

THE CHRISTIAN REGISTER.

"ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."

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FOREIGN NEWS.

MEMOIR

OF THE LATE WALTER VENNING, ESQ.

[CONTINUED.]

THE writer of this Memoir had received a general but authentic account of the death of Mr. Venning, stating that it was occasioned by an infectious fever, which he caught in visiting a prison in St. Petersburg, and that it took place on the 22d of January. Subsequently to this, he received two important communications. The first was a letter from Mr. Venning himself, written six weeks before the commencement of the disorder which was appointed to remove him from our world. It was principally occupied in relating the particulars of a merciful preservation from shipwreck, which he had experienced in the Gulf of Finland, when he was on his way to Copenhagen, where he had the prospect of instituting a Prison Society, such as now exists, in consequence in a great measure of his exertions at St. Petersburg. The loss of the ship obliged him to return to Russia, but still with the intention of visiting Denmark, and of proceeding to England. There is a passage in his letter which, considering that when it was received he was known to be dead, could not but be deeply interesting. "Still," he says, "I look forward with pleasure, and hope to see my dear English friends next summer; but the

vicissitudes of life, and the uncertainty of life itself, especially in the work which engages all my time and attention, forbid me, at least for the present to say much about it."—Such was the deep sense which he entertained of that uncertainty, of which so affecting an illustration was just at hand.

A few days after this, the writer received a letter from the Rev. Richard Knill, a Missionary in connexion with the London Missionary Society, stationed for the present at St. Petersburg; containing a more detailed account of the decease of this valuable man, from which a few extracts may be acceptable. It is dated 14-26 Jan. 1821.

Mr. Walter Venning and another member of the visiting Committee, were at the prison about three weeks ago; both of them caught fever; the other gentleman was seized first, and soon discovered symptoms of typhus; his life was despaired of, but through mercy he is now recovered. Mr. Venning's disorder began with a cold, it increased, and ten days before his death, he was confined to his bed.—On Thursday the 18th, he sent for Dr. Patterson and me. Dr. Patterson was not at home, but I went immediately. On my entering his room, he said, "I have sent for Dr. Patterson and you, because it is my earnest wish to have you with me.—It is right I should have those with me now, with whom I hope to dwell for ever. The doctors tell me that I am not very ill; I think I am,