

**SHORT SERMONS
FROM A LAYMAN'S
LEGACY, PP. 1-102**

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Short Sermons from A Layman's Legacy, pp. 1-102 by Samuel Greg

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SAMUEL GREG

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FROM

A Layman's Legacy

BY

SAMUEL GREG, 1804-1876.

' Though dead, he yet speaketh '

London

PHILIP GREEN, 6, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

THE twelve Sermons by the late Samuel Greg contained in this volume are taken from the second edition of *A Layman's Legacy*, published in 1883 and now out of print. The sermons were delivered to a small congregation in Macclesfield, chiefly composed of working men, during the years 1864 to 1874. Personal friends, and others who had been attracted by the sincere and tender Christian piety of the author, urged the desirability of issuing a selection of these discourses in a form and at a price which would ensure a wider circulation than was possible for the larger work.

Samuel Greg was born September 6th, 1804, and died after a prolonged illness, May 14th, 1876. He was the elder brother of William Rathbone Greg, the author of *The Creed of Christendom*, and other well-known works. After a careful education at Nottingham and Bristol, he commenced business as a mill-owner, but ill-health, and disappointments and worries in the cotton trade, soon led to his retirement. His illness began in 1847 and lasted, with only occasional intervals free from pain, until his death. After his withdrawal from business, he occupied himself with various schemes for the elevation of the labouring classes, in preparing occasional lectures for working-men, writing short poems, and in correspondence with many loved friends. In 1854 he published, for the use of Sunday schools, a delightful volume entitled *Scenes from the Life of Jesus*, also out of print. The story of his life is told with great

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simplicity and tenderness in the *Memoir* prefixed to *A Layman's Legacy*.

The late Dean Stanley said of Samuel Greg that he combined 'a sincere trust in the Divine Goodness with a sincere attachment to truth and freedom and progress,' and that he had 'rarely met with a man so profoundly penetrated with the true sentiment of religious veneration.' Dr. Martineau, who had been his school-fellow at Bristol, wrote of him: 'a purer aspiration for truth, a readier devotion to all clear right, a simpler trust in a divine light hid within every cloud, I do not believe was ever found in a human soul.'

The religious utterances of a man, of whom such words as these were spoken by such competent judges, cannot fail to bring inspiration and guidance to anxious, weary hearts and lives.

W. C. B.

London, *June*, 1895.

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SAMUEL GREG

'His whole nature sighed for a religion which, like the true word of Christ, should sink deep and go wide; and while he was absolutely faithful to his personal convictions, his heart went out towards every promise of a gospel co-extensive with the spiritual wants of humanity.'—JAMES MARTINEAU.

ANGELS.

'Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.'—

MATTHEW xxi. 9.

IT was a bright spring morning. The sun was shining in his early glory straight down upon the wide-spread city and the mountains that stand round about Jerusalem. It shone upon that Mount of Olives that stands on the other side of the valley overlooking the city, and sparkled upon the quivering young leaves of the large olive trees in a certain garden that in a few days was to witness a scene whose record would be handed down to the remotest ages. There is a road winding over the shoulder of the Mount of Olives that leads from Bethany to Jerusalem, and that road was just now thronged with a great multitude of people moving on slowly towards the city. In their midst you might distinguish above the rest, seated upon an ass, a noble form, towards whom all around seemed to turn and look as the centre of interest. He seemed to be gazing mournfully at the city as it lay there in its beauty before him, with the pinnacles and towers of the great Temple glittering in the sunlight right opposite to him, and the long lines of the city walls cresting the steep ascent, and within them the flat-roofed, white-washed buildings that formed the city of Jerusalem. The multitude seemed to pause for a minute on the brow of the hill before descending to cross the brook Kedron, as they looked with one gaze of Jewish admira-