

Poetry.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Awake, arise, good Christians, Let nothing dismay; Remember Christ our Saviour Was born upon this day!

CHRISTMAS EVE.—A TALE.

"There now, I am sure it does look pretty," cried little Robert Grant, as he finished putting the green leaves of ivy and holly into the window of the neat cottage in which he dwelt.

wished to return, the wind shifted, and the darkness came on so thickly and suddenly, it was with great difficulty that we could make the shore at all. "Heaven be praised!" said the old man, "that you have got home safely."

Three hours passed in a state of the utmost anxiety. The children, overpowered with fatigue, soon sunk to sleep. Old Grant endeavoured to read, but in vain; and Fanny wandered backwards and forwards to the cliff in the vain hope of seeing her husband return.

ter performing his episcopal functions with the simple dignity and decorum that belong to the Christian bishop, went away, pleasing and pleased; and it was hard to tell whether the people were more satisfied with him, or he with the people.—Tour in Connacht.

The Garner.

THE ANGELS' TEXT. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men!" here is a wonderful, a glorious, a soul-sustaining scene opened to us.

CHRIST ALL IN ALL. This is the greatest comfort in the world to know that our Saviour is born, that he is abroad, and at hand to every one that calleth upon him.

CHRIST OUR BROTHER. O most gracious Saviour, how wisely hast thou done all things! I know that thou art my brother, as it is in Psalm xxii, 22, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren," as it is alleged in the epistle to the Hebrews, although thou art God, my Lord Christ, and King of heaven and earth, yet I cannot be afraid of Thee, for thou art my friend and brother; this is no hindrance unto me that I am a sinner, and Thou holy; for if I had not been a sinner, there had been no need that Thou shouldst suffer punishment for me.

THE DYING MAN. It is a very terrible and amazing thing to see a man die and solemnly take his last leave of the world. The very circumstances of dying men are apt to strike us with horror. To hear such a man, how sensibly he will speak of the other world, as if he had just come from it, rather than going to it; how severely he will condemn himself for the folly and wickedness of his life; with what passion he will wish that he had lived better, and had served God more sincerely; how seriously he will resolve upon a better life, if God would be pleased to raise him up and try him once more; with what zeal and earnestness he will recommend to his friends and nearest relations a religious and virtuous course of life, as the only thing that can minister comfort to them when they come to be in his condition.

HUMAN FRAILTY. I have seen a rose newly springing from the clefts of its hood, and at first it was fair as the morning, and full with the dew of heaven as a lamb's fleece; but when a ruder breath had forced open its virgin modesty, and dismantled its too youthful and unripe retirement, it began to put on darkness, and to decline to softness, and the symptoms of a sickly age; it bowed the head, and broke its stalk; and at night, having lost some of its leaves, and all its beauty, it fell into the portion of weeds and worn-out faces. The same is the portion of every man and every woman; the heritage of worms and serpents, rottenness, and cold dishonour; and our beauty so changed, that our acquaintance knows us not; and that change mingled with so much horror, or else meets so with our fears and weak discouragements, that they who six hours ago tended upon us, either with charitable or ambitious, services, cannot, without some regret, stay in the room alone where the body lies stripped of its life and honours.—Bishop Taylor.

THE HOLY SACRAMENT. What the tree of life was to Adam in Paradise; what sacrifice in general was to the faithful, after the fall, from Abel downward; what the paschal lamb was to Israel quitting Egypt; what manna was to that people in the wilderness; what the shew bread was in the tabernacle and temple; all this, and if there be any other symbol of like import, it is now briefly comprehended, during the continuance of the Christian Church upon earth, in the holy eucharist. The former were prefigurative sacraments, this a commemorative one. They showed forth the Messiah, and the life which is by him, until his first coming; this shows forth the same Messiah, and the same life, "until his coming again." Excluded from the tree of life in Paradise, we are admitted to partake of the bread of life in the church. Lost by the covenant of works, we are saved by that of grace. A cheering voice calls to us from the sanctuary, "Draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort." The elements are honoured with the names of the body and blood of Christ, because appointed to signify and convey, to the worthy communicant, the blessings purchased by his body broken, and his blood shed, upon the cross; blessings to the soul, like the benefits conferred upon the body by bread and wine; life, health, strength, comfort, and joy.—Bishop Horne.

COMMANDS AND PRIVILEGES. God is usually pleased to connect injunctions in the same sentences, as it were, with privileges; and in reading his sacred word, our feeble faith, is often sustained by finding obedience set forth, not only as a bounden duty, but as a source of the highest blessedness.—Rev. S. C. Willis.

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