

Message from Bishop-Elect.

16th November, 1944.

Dear People of Waiapu,

The Editor of the "Waiapu Diocesan Gazette" has requested me to write a short letter for the December issue.

First let me say with what real pleasure my wife and I are looking forward to coming to your Diocese.

When, six years ago, the Waiapu Synod nominated me as your Bishop I felt not only my incompetence for the office, but also that my duty then lay here at the Dunedin Cathedral. I had therefore no hesitation in declining that invitation.

But when this second request came, I decided that, despite my inadequacy, it was my duty now to accept, and I can only pray, and earnestly ask your co-operation in prayer, that I may prove in some small way worthy of the trust which has been reposed in me.

It will be my earnest endeavour to lead the Diocese, with the help of both clergy and laity, that we may fulfil the Will of God and be a cheerful and contented body in doing it.

The problems of both Church and State to-day are exceedingly difficult and involved, but let us be quite sure that God has the solutions and for us the one and only solution is obedience to the Divine Will. It is by our response that God reveals Himself to us, and that response though often very simple, is personal, and sometimes by no means easy. Christianity is not meant to be an easy religion. Without suffering, a man's nature remains shallow, and alas! there is great suffering physical, intellectual and spiritual around us to-day. But experience has taught me that difficulties are things to be overcome by the grace of God, and although, as yet, I am entirely ignorant of your Diocese and its problems, so surely as the work is Divine there will be difficulties as well as joys, and I ask your prayers and your help that we may share and solve them in God's own way.

The Feast of Christmas teaches us the Foundation of our Faith, **Christ Jesus our God, Emmanuel, God with us, and in that Faith, relying upon God's aid entirely, we conquer.**

Yours very sincerely,

G. C. CRUICKSHANK,

Bishop-Elect.

Why We Expect His Coming.

Whose coming do we expect? There is but one answer to this question.

We expect the coming of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. We look for the coming of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. We look for it, because He has promised to come. He has gone back to heaven to prepare a place there for His redeemed people, but He says: "I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

All the Scriptures inspired as they all are by the Holy Ghost, bear testimony to His coming.

The Corinthian saints were taught this truth. As often as they partook of the Lord's Supper they shewed forth "the Lord's death till He come." They were taught to look for the resurrection of Christ's people at His coming.

To the Philippian saints the Apostle said: "Our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."

To the Colossian saints the Apostle said: "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

The Thessalonian saints, as a result of Apostolic teaching, began "to wait for God's Son from heaven, even Jesus, which delivered them from the wrath to come." It was to those same saints that the Apostle said: "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout," and then all His people would be "caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." Then they would "ever be with the Lord."

Let us rest assured then that "He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." There can be no doubt that "the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." If scoffers say: "Where is the promise of His coming?" we answer it is writ large in the inspired Scriptures. In response to the promise: "Surely, I come quickly," we thankfully say: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

—English Churchman.

BROADCAST SERVICES

December 3.—Evening, 1YA.

December 10.—Morning, 2YA; evening, 3YA.

December 17.—Morning, 1YA; evening, 4YA and 2YH.

December 24.—Morning, 3YA; evening, 2YA.

December 31.—Evening, 3YA.