

are written in Zion, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem"; give the Lord no rest till he arise and make her a praise in the earth." O, Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, and say unto Zion, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

Respectfully submitted.

ROBERT TORRANCE,
Convener.

Communications.

THE RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT AT LANCASTER.

DEAR SIR.—Having had opportunity recently of visiting the Lancaster district, it has been suggested to me that, by giving my impressions of the good work said to be going on there, I might benefit the cause of religion in other places.

Every friend of the Bridegroom should "rejoice because of the bridegroom's voice;" and it was, I trust, from a better motive than mere curiosity that I connected with my summer journeyings, first a week day visit, and afterwards a Sabbath ministration at the scene of Mr. Anderson's labours:—one of our Knox College men, who has, during these seven or eight years pursued his quiet unostentatious way in cultivating the portion of the vineyard allotted to him, and is now privileged to reap very gratifying fruits. People have got perhaps too much into the habit of doubting reports of local revival. Even Christians who are daily seeking the influences of grace in prayers more or less earnest, may sometimes, I doubt, feel convicted of a measure of insincerity or unbelief, by their slowness to credit relations of unusual spiritual awakening; as if, after all, they accounted the Spirit of the Lord straitened, or scarcely seriously expected answers to their prayers. In the locality named, I saw quite enough to convince me that the arm of the Lord has been revealed; nor am I the less convinced of this, because there, as in every scene of such divine manifestations, there are still the unimpressed and the unawakened; and all have not the earnest look of anxious inquirers, or the marked expression of intelligent mental repose—I mean among those within—and still less, though there be those without who would say, "What shall we do to these men?" yet like those mentioned in Acts 4, they can hardly but add (ver. 16) "we cannot deny"—a change. I should say of two congregations which I addressed, that the one struck me as much more alive to religious concerns than the other, and I found my impressions, gathered by the eye, confirmed by subsequent information, or details of facts elicited by particular, though I hope not intrusive, inquiries. I would not account it delicate, or to any parties profitable, to be repeating, far less publicly parading the proofs, in word and action, whether of individual anxiety in seeking the pearl of great price, or of joy in having found it; nor to expose to every eye the workings of the soul in young converts, or the visible fruits of change in heart and life on the part of those whose religion hitherto may have been little more than nominal. But it is surely a good deal to say, that, besides a most marked change in the measure of attendance given to religious ordinances, both on Sabbath day and week day, and this begun and sustained without any artificial or unusual modes of exciting feeling, more than a hundred persons have been added to the communicants' roll of a country congregation since January last; that persons lately living to the present world, and loving its frivolities—younger as well as elder persons—have cast their idols away, and manifested an unwonted preference for spiritual exercises and religious companionships; that individuals and families of the Romish communion have risen above their educational prejudices, and gratefully confessed their value of the truth in which for the first time their souls have found rest; that whole households of nominal Protestants, or members of Christian families hitherto