

POETRY.

CHRISTMAS*

Music is in the midnight air,
Strange sounds delight the holy hill,
And seraph-melodies declare
Sweet "peace on earth, to man good will."

Hush'd is the strain; the shepherd's ears
Have heard those words in deep amaze;
And, lo, as morning light appears,
What pomp salutes the warder's gaze!

Robed in the stole of Tyrian dye,
The Magian kings their ranks unfold,
Their gorgeous bondmen bearing high
The myrrh and frankincense and gold.

Whom seek ye, with this proud display
Of perfumed ore and glittering gem?
"Led by yon planet's, mystic ray,
We seek the Babe of Bethlehem.

"Low laid in Judah's lowliest town,
Its lowliest hostelry beneath,
We seek the Heir of David's crown,
The Conqueror of sin and death."

Well may ye bow the turban'd head,
Well with your richest gifts prepare;
All glorious in that humble shed,
For Israel's hope is cradled there.

Yea'd in the cloud of human birth—
Deep mystery, which angels scan!—
The incarnate God descends to earth,
Creation's Lord obscur'd in man.

Reader, rejoice in fear and love,
And nobler offerings hither bring;
A life whose thoughts are fix'd above,
A death whence faith hath torn the sting.

Thus rescued from a state forlorn,
By mercy saved, by grace forgiven,
Be thou amongst those bless'd re-born,
Whose names the Spirit writes in heaven.

Ch. of Eng. Mag.

CHRIST APPLIED TO OUR HEARTS.

He that inquires what is the just value and worth of Christ, asks a question which puts all the men on earth, and angels in heaven, to an everlasting non-plus.

But how excellent soever Christ is in himself, what treasures of righteousness soever lie in his blood, and whatever joy, peace, and unspeakable comforts, spring up to men out of his incarnation, humiliation, and exaltation, the distinct benefit and comforts thereof are only enjoyed in the way of effectual application.

For never was any wound healed by a prepared, but unapplied plaster: never any body warmed by the most costly garments made, but put on: never any heart refreshed and comforted by the richest cordial compounded, but not received: nor from the beginning of the world was it ever known that a poor, deceived, condemned, polluted, miserable sinner, was actually delivered out of that woeful state, until of God Christ is made unto him wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

As the condemnation of the first Adam passeth not to us, except as by generation we are his; so grace and remission pass not from the second Adam to us, except as by regeneration we are His.—*Flavel.*

* By the Right Rev. Aubrey G. Spencer, D. D. Lord Bishop of Newfoundland.

DYING SCENES.

Cardinal Wolsey, when dying, by slow progress and short journeys, reached Leicester Abbey. He was received with the greatest respect. His only observation was, "Father Abbot, I come to lay my bones among you." He died three days after with great composure and fortitude. He said shortly before his death—"Had I served my God as diligently as I have served the king, he would not have forsaken me in my grey hairs; but this is the just reward I must receive for my pains and study, in not regarding my service to God, but only to my prince."—*Southern Churchman.*

M. de La Harpe, one of the first literary characters of the last century, who for many years laboured to spread the principles of the French philosophy, but afterwards became a most strenuous defender of Christianity, on the evening before his death was visited by a friend. He was listening to the prayers for the sick; as soon as they were concluded, he stretched forth his hand and said—"I am grateful to divine mercy for having left me sufficient recollection to feel how consoling these prayers are to the dying."—*Ibid.*

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