ec. 31, 1879.

abbath

SITOR

* St : mail

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

3



aded a revolution if a new heir to the throne eared. But now aid comes for the seekers. rod summons a council composed of the e Priests-the High Priests and the heads of 24 courses of priests (1 Chr. 24:6, 2 Chr. 36. and the Scribes, writers who copied the riptures and taught and interpreted them. ey informed the king what holy writ declared to the birthplace and rule of Messiah, and was communicated to the Magi by the afty Herod who privily, secretly, so that no ming might be given to the friends of the born king, called the wise men and inquired ijently, ascertained exactly, at what time the appeared indicating the day of Christ's h, so that he might make certain the desction of the child. His declared intention to ship him also, was no doubt a mean falsehood igned to deceive the wise men.

The eager inquirers, aided by divine revelation parted for Bethlehem, and travelling by ght, as is the custom in the East, to their eat joy. their supernatural aid, the star in the ist re-appeared, and went . . came . . stood or emed to do so, over where the young child as-Bethlehem.

III. THEIR SUCCESS AND THE RESULT.-V. They reached the house into which ary had moved from the inn stable where esus was born. The light of nature and of velation had at last led them to the presence the divine child, who came to be the Light the world. The results were, first they fell own offering the adoration of reverential pirits; next, gratitude and love prompted them open their treasures and to present gifts most aluable and appropriate. F-ankincense, a fragaut gum used for incense in worship and a mbol of prayer. Myrrh, also a rare and precia mortal, gold to a king, frankincense to, od." Another way, not by the highway rough Jerusalem, but northeastward toward e Jordan. Finding another king led them nother way than that Herod pointed out. hose who find Christ will be led in the right lay. Ps. 36: 9.

In the annals of the Celestial Empire, there is istorical evidence of ambassadors "wise men" aving been sent towards the West in search of "Great Saint who was to appear." The Wowing from the Annals narrates the ciramstances :--

'In the twenty-fourth year of Tchao-Wang, the dynasty of the Tcheou, on the eighth ay of the fourth moon, a light appeared in the outh-west which illuminated the King's palace. he monarch struck by its splendor, interrigatthe sages, who were skilled in fortelling ture events. They then showed him books which it was written that this prodigy sigliked the appearance of a great saint in the est, whose religion was to be introduced into is country. The King consulted the ancient ooks, and having found the passage corresonding with the time of Tchao-Wang, was led with joy. Then he sent the officers Tsa-