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ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN.

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BIOGRAPHY.

LIFE OF MATTHEW STACH,
MORAVIAN MISSIONARY IN GREENLAND.

[Continued.]

First Visit to Greenland.

In this first visit to Greenland, Matthew Stach spent seven years. He visited it again in 1742, 1749, 1753, 1754, and 1757; and left it finally in 1771.

Difficulties on first settling in Greenland.

Of these difficulties, Craniz gives the following account:—

Immediately on their landing, they repaired to Mr. Egede. He gave them a cordial reception, congratulated them on their undertaking, and promised them his assistance in learning the language. They next fixed on a spot for building on, the nearest habitable part of the coast, to which they afterwards gave the name of New Hernehut*, and, having consecrated it with prayer, began to run up a Greenland hut of stones and sods, in which they might find shelter until they had erected a wooden house. They bought an old boat of the captain, in which they intended to procure themselves food by fishing.—It was an early season, and the snow disappeared a month sooner than usu-

* Hernehut signifies "The Lord's Watch."

al; yet the cold was so severe, that the turf often froze in their hands. On the 6th of June, they had so far finished their hut, that they could enter it, pulling down the tent of boards, in which they had hitherto lodged. Directly after the ship had sailed, June 15th, they laid the foundation of their dwelling house, they likewise began to build a house for such Greenlanders as might resort to them for instruction, but it was long before there was any use for this.

The dwelling-house being completed, they next turned their attention to the means of procuring a maintenance, and to the acquisition of the language.

Mr. Egede, who had kindly offered to help them in learning the language, gave them his written remarks to copy, and his sons explained them.

—But it may easily be imagined, that they had to struggle with most appalling difficulties. They were obliged in the first place, to learn the Danish, in order to understand their instructors: it was then necessary for them to acquire a clear idea of the technical terms of grammar, with which they were wholly unacquainted: and lastly, to make themselves masters of the uncouth Greenlandic declensions and conjugations, thro' a number of unusual moods, and an almost interminable variety of suffixes. Besides this, a copious vocabulary was to be committed to memory, the Greenlanders having often ten different words for one thing. It was very natural that they should frequently be wearied with such a course of study; espe-