



What will the three Kings do before the poverty of the stable? Behold them, kneeling, prostrate on their faces, adoring in the most profound humility, this little child, shedding happy tears while contemplating Him. The sight of His great poverty only increases their love.

*When the Wise Men sought for the new-born King,  
Who had come to rule o'er the earth,  
They followed a Star from their home afar  
To the place of our Saviour's birth.*

What then did the Magi see in that stable, in that crib, in that child? What they saw—love, ineffable love, the undeniable love of God for man.

*And the wise man still who would seek our Lord,  
From a Star his true course learns,—  
'Tis the tiny light that by day and night  
Near the Tabernacle burns.*

These two stars have often been linked together. Many a one, entering a church and catching sight of the sanctuary lamp, has said with the Magi: "We have seen His Star in the East, and we are come to adore Him. And many a one has deemed.

*You tiny altar star  
More blest than that which from afar  
Led pilgrims to the Babe Divine.*

The Evangelists do not say that the shepherds prostrated themselves before the child Jesus to adore Him. It was the Magi who rendered this first worship, this first homage of public worship in Bethlehem, as it was they likewise who were the first apostles in Jerusalem.