

CHAPTER III

CHRIST AT THE JORDAN

FOR thirty years Jesus remained in obscurity. Through all that ardent period of youth and early manhood, when we dream of conquests and of crowns, He plied his humble trade in little Nazareth. Aside from the world's thronged highways, away from teeming towns, withdrawn from the political ferment of the time, free from the wrangling of the schools, He lived the sweet and simple life of a poor working-man. But during all this time "the Plant of Renown" was coming to maturity. Jesus took "leisure to grow wise and shelter to grow strong." He would not give the world the green fruit from His boughs. He let the clusters grow to their full size and ripen in the sunlight. By communing deep with God, with nature, with the sacred Scriptures, and with His own soul,