

THE
CHRISTIAN'S MAGAZINE;
ON A NEW PLAN.

No. II.]

FEBRUARY, 1810.

[VOL. III.

A Sketch of the Life of the Rev. WILLIAM HUMPHRIES, Pastor of a Dissenting Congregation at Hammersmith, in England, taken from the Rev. ROBERT WINTER'S Sermon, occasioned by his death.

—♦—

THE Rev. WILLIAM HUMPHRIES was blessed with a religious as well as a liberal education. When he was only nine years old he began to seek after God: having at that early period received some impressive views of the vast importance of religion, which from that time he never lost. These views awakened in his breast a desire to be useful to the souls of his fellow-creatures, and led him to think of the ministry as his future employment. By his friends he was designed for the established church; but he became, on full conviction, a decided, though a liberal Protestant Dissenter. Hence he was induced to enter a student of the Academy at Homerton, in 1778, then under the direction of Drs. Conder, Gibbons, and Fisher. In 1779 he became a mem-

VOL. III.—No. II. I

leaving the result in the hand of the great agent of the New Covenant*.



Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Gideon Blackburn, to a gentleman of this City; dated Maryville, Dec. 24th, 1809.

WHAT is the state of religion in your city? Are all at ease in Zion? It is too much the case here—The vicious examples of the white people who mingle with my Indians, effectually prevent much religion amongst them. But in point of civilization, they are rising in respectability. Their country is covered with well cultivated farms—their stocks have so increased that 700 beeves have been sent to market this season, and 1000 hogs. They have formed written laws, and keep them on record. I have educated near 300 of their children; and gave each who learned to read, a bible, or testament, and some other good book. Thus I hope the advantages will not be lost. They are now getting into the idea of private schools, at their own cost, with a little of my assistance. This I am desirous to encourage.



Extract of a Letter from the Rev. President Atwater, dated Carlisle, January 4, 1810.

I HAVE received three letters from there, (Middlebury, Vermont,) on the subject, (a revival of religion.)

* In confirmation of the above sentiment, we have the experience of the Moravian missionaries in Greenland. For ten years did a very learned and pious minister labour among them without the conversion of a single soul. He thought that he must prove to them the existence of a God, and the original stain of our natures, before he could preach the peculiar doctrines of the gospel; and he never could get over this first step: for they either could not, or would not understand it. At length he saw his error, and the plan of operations was altered. Jesus Christ was preached in simplicity, without any preparation. The Greenlanders seemed thoughtful, amazed, and confounded—their eyes were opened to their lost and ruined state—the gospel was every where received in love, and proved effectual to the destruction of the kingdom of darkness—numbers came from the borders of the northern ocean to hear the word of life; and perhaps the greater part of the population of this country has now received the truth.