

THE

CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN.

VOL. [1.] MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1823. [No. 17.]

MEMOIR OF JOSEPH HARDCASTLE, Esq.

Late Treasurer of the London Missionary Society.

With the honoured name of Joseph Hardcastle most of the readers of this Magazine must have been long familiar. In the minds of many it has been habitually and deservedly associated with those principles of truth and holiness, which it is the design of this publication to disseminate, and with those operations of enlightened zeal for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, which it is the glory of the Missionary Chronicle to record. Often have our pages been enriched with biographical notices of some of the excellent of the earth, both in public and private stations, whose memory will long be blessed; but never have we been able to exhibit to our readers the portraiture of a more finished character than that of which we are now desirous to present to them a sketch. Well might he conciliate so much affection; well might he command so much respect! His character embodied an assemblage of excellencies, both intellectual and moral, not often to be found united in the same individual; and every one of these excellencies had attained a maturity which, even when separately contemplated, could not fail to render him beloved and honoured.

To the formation and development of such a character, it will readily be conceived that superiority of natural endowments, external circumstances

peculiarly advantageous, and communications of heavenly influence in an abundant degree were all contributory.

The unaffected modesty and humility, by which Mr. Hardcastle was so peculiarly distinguished, while they invested with additional charms his pre-eminent talents in the view of those who had the privilege of an intimate acquaintance, had also the effect of concealing from such as observed only at a distance, the lustre of those mental endowments which indisputably characterize their possessors as men of the first order of intellect. The energies and habits of his mind were such as to give an aptitude at once for the speculations and refinements of knowledge, and for a practical attention to the most important concerns of human life. One of the prominent features of his mental character, was a faculty of acute and penetrating discernment; on all the subjects which employed his thoughts, his mind was accustomed to discriminations as delicate as they were just. With this correctness of judgment was intimately allied a remarkable comprehensiveness of mind, which afforded him a peculiar facility of taking into view the whole range of an extensive subject, and of contemplating it in all its parts, in all its relations, and in all its bearings. By these superior powers, he was qualified to render the most valuable services to the benevolent institutions with which he was connected, and to those whose interests he had most at heart; while he was a