

THE KING'S MESSENGERS

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The King's Messengers by W. Adams

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W. ADAMS

**THE KING'S
MESSENGERS**



THE
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BY THE
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"THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS"

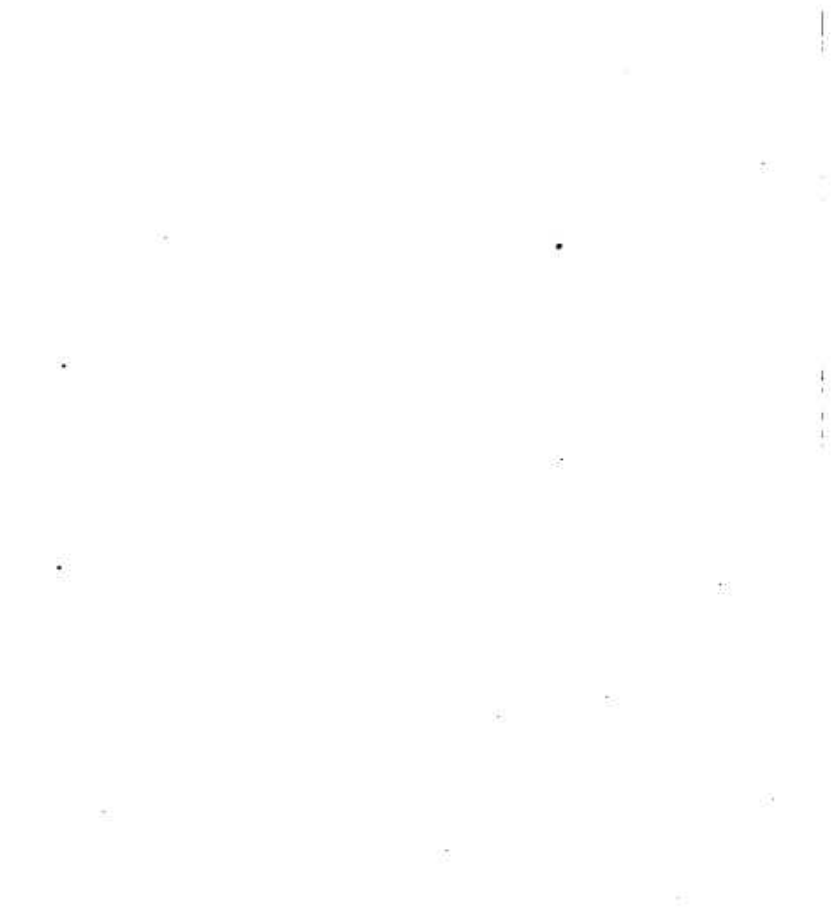
Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.—MATT. vi. 20

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THE following tale differs, in some respects, both in design and character, from the preceding Allegories by the same author. It is not intended to give a general view of our state as Christians, but merely to bring forward, prominently and distinctly, a single Christian duty. In consequence of this, it involves very little of doctrinal teaching, while the allegorical meaning lies so completely on the surface, that the youngest child cannot fail to apprehend it. For both these reasons, any *explanatory* conversations have been considered unnecessary. But a conversation of a different character has been annexed, in order to obviate the misconception to which the dwelling on any one duty to the exclusion of others is always liable, and, at the same time, to apply and illustrate the truths conveyed in the story.

Восприял,
Dec. 16, 1847.

INTRODUCTION

"HAS any one called during my absence?" inquired Mr. Mertoun of his nephew, Leonard, on returning home after his usual round of parochial visits.

"No one," replied the boy; "I have been with Mary in the garden, and if they had, I could not have helped seeing them."

"It is strange," said Mr. Mertoun; "are you quite sure there has been no one?"

"Quite sure," he answered, but presently added, correcting himself, "at least, no one of any consequence—only some poor man."

The tone in which the last words were uttered, no less than the answer itself, grated harshly on Mr. Mertoun's ear. "*Only some poor man!*" he repeated; "why, Leonard, do you say *only!* Might not *his* visit be of consequence?"

The boy looked confused, but endeavoured to justify his former reply by saying, "Of consequence to himself, uncle, but I meant of no consequence to you."

"Nay, my dear boy," replied Mr. Mertoun, "you now speak even more thoughtlessly than before. It could not have been the one without being the other also. Remember, that it can never be of more importance for the poor man to declare his wants than it is for those who have the means to relieve them. Do you think you understand me?"

"I believe, uncle, I do," he replied, thoughtfully. "You mean, as you told us on Sunday, that 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Mr. Mertoun perceived from the reply, that he had awakened the train of reflection which he wished, and did not, at the time, pursue the conversation. But the words, "*only some poor man,*" kept recurring painfully to his own mind. His nephew and niece had been with him but a few days, yet it was not the first time he had observed in them a want of sympathy for the poor. This was, perhaps, an almost necessary result of their having been brought up in London. No opportunities had been there afforded them of visiting the poor in their own homes. They had learned to look upon all beggars as impostors, and drew no distinction between real and pretended cases of distress. Thus, though in other respects they were loving and obedient children, and well grounded in the principles of the