

Waiapu Church Gazette

September 1st, 1945.

UNTO US THE VICTORY.

"The fight is o'er, the battle done."

The news that the terrible war, with all its slaughter, its suffering and its destruction, is over was moving news to the free peoples of the whole world and the freed peoples alike. From millions of homes rose a prayer of thankfulness that the forces of evil had at last, by God's mercy, been finally overthrown. For many years have the enemies of the Allied Nations desecrated one country after another with their cruelties and their rapine. Be it remembered that in their prisons or concentration camps thousands upon thousands of miserable men and women were kept. There in these infamous dens barbaric gaolers starved them and tortured them with iniquitous and nameless barbarities until they died.

To-day Germany is in the hands of those whom its maniacal Fuehrer had thought to despise and master. The dreams of Japanese of a Greater East Asia have been shattered. They have learned the capacity of their adversaries to endure heavy losses, to summon up their strength and skill and to "toil on with boundless obstinacy through boundless suffering" to absolute victory.

Let us honour the dead and help the living, who have fought that we might be saved. Let us give thanks to Almighty God, under Whose hand the peoples of the United Nations have reached the calm waters of peace.

Many of our men have returned, many are to return, but there are many, the bravest and the best, who will never return. New Zealand will always be the poorer for their loss and the richer for their sacrifice. Those who mourn them may find some solace in Thomas Hardy's vision:

I saw a dead man's finer part
Shining within each faithful heart
Of those bereft. Then said I, "This must be
His Immortality."

In nearly six years of war the vitality of the Great Powers that must preserve the peace has been taxed; many nations have been left in ruin and starvation. The period of replenishment that lies ahead presents problems as urgent to the confirmation of victory as those which have been resolved on the far-flung battlefields. They must be met by all people with courage, with resolution and with attack equal to that with which the Allied fighting men have faced and vanquished the aggressors. It is in a mood of re-dedication, not of vainglory, that we should pay tribute to those who made this glorious triumph of man's sovereign law possible, that we should turn our eyes to the future and its heavy tasks.

What of the future? is a question that countless men are turning over in their hearts. They have learned that the way of Mars in all its blood and hideousness is evil in its worst conception. They have to choose as their way of life between this road of darkness and chaos and that which was given to us by the Prince of Peace over 1900 years ago and which has as its signpost "brotherhood." Warnings that the world which is without God will return to chaos have been given by two great leaders, the architects of victory, Mr Winston Churchill and the late President Roosevelt. Our great military leaders, all men of God who have acknowledged Him as their Master and source of great power, have given the same message. It has been through these God-fearing men that we have been able to express our joy at victory. The Christian way of civilisation has been preserved, but its blessings will be enfolded only if men will heed Him, the Giver of all victories.

ROTHERHAM.

The Rt. Rev. G. V. Gerard, C.B.E., who was in charge of this Diocese of Waiapu for five years, has commenced his ministry as vicar in the Parish of Rotherham, Yorkshire. Rotherham is about seven miles from Sheffield in the West Riding, and has mass foundries, large iron and steel works and collieries, and has a population of 78,000.

The Church, named "All Saints," is very ancient, and is mentioned several times in the Doomsday Book. It has a beautiful peel of eight bells, which are rung weekly. The organ is a Snetuyler, over 100 years old, and the clock, which chimes the quarter hours and strikes the hour, in times past, was the only means of many of the inhabitants of knowing the time. All Saints overlooks the river Don and stands on a rise. There is a very fine Lady Chapel, where Mary Queen of Scots as supposed to have stopped to pray on her way to the Tower of London.

For The Fallen.

They shall not grow old, as we
that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor
the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

—Laurence Bnyon.

Fund to Assist in Study for Holy Orders.

"It may not be generally known that the New Zealand Anglican Bible Class Union has a fund from which to assist Bible Class Union members who wish to study for Holy Orders," writes Mr. H. S. Hamilton, president of the union. "Grants are made, usually for the purchase of books, to applicants recommended by their vicars and approved by the trustees of the fund. All communications are treated as strictly confidential and the names of those who receive assistance, and the amounts granted to them, are not divulged. Only the total amount granted during the year is entered in the statement of accounts presented to the annual conference of the union."

Mr. Hamilton adds that donations, grants, bequests and annual subscriptions to the ordination candidates trust fund are all needed to make it as widely useful as possible. Applications for grants, or contributions to the fund, may be sent to Mr. Hamilton at St. John's Vicarage, Woolston, Christchurch, S.E.1.