

THE CHRISTIAN REGISTER

"ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."

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FOREIGN NEWS.

Biographical Notices of the REV'D. JOHN OWEN, M. A. late one of the Secretaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

THE following extracts of this departed Champion of Bible Societies, are from a Sermon preached on occasion of his death, by the REV'D. WILLIAM DEATR, Rector of Clapham, which appeared in the LONDON MISSIONARY REGISTER.

AMONG the individuals who have been raised up, in these latter days, for the benefit and consolation of mankind, few can be mentioned who have either been engaged in works more important, or who have brought to the task abilities more remarkable, integrity more perfect, and devotedness more entire and unremitted, than your lamented minister.

My first recollections of your late pastor carry me back to the early period of my residence in the University of Cambridge. At this time I had no personal acquaintance with him; but it was impossible, even then, to listen to his sermons, without being impressed with the persuasion that he was a man of no common abilities, and of no ordinary character.* The history of many following years, in which he discharged the various and important duties of a parochial minister, warrants

* It was about this time that the report of his remarkable qualifications as a minister attracted the attention of the late excellent Bishop Porteus, under whose patronage he accepted the office of Fellow; and to whose unalterable kindness during all the remaining days of that venerable prelate, he ever professed himself to be deeply indebted.

the assertion, that had he continued in such a situation with competent leisure, he could not have failed to stand in the first rank among his brethren. So long as the opportunity was afforded him, his parochial labours were indefatigable, and there are many individuals still living who can bear witness to his success.

But he was called to appear chiefly in a different character: and by a course of circumstances, which it is here unnecessary to detail, his name has, for the last eighteen years, been associated with some of the most extensive operations of christian benevolence. In ceasing to be the minister of a parish, he became more entirely the servant of the public.

When his ardent and charitable mind first interested itself in the cause of the British and Foreign Bible Society, he little anticipated, I believe, either the formidable nature of the service which he undertook, or the continually growing demand which it would urge upon his time and attention. Happily, however, if it required extraordinary endowments, it found in him a person suited to the task, and willing to spend and be spent in the promotion of its christian object. I know of no qualification demanded by that institution of its secretary, which he did not remarkably possess; nor of any emergency that befell it, in which he did not rise to the level of the occasion; and when to this is added, that the progress of the society afforded ample scope