His name was Mike. That is, we an atter of fact, he was baptized der call him."

By that time Jack was at our side. When I looked into his face I saw it was more than the weight of the gun from his brother's shoulder and put out his hand to take the "white" settlers, as the "wind his hand to take the "white" settlers, as the "wind his hand to take the "white" settlers, as the "when I came back in the hand to take the rabbit, but the hunter would not yield his snoils. called him Mike, though I believe that, as a matter of fact, he was baptized Michel, but we, the few English-speakIng homesteaders who had settled on the
edge of the large Galician colony, called
him Mike. After a time, he was Mike
to his father, who held to Michel for
many weeks, and then he was Mike to
all. The Galicians were not popular with
some of the "white" settlers, as they
called themselves, mainly I thought for
the reason that the Galicians were in
first and had some of the best homesteads in the district, but Mike was popular with all. He was a cheery chapalways smiling and often laughing. If
you met him on the trail, when you were
down on your luck or sick of your job,
his laughing "Good day, Meister,"
would give you a new view of life. We
were all "Meister" to him. He never
tried to learn our names. One was the
"Beeg Meister," another the "old Meister," and the "Meister at the Reever,"
the other the "store Meister." You had
to be quick when you met him on the Michel, but we, the few English-speak quick when you met him on the to be first with the salutation. The boy had a way of coming on you when you thought you were alone and you never knew where you would hear his

laughing "g'day, Meister."
The first time I met him was a day when I was tramping through the country on my way to a valley fifty miles north of the Galicians. I had heard so much of the Galicians that I thought fifty miles would be few enough to have between their settlement and my home-

It was a day in early srping, one of those days in May, that seemed to have got out of place and found itself by mis-take in the end of the first week in April. The snow was gone except a dirty drift caught in the bluffs here and there. The knolls on which the sun shone were dry and were starred over with anemones, the little purple heralds of summer, and where the bluffs kept off

of summer, and where the bluffs kept off the northeast winds, the grass was sprouting. The air was heavy with the smell of thawing soil.

I had already walked sixty miles and did not start the third day of the jour-ney with a particularly light heart. I was only well started when I heard a shot from behind a bluff I was approach-ing and then the hearty laugh of a healthy floy. ing and then the hearty laugh of healthy boy.
"G'day, Meister," he called to me.

"G'day, Meister," he called to me.
"G'day, Meister," he called to me.
"Good day," I replied, my hearth enlarging under the genial warmth of the boy's smile. Then I saw he was not alone. Another boy was coming from alone. Another boy was coming from the bluff with a gun on his shoulder and a rabbit dangling from his hand. He staggered under the weight of it, as if it were too much for him, which surprised me, for a boy does not let a stran-

ger see him stagger under a gun.
"That me brudder," explained the boy.
"He shoot very good," he added, unnecessarily loudly, as I thought, until I saw a faint flush of pleasure come into the younger one's face at the hearty praise. "Rabbits blind in spring," he added for my benefit.
We watched the boy struggle toward

"Me brudder seeck," said Mike, and the smile left his face so quickly that it was plain that to Mike this was a calamity. "Me name—Mike," he confided to me.

the rabbit, but the hunter would not yield his spoils.

"Jack shoot him," laughed Mike. "He want to take him home. He get tired pretty soon, then I take him."

"You're a pretty decent sort of a kid, aren't you?" I said. I wanted to tell the boy what I thought of him, but did not know just how to do it.

"Jack seeck, Meister," he replied. "He get very tired. He like to shoot. I help him shoot rabbit."

"Well, good-bye, sir," I said. He came forward and held out his hand.

"G'bye, Meister," he said and instructed his brother to do the same.

I turned after a few minutes to have another look at the boy. The gun was over Mike's shoulder and the rabbit was dangling from the barrel of it and Jack was clinging to Mike's arm.

was clinging to Mike's arm.
Somehow the sun was shining brighter when I turned, the little anemones looked prettier and I thought the thawing soil smelled sweeter.

I met an Englishman soon after

persuaded me that nothing would be gained farther north and I chose a homestead near by. I must confess that Mike entered my thoughts when the matter was under consideration. I spent the summer on my homestead and then went south to make some money on the harvest fields.

It was late in the fall when I returned. Mike, with the old gun over his shoulder, was one of the first to meet

me. "G'day, Meister, you cum back?" he called to me.

I thought I discovered a new note in his voice and when I came nearer, there was something in his eye I had not seen

I was afraid to ask for Jack. I had had no communication with the settlement during my absence. The conver-sation ran in hte ordinaary lines for a while. Then he suddenly turned to

"Mebbe I shoot partridge?" he asked. I was juggled for a moment when I remembered that the open season was past. There was a pathetic appeal in his voice that made his words go deep. "Jack very seeck, Meister. Mebbe I

shoot partridge?" he asked again. 'Jack like partridge," he added, by way of explanation.
"You shoot your partridge, old man,"

"Mebbe I go to jail?" he said.
"Jail be hanged," I said, "there's your

bird." I watched him disappearing like a deer through the bluffs, with this partridge under his coat, and then went on my way to my own home.

The winter came early that year. Weeks before Christmas the ground was covered with snow and the thermeme-ter had made a record descent before we

thad taken possession of him.

Their own Christmas came ten days later and the Galicians were making.

preparations for it. Two days before their celebration com-nenced, Mike appeared at the door of

menced, Mike appeared at the door of my shack.
"Meister," he said, "Mebbe a doctor come to station?"
"The Station" was the name of the little town at the railway, to which we were tributary and it was twenty-five miles distant. I had heard that a doctor had settled there in the fall and in-timated the same to Mike.

"Jack very sseck," he said. "Mebbe I go to Station for doctor."

It was the first time I had seen tears

in his eyes.
"I get doctor for Jack for Chreestmus," he added.
The sky was threatening that morn-"How will you go?" I enquired.
"Oh, I walk, Meister, I good for

walk." You can't, Mike, you'll freeze to

death. He pointed to the warm clothes he wore, and before I could say a word he was gone.

noon that day it was blowing and the air was thickening with snow. As usual, I dined alone, and my thoughts turned on the boy. The doctor's service was to be his Christmas gift to Jack. It seemed to me that it was a gift that might cost too much. As the wind rose I got anxious. I left the dishes on the table and hastened to Mike's home. The boy was not there. Then I went to the store. He was not there. Then I heard he had gone for the doc-

I told a neighbor what I feared. He agreed with me that Mike was in great danger, and volunteered to go after him. The wind was behind us and we made good time. We came upon no traces of the boy on the way and in the town no one had seen him.

The wind fell that night, and in the The wind fell that hight, and in the morning the mercury stood at forty below. The sky was perfectly clear and the sun set the white, flashing world aflame. We started back with highter aflame. We started b.: k with lighter hearts. We had a trip in vain, but the fact that the boy was safe satisfied us. Presently we came to a spot near which were many wolf tracks. My companion was anxious about it and insisted on seeing the cause. Something was projecting from a drift. A terrible fear took possession of me and I began to tremble.

The snow was packed in a circle about him, for the wolves were hungry that winter, but they had been afraid to touch him. We carried him into the touch him. We carried him into the sleigh and the tears which fell from our

eyes froze into ice on his face.
"His life for his friends," I mutter-

My companion made no reply.

They could easily go sast from Beth-chem and thus leave Jerusalem on the PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

I. A place of salvation. "Now when Jesus was born" (v. 1.) "Thou shalt call his name Jesus" (Matt. 1; 21.) A man's name represents his character. Herod's name is a synonym for cruelty, Abraham's for faith, Stephen's for martyrdom, John's for love, Josus' for salvation. His name has power to save. A brave cavalry officer, dying of his wounds, thought himself on the field at the head of his gallant men, and that an enemy's gun was in front of them ready to be fired. He was greatly distressed. At the mention of the name of Jesus his agitation ceased, his delirium passed At the mention of the name of Jesus his agitation ceased, his delirium passed away; a smile lit up his pale face, and he said in a low tone, "Jesus, Jesus! It is he who said: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!" I want rest; I am weary." The name of Jesus saved him from delirium, and he was restful and happy until his epirit took its flight to God. Jesus is able to save "to the uttermost;" (Heb. 7; 25); able to save from the power of sin as well as its penalty. (Rom. 6; 2, 14); able to keep us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1; 7), and able to "keep" us clean (Jude 24).

II. A place of obscurity. "In Beshlehem" (v. 1.) An insignificant village, not mentioned among the many towns at the time of the division of the land. "In a manger" (Luke 2; 7.) Not in a

"In a manger" (Luke 2; 7.) Not in a palace, not in a house of luxury, not in a cottage surrounded by brightness, but in a limestone cave, did the Christ-child open its infant eyes to earth. Was this to teach how little God cares for externals? That the Christly heart will not

to teach how little God cares for extermals? That the Christly heart will not
covet gaudy surroundings! That Jesus
has a tender sympathy for the poorest?
That they who follow him will choose
the lowliest places?

III. A place of cruelty. "In the days
of Herod the king" (v. 1.) Jesus came a
stranger to this world; there was no
room for him in the inn (Luke 2; 7.)
Herod hunted him (v. 7.) His own parents "understood not" his youthful aspirations (Luke 2; 49); his own townsmen rejected him (Luke 4; 29); he had pirations (Luke 2; 49); his own towns-men rejected him (Luke 4; 29); he had not where to lay his head (Matt. 8; 20; John 7, 53; 8, 1); his own people stoned him (John 10, 31); one of his own disci-ples betrayed him (Hatt. 26; 14, 15); Jews and Gentiles conspired to crucify him (Luke 22, 66; 23, 1, 12). All the way from the cradle to the cross he met with cruelty.

way from the cradic to the cross he met with cruelty.

IV. A place of royalty. "Born King of the Jews" (v. 2). The gospel of Matthew is the story of Jesus as King. Its key-word "kingdom," is found fifty-six times. Its key phrase, "kingdom of heaven," is found thirty-two times and applications of the story of the sto nowhere else in the New Testament. Matthew gives his legal geneology, his royal pedigree, from David, source of Jewish rule; and Abraham, source of Jewish blessing (Matt. 1:1). Jesus was born king, but he waited—he is waiting still for the kingdom (Luke 19:25; Matt. 26:29). The prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth" (Matt. 6:10), has never been literally fulfilled. It will be some day. Christ rules the hearts of his own to-day as a Shepherd (v. 6, R. V.). The characteristic of his spiritual kingdom is patience (Rev. 1:9). Christ will rule over men one day with a rod of iron (Psa. 2:9).

a rod of iron (Psa. 2:9).

V. A place of prophecy. "It is written by the prophets" (v. 5). A study of prophecy gives a miniature life of Jesus. Isa. 7.14; Micah, 5:2; Isa. 9:1, 2; Gen. 49:10; Hosea 11:1; Zeoh. 11:12, 13; Zech. 13:7; Isa. 53:12; Psa. 22:18; Psa. Zech. 13:7; 18a. 13:12; Fsa. 22:15; Fsa. 22:14; 69:21; Zech. 12:10; John 1:45; Acts 13:27; 1 Cor. 2:8. A special blessing is promised to those who read and hear and keep the last great prophecy of his second coming (Rev. 1:3; 22:18,

VI. A place of guidance. "The star.. came and stood over where the young child was" (v. 9). Heralded by a star Jesus ushered in the day of grace at the beginning of this dispensation. The star which illuminates our pathway and goes before us to guide us to Jesus is the Holy Spirit, of whom Jesus says: "He

Holy Spirit, of whom Jesus says: "He shall testify of me" (John 15:26).

VII. A place of rejoicing (v. 10). The wise men, rejoicing at the cradle of the infant King, carry our thought forward loud voice (Rev. 5:12).

VIII. A place of worship (v. 11). They

gave themselves; then their gifts (2 Cor. 8:4, 5). They saw, they 'fell down,' thus presenting their "bodies a living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1); they "worshiped," pouring out their souls' adoration; then "they offered unto him gifts" (R selves; then their gifts (2 Cor. They saw, they "fell down,"

V.).
IX. A place of presents. "They presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh" (v. 11). As a Savior Jesus is God's great gift to us (v. 11). As a (John 3:16); as saves ones we are God's gift to him (John 17:6). Cold, presented in token of his royalty, typitie; what we are; frankincense, referring to his deity, refers to what we do; myrrh, an ticipating his death, refers to what we suffer. A. C M.

The Stockings by the Hearth. Two thrilling moments fill the home with rapture and set the children on tiptoe in a flutter of enthusiasm and excitement. One is the moment the stockings are hung in a row the hearth. They must not be too close together, lest Santa Claus be in-convenienced when he opens his pack convenienced when he opens his pace and begins his task, There are lots of things that fit into a stocking from heel to toe, and make it bulge all the things that fit into a stocking from heel to toe, and make it bulge all the way from ankle to knee. But there are bigger things, such at skates, sleds, toy velocipedes, desks, lovely dolls that have crossed the ocean and know ever much about Paris or Vienna, if they could only talk and tell their secrets; books that a boy has been longing for; rubber boots, in fact there is no end of perfectly delightful treasures that come into the house on Christmas eve and are found by their new owners on Christmas are found by their new owners on Christmas morning. They are too large to fill a stocking, and therefore a little space must be left between the stockings of John and those of Mary; the stockings of Eleanor and those of Fred. As for father an mother, their stockings are always crammed with gifts that are fairly electric with children's love. Ethel, when the stocking and the little with the stocking are fairly electric with children's love. father an mother, their stockings are always crammed with gifts that are fairly electric with children's love. Ethel, who is twenty-two, an aged her little sister mentions with awe, found a diamond ring in the toe of her stocking last Christmas, and the children feel taller and prouder than their friends on the street, because soon after the holidays this sort of thing any longer. And therefore," he continued, leaping from the Tank. "It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir." "Now, I'll tell you what, my frirtd," said Scrooge, "I am not going to stand therefore," he continued, leaping from the treefore," he continued, leaping from the treefore, "he continued, leaping from the treefore," he continued, leaping from the treefore, and diving Poh such a dig. Ethel is going to have a wedding day.— Vargaret E. Sangster, in the Women's

OLD SCROOGE

(From Dickons' Christmas Carol)

the grave by which it stood.

"Men's courses will foreshadow certain

ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead," said Scrooge. "But, if the courses be departed from, the ends will change. Say it is thus with what you show me!"

show me!"

The Spirit was immovable as ever. Scrooge crept towards it, trembling as he went; and, following the finger, read upon the atone of the neglected grave his own name, Ebenezer Schooge.

"Am I that man who lay upon the bed?" he cried, upon his knees.

The finger pointed from the grave to him, and back again.

"No, Spirit! Oh, no, no!"

The finger was still there.

"Spirit!" he cried, tight clutching at its robes, "hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse.

have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all ope!"

For the first time the hand appeared

to shake.

"Good Spirit," he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before it.

"Your nature intercedes for me, and pities me. Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!"

The kind hand trembled.

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future. The spirits of all three shall

Future. The spirits of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!"

on this stone!"

In his agony, he sought the spectral hand. It sought to free itself, but he was strong in his entreaty, and detained it. The Spirit, stronger yet, repulsed him.

Holding up his hands in a last prayer to have his fate reversed, he saw an alteration in the phantom's hood and dress. It shrunk, collapsed, and dwin-

dress. It shrunk, collapsed, and dwin-Yes! and the bedpost was his own.

The bed was his own, the room was his own. Best and happiest of all, the time before him was his own to make amends in!

He dressed himself "all in his best," and at last got out into the streets. The people were by this time pouring forth, as he had seen them with the Ghost of Christmas Present: and walking with his hands behind him, Scrooge regarded every one with a delighted smile. He looked so irresistivly pleas-ant, in a word, that three or four good-humored fellows said, "Good-morning, sir! A merry Christmas to you!"
And Scrooge said often afterfards, that
of all the blithe sounds he had ever heard, those were the blithest in his

ears.

He went to church, and walked about the street, and watched the polips burrying to and fro, and patted chillren on the head, and questioned beggars, on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitch is of houses, and up to the windows, and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed that any walk—that anything—could give him so much happiness. In the afternoon he turned his steps toward his nephew's house.

He passed the door a dozen times, before he had the courage to go up and

fore he had the courage to go up and knock. But he made a dash, and did it! "Is your master at home, my dear?" aid Scrooge to the girl. Nice girl! said Scrooge to the girl.

Very!
"Yes, sir." "Where is he, my love?" said Scrooge.
"He's in the dining-room, sir, along with mistress. I'll show you upstairs,

if you please."
"Thank'ee, he knows me," said
Scrooge, with his hand already on the
dining-room lock. "I'll go in here, my
dear."

deemed men and angels shall cry with a face in round the door. They were looking at the table, which was spread out in great array; for these young housekeepers are always nervous or such points, and like to see that every always nervous on thing is right.

"Fred," said Scrooge.

Dear heart alive, how this niece by marriage started. Scrooge had torgetten for the moment, about her attting in the corner with a footstool, or he would not have done it, on any ac-

"Why, bless my soul!" cried Fred, who's that?"
"It's I, your Uncle Scrooge. I have come to dinner. Will you let me in,

Let him in. It is a mercy he didn't shake his arm off. He was at home in the ninutes. Nothing could be heartier. His niece looked just the same. So did Topper when he came. So did the plump sister when she came. Sta did every one when the came, Wonderful garty wonderful games, wonderful unanimity, won-der-ful happi-

Bob Cratchit coming late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon. Ah, he did it; yet, he did it! The clock struck 9. No Bob. A quarter clock struck 9. No Bob. A quarter past. No Bob. He was full eighteen minutes and a half behind his time. Scrooge sat with his door wide open, that he might see him come into his

Tank.

His hat was off, before he opened the door; his comferter, too. He was on his stool in a jiffy; driving away with his pen, as if he were trying to overtake 9 o'clock.

"Hallo!" growled Scrooge, in his ac-

"Hallo!" growled Scrooge, in his accustomed voice, as near as he could feign it. "What do you mean by coming here at this time of the day?"

"I am very sorry, sir," said Bob. I am behind my time."

"You are?" repeated Scrooge. "Yes, I think you are. Step this way, sir, if you please."

, and giving Poh such a dig waistcoat that he staggered

Still the Ghost pointed downward to the grave by which it stood.

"Men's courses will foreshadow certain mids, to which, if persevered in, they nust lead," said Scrooge. "But, if the courses be departed from, the saids will hance. Say it is thus with what well the court for help and a straight-

in the court for help and a straightwaistocat.

"A Merry Christmas, Bob!" said
Scrooge, with an earnestness that
could not be mistaken, as he claped
him on the back. "A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have
given you for many a year! I'll raise
your salary, and endeavor to assist
your struggling family, and we will
discuss your affairs this very afternoon, aver a smoking bowl of bishop,
Bob! Make up the fires, and buy another scuttle before you dot another i
Bob Cratchit."

Scrooge was better than his word.

other scuttle before you dot another it Bob Cratchit."
Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, infinitely more, and to Tiny Trim, who did not die, he was a second father. He became as good a a friend, a os good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town or borough, in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on the globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset ; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed; and that was good enough for him.

## THE FORGOTTEN GUEST.

There was once a family who had a guest staying with them, and when they found out that he was to have they found out that he was to have a birthday during his visit they were all delighted with the idea of celebrating it. Days before—almost weeks before—they began to prepare for the selebration. They cooked and stored a large quantity of good things to eat, and isid in a stock of good things to be cooked and prepared on the happy day. They planned and arranged the most beautiful decorations. They eyen thought over and made, or selected, litmost beautiful decorations. They eyen thought over and made, or selected, little gifts for one another; and the whole house was in hurry and confusion for weeks before the birthday came. Everything else that was to be done was postponed until after the birthday, and indeed many important things were neglected.

lected. Finally the birthday came, the rooms were all decorated, the table set, all the little gifts arranged, and the guests from outside of the house had all arrived. Just after the festivities had begun a little child said to its mother:
"Mamma, where is the man whese
birthday it is?"
"Hush! hush!" the mother said.

"Don't ask questions."
But the child persisted, until finally the mother saidw: "Well, I am sure, I do not know, my dear, but I will ask."

She asked her neighbor, and the neighbor looked surprised, and a little

"Why," she said, "it is a colebration.
We are celebrating his birthday, and heis a guest in the house."
Then the mother got interested and

Then the mother got interested and curious herself.

"But where is the guest? Where is the man whose birthday it is?" And this time she asked one of the family. He looked startled at first, and then inquired of the rest of the family.

"Where is the guest whose birthday it is?" Alas! nobody knew. Therethey were, all excited and trying to enjoy themselves by celebrating his birthday, and he—some of them did not even know who he was. He was left out and forgotten.

out and forgotten.
When they had wondered for a little went on with their celebrations cept the little child. He elipped out of the room, and made up his mind to find the man whose birthday it was, and finally, after a hard search, he found him upstairs in the attic, lonely and

He had been asked to leave the guest-He had been asked to leave the guestroom, which he had occupied, so as to
be out of the way of the preparations
for his birthday. Here he had fallen
ill, and no one had had time to think
of him, excepting one of the humbler
servants and this little child. They
had all been so busy preparing for his
birthday festival that they had forgotten him entirely.
This is the way it is with most of us

This is the way it is with most of us at Christmas time. -Leslie's Monthly

The Scramble for Shristmas Presents. "The girl who works for her living

loes have a hard time gathering up her Christmas gifts. unless she has a fine Wonderful party wonderful games, wonderful unanimity, won-der-ful happiness?

But he was early at the office next morning. Oh, he was early there: If he could only be there first, and catch Bob Cratchit coming late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon. shrewd merchant. He tosses here all the left-overs from last - year's usalable stock. For this counter, he buys up old wholesale stocks, auction lots and factory ends. Nobody knows the fallings of the bargain counter shopper better than does this shrewd merchant. And he makes fifty instead of five per cent, on every sale. Everything is mussy and colors are garnish. Moths have eaten into this and dust has settled on that. But the woman who tries to shop against time does not notice these de-

colors are garnish. Moths have eaten into this and dust has settled on that. But the woman who tries to shop against time does not notice these defects.

"The later you shop the more important it is that you go to a good store. Girls who work down known should leave home half an hour earlier, go to a first-class shop, tell the clerk frankly just how much they can spend and unless my measure of the clerk in the first-class store is wrong, they will be waited on promptly and satisfactority. But if you know you have only \$1.70 to spend on a nouveau art pin for your chum's belt, do not waste the clerk's time and yours, looking at ten or fifteen dollar pins. Be as business like in your shopping as you are in the performance of your office duties and you will reap the recent of good rou will rear and the blessings of the unhappy



LESSON XII.-DEC. 22, 1907.

Christmas Lesson.-Matt. 2: 1-12. Commentary.—I. The coming of the wise men (vs. 1,2.) 1. When Jesus was born-While the exact date of Christ's birth is uncertain there is no reason why it may not have been on December 25th B. C. 5. But why do we say that Jesus was born "before Christ"? Simply because our calendar is incorrect. some centuries after Christ's time there was no calendar in general use, but each nation dated from some event in its his tory. Finally, in the sixth century, a learned monk, Dionysius Exiguus, was appointed to ascertain the time of Christ's birth, and it was ordered that history should be dated from that time. But Dionysius, who first published his claubitions in A. 5.56 mut the birth of calculations in A. D. 526, put the birth of Jesus about four years too late. In Bethlehem—"House of bread." "A name properly applied to a place where the true Bread was manifested for the life of the world."—Clarke. Of Judaea—To distinguish it from Bethlehem in Galilee mentioned in Josh. 19; 15. Herod— Herod the Great. He was an Edomite and although a preselyte to the Jewish religion, was notorious for his wicked-ness and cruelty. He reigned thirty-seven years in Judea and died a few after the birth of Christ. At this time "the scepter was departing from Judah, a sign that the Messiah was now at hand." Wise men—Or magi. "Originally a class of priests among the Per stans and Medes, who formed the king's privy counsel." They were men of learning and wealth. Augustine and Chrysostom say there were twelve magi, but the common belief is that there were but three. But why were these magi seeking the Christ? "We know that the Persian magi believed in a Messiah or future Saviour, who should in the latter day appear and renew the world in righteousness."-Whedon, From the east —Perhaps from Media, or Persia, or possibly, from Arabia. To Jerusalem—They seemed to suppose that when they They seemed to suppose that when they reached the capital of the Jewish nation they would have no trouble in finding

the object of their search. 2. Where is he-This inquiry in Jerusalem brought Jesus into popular notice and called attention to the fact that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. Born King of the Jews—This was a title

"born" a king. His star-Many inter-

coming.

II. Light from the Scriptures (vs. 3-6).

3. Had heard—The magi had created no small stir by their inquiries, which immediately attracted the attention of the king. Troubled—Herod, now sunk into the jealous decrepitude of his savage old age, was residing in his new palace on Zion, when, half maddened as here in the part of the past ace on Zion, when, half maddened as new as already by the crimes of his past career, he was thrown into a fresh paroxysm of alarm and anxiety by the visit of these magi, bearing the strange in telligence that they had come to worship a new-born king.—Farrar. Herod feared a rival. All Jerusalem with him—Fearing that he would make this an occasion of renewing his acts of bloodshed. 4. Had gathered—He assembled the Sanhedrin.—Lightfoot. Chief priests—This expression probably comprehends the acting high priest and his deputy, those who had been high priests—for at this time the office was often transferred by the Roman authorities—and "the heads of the twenty-four sacerdotal families," which David had distributed in so many courses." Ceribes—The learned interpreters of the Mosaic law, and the collectors of the traditions of the elders. collectors of the traditions of the elders. Many of them were Pharisess—Demanded of them—Because they would be most likely to know. Where the Christ (R. V.)—Or the Messiah, the official title of the promised deliverer. "The wise men had said nothing about the Christ, or the Messiah, but only about the King of the Jews. But Herod saw that this king must be the expected Messiah."

5. By the prophet-Micah 5, 2. Matthew does not quote the exact words found in Micah, but the sense is given. It was an accepted truth that the Messiah must come from Bethlehem. 6. Art in no wise least (R. V.)—Micah says, "Though thou be little among the thousands of Judah yet out of these aball. sands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel." This made Bethlehem "in no wise least." Although Bethlehem was little, yet it was exalted above all the other cities of Israel. The princes— "The thousands" (Micah 5, 2). The tribe had been subdivided into thousands, and Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. Had been subdivided into thousands, and Born King of the Jews—This was a title trinknown to the earlier history of Israel and applied to no one except the Messiah. It reapments in the inscription over the cross.—Carr. Notice that Jesus was shepherd his flock. Christ is both thep-

"born" a king. His star—Many interpreters, especially those who seek to eliminate the supernatural, explain the "star," or "sidereal appearence," by a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, which occurred in May. B. C. 7, and again in December with Mars added. It is, however, much more in harmony with all the facts to believe that the star which attracted the attention of the magi was provided for the occasion. To worship him—To do him homage. They herd and King. My people Israel—Israel was God's people in a peculiar sense. They were His own peculiar treasure. peared. Assuming that the star appeared when the child was born he would thus have some idea of the age of the child. 8. He sent them—He assumed control; but they followed the directions of the Lord. Search diligently —Herod was honest in making this charge to them; he greatly desired to receive definite word concerning the marking the second series of the word concerning the new King. And worship Him also — What hypocrisy! He only wished to find the child in order to murder him (vs. 13, 16); he was crafty and subtle, saying one thing and meaning another. But God did not per-mit him to carry out his purpose.

IV. Guided by the star (vs. 9, 10). 9. The star.. went before them—The same star which they had seen in their own star which they had seen in their own country now again appears. The star had disappeared for a time and this led them to inquire in Jerusalem for the young King whom they sought. Supernatural helps should not be expected where ordinary means are to be had Stood over—The star pointed out the very house.—Benso. 10. They rejoiced—The Greek is very emphatic. They rejoiced exceedingly because they saw they were about to find the child and because they had such unmistakable

because they had such unmistable proof of being in divine order. That alone is enough to cause rejoicing. V. The child Jesus found (vs. 11, 12) V. The child Jesus found (vs. 11, 12).

11. Fell down—They prostrated themselves before Him according to the eastern custom. "In this act the person kneels and puts his head between his knees, his forehead at the same time touching the ground. It was used to express both civil and religious reverence."

Clarke Gifts—The people of the East press both civil and religious reverence."
—Clarke, Gitts—The people of the East did not approach into the presence of kings without bringing them presents. The custom still prevails in many places, Gold, etc. —Gold would always be useful, while frankincense and myrrh were prized for their delicious fragrance. These were the very presents Isaiah mentioned: "All they from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense" (Isa, 60. 6) "Incense, or frankincense, is a resinous gum, flowing from a tree, gashed for the purpose, growing in Arabia and Lebanon. Myrrh is also a gum obtained from a tree in Arabia." Whedon.

12. Warned of God in a dream—God

12. Warned of God in a dreamcommunicated his purpose to them in a manner that they understood and the impression or conviction was so clear that they at once wee