

The Three Kings of Orient

"Yes," replied the king, "this is Epiphany Day. It was generous of the committee to think of it."

The secretary proceeded to read some of the statements:

"Enough men have volunteered to carry the gospel to all the world. Forty thousand have been selected. And there is a reserve force of as many more to call upon if occasion require. Out of compliment to your majesty, the rulers of the Christian nations gave instructions that all names and monies should be sent to our city. It has been more difficult to report upon the money; but the committee is certain that a sufficient amount has been pledged to carry on the work for at least ten years."

"You will bear my thanks to these noble gentlemen," said the king, "and tell them that when I have leisure and strength to read their full report I will personally express my gratitude to them for their services."

The secretary withdrew, and the king cushioned his head against the pillow of his chair and gave himself up to the joy and satisfaction of accomplished work. He seemed to drift out of the region of time and sense, and to stand upon the borders of another world. Before him an immense plain stretched, a great amphitheatre, until it reached the foot of towering hills. Upon the tops of these hills great flaming fires had been lighted and their leaping blaze was reflected in the crystal floor of the plain below. He heard the shouts of redeemed men, like unto the song of Israel after the dividing of the sea. Unnumbered thousands entered the glorious amphitheatre. In the centre was set a throne, reached by a golden stairway of seven steps. At the right side was a huge,