

whom we fear it will be needful to cut off from communion altogether. Our wants are many and urgent, especially as regards missionaries, male and female, and native assistants.

Would it not be well that the English Presbyterian Church should set apart a day specially for prayer, in behalf of the China Mission, that labourers may be raised up at home and in China for the work ?

Preaching Tour.

In a letter of the previous month, Mr. Smith gives the following interesting account of a preaching tour in the district of Yam-tsan, before his serious illness :—

“Of the three Sabbaths during which I was absent, two were spent at Toa Soa Thau, and one at P’hua Sua, two of our new stations, where neither Mr. Mackenzie nor I had previously been on the Lord’s Day. The other days were mostly given to evangelistic work in the neighbourhood of the villages named, and Ung Kung. The opportunities for preaching both in new add old parts, were both numerous and encouraging. With a native assistant, I preached in ten villages around Toa Soa Thau, where I had never before preached. In most of them we had attentive and respectful audiences. The village of Nam Te is distant from the station named between two and three miles, and has a population of at least 40,000 souls. Some ten or eleven years ago, Mr. Burns was robbed there while passing the night in one part of it along with one or two native evangelists. It is notorious as a nest of daring robbers. Last time that Mr. Burns was in Tie Cheu, he met with rude treatment from some of its inhabitants in crossing a ferry. Since we began work in Yam Tsau, we have also had to do with it. You may remember that five or six years ago, A-kee was robbed and imprisoned in it. By God’s overruling providence, that occurrence proved helpful to us in bringing the inhabitants to be more careful of their conduct towards us for the future. At this time we paid two visits to it, and were manifestly helped on both occasions.

“In a village called Little Soa Thau, with a population of nine or ten thousand, we attempted to commend our message to a large crowd in the market-place, but after a time had to withdraw. A great concourse of lads and boys followed us beyond the village, throwing all kinds of missiles at us, but we did not suffer the slightest injury.”

Three Baptisms at Swatow.

“On Sabbath, 3rd November, we were privileged to receive to church-fellowship at Swatow, three adults, two men, and one old woman, about seventy-five years of age. The case of each is remarkable, and worthy of being recorded in detail, but time will not permit. I may remark that one of the men is a leper from Chau-an, in Fo-kien. The dear old woman received the word with much joy ; so much so, that one evening she could not eat, and one night could not sleep, for gladness of heart. She is mother of one of our converts, and is from the important district of T’hey Uai. The other man is a Hakka.”

Latest from Formosa.

From Takao, in Formosa, letters have been received from Dr. Maxwell and Mr. Ritchie, dated 19th December.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie, arrived on the 13th December, and received a most cordial welcome from Dr. Maxwell and all the native brethren. Mr. Ritchie will be for some time engaged in studying the language, and on Sunday he will take the service for the foreign residents. The following are his first impressions of Ta-ka-o :—

“On entering the harbour, a smooth water lagoon, stretches back as far