

OUR ENGRAVINGS



HEMLING (Hans or Jean)

The Nativity of Jesus Christ. — Memling or Hemling was born at Damme about 1425. He is one of the first Masters of the Flemish school. His youth was somewhat adventurous. He became a soldier and was wounded in battle, after which he withdrew to the hospital of St. John, at Bruges, where he left his best works and, in particular, the picture of the *Nativity of Jesus Christ*. In the composition of this picture the painter has striven to show the state of abjectness and indigence in which the divine Savior was born. The background of the picture represents a dilapidated stable, open to all the winds. St. Joseph who had endeavoured to find some comfort for the New born child, has obtained only two bundles of straw which are thrown upon the ground. On re-entering the stable the Saint finds the Blessed Virgin in adoration before her Child whom she has laid on her mantle. St. Joseph stands