

THE CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

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

VOL. I. MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1823. No. 6

FOREIGN NEWS.

IN No's. 4 and 5, we gave Mr. Hough's report of the Missions in Travancore; a report, which contains considerable information concerning the Syrian Churches in Malabar: we now lay before our readers extracts from a letter written by the Metropolitan of that ancient household of the Faith, addressed to the President and Members of the Church Missionary Society; translated from the Syriac, by Professor Lee.

LETTER OF THE SYRIAN METROPOLITAN TO THE SOCIETY.

May this letter come in peace and safety to Lord Gambier, head of the Society which is in the Church of England, from the School of Cotym!

JAH.

In the Name of the Eternal and Necessary Existence, the Almighty.

Mar Dionysius, Metropolitan of the Jacobite-Syrians in Malabar, subject to the authority of our Father, Mar Ignatius, Patriarch, who presides in the Apostolic See of Antioch of Syria, beloved of the Messiah. Love from Christ, and from the people of all the churches, to Lord Gambier, the illustrious, honourable, and renowned President; and to our Brother Mar Henry, the honoured Bishop of the city of Gloucester; and to the Priests and Deacons, and true Christians—great and small, in the Church of England, who are devoted to these things and are mindful of them, who both assist and provide that we should teach and preach the precepts of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Love from God, and Grace from His only begotten Son, and protection from the Holy Ghost, be with you all evermore! Amen.

Beloved, kind, and honoured Brethren in Christ, we would make known to you, in a few words, what has happened to us from the depth of our poverty.

We, who are called Syrian Jacobites, and reside in the land of Malabar, even from the times of Mar Thomas, the holy Apostle, until the wall of Cochin was taken, in the reign of King Purgis, kept the True Faith according to the manner of the Syrian Jacobites, of real glory, without division or confusion. But, by the power of the Franks, our Jacobite-Syrian fathers and leaders were prohibited from coming from Antioch: and, because we had no leader and head, we were like sheep without a Shepherd; or, like orphans and widows, oppressed in spirit, without support or help. By the power and dominion of the Franks, moreover, and by the abundance of their wealth, and the exertions of their leaders, all our Syrian Churches in Malabar were subdued, and turned to the faith of the Pope of Rome.

In the year of our Lord 1653, came our Spiritual Father, Mar Ignatius, the Patriarch, from Antioch to Malabar: but, when the Franks knew this, they brought the Holy Man to the walls of Cochin, imprisoned him in a cell, and gave no small money to the King of Cochin. They then brought out the good man, and he drowned him in the sea, and so put him to death. But when we knew this, all the Jacobite-