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The Star of Bethlehem



CHRISTMAS EVE again. And this year our astronomers, the successors of the ancient astrologers, have announced the re-appearance of the celestial visitor identified by some with the star which over nineteen hundred years ago stood over Bethlehem of Judea.

"Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" asked the Wise Men, "For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

"Go search diligently for the young Child, and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also," said Herod.

"Art thou He that should come, or look we for another?" asked John in prison. "Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?" enquired the curious and the anxious people of Judea.

And still, after nineteen centuries, the search goes on with ever varying success; by those who seek to worship, by those who seek to kill, by those who are less interested in the young Child than in the gold, the frankincense and the myrrh. He is sought—sometimes, though not always, is found—in temples consecrated to His name; among those who flaunt his emblems and usurp his honours. He is sought and found by multitudes that no man can number, among the poor, the oppressed, the victims of human

injustice and cruelty, the sufferers from sickness and bereavement—in every little child without exception, good or bad, rich or poor. He is found in countless opportunities for doing good and promoting peace and happiness.

Where, demand the cynical critics, is He to be found in this world, in which injustice and vice are rampant, and in which two of the most Christian nations seem waiting even now for a favourable chance to fly at each other's throats?

He is to be found by men of good will who ask in good faith, in the fact that this old world, with all its present faults, is better than ever it was before; and that if injustice and vice are still as prominent as ever, it is not because they are as great as ever, but because the human heart and the human conscience have, thanks to His influence, become more acutely sensitive to these evils.

Thousands of wise men from the East and from the West ignorantly worship Him by their fidelity to his principles, as surely as the men of Athens ignorantly worshipped the Unknown God.

The Star of Bethlehem has not dimmed its brilliancy, and its rays still bring the light of life to our Mother Earth. Even the fierceness of war, the last relic of human barbarism, is subdued and modified by its soft influence; and those to whom it is given to see the Star with the eyes of faith and hope recognize in it as never before the harbinger of eternal peace.

To all our Readers, A Merry Christmas