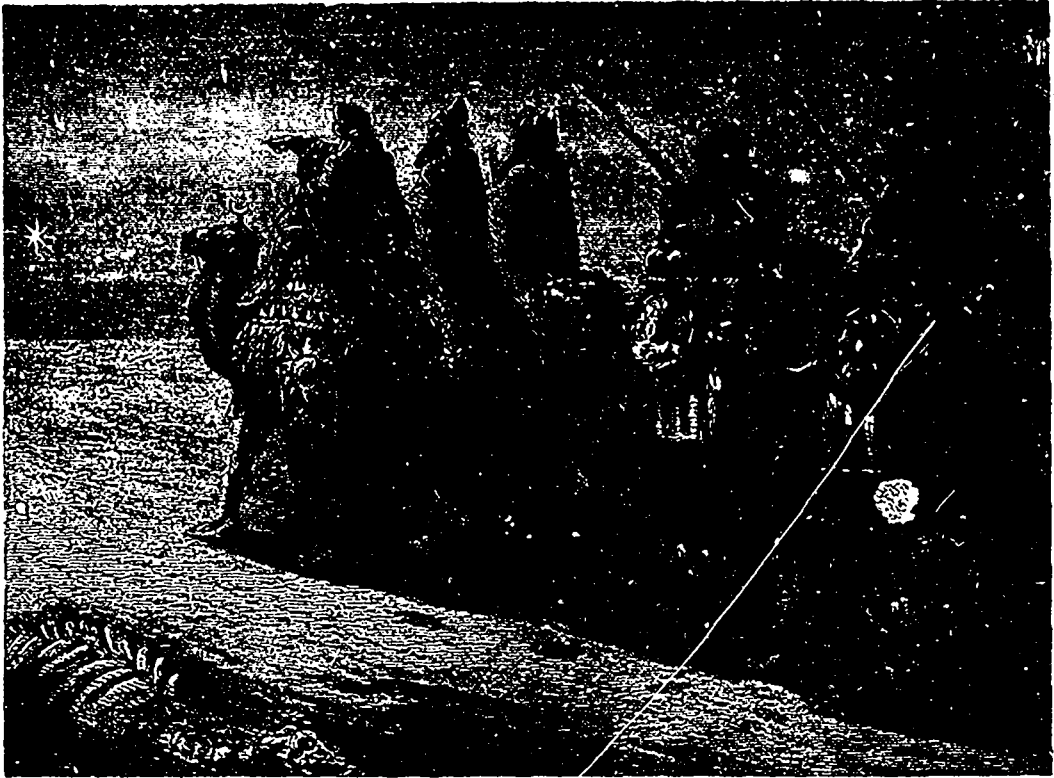


Young People's Department.



THE WISE MEN FROM THE EAST.

THE EPIPHANY.

They presented unto Him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh.—
St. Matt. ii. 11.

Who are they, travelling from afar,
With jewelled gift and incense fine?
No merchants homeward bound they are,
No sons of Jacob's chosen line.

For now the sun that rose so bright
For all the earth, has dawned in heaven,
Far lands have felt the breaking light,
The temple's veil will soon be riven;

And mercy like a gentle star,
Looks down from heaven, and leads them on
From eastern scenes of pomp and war
To worship at a cradle throne.

The wandering star has ceased to roam;
Calm falls the radiance, pure and mild,
On yonder Jewish peasant's home,
On yonder low-born Jewish child.

Laid on a virgin mother's knee,
No waiting guards, no pomp around,
The wise men joy exceedingly,
The Monarch whom they sought is found.

They kneel before their Infant King,
And all their treasured gifts unfold,
In costly homage offering
The myrrh, the incense, and the gold.

And meet it was all earth should send
A tribute of her costliest things;
And meet it was her kings should bend
In homage to the King of Kings.

Praise to his mercy! We had been,
The good, great God to us unknown,
Poor heathen children in our sin
Bowing to gods of wood and stone,

But Christ received the Gentiles' vow;
The distant isles no more are dim,
And all are Abraham's children now
Who hold like precious faith with him.

Great kings for Christ great things have done;
He bade them nurse His Church below;
And brighter crowns their brows have won,
At His dear cross adoring low.

But not the gift the poor man bears,
Nor lowliest child, will He despise;
Submissive hearts and contrite prayers
Are His most holy sacrifice.

He shall have dominion also from sea to sea,
and from the river unto the ends of the earth.
Yea, all Kings shall fall down before Him;
all nations shall serve Him.

His Name shall endure forever: His Name shall
be continued as long as the sun: and men shall
be blessed in Him: all nations shall call Him
blessed.—Psa. lxxii., 8, 11, 17.