

porary chancel screen, ecclesiastical in design, and corresponding with the style of the building. It can be constructed at a small cost of rough material, and easily covered with evergreen and flowers, and berries, in clusters, or interspersed among it.

Finally, in the decorating of a church it should be remembered that it is not the quantity, but the quality of the ornamentation that is to be attended to, and that with taste and care a little material may be made to go a great way.

Happ'ly, we can look with reverence upon the holy symbols of our faith which adorn the walls and windows of our churches, without being advocates of either superstition or idolatry.

Let the old as well as the young, during the approaching season, second the efforts of their pastors in decorating their churches. The first can do much by their words of encouragement, and the others a great deal more by their hearty co-operation.

A LAYMAN.

[FOR THE CHURCH MAGAZINE.]

### CHRISTMAS DAY.

"Thy God hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows". Heb i. 9.

Though rude winds usher thee, sweet day,  
Though clouds thy face deform,  
Though nature's grace is swept away,  
Before thy sleety storm,—  
E'en in thy sombrest wintry vest,  
Of blessed days thou art most blest.

Nor frigid air nor gloomy morn  
Shall check our jubilee;  
Bright is the day when Christ was born,  
No sun need shine but He;  
Let roughest storms their coldest blow;  
With love of Him our hearts shall glow.

Inspired with high and holy thought,  
Fancy is on the wing;  
It seems as to mine ear it brought  
Those voices carolling,  
Voices through heaven and earth that ran,  
Glory to God, good-will to man.

I see the shepherds gazing wild  
At these fair spirits of light;  
I see them bending o'er the child  
With that untold delight  
Which marks the face of those who view  
Things but too happy to be true.

There, in the lowly manger laid,  
Incarnate God they see,  
He stoops to take, through spotless maid,  
Our frail humanity;  
Son of high God, creation's Heir,  
He leaves His heav'n to raise us there.

Through him, Lord, we are born anew,  
Thy children once again,  
Oh, day by day our hearts renew,  
That thine we may remain!  
And angel like may all agree,  
One sweet and holy family.

Oh, as this joyous morn doth come  
To speak the Saviour's love,  
Oh, may it bear our spirits home,  
Where he now reigns above!  
That day which brought Him from the skies  
Mankind restores to Paradise.

Then let winds usher thee, sweet day,  
Let clouds thy face deform,  
Though nature's grace is swept away  
Before thy sleety storm,—  
E'en in thy sombrest wintry vest,  
Of blessed days thou art most blest.

## THE SEASONS OF THE CHURCH.

### CHRISTMAS.

**A**S Christmas is the foremost of our great Christian Festivals, so also is it the foundation of all others. On the Incarnation, or the Son of God taking upon Himself the nature of man, is built the whole fabric of our hopes as Christians. To establish this great doctrine, St. John declares that he wrote his Gospel

(xx. 31); and this is also one purpose of the whole New Testament. The Church declares in the Athanasian Creed, by warrant of Scripture, "that it is necessary to everlasting salvation to believe rightly the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ." Let us then briefly consider this great article of the faith, which the Catholic Church from