

SKETCHES OF THE CRUSADES

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Sketches of the Crusades by George E. Sargent

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GEORGE E. SARGENT

**SKETCHES OF
THE CRUSADES**

Sketches of the Crusades.

SKETCHES
OF
THE CRUSADES.

BY
GEORGE E. SARGENT,

Author of "The Marsden; or, Struggles in Life," &c.



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PREFACE.

THE title of this volume is strictly indicative of its contents. My object has been to present, in a popular style, a series of sketches of some important transactions in the history of the Middle Ages, which, as elsewhere observed, stand apart, in motive and conduct, from the common history of nations;—and to present them so as to invite a comparison of those motives and actions with the doctrines and precepts of Divine Revelation. In addition to this, I have aimed at producing a work of comparatively small bulk, and at a price not beyond the reach of the many to whom this description of literature may bear an inviting aspect.

In pursuance of these designs, I have found it desirable to pass slightly over those merely con-

- necting events which, in a full and complete *history* only, would require more elaborate consideration; and also, to leave almost untouched some collateral subjects, which such a history must, necessarily, have embodied. But what may be looked upon as lost in completeness, has probably been gained in simplicity and perspicuity; and—having omitted nothing that seemed essential to my plan—I trust that the following pages will convey to the reader a clear, correct, and vivid impression of the subject of which they treat.

GEO. E. SARGENT.

SKETCHES OF THE CRUSADES.

CHAPTER I.

Introductory.

"Lord, shall we smite with the sword?"

THE history of the Crusades is not a history of mere warfare. The crusading spirit, itself, was one of the many forms in which depraved human nature has perverted the peaceable and lovely religion of the Bible, to serve its own selfish purposes. Important principles are involved in the consideration of the subject. Is the sword of destruction hallowed by being drawn in the cause of Christianity? May the blood of unbelievers lawfully be shed in efforts for its promulgation, or in revenge for its wrongs? Are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ to be taken in their most literal meaning, when he said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight,"—or may they be modified, or entirely set aside, upon cause shown? Is the conflict to which the Christian is called, a spiritual conflict