

opinion favourably disposed among the people, that even the shadow of Peter could heal ; thirdly, it is indicated by the very form of the expression, that they sought the laying on of Peter's hands, but that in case of necessity, they would be content with his shadow overshadowing them ; not to mention that there is something figurative in this expression, which points out the fact that the sick expected a cure from every contact with Peter.' (*Das Apostolische Zeitalter*). It is not to be supposed that the shadow itself possessed any powers or curative virtues, but that an aura or influence passed from the person of the Apostle reaching those upon whom his shadow fell.

#### BALAAH'S PROPHECY.

*Question 126.*—I have found some difficulty in rightly understanding the passage (Num. xxiv. 17), "I shall see *Him*, but not now: I shall behold *Him*, but not *nigh*." The advice given me by a Sunday-school teacher is that Balaam is in Hell, and he beheld Jesus in Heaven. Rev. Sir, being an anxious inquirer, I ask your help upon the passage. \* \* \*

*Answer.*—The prophecy of Balaam unquestionably refers to the future glory of Israel. The correct reading of it is as follows:

"Balaam the son of Beor prophesies,  
The man unclosed of eye prophesies ;  
He prophesies who heard the words of God,  
And knows the knowledge of the Most High,  
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,  
Prostrate, but having his eyes open,  
I see Him, but not now ;  
I behold Him, but not nigh :  
A star comes forth from Jacob,  
A sceptre arises out of Israel,  
And smites the two sides of Moab,  
And destroys all the tumultuous people ;  
And Edom becomes a possession,  
And Seir becomes a possession—his enemies ;  
For Israel achieves deeds of valour.  
He who descendeth from Jacob  
Shall destroy whoever escapes from the city."

Some have supposed that "star" has a reference to the meteor afterwards to be seen by the magi at the birth of Christ. It is