

## The Three Kings of Orient

awakening East. Again, the eager voice of the Eastern sovereign broke in upon the thought of the Imperial host.

"Do you know, Majestic Sire, that our nation, the best element of it, is eagerly adopting your ideals? Hundreds of our young men are being educated in your Western universities. Each year, ambitious youths are turning their faces to the West, and after receiving the inspirations of your schools and colleges are turning back to their own land in order to put their knowledge into practical effect. Without realizing it, our people are waiting for your Christ. There was never a more decisive hour in the world's history. The doors of the East are wide open to you. Send us of your best. Prove to our people that the past has been a grievous wrong and that all your noblest powers will be directed towards the shaping of our character along the high lines of Christian brotherhood. Speak the word to your subjects that will make them too noble to enjoy national prosperity at the cost of human life and human shame. Tell them that the spirit of my kingdom is asking for the same Incarnate Truth that has made their happiness and their peace."

His voice died away until it was lost far up in the vaulted ceiling of the royal chamber. The king was moved by the earnestness of the appeal. But there were serious difficulties to be considered.

"My Lord, your request has moved me greatly. In so far as the crime of my nation against your people is concerned, I shall undertake at once to consult my ministers about it. The wrong has always been a blot upon our national honor, but hitherto considerations that have been more or less weighty have prevented a speedy termination of the difficulty. Now the con-