



## The Holy Innocents.

## I.



FROM the East three wise men journeyed,  
 Star led to Jerusalem,  
 Asking for the new-born Christ-King;  
 Herod, hearing, summoned them  
 To his presence privately—  
 Stung with secret jealousy.

## II.

When the Magi entered, Herod  
 Graciously stepped from his throne;  
 Condescending, even, hearkened  
 Whilst they made their mission known—  
 But deceit lurked in his smile—  
 For his heart was filled with guile.

## III.

Yet he said—"When we have found Him,  
 Bring me word, that I before  
 This divinely royal Infant,  
 Kneeling with you, may adore!"  
 Still his soul was cruel the while  
 Craftiness leered in his smile.

## IV.

They, with passing months, returned not;  
 Then to little Bethlehem town,  
 Quiet 'mongst its hills, King Herod  
 Raging sent his army down—  
 Down upon the feeble foe—  
 O that wicked day of woe!