

POETRY.

THE FALL.

- See the leaves around us falling,
Dry and withered to the ground'
Thus to thoughtless mortals calling
With a sad and solemn sound :—
- ' Sons of Adam—once in Eden,
Blighted when like us you fell,
Hear the lecture we are reading,
'Tis, alas' the truth we tell.
- ' Virgins ! much, too much prosuming.
In your boasted white and red,
Views us late in beauty blooming,
Numbered now among the dead.
- ' Griping Misers ! nightly waking,
See the end of all your care ;
Fled on wings of our own making,
We have left our owners bare.
- ' Sons of Honour ! fed on praises,
Flatt'ring high on fancied worth,
Lo ! the fickle air that raises
Brings us down to parent earth.
- ' Learned Sophs ! in systems jaded,
Who for new ones daily call,
Cease at length by us persuaded,
Every leaf must have a fall.
- ' Youths ! though yet no losses grieve you,
Gay in health and manly grace,
Let not cloudless skies deceive you--
Summer gives to autumn place.
- ' Venerable Sires ! grown hoary,
Hither turn th' unwilling eye ;
Think amid your falling glory,
Autumn tells a Winter nigh.
- ' Yearly in our course returning,
Messengers of shortest stay,
Thus we preach this truth unerring,
Heaven and Earth shall pass away !
- ' On the Tree of Life Eternal
MAN ! let all thy hopes be stay'd,
Which alone, for ever vernal,
Bears a leaf which ne'er shall fade !"

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received a letter signed 'Alto' expressive of the writer's 'surprise and regret at not hearing performed at St. Mary's on Christmas morning, that ancient and most exquisitely beautiful, of our old Ecclesiastical melodies the *Adeste Fideles*.' We do not publish the letter entire, both because the writer

has not authorised us to affix his signature to it, and because he throws the blame of the omission which he complains of, on the shoulders of a gentleman who is perhaps altogether innocent. Moreover we do not think that the Editors of the Cross are the parties to whom application should be made on such a subject. We were not ourselves at the six o'clock Mass on that morning, but we can testify that if 'Alto' had devotion enough to assist at the Pontifical High Mass, and at Vespers on the great Feast of the Nativity, he would have heard his favorite air the *Adeste* given with beautiful effect by the Organ Choir.

A PROTESTANT CONVERTED
TO CATHOLICITYBY HER
BIBLE AND PRAYER BOOK.

Continued:

(His Lordship's Reply.)

"MADAM,

"I lose no time in answering your note, and in assuring you that "I am anxious to do anything in my power for bringing your mind to a steady conviction of the true faith," as delivered to mankind by Christ and his Apostles. But you must allow me to doubt, whether the most rational plan for this purpose is for me to meet and discuss the rule of faith with Dr. Gillis in your presence.

"From such a conference you might have sufficient grounds for deciding which was the cleverer man, which had studied the subject most carefully and other points, entirely personal to the two, disputants, but very remotely bearing upon the great point at issue.

"It appears to me much more expedient, that I should, at any rate, in the first instance, see you alone ; and know from your own explanation, what are the points in which the creed in which you have been educated, appears to you unsatisfactory, and wherein the Romish Church appears to offer you greater satisfaction.

I will, if you choose, call for you on Monday, between one and two o'clock. In the meantime earnestly advising you to lay all your doubts before Him, who has promised that those who will do His will, shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God or of men.

I am, Madam,
Yours, faithfully,
C. H. S. Bishop.

(My second Letter.)

"MY LORD,

"In reply to your note of yesterday, I beg to say that my reason for requesting the conference, be-