

dow, flung it open and looked out. There stood the little carol singers, four of the village boys, with the snow falling upon them until they looked more like snow men than anything else. They expected harsh words from the old miser, but they got none, he only threw them a shower of half-pence, and told them to go off. Then he went back to his fire-side in deep thought.

“ ‘Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled,’ ”

he said to himself. “But I have been forgetting Him; can the message be meant for me?” and then, like an answer, there seemed to come into his mind the words—

“ Light and life to *all* He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.”

Yes, the Christmas message had come to Silas Baldwin.

Long and earnestly he knelt in prayer, and before he went to bed that night, he did two things. One was to take his