

26

THE

CHRISTIAN RECORDER.

Vol. I.

JUNE, 1819.

No. 4.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

DR. CHALMERS ON UNIVERSAL PEACE.

THE continuance of the late war in Europe, which experienced little or no interruption for nearly twenty five years, has excited a degree of serious reflection upon the miseries by which it was attended and is still followed, more deep and general than upon those produced by the wars of any former period.

For centuries back the direful evils promoted by this scourge of humanity were confined to very few nations at one and the same time. They fought with various success, their existence, as independent states, was seldom in danger, and though the victor rejoiced in obtaining the mastery, the prize was commonly insignificant, and rather excited in the vanquished a desire to renew the contest, than a wish to remain at peace. In these wars, the mass of the several nations felt little or no interest—fleets and armies were sent to fight at a distance from home. A remote colony was frequently the object of contention, and the scene of action, while the parent state remained quiet and tranquil. Even in those continental wars which desolated Germany, during the last century, and which brought upon the inhabitants of many of its states the severest evils, were not so strongly felt as might have been expected; for the government of their petty Princes was so tyrannical and oppressive, as to make a state of hostility little or no addition to their common hardships. The knowledge of this fact prevented any