

" They attended Church, unasked, and received the Sacrament at my hands <sup>1</sup>; on which occasion I placed the Metropolitan in my own chair, and we embraced in a most brotherly manner at the church-door after service."

" TO MAR ATHANASIVS.

(As translated into Syriac, by Messrs. Robinson and Mill.)

" Calcutta, December, 1825.

" To the excellent and learned father Mar Athanasius, Bishop and Metropolitan of all the Churches of Christ in India, which walk after the rule of the Syrians, Mar Reginald, by the grace of God, Bishop of Calcutta; grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

A correspondence headed in the same oriental style which appears in this last extract, took place in 1616, between Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria. It led to little or nothing; and so our hopes may end with reference to any approximation in our own day, of more remote Eastern Churches to ours<sup>2</sup>: God knows his own time: but there is so remarkable a parallel in some of the circumstances of the two cases, that it cannot be otherwise than interesting to observe it. The parallel will appear by comparing the passages in *Italics* in the foregoing extracts from Heber, with the parts of those which follow printed in the same character.

Speaking of the persecutions suffered from the Turks, the Patriarch says, in a truly Christian spirit of faith and love, *A quibus etiamsi variis exagitemur exerceamurque modis, nobis tamen pro Christi nomine quem spiramus, cujusque stigmata in corpore circumferimus, ab istiusmodi hominibus perquam volupe est*

<sup>1</sup> This, with the greatest deference be it spoken, may be considered a circumstance of questionable propriety, when reference is had to the state of doctrine and worship in the Church to which these communicants belonged.

<sup>2</sup> There is, however, this great difference in the cases, that our own Ecclesiastical Establishment is planted and spreading upon the spot where our Clergy are brought into contact with those of the Syrian and Armenian Churches.