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### TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE "Legends of St. Joseph," here given to the public, have been gathered by the reverend compiler from many sources. They all partake, more or less, of the legendary character, in so far as the manner of relating goes, although several are strictly and historically true, and taken from the archives of cities or religious houses. Some, like "The Rod in Blossom," "The Shepherds of Bethlehem," "The First Christmas Night," and a few others, are in strict conformity with the Scriptural narrative; while others are more or less embellished by the pious fancies of the faithful,—filling up, as it were, in process of time, the somewhat meagre details of gospel and ecclesiastical history. Some, again, are well authenticated facts of quite recent occurrence.

I have endeavored, as far as possible, to preserve throughout the simple phraseology of

Congress, in the year 1872,  
LIER & CO.,  
of Congress, at Washington.

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