

**THE LIFE OF THE REV. RICHARD KNILL, OF
ST. PETERSBURGH; BEING SELECTIONS
FROM HIS REMINISCENCES,
JOURNALS, AND CORRESPONDENCE,
WITH A REVIEW OF HIS CHARACTER, BY
THE LATE REV. JOHN ANGELL JAMES**

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The life of the Rev. Richard Knill, of St. Petersburg; being selections from his reminiscences, journals, and correspondence, with a review of his character, by the late Rev. John Angell James by Charles M. Birrell

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CHARLES M. BIRRELL

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*Vous assurement
R. Keil*

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By CHARLES M. BIRRELL.

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Preface.

THE personal reminiscences which form the basis of this narrative were penned during some periods of silence appointed to the venerable writer towards the close of his life. The hope, however, which was at first entertained, of presenting them to the reader as an untouched composition, could not be realised, as they were found, on close examination, to be marked by chronological inaccuracies, and the omission of some interesting passages of his history. The Editor, although he had the happiness of witnessing Mr Knill's manner of life in the foreign capital which enjoyed so large a share of his labours, as well as the privilege of frequent communication with him during his residence in the English city in which his useful career closed, did not judge himself competent to complete the story; but a large supply of letters and several volumes of journals having promised to supply the deficiencies of the original sketch, he attempted

to unite all the documents in a continuous narration, which should retain, as much as possible, the character of an autobiography.

At a period when there are signs of an increased desire on the part of Christians to seize the opportunities of usefulness which occur in common life, the example of one, who, though occupying a public position, was distinguished for the devoutness, vigilance, and success with which he applied the interviews of the home and the wayside to the loftiest topics, will not, it is hoped, be unseasonable, nor, by the Divine blessing, without fruit.

The fervent and discriminating application of the moral lessons of the book made in the concluding pages by an author who has laid this generation under so great obligations—whose words prompted the earliest serious thoughts, and guide the mature labours of so many amongst us—will, it is believed, be accepted by the reader, as it has been by the Editor, with sincere gratitude.*

EDGE HILL, LIVERPOOL,
1st October 1859.

* See Postscript, page 266.

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