

in the case of Herod, who "was eaten up of worms," he was put into a bath of olive oil.

*Onycha* has been supposed by some to have been the gum of a tree. It is now, however, generally believed that it was the shell of a species of mussel, found on the shores of the Red Sea, which, when burnt, emits a smell not unlike that of musk.

*Palm*.—Although this tree was so well known by the Jews, and its products are so numerous, excepting its syrup called honey, there is no clear allusion to any of them in the Bible.

The word *Pomegranate* is derived from "*pomum granatum*," "grained apple." The beauty of its flowers has furnished Solomon with several allusions. The estimation in which it was held by the Israelites may be inferred from its being specified as one of the luxuries they enjoyed in Egypt. It was one of three kinds of fruit brought by the spies from Eschol.

*Ricinus*, the castor-oil plant, was known in very early times. Some of its seeds have been found in Egyptian sarcophagi supposed to have been 4,000 years old. This is the plant which, in the book of Jonah, our translators have rendered *gourd*, and which we are told "was prepared by the Lord to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head."

*Sponge* is only mentioned in the New Testament—in connection with the crucifixion. The commercial value of it was known, however, from the earliest times.

The word *Stacte* signifies an odorous distillation from some plant. It was probably the gum of the storax-tree.

*Vermilion* is mentioned twice in the Old Testament. The original word means simply "redness," and may refer to any kind of red paint. Cinnabar, however, has been found in the colouring-matter of the old Egyptian tombs.

*Vinegar* is mentioned by Moses 1,490 years B.C. By this term is sometimes meant the common sour wine of the country,—the ordinary beverage of the people; at others it indicates a liquid made from grapes, which had undergone the acetous fermentation.

*Wax*.—Honey having been so abundant in Judea, we naturally concluded that wax also would be known. There are a few allusions to it in the Old Testament showing its properties to have been well understood. The Psalmist speaks of his heart as being "melted like wax."