

sponge and vinegar, and the centurion Longinus. There is a tradition that this is actually the crucifix King Edgar presented to the abbey ; but there is no direct authority, so far as I know, for the idea, though it certainly carries with it the air of probability.

Without the porch at Langford is a very celebrated crucifix. The figure of our Lord is 5 feet 10 inches in height, and is clothed in a straight garment confined with a girdle. The head is missing, and it seems very likely, from the small amount of space left, and also from the fact that otherwise the stone is so little decayed, that the crucifix was formerly in another position within the church. Over the porch-door is a small crucifix with attendant figures of the Virgin and St. John, and it is evident that these at least must have been moved at some period, for they are not in their customary positions, and look away from, instead of towards, the Saviour on the cross.



Christmas Hymn.

Isaiah ix. 6 ; St. Luke ii. 11.

1.

CAPTIVE people, wasted country,
 Glory faded, honour gone ;
 Once the greatest of the kingdoms,
 Now despised by everyone !
 Weeping sitt'st thou by the waters,
 Zion's daughter, grief-opprest ;
 Silent now upon the willows
 Hangs thy tuneful harp at rest.

2.

Grieve no longer—for a Saviour
 God hath sent to set thee free !
 Tune your harps again with gladness,
 Sing with holy melody :

“Unto us a Son is given,
Unto us a Child is born,”
In His hand He bears the sceptre,
Grace and Truth His brow adorn.

3.

Captive heart, in bondage lying,
How dost thou thy state bemoan !
Once in pride and sin uplifted,
Now thy fancied peace hath flown.
Weeping, sitt'st thou in repentance,
Knowing not which way to turn ;
Bowed in anguish, shame, and sorrow,
Dost thou now for freedom yearn ?

4.

Grieve no longer—God in mercy
Sends a message now to thee,
Sends His Child to break thy fetters,
And from sin to set thee free :
Hark ! in David's royal City,
There the joyful strains begin,
Swelling louder still and louder :
Jesus—Saviour from all sin !

A. J. SANTER.

