

**THE SHADOW ON THE  
HEARTH; OR, OUR  
FATHER'S VOICE IN TAKING  
AWAY OUR LITTLE ONES**

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The Shadow on the Hearth; Or, Our Father's Voice in Taking Away Our Little Ones by N. L. Rice

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**N. L. RICE**

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AWAY OUR LITTLE ONES**



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THE

# Shadow on the Hearth;

OR,

OUR FATHER'S VOICE IN TAKING  
AWAY OUR LITTLE ONES.

BY

A BEREAVED PARENT.

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION BY N. L. RICE, D.D.,

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

NEW YORK:

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**To Her**

**WHOSE TEARS MINGLED WITH MY OWN**

**BY THE BEDSIDE AND GRAVE:**

**TO ALL WHO WEEP OVER THE VACANT PLACE**

**BY THE FIRESIDE:**

**TO ALL THE SUFFERING CHILDREN OF GOD.**

**Edis Volume**

**IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED**

**BY THE AUTHOR.**

"I can not feel that she is dead! her shadow passes by,  
In every form of grace that glides before my wakeful eye.  
And when I sleep, a vision bright across my fancy steals:  
The smile, the tone, the look of love, my early loss reveals.

"Yet, mother, though thy child be dead, light through thy  
darkness streams,  
As on the ear a low voice falls, like music in our dreams,  
To soothe thy sadness, quell thy grief, and check thy tears,  
'tis given,  
While thus it whispers—'I have found a better home in  
heaven.' "

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## PREFACE.

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THIS little book which is now, through the solicitation of others, presented to the public, owes its existence to the repeated bereavements which have left the author childless. These strokes directed his attention to the investigation of, and reflection upon the subjects here presented. During the years he was in the school of affliction learning its lessons, he was learning for himself, without the least expectation of ever presenting his thoughts to the world.

Afterwards it was thought that others might be interested, perhaps benefitted, by the meditations which had done his own heart so much good.

No claim of originality is set up for the work; but it is due to candor to state that when the chapters were first written, the author had never seen a single work upon the subject, nor had he access to any libraries. That he arrived at the same conclusion with other writers upon the same subject, by the study of the Bible, may argue for the truth of the doctrine taught. Since then