

# THE CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

" ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN."

22

VOL. I.] MONTREAL, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1823. [No 22

## BIOGRAPHY.

### LIFE OF MATTHEW STACH,

MORAVIAN MISSIONARY IN GREENLAND.

(Continued from our last.)

Outward difficulties of the Mission.

Th: Brethren continued to suffer great extremities, in the early years of the Mission, for want of food. They were often driven to allay the cravings of hunger with shell-fish and sea-weed: they had recourse even to the remnants of tallow candles, and thought themselves happy when they could procure some train oil to mix up with their scanty morsel of oatmeal. The severity of their trials, at the end of 1735, may be judged of by the following statement:—

“ Before the departure of the ship, they were pressed by every one to take their passage in it to Europe; and to return, if possible, the next year. Even the Greenlanders, who seldom trouble themselves with reflection, wondered much what could induce the Brethren to remain among them. Their resolute perseverance only excited the contempt of these savages; who knew no other estimate of a person's value, than his wealth and his ability to give much away. ‘Your countrymen,’ they would say, ‘are worthless people, for they have sent you nothing; and you are not wise if you do not return.’ ”

Their difficulties, and the gracious care of God over them, are seen in the following passage:—

“ Meanwhile God cared for their necessities. Among the rest, the boat-

men found a dead white whale, and shared it with the brethren. On another occasion, after they had eaten nothing but shell-fish for five days, a Greenlander left them a porpoise, taken from the belly of its dam, which was enough for a meal. Once, after an unsuccessful chase, they were forced by a contrary wind, upon a desolate island, and obliged to lodge there all night: here they espied an eagle sitting on the nest, and shot it. After some trouble, they got at the nest, and in it found four large eggs, besides the bird, which weighed twelve pounds: it also supplied them with a quantity of quills, an article of which they were much in want. In all their external distresses, the examples of Elijah and Elisha afforded them the most emphatical consolation.”

### *Unfavorable state of the Natives.*

The ingratitude and cruelty of the Natives to the Missionaries, greatly aggravated their sufferings. Grantz says:—

“ When the savages perceived their necessitous condition, they not only raised the price of their wares, but most of them, especially such as had received the greatest benefits from the Brethren, would sell them nothing on any terms.”

He adds soon after—

“ The scarcity of food increased as the winter advanced; and very little was to be procured from the Greenlanders, who could not be prevailed upon to curtail the luxury of their dancing feasts. On one such occasion, the Brethren witnessed the consump-