2, 3. ° -- ST. MATTHEW. 7   
   
 in the east, and are come to worship him. 8 When Herod   
   
   
 ferent minds may feel differently to the tencies with the explanation are no   
 answer to this question. And, seeing more than the report of the magi them-   
 much has been said and written on this selves, the general belief of the age   
 note in no friendly spirit, submit that would render unavoidable. If this sud-   
 it fs not for any man to charge another, servience of the of astrology   
 who is as firm a believer in the facts to the Divine purposes be objected we   
 related in the sacred text as he himself may answer with Wetstein, “We must   
 can be, with weakening that because infer therefore thaf these men came to   
 he feels an honest that it here their conclusion from the rules of their   
 relating, not a but a natural ap- art: which beyond all futile,   
 pearance. It is, of course, far safer vain, and delusive, yet be sometimes   
 way, as far as reputation is to permitted to hit a right result. Hence   
 introduce miraculous agency wherever pos- appears the wonderful of God, who   
 sible: but the Editor aims truth, used the wickedness men to bring   
 not popularity. into Egypt,—who sent the King of Baby-   
 Now we learn from ical calen- Ton against the Jews by auguries and   
 lations, that a remarkabld conjanction divinations (Ezek. 21, 22), and in   
 the planets of our system, took place a instance directed the magi to Christ by   
 short time before the birth of our Lord. astrology.”   
 In the year of Rome 747, on the 29th of It may be remarked that Abarbanel the   
 ae May, there was a conjunction of Jupiter Jew, who knew nothing of this conjunc-   
 and Saturn in the 20th of the tion, relates as a tradition, no con-   
 constellation close to first junction could be mightier im) than   
 of Aries, which was the of the that of Jupiter Saturn, which planets   
 heavens noted in astrological science were in conjunction 4.M. 2365, before   
 that in which the signs the great- the birth of Moses, the sign of Pisces;   
 est and most noble events. On the 29th and thence remarks that that sign was   
 of September, in the same year, another the most significant one for the Jews.   
 conjunction of the planets took place, From this consideration concludes that   
 in the 16th of Pisces: and on the the conjunction of these planets in that   
 Sth of December, a third, in the 15th sign, in his own time (4.p. 1468), be-   
 degree of the same sign. Supposing the tokened the near approach of the of   
 magi to have seen the first of these the Messiah. And as the Jews did not   
 conjunetions, they saw it actually the invent astrology, but learnt it the   
 East; for on the 29th of May s¢ would Chaldeans, this idea, that a conjunction   
 rise 3} hours before If they then in Pisces betokened some great event in   
 took their journey, arrived at Serusa- Judea, must have pre among Chal-   
 Jem in 2 little than five months (the desan astrologers.   
 journey from Babylon took Ezra four It is fair notice the influence the   
 imonths, sce vil. 9), they performed position maintained in this note of the   
 the route from Jerusalem to Bethlehem in fact which seems to have been substan-   
 the evening, as is implied, December tiated, the planets did not, during   
 conjunction, in 16° of Pisces, would be the year B.c. 7, each other so as   
 before them in the of Bethlehem, to be mistaken by any eye for one star:   
 14 hour east of the meridian at sunset. indeed not “ within double apparent   
 These circumstances would seem to form a diameter of the moon.” I submit, that   
 remarkable coincidence with history in even if this #0, the inference the   
 our text. are in no way inconsistent note remains as it The either in   
 with the star, which cannot surel. Eastern two planets, complete or incom-   
 (see below) be pressed to its Titeral plete, the Eastern quarter the bear   
 sense of one single bat understood in astrological not their looking   
 its wider astrological nor is like one star. The two bright planets   
 explanation of the star them to seen in the east,—the two bright planets   
 Bethichem at all repugnant to the plain standing over Bethlehemm,—these would   
 words of vv. 9, 10, importing its on each occnsion have Go the atten-   
 from 8.8. towards 8.w., direction of tion of the magi; a ‘is   
 Bethlehem. We may further observe, would have been denominated by them his   
 no part of the text respecting the