

## The Three Kings of Orient

other sovereigns and rulers! Little had he dreamed that the call would meet with such an amazing response. He rebuked himself now for his lack of faith when the leading of the Most High had been so clear!

But now the work was done, and he could surrender himself to rest and quiet thought.

This was Twelfth Night! In the olden days it had been observed with a round of social gaieties, and all the kingdom had rung with the laughter of happy, care-free, boisterous merry-makers. He was running over the days of his own youth and the many joyous occasions when he had joined in the festivities and ancient customs that at such times made his land so sweet and delightful a place in which to live. To-night, there was a deeper and more sober joy pulsating throughout the empire—the happiness that flows from service to our brother man.

His private secretary entered the room and laid upon the table a bulky document. "Your majesty, I was instructed to leave these papers. The committee of business men, chosen to arrange the results of your majesty's appeal to the kingdom, concluded that no better time than this could be selected for their report. They are unwilling, however, to further tax your majesty's energies at this late hour, so they have provided me with the main facts which I humbly desire to present, if it please your majesty.

The king was all eagerness, and bade the secretary to at once give him the facts.

"The men on this committee represent the great financial corporations of the empire and they have toiled unceasingly so as to finish their work to-night. Your majesty well knows the reason."