

The Three Kings of Orient

science of the nation is fully awake and our duty is manifestly clear. And if your people desire to possess our Christian civilization, the freest opportunity will be provided for them. It is a high privilege to hold the truth for others—it is a noble office to disseminate it.”

The representatives of the two vast empires stood close together and looked long and earnestly at each other. If the one was a suppliant, it did not appear in his attitude. Great forces were behind each of them, great powers were vested in each. It would require something more than human wisdom to declare which personality would represent the greater force in the future. And the nations they represented had much to learn from each other. Each would contribute something to the sum of truth. This the King of Orient seemed anxious to point out.

“Supreme Sir,” he said, “it is much we ask of you—the very best you have. And we are glad to believe that we may offer much in return. Your splendid ideals, your progressive methods, your sense of law and order, your magnanimous spirit, your Christian principles—all these our people greatly need. And we possess a deep love of and attachment to our homes which the West seems in danger of losing. The stability of a nation depends upon the family, and we may be able to restore in all its wondrous power and beauty the love of home and children which seems to be losing its grip upon your people. Then, too, our nation has a deep respect for age. We worship our ancestors, perhaps the habit has its weaknesses and dangers, but there is peril, too, in cutting altogether away from the past and losing the wisdom that can only be gained from experience. There was a time in the history of