



Mount of the Holy Cross—Colorado (1873). Tinted photograph by William Henry Jackson.

## The Cross of Snow

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In the long, sleepless watches of the night,  
A gentle face—the face of one long dead—  
Looks at me from the wall, where round its head  
The night lamp casts a halo of pale light.  
5 Here in this room she died; and soul more white  
Never through martyrdom of fire was led  
To its repose; nor can in books be read  
The legend of a life more *benedight*.<sup>8</sup>  
10 There is a mountain in the distant West  
That, sun-defying, in its deep ravines  
Displays a cross of snow upon its side.  
Such is the cross I wear upon my breast  
These eighteen years, through all the changing scenes  
And seasons, changeless since the day she died.

<sup>8</sup>. *benedight* (ben'ə-dīt') *adj.*: archaic for "blessed."