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"ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN."

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OBITUARY

OF WILLIAM BLAIR, ESQ.

Late Surgeon to the Lock Hospital, and other Institutions, who died on Friday, Dec. 6, 1822, aged 56 years.

MR. BLAIR had, for many years, taken an active share in the proceedings of various Religious Institutions. Besides those mentioned in the following account of his last hours, which has been circulated by his friends, he was a Subscriber to the Church Missionary Society from its first formation; and became a Member of its Committee in its fifth year: he died in the thirteenth year of his service on that Committee, having willingly rendered the Society all the assistance which his professional and other engagements would allow. In his last moments, there was not only peace, but that true sublimity, which nothing but the grace of God can impart to dying man.

For many months past, Mr. Blair's health had evidently declined. During the last illness of his excellent wife, he was at times so exceedingly reduced, that she greatly feared he would die before her; and earnestly prayed that her Heavenly Father would take her first, if consistent with His holy will, and not allow her to be left an infirm and helpless widow. It pleased God to grant her request; and, after a long and painful, but sanctified affliction of many years, she departed peacefully, in the last Spring; bearing a clear and unequivocal testimony to the truth and faithfulness of God, who supported and

comforted her in every trial, especially when passing through the valley of the shadow of death.

After his wife's decease, Mr. Blair began most decidedly to set his house in order, as he knew he must shortly follow his beloved companion. He resolved to give up his professional practice; and to retire into the country, where he thought he should enjoy more uninterrupted opportunities for reading, meditation, and prayer. He, therefore, took a house in the neighbourhood of Colchester; resigned his situation as Surgeon to the Bloomsbury Dispensary; and prepared to dispose of the greater part of his library, together with such articles of household furniture as he would have no occasion for in the country. He had formed a large collection of rare and curious editions of the Bible, and many scarce Commentaries in different languages; for the Word of God had been his study and delight, during the greater part of his life: a few months ago, anticipating his approaching dissolution, he presented this valuable collection, worth several hundred pounds, to the British and Foreign Bible Society, who have gratefully acknowledged the same in their last Annual Report. He had been an active and very useful member of the General Committee of that Society for the last sixteen years; he was also President of the Bloomsbury Bible Association, and Vice-President of the Auxiliary Society: his unwearying labours in the cause of the Bible Society, and in active benevolence to