

# THE CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

"ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD-WILL TOWARD MEN."

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## FOREIGN NEWS.

### *Mr. Hough's Report of the Missions in Travancore.*

(Continued.)

After this interview with the Metropolitan, Messrs. Bailey and Baker accompanied me on an excursion into the interior, in which we visited five Syrian Churches; viz. Neranam, Chenganoor, Callucherry, Puttengave, and Mavelicary. We held long, and, in more cases than one, interesting conversations with the Catanars, of whom there are five or six to each Church. The generality of them are ignorant of the most remarkable Historic Facts recorded in the Sacred Volume, and much more so of the plainest doctrines of the Christian Faith. They evinced, however, a most docile temper; and submitted to be catechised, with the humility of children, for upward of an hour together.

One of the Catanars at the first Church which we visited, Neranam, is an intelligent, and, from what we could learn, a good man. He answered every question asked him, the last of which was, "Is it enough to SAY that we have Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?" His answer to this question was remarkable, considering the general character of the Catanars for ignorance, and the reclusive regions which they inhabit—"No: our WORKS must show our Faith to be true." On hearing this, we looked at one another with the smile of satisfaction, to find so correct a knowledge of this fundamental article of Christianity illuminating these romantic but benighted abodes.

By looking over the rest of the ques-

tions proposed, the Committee will be able to form a better idea, than could be given them in any other way, of the intelligence of the Catanar of Neranam, who answered most of them without hesitation; and also of the ignorance of the rest, very few of whom could answer more than one or two, and those few replied to more than five or six. It ought, however, to be mentioned, and the fact will tend to confirm the wisdom, and justify the pains and expense, of sending Missionaries to these interesting people, (if indeed the measure required justification,) that the Catanar of Neranam derived his information from one of your Missionaries, Mr. Norton, of Allepie, with whom, I afterward learned, he lived for a twelvemonth. What then may we not anticipate, some few years hence, from the residence and united labours of three other good and active men in the midst of the Syrian Churches!

The morals of the Catanars are as low as their knowledge. This was to be expected from their ignorance of the Divine Commandments, and also of the motives to holiness, with which the Gospel abounds. Their worst passions, being thereby without any moral restraint, were, in consequence of the celebrity of the Catanars, but too easily inflamed. Colonel Munro saw the evil tendency of this custom; and, since it is not contrary to the Canons of the Syrian Church for the Catanars to marry, he endeavoured to remove the fruitful cause of their immoralities, by encouraging some of them to enter the matrimonial state; he succeeded in a few instances: and the Missionaries are a-