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Lines Written After Meditation On The Traditional Contention That Christ Never Smiled

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LINES WRITTEN AFTER MEDITATION
ON THE TRADITIONAL CONTENTION
THAT CHRIST NEVER SMILED

When Zachaeus
from his dais
in the tree
stumbled
and
tumbled
down
to
the
ground
in a heap
at Christ's hailing
with excitement paling,
don't you think
the Master smiled, beguiled?

and when Peter
thought it meeter
not to trust
his feet
upon the sea,
began to doubt
he'd hold out,
felt hope grow dimmer
(and he no swimmer)
so that his knees
began to buckle,
could the Master
stop a chuckle?

CLARENCE AMANN