

**WHEN HE  
DWELT WITH US**

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When He Dwelt with Us by Margaret B. Downing

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**MARGARET B. DOWNING**

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DWELT WITH US**





THE MEMORY OF A TALE WHISPERED BY THE ANGELS

WHEN HE DWELT  
WITH US

MARGARET B. DOWNING



RICHARD G. BADGER

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## PREFACE

This little book attempts to add nothing to the vast literature pertaining to the Natural History of the Bible. It merely sketches, and in faint outline, the fields of Judea as they looked in the days of Christ's Ministry. Modern scientific investigation has definitely identified nearly all the trees and flowers used so eloquently by the Divine Teacher, by the Prophets, the Psalmist and the Evangelists to show forth the glory of heaven and of earth. Of the growing things which were among the instruments of the Sacred Passion, we may to-day look upon their modern descendants with assured knowledge. In many instances we may raise them in our gardens. Little plots of verdure with *salix Babylonica*, weeping willow, the rue, the lily of the field which is the modern *candidum*, the rose, the



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flowering almond, the mallow will delight all lovers of nature and present the Gentle Redeemer in the most appealing of human aspects.

Of the tree from which the Cross was fashioned there are many traditions. One of the most beautiful tells of our earthly mother Eve looking back with tear-dimmed eyes as she passes from Paradise, at the Tree of Life gloriously fruitful in the centre of the Garden. The Angel mercifully read her longing and plucking a golden apple he bade her not to eat but to save the seed and plant a tree from which would come the universal deliverance. This tree

. . . "whose mortal taste  
Brought death into the world and all our  
woe"

survived the deluge and was growing near Jerusalem when the day of Calvary approached. It is a pretty tale, worthy of the ages of faith, when it was piously accepted. But microscopic examination of the frag-

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ments of the Cross scattered throughout the world in the form of relics, proves that it was made from a pine-tree. This tree alone of all known species grows in every clime where any variety of plant life is found. It is the universal tree and therefore the symbol of universal redemption. The pine was always less valued than the oak, the cypress, the lordly cedar, and therefore was used in ancient times as it is often now for gibbets and instruments of ignomy and torture.

May this little book, brief and inadequate though it may be, fill a tiny place in the stupendous literature of the Bible in awakening a love and desire to read the unwritten story of our Saviour's life, a story still to be traced in the fields and forests of Palestine.

MARGARET B. DOWNING.

