4—15. ST. MATTHEW. -   
   
 they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. N And when   
 they were come into the house, they saw the young child   
 with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped   
 him: and when they had opened their treasures, they   
 ‘presented unto him ‘gifts; ‘gold, and ‘frankincense, ¢Pss.Jsy.1.   
   
 and myrrh. 32 And being warned of God in a dream   
   
 that they should not return to Herod, they departed   
 into their own country another way. 18 And when they   
 were departed, behold, »¢ke angel of the Lord appeareth   
 to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young   
 child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou   
 there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the   
   
 young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took   
 the young child and his mother by night, and departed   
 into Egypt: 15 and was there until the death of Herod:   
 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by   
   
   
 h render, an.   
   
 is not necessarily implied, even if the Purification, itself have taken   
 words of the text be literally ; place in the interval between their de-   
 and in a matter like astronomy, where ture and Herod’s discovery that they   
 popular language is so unive: broad, Raa mocked him. No objection can be   
 and the Scriptures generally use popular raised to this view from the “ two years   
 language, it is surely the letter, but old” of ver. see note there. gene-   
 the spirit of narrative with which we ral idea is, the Purification pre-   
 are concerned. 11. with Mary] No vious to the visit of the magi. Being   
 stress must be laid on the omission of persuaded of the historic of these   
 Joseph here. In the parallel account as narratives of Matt. and Luke, we shall   
 regarded the shepherds, in ii. he find no difficulty also believing that,   
 is mentioned. I would rather regard the were we acquainted with all the as   
 omission here as a simple matter they happened, their reconcilement   
 of fact, and contributing to shew the be an easy matter ; whereas now the two   
 trathfulness of narrative:—that Joseph independent accounts, from not being   
 ened not to be present the time. aware of, seem to exclude one another.   
 If the meaning of is to be This will be the case in ordinary   
 (as in a matter detail think it should), e.g. in the giving of evidence. And no-   
 it will confirm the idea that and thing can more satisfactorily the   
 Mary, probably under the idea that the veracity and independence of the nar-   
 child was to be brought up at Bethlehem, rators, their testimony to main   
 ere there some time bag hee Nativity. facts, as in the t case, is consen-   
 ius, supposes that was at tient. treasures] chests or bales,   
 this time on a visit to her Kindred at which the gifts carried during their   
 Bethlehem (possibly at a Passover) as journey. e ancient Fathers were fond   
 much as two years our Lord’s birth. of tracing in the gifts mean-   
 Bat if Mary had kindred at Bethlehem, ings: “as to the king, gold: as to one   
 how could she be so ill-provided with who was to die, myrrh: as to a god,   
 I , and have (as is implied in the frankincense.” Origen, Celeus ;   
 ii. 7) sought accommodation at an inn ? and similarly Ireneus. We cannot con-   
 And the supposition of two years having clude from these gifts the magi came   
 elapsed, derived probably from the “ from Arabia,— as they were common to   
 years old” of ver. 16, will us in all the East. Strabo says that the best   
 considerable difficulty. seems to bo frankincense comes from the borders of   
 no reason why the magi may not have Persia.   
 come within the forty days before the 18—28,] Friant into Eeyrprt.