

after hearing Bishop Baddeley address his ship's company, admitted that, while he had always regarded himself as being a good Churchman, but had never had any appreciation of foreign missions, said that after his experience during recent months of the Islanders and what they had done as the result of the work of the Missions he had been compelled to revise completely his earlier judgment.

To the extent that the means for this work can be restored and continued will depend upon the Churchpeople of New Zealand. May their support be worthy of the noble cause and may this Diocese of Waiapu show its gratitude by doing its full part to further this heroic missionary endeavour.

Character

Character is the result of conscious effort from day to day. The which you most desire in the depths of your inmost heart is the plan by which you shape your character building. Set your affection on things which are base and unworthy and your character becomes a wall of unlovely type. Set your affection on things above, on the unseen values of eternity, on truth and light and justice, and the built-up wall of your character will proceed along the right lines. The stones which enter into that wall are thoughts and words and deeds. As a wise and skilful builder rejects some of the stones that are brought to him as unfit to have a place in his building, so you ought often to reject many a thought that is suggested, to refrain from repeating much that is told you, and to abstain from many deeds which, by the thoughtless and profane, are performed to our knowledge every day.

Good character in man is not a wild and natural growth—it is only developed under careful discipline. The standard of righteousness is as unvarying as the plumb. Virtue is as exact as the angle of a square. Our determination to be good must be as continuous and unbroken as the level line which stretches far beyond the bounds of space to the realms of eternity. Let no one suppose that it does not matter what he believes, or how he speaks, or what he does; for thoughts, words and deeds are the building material of his character." — "Masonic Home Journal."

Witnesses For Christ.

(Sermon preached at All Saints' Church, Taradale, on Sunday after Ascension by the Rev. H. Biathwayt.)

Acts 1-3: But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

It will be remembered that after our Lord's resurrection He told the Disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until He should pour out His Spirit on His Church. The church at that time consisted of the Twelve Apostles, a few women and perhaps a few others. At the outside there would not be more than 200 brethren. For remember the church is made up of those who have faith in Jesus and who have been baptised. And when I speak of faith in Jesus, I mean those who believe that He, God once entered into the world by taking his humanity in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

The Nicene Creed says "Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us." Those who believed in Jesus were faithful to Him. They remained in Jerusalem and Christ's promise was fulfilled. The Holy Ghost came upon them by transient sign and like 'a rushing mighty wind.' What we notice most is that the Church became at once a missionary church with everyone being enthusiastic to proclaim to others the good news they themselves had received.

Christ said that they would be witnesses and by their lives proved that they had something valuable that others had not. The outsiders saw that these men were happy, contented, unselfish and willing to help others. It became a common saying "See how these Christians love one another." They disposed none, being so different from the Priest and Levite of the Jewish Church. We read of wholesale conversion as on the Day of Pentecost when three thousand were admitted into the Church by baptism.

But these early disciples did not only witness by their lives but by dying for it. In fact the word "witness" in Greek is "Martyres" from which we get the word martyr. It became unpopular to witness for Christ and many like Stephen laid down their lives rather than deny Him. Surely they would understand our Lord's words when He had said, "If any man will come after Me." Further He said "For whosoever will lose his life for My sake he shall save it."

What we have to remember is that those words and the words of the text were spoken not only to the Disciples but to us as well. We have to be His witnesses. Like the

Disciples we have to so live that people may take notice that Jesus has touched our lives and made us more humble, unselfish and willing to be of service to our brother man, and like the Disciples to assemble ourselves together to break bread and to give Him worship and praise.

Many people are neglecting this way of witnessing, in fact they encourage others, by their example, to stay away from Sunday worship and so lead them from it. It is by our example that we most affect and when people see us who are vestry members or communicants not being loyal to our church they naturally think that our religion is a sham. It does not encourage them to give of their best in the service of their Church. When we compare the lives of those who were witnesses for Christ in the early days of Christianity with our witness we can understand why it is that the church is so feeble in these days.

If you are a gardener you always want to be among your flowers. You see that the weeds don't crowd them out. You tend and nourish them and so it must be with God's garden. A poet has truly said:—

Your heart's a garden love has sown

To give your life the work that needed

'Some day He'll come and pluck His flowers

So mnd you keep your garden weeded.

We should not let Sunday pass without assembling in church to give God worship and praise. But besides being loyal to Him at home we have to see that those who live in dark places of the earth without knowledge of Christ have the Gospel brought to them. Our text says "that ye shall be witnesses not only in Judea and Samaria but unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

The evangelising of the multitudes without the knowledge of Christianity is without doubt our concern as witnesses if we are such. The proclamation of the King of Kings to go and spread the good news was issued 1944 years ago yet millions are still Christless and hopeless living lives that are cruel, sensual and devilish.

All our missionaries will tell you, whatever field they work in, that the heathen before they receive Christ go about in constant fear of some tapu or hoodoo, but when they become one of Christ's disciples a wonderful change overtakes them. They become like all true Christians happy and contented—they become witnesses for Christ.