

### Epiphany.

In the old Aryan language there was a word that meant light. The Sanscrit word *bha*, is the nearest in signification; the letters *bh*, are pronounced like *v*, as *ph* is pronounced like *f*.

The Greeks had softer lips, and so used *ph* instead of *bh*; *Phoas*, or *Phos*, was their word for light, and we have many words derived from it. *Phosphorus* means light-bearer; a *photograph* is a light-writing, etc.

*Pha* helps to form words which mean light, or shining; and so, too, words that mean "to be seen, to show, to appear." The verb *phainoi*, "to shine," *phainomai*, to be seen, lead to *Phancia*, an appearance, or showing forth.

A somewhat different set of words comes from *bha*. Some people thought more of showing themselves, than of showing the light; whence came the Greek *phemi*, and the Latin *fari*, which both mean to tell out, or speak; and so we get Greek *pheme*, Latin *fama*, English *fame*. From the same root we get the Latin *fatus*, "it is spoken"—that is, "it must be;" whence we talk of *fate*, as what will certainly happen, because it is decreed.

All these words are connected in meaning with the Greek name Epiphany, or *Epiphaneia*, anciently called *Theophaneia*, the showing forth of God. Now we have the word in its simple form: *Epi* is an extensive addition to Greek words, and *Phaneia*, a showing forth, so *Epiphaneia*, the showing of an in-

tense light. Christ, the Light of the world.

The event connected most intimately with the festival of the Epiphany, is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the person of the three wise men, whom tradition represents as three kings—Melchoir, Jasper and Balthasar. They offered gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold would seem to point to the *kingly* character of Christ; frankincense to his priestly office, and myrrh to his humanity.

Let us seek to offer the *gold* of loyal, loving service to our King, the *frankincense* of worship from true and faithful hearts; and *myrrh*, that *real* sorrow for sin that proves its reality in earnest amendment of life.

### Prayer.

The Spirit of Prayer is the Spirit of Power. PRAYER MOVES THE HAND AND THE HEART THAT MOVES THE UNIVERSE. "Let me go," said God to Jacob; "Let me go," as if He could not go unless He was let go. "Let me alone," said God to Moses, as if God could not do what He wanted to do so long as Moses held Him fast in prayer.

What a wondrous power is the power of prayer! I come a poor sinner to the full fountain of my God! The Holy Spirit in me breathes the petition. The Holy Son of God, my High priest before the Throne, presents my petition, and it comes into my Father's heart; and although it may not be answered just now, it is laid up on the registry of One who never forgets, to be answered in due time. Prayer is POWER, my friends! PRAYER is POWER! —MARCUS RAINSFORD.