

and the cause which they and we are bound to have so much at heart. I feel that there is cause for shame and humiliation in the sad fact, that at our last communion here (held on the first Sabbath of the New Year), no fewer than seven of the members were debarred from the Lord's Table. Of these, three have fallen into the sin of idolatry, i.e., they have taken part in the idol feasts of the heathen around, not by openly partaking of these, but by contributing to them the share of food demanded. This demand is made of many of the converts, and, being made under the threat of persecution, it proves a test of their faith and endurance : alas ! that the three alluded to were found so sadly wanting in the day of trial. The remaining four have been absenting themselves from worship and disregarding the Lord's Day. For these weak and erring ones, let me entreat the prayers of the Church at home. Indeed, for all we may well ask you to pray, for such are the trials the little flock of Christ's sheep meet with among the wolves by whom they are surrounded, that but for Divine grace it were simply impossible that any of them could follow him : and that "roaring lion, the devil," is never far from us, but, with cruel, guileful, relentless hate, seeks to ensnare and assault those whom the Great Deliverer has saved from his power. The temptations to the sin of Sabbath-breaking, and to that of more or less complicity with the idolatry of their heathen relatives and neighbours, are very great and very pressing on almost all the members here ; and some interesting stories might be told of the trial and the triumph of these beloved ones, lambs of the flock, to the praise of the exceeding grace and power of the Good Shepherd, the Captain of our salvation.

But, while we would specially desire prayer for strength and endurance under trial, so would we also for the Spirit of all grace, that those fruits of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, &c., &c., may be brought forth abundantly by us all. For truly it is where these sweet and lovely fruits most grow, that our Father in heaven is most glorified, and his Church most prosperous.

During the past year, and especially during the cooler months, both Mr. Smith and I, with the native assistants, have had many good opportunities of evangelizing and distributing books, both in and around Swatow and in the Yam-tsau quarter. During the three months I have now spent here, we have gone to about 40 villages in the country round about, some on the islands some on the mainland. Several of these had never been visited before, and in such the people were for the most part very ready to hear and to receive our books. On two occasions we made very interesting three days' visits to a new region in the direction of the district city of *Jau Ping* ; and at three several large market gatherings (strongly reminding me of the *trysts* and markets held in many places in Scotland), held at places some 5 or 6 miles apart, we had truly noble opportunities of preaching, such were the crowds that came to hear. Oh for the life-giving Spirit to "breathe upon these slain that they may live" !

Communications.

AWAKENING AT LANCASTER.

To the Editor of the Record.

REV. AND DEAR SIR.—I learn from the March number of your *Record* that you have had some private information of the good work of grace which is going on at Lancaster. I am glad to be able to say that you have not been misinformed. The Lord, in answer to prayer, has indeed visited the place with a *shower of blessing*, which has gladdened the hearts of many of God's people, and caused many a soul to *live anew in Jesus*. A short sketch of this blessed work of God, may be of some interest to your readers.

Upon a serious and prayerful, and, I may say, painful consideration of the low state of religion in this place ; it was resolved to hold the Week of Prayer-