

ing to the infidel dogma, that "*the voice of the people is the voice of God!*" We call this saying INFIDEL, because the Bible tells us that the *multitude*, (or in other words, *the people*) are prone to do evil!

It can readily be imagined that all this gave infinite pain, to a well-balanced, well-trained mind, like that of Charles Beverly. The evil was notorious! He felt that he could do nothing to stay the plague, or arrest its progress. Still he did not despair: He remembered that "*man's extremity was God's opportunity!*"—and arming himself with the "*sword of the Spirit,*" he trusted, that out of darkness there would shine, ere long, a cheering and glorious light!

[Original.]

THE CHURCH SCHOLAR'S NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew.

CHAPTER II.

Ver. 1. *Bethlehem of Judæa.*] There was another Beth-lehem, belonging to the tribe of Zebulon. Joshua xix. 15. "*Judæa*" here means: "the tribe of Judah," which gave to *Judæa* its name.

—*Herod the King.*] This was Herod the Great, son of Antipater, a nobleman of Idumæa, or Edom, a country of Arabia, adjoining Judæa on the south-west. Antipater, though not a Jew, was an officer of much authority in the government of Hyrcanus, High Priest and King of the Jews, B. C. 69. A brother of Hyrcanus endeavoured to usurp these offices: an appeal was made to the Roman authorities; the result of which was the abolition of the kingly title for a time, and the appointment of Antipater as procurator of Judæa, under the Romans. Herod, the son of Antipater, was at the same time made governor of Galilee. After the death of Antipater, Herod visited Rome, and procured a decree of the Senate constituting him "king of Judæa."

☞ The Herod who caused John the Baptist to be beheaded, was another per-

son, viz. Herod, surnamed Antipas, son of Herod the Great. It was to Herod Antipas that our Lord was sent by Pilate.

Herod the king mentioned in Acts xii. i., who caused the Apostle James to be beheaded, was a grandson of Herod the Great. Agrippa, before whom Paul made his defence (Acts xxvi. i.), was a son of this last Herod.

—*wise men.*] They are called *Magi* in the language in which St. Matthew wrote. The Magi were a priestly caste among the Chaldeans, Medes, and Persians, and other Eastern nations. Like other early priesthoods, they were the only educated and scientific men of their day. They alone could teach the truths and perform the ceremonies of religion; and they were supposed to be able to foretell the future, interpret dreams and omens, and ascertain the will of God by the arts of divination. The prophet Daniel, when an exile in Babylon, was set over this body of men by the Babylonian king. Dan. v. 11.

—*from the East.*] The Arabians were termed "the children of the East." Judges vi. 3. Job was "the greatest of all the men of the East"—*i. e.* of the Land of Uz, a part of Arabia. Job i. 3.

Ver. 2. *born King of the Jews.*] Jews were settled in various parts eastwards and westwards of Syria. Wherever they lived, they spread the belief around them that a King was one day to arise from their nation, in whom all the nations of the earth were to be blessed. The prophecy of Daniel (ix. 25), which specifies the time when this King or Prince should appear, was known to be near its fulfilment. "From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem [*i. e.* from B. C. 457—see Ezra vii. 12], unto Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and three score and two weeks"—483 days, *i. e.* years. Hence arose the prevalent impression referred to by the Roman historian Tacitus, in his account of the taking of Jerusalem, that a power was to arise out of Judæa that should rule the world. History bk. 5, c. 13.

—*we have seen his star.*] The prediction