

**THE MESSAGES OF THE
PRINCE, AND HOW
THEY WERE RECEIVED**

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The messages of the Prince, and how they were received by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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MESSAGES OF THE PRINCE,

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"But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm,
another to his merchandise."

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J. H. AND JAS. PARKER.
1861.

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PREFACE.

THE writer of this little book commends it to the kind consideration of the public. If, by God's blessing, its simple pages should prove the means of arresting a fellow-sinner, and prevailing with him to escape from the snares of the enemy, and follow his Prince; or encourage any trembling one to go on with more confidence in His love; or induce any careless one to accept His message, and watch; the object and prayer of the author will be answered.

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The Messages of the Prince, and how they were received.

CHAPTER I.

THE COUNTRY.

I THOUGHT I was a stranger travelling in a strange country, where many and various scenes attracted my attention. The people seemed too much engrossed in their different occupations, either of pleasure or business, to heed me; so that I went amongst them almost unobserved.

Some were engaged in tilling the ground, labouring hard from sunrise to sunset. Some cultivated fair gardens, filled with rare and beautiful trees and flowers. Some worked at the loom, bending with pale and sickly faces over rich and delicate fabrics, which they wove with their thin fingers, forming a strange contrast to their own emaciated appearance, which the constant confinement soon produced. Some wrought in gold and silver. Some dug in deep mines, far underground, where the sweet breath of heaven never reached, nor the bright sunlight visited them; but they lived and died in these dark caverns. Some sought for gold, and appeared insatiable

in their thirst for it, often murdering one another in the effort to obtain it. Some dived to the depths of the sea, for precious pearls. In fact, no labour or trouble seemed too great to secure the treasures of the country. Some wrote by the midnight lamp to gain a precarious livelihood. I watched a haggard-looking man return to a cold and uninviting home after a day of toil; and still he sat over his weary task, and before him lay, on a hard, bare bed, his wife wasting with sickness, and his little ones badly clothed and hungry, who all depended on the labour of his hands; and far into the night he still toiled on.

I saw poor weary-looking women, working by dim lights, with children lying round them, not daring to take the necessary rest they needed; for if they relaxed their work, those little ones would miss even the meagre fare on which they subsisted; and their unfinished task must tomorrow be carried to some hard master, who paid the smallest wages for all their labour.

I saw others hurrying with care-worn and anxious looks to their different trades or business, where for hours they toiled, intent upon accumulating wealth; but I noticed that those that acquired the most were generally most eager in the pursuit of more. Some seemed to crave after it as for their daily food: they hoarded it; they counted its daily increase; their eyes fed upon it; as the heaps grew larger they gloated

over them; in some cases they could not bear to part with the least portion of it, even for the necessaries of life; and I supposed they were to keep it for ever, they loved it so much.

Some, as they acquired it, seemed to delight in spending it; they squandered it on all sides, accumulating around them useless things; adding field to field and house to house, as if they could never have enough, and only thought of selfish gratification, indifferent to the necessities of their children, and of their share in it, or of the wants of their poorer neighbours; they went from one house to another, till they seemed to grow weary of amusing themselves: and I gathered from their conduct that they also were to retain their possessions for ever.

I saw great emperors and kings in this strange country, and some of them fought on every side to extend their dominion, and made the whole land one battle-field to add to their empire or satisfy their ambition; and thousands of brave soldiers fell fighting in their cause, making many a heart and home desolate, to revenge a quarrel or aggrandize a name.

I saw others struggling to rise to place or station, pushing aside everything that obstructed them, even,—without remorse, (in many instances,) treading down their fellow men, if by any means they themselves might rise.

There were others deeply occupied in science;