

WINTER BERRIES. BIBLE PROMPTINGS

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Winter Berries. Bible Promptings by William O. Rogers

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WILLIAM O. ROGERS

**WINTER BERRIES.
BIBLE PROMPTINGS**

Winter Berries

Bible Promptings

By
William O. Rogers

To My Children
and
To Sacred Memories

F O R E W O R D

The verse of this little book has been written under the limitations of old age. The work of a layman, the verse is not exegetical and may often fail to express the full and approved meaning of the respective Bible text, but I am not without the hope that something may somewhere be found in the book not altogether inappropriate to the sacred theme and not entirely out of sympathy with the thought of those who know and love the Word.

In these "piping times" old age is not at a premium in the market-place, but it is not without its private resources. It is not necessarily as a Valley of Dry Bones, nor is it always desolated by the storms of winter. In our temperate zone, genial Nature asserts itself in the patches of green that line our highways or define our hedges and garden walks, despite blizzards and snow-drifts. All seasons of the year enter in the light and shadows of a winter day. So, also, the winter of life has its inheritances. Loves and friendships mingle with the evening twilight. The promise of spring, the fulness of summer and the ripeness of autumn are mingled in the glow of the Christmas fire and respond to the gladness of the Christmas greeting.

W. O. R.

Madison, New Jersey, Dec., 1911.

T H E B I B L E

O Book of Books that ne'er grows old,
 Though centuries o'er thee roll,
That tells the tale none else hath told,
 The one immortal scroll.

Naught strikes the keynotes of our life
 That does not sound in thee:
No trumpet calls to moral strife,
 But sounds thy victory.

The hidden springs of secret thought,
 The source of emprise high,
Are stirred by message thou hast brought,
 The fountain ne'er runs dry.

It breaks the prison bars of sin,
 And bids the captives free,
It sounds above the strife and din,
 The world's great jubilee.

Part First

Old Testament

THE BOND OF EARTH AND SKY

While the Earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.—Genesis, viii:22.

Earth in the beauty of her primal morn,
Has heard the mandate of her King,
And swift the message by his heralds borne,
O'er land and sea, with tireless wing.

They bade the clouds release their hoarded gain,
To swell the cisterns of the hill,
While in the valley waved the golden grain,
And songs of praise the temples fill.

The trees heard—stalwart oak and stately pine—
That guard the treasures of the brook.
“Trees of the Lord,” that shelter man and kine,
The peaceful glade, the dreamy nook.

Sun and Moon heard and wooed the sea with tide,
That sway the world in ebb and flow,
As waves of human thought the masses guide,
When changing seasons come and go.

Man heard and sprang to his allotted toil,
And built his storehouse strong and high,
Assured of day and night and harvest soil,
As marriage bond of Earth and Sky.