

THE MESSIAH'S MESSAGE

* * Toronto, Epiphany, 1893. * *

EPIPHANY.

THE Eastern sages saw a wondrous star
Shine in the azure field of their pure sky,
A stranger light and fraught with mystery.
They pondered, and they followed from afar.
It vanished; but they so determined are,
They cease not, though the gloomy sand-storms fly,
And robbers threaten, and fierce suns blaze high,
To seek Jerusalem with gifts most rare.
"Where is the Jewish Monarch newly born?"
Save doting Herod, no man heeds the quest.
Their burning hopes are met with quenching scorn.
But, lo! the star again,—and they are blest;
It leads them to their lowly Infant King,
Themselves, their treasures at His Feet they fling,

EPIPHANY.

This Greek word signifies manifestation, and has been of old used for this day whereon the star appeared to manifest CHRIST unto the wise men. There are three manifestations of our LORD commemorated jointly by the Church: on the Feast of Epiphany, all of which, S. Chrysostom says, happened on the same day, although not in the same year. The first manifestation was that of the star, the Gentiles' guide to CHRIST; the second, the manifestation of the HOLY TRINITY at HIS baptism, S. Luke iii. 22; the third, the manifestation of HIS Glory, or Divinity, at HIS first miracle, that of turning the water into wine, S. John ii. 11. The magi, or wise men, are believed to have been three in number, and of the rank of kings or princes. The remainder of their lives, after the event recorded in the Gospel, was spent in the service of GOD; they are said to have been baptized by S. Thomas, and to have themselves preached the Gospel. On this day the