

the lowly King Who is there waiting to receive their adoration, or else staring at those around them, with a smile here, a nod of recognition there, and so forth. — Well indeed might that stranger ask: "Can those people believe that which they profess to believe, namely, that the monstrance to which such slight attention is paid, contains the Body of the living God?"

"And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts," here again we may imitate the Kings in a two-fold manner. Firstly, by offering the treasures of our hearts, the *gold* of charity, the *frankincense* of prayer, and the *myrrh* of mortification. Secondly, by bringing gifts of gold or silver, precious stones or fine linen with which to embellish the sanctuary which now takes the place of the Crib. We may place our offering in Mary's hands by means of her representative — the priest, the guardian of the Eucharistic Babe — and we may be certain that Jesus will accept them and will smile upon us as He smiled upon the Kings when they poured out their treasures at His feet.

The Kings did not tarry long at Bethlehem. We hear of this their one apparition and then that they returned to their own distant lands, to carry with them the glorious tidings, of the birth of the Messiah, and prepare the hearts of their countrymen to receive His word. We may be sure that they must have longed to remain in that sweet presence to feast their eyes on the lovely Babe and to listen to the holy converse of Mary and Joseph; but it could not be, duty called them back to their homes and they obeyed the call.

Like the Kings we cannot remain in constant adoration before the Eucharistic Throne. We have our daily work or our occupations, which must be fulfilled for to neglect these manifest duties for the sake of a prolonged visit to the Blessed Sacrament, would be, to indulge in a worship of self, rather than of Jesus Christ. It may sometimes happen, alas! that a second Herod — a relation possessing a certain authority in our home — whose mind is possessed by heresy and who is jealous of our love for the Church, and of the time robbed as he considers from himself by her beautiful ceremonies, may force us to regain our dwelling by "another way," in order to avoid unseemly dispute. He cannot however, prevent us from doing as