



The accursed Fig-tree.

J.-J. T.

too, the fig-trees make patches of shade in the fields of wheat and barley, and even on the mountain tops they occur amongst the olives, to bear witness to the ownership of man and to the wealth of cultivation throughout the entire country. Travellers recognize three varieties of the fig-tree in Judaea, and these three are also referred to in the Talmud. First, there are the black or white figs, which are ripe in the month of June; then, the summer figs, which ripen in August, and it was doubtless beneath a tree of this second kind, during the time of vintage, that Jesus first saw Nathanael, when one look from Him changed his very soul. Lastly, there are the long-shaped violet figs which remain on the trees all the winter and are not gathered till the spring. Most of these trees, if they are sheltered from the wind, retain their foliage throughout the bad season unless the winter should be unusually severe, and the fig-tree of Egypt, thanks to the exceptional climate of the Delta, and the constant humidity of the soil, sometimes yields seven crops in one year.

