

CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

ON EARTH, PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN.

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MEMOIR

OF THE LATE REV. RICHARD CECIL, M. A. MINISTER

OF ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL, LONDON.

[Concluded from page 272.]

We left Mr. Cecil under a slight paralytic affection, in the year 1807. From this he recovered sufficiently to preach; but in Feb. following, another stroke totally disabled him for public service. Electricity was prescribed; which, proving in effectual, he was ordered to Bath. The waters here were tried for several months; but these also proving ineffectual, he was again advised to change of air; when Providence raised him up an unexpected friend, whom he had never seen;—Isaac Cooke, Esq. of Clifton, who offered him a house ready furnished, and every accommodation and supply his state of affliction could require. Here he resided four months; and for some time seemed considerably better; but again relapsing, he was desirous to return to town; and the same kind friend provided an easy carriage for his removal.

In the spring of 1809 he arrived at his own house in Little James Street, Bedford Row, in a state of

extreme debility. The weather becoming warm, the closeness of the town, together with its noise and bustle, became intolerable in Mr. Cecil's state of nervous irritability; and he again sighed for the country, when another friend, Mr. Offley, procured him a comfortable retreat at Tunbridge Wells, where he remained for the season; but derived no benefit either from the air or waters.

In Oct. 1809, he came back to town for the winter; but on the return of spring found it again necessary to leave it, and took up his last earthly residence at Hampstead,—from whence he was finally removed by a fit of apoplexy, Aug. 15, 1810. Thus died a man dearly beloved, not only by his family, but by all who knew him; and a minister highly esteemed and respected, not only by his own congregation, but by the church of God at large, both in and out of the Establishment. To his own peculiar congregation at St. John's, he might truly say, as St. Paul said to the Galatians, "I bear you record, that if it had been possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me."

It is much to be lamented (says Mrs. C.) that in Mr. Cecil's