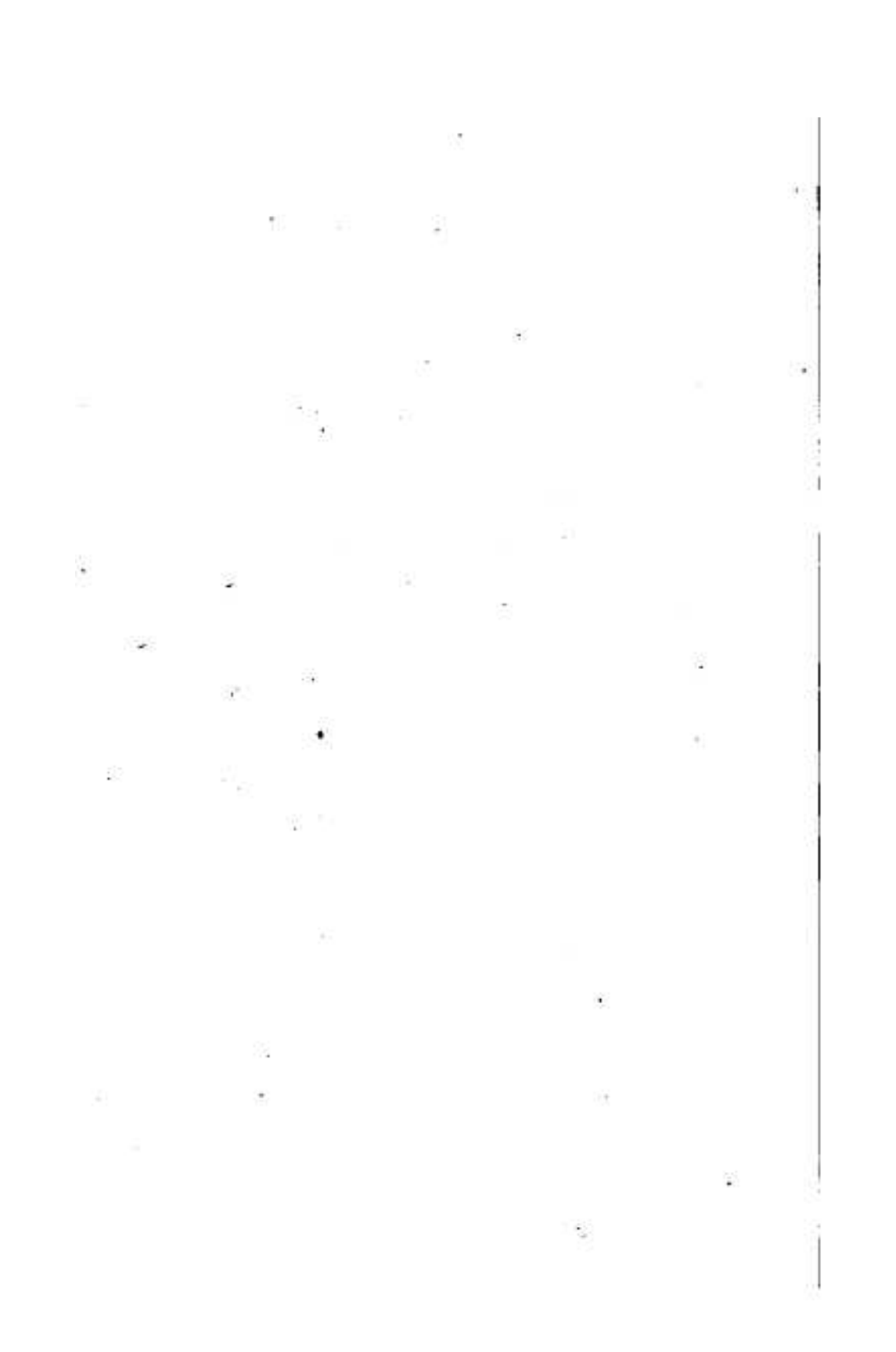
*December 22, 1855.*

## CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
THE TREE OF LIFE . . . . .	1
THE VINE . . . . .	33
THE CEDAR . . . . .	66
THE PALM . . . . .	94
THE GARDEN INCLOSED . . . . .	118
HARVEST HOME . . . . .	134
THE AMARANTH: OR, IMMORTALITY . . . . .	146





## THE TREE OF LIFE.

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WAKING up to conscious existence in the midst of a garden, it would seem as if man had not entirely forgotten the wonderful vision on which his eyes then opened. At least, there is no passion more general than the admiration of beautiful flowers. They kindle the rapture of infancy, and it is touching to see how over the first king-cups or daisies its tiny hand closes more eagerly than hereafter it will grasp silver coins or golden. The solitary blossom lights a lamp of quiet gladness in the poor man's chamber, and in the palace of the prince the marble of Canova and the canvas of Raffaele are dimmed by the lordly exotic with its calyx of flame or its petals of snow. With these companions of our departed innocence we plait the bridal wreath, and, scattered on

the coffin, or planted on the grave, there seems a hope of resurrection in their smile, a sympathy in their gentle decay. And whilst to the dullest gaze they speak a lively oracle, in their empyrean bloom and unearthly fragrance the pensive fancy recognises some mysterious memory, and asks,—

“Have we been all at fault? Are we the sons  
Of pilgrim sires who left their lovelier land?  
And do we call inhospitable climes  
By names they brought from home?”

But in the midst of that primeval Garden the eye was arrested by two objects, of which the counterpart cannot now be found in the field or the forest. One of these was “the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil,”—regarding which God said, “Thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” The other was “the Tree of Life,” which possessed a supernatural virtue. To eat of it was to live for ever. Its fruit was the antidote of death and the means of sustaining man in his original immortality.

The Tree of Knowledge was a test of obe-

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