

A Lesson in the Patience of Hope.

The Rev. Thomas Chapman, Missionary at Rotorua, closed his journal of 1846 with the following remarks:—

“The year has closed, and still finds us working, amid many discouragements and some well-grounded cause for hope, in our Master’s vineyard. Looking at the promises, I trust that the New Zealand Missionary may labour on, and that, what thirty years have not fully accomplished, fifty may.

Twelve years ago I planted three young pear trees, sent by the late Rev. S. Marsden, from Sydney, in my garden at Kerikeri. On their passage they had been carelessly thrown into the boat astern of the vessel, and exposed, during a winter voyage, to everything likely to destroy them. So utterly miserable was their condition on reaching Kerikeri that my fellow-labourer refused to plant them, considering them quite dead. I however received them, steeped them for two days and nights in the Kerikeri river, and then planted them in a moist place by its side. They grew—they are still growing!

The year after I had planted them, I exchanged houses with my fellow-labourer there, and, on removing, removed my trees also. The next year I was ordered to Paihia, and my pear trees accompanied me thither. I remained there twelve months, at the expiration of which period I commenced Missionary labours at Rotorua, and, embarking on board the “Columbine,” again my trees became my travelling companions. On arriving at the station, I planted them in a beautiful aspect, and soon their shoots and leaves appeared. Here they rested another year, when the southern war drove us from our home, our premises, and the whole settlement, being burnt to the ground. Some of my trees were destroyed, some stolen, but my pear trees escaped; and, for safety, I removed them, with ourselves, to the island in the middle of the lake. They were permitted to rest quietly here for another year, at the close of which, a new site having been purchased for our station, they were again transplanted to where they now stand.

This year one of them has a few pears on it—the first. The second tree bore a few blossoms, which soon perished, and the third has hitherto shown me nothing but leaves. Yet the fruit upon the first gives me hope concerning the future bloom of the second; and the bloom of the second gives me hope concerning the leaves of the third. The first bloomed for two successive years without fruit. The third year’s bloom produced fruit.

See the vicissitudes of these trees. Were they once as dead? Have they been five times transplanted? Did they escape the ravages of war? And, after a lapse of twelve years, has only one of them borne fruit? The same wisdom which gave them such preserving qualities, and the human instrument to tend and watch over them, may yet produce the same result in each; the reward of patient perseverance and hope. Yes, my pear trees have read me many a lesson. Not unfrequently, when my mind has been exercised, in the midst of this once entirely savage people, to its utmost stretch, I have silently retired to my orchard, and communed with my inoffensive trees; traced them through all their states and stages, rejoiced in their growth, however slow, and returned to my difficulties, fully impressed with the conviction that my paramount duty was still to labour in faith and patience in that vineyard in which it has pleased the Master to place me.”—*Church Missionary Record, June, 1847.*

For some years past the students of our English Universities have organised each autumn a Missionary campaign in some of our larger towns in order to awaken a better knowledge of, and a deeper concern in, the vast oversea knowledge of the Church. This year, Cambridge is to go to Bradford, Oxford to Nottingham, and London University to Bromley.

“Gospel” means “good news,” and not good advice.

“The four words which comprise the law of the spiritual life—*admit*, that is accept the truth of God; *submit*, that is obey it; *commit*, that is live in entire dependence upon God; *transmit*, that is let the life flow to those around.”—*Bishop Wilberforce.*

New Zealand Mothers' Union.

OBJECTS:

1. To uphold the sanctity of marriage.
2. To awaken in mothers of all classes a sense of their great responsibility in the training of their boys and girls (the future fathers and mothers of the Dominion).
3. To organise in every place a band of mothers, who will unite in prayer, and seek by their own example to lead their families in purity and holiness of life.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL:

President—Mrs Averill, Bishops court.

Secretary & Treasurer—

Mrs F. W. Williams, Hukare-re-rd, Napier.

Members of Council—

Mrs Mitford Taylor, Mrs A. W. Lascelles.

BRANCHES:

Cathedral Parish, Gisborne, Havelock, Rotorua, Te Aute.

As many new branches have been, and are still being, formed in the various parishes of the Diocese, it has been considered desirable that there should be a Central Council, through which communication with the parent Society can be kept up.

A meeting was held on Friday, August 5th, when it was resolved that a Diocesan Council should be established. Mrs Averill, who has been instrumental in the formation of a number of new branches, was appointed President, and Mrs F. W. Williams Secretary and Treasurer. Later on it is proposed that each branch shall appoint a delegate to represent it on the Council. Each branch will contribute 5/- per annum to the Central Council for its working expenses.

Miss Whitaker has given most interesting and helpful addresses at a number of places, and to large and appreciative audiences, on the duties and responsibilities of mothers. Miss Whitaker has had much experience in England in the work of the Union, and spoke of the great good it is doing.

The Waiapu Diocese now has five branches, as against only one last year, and several others are in prospect. The number of members and associates stands at 150 approximately.

Branches requiring literature are requested to send their orders to the President of the Diocesan Council.

Mrs Mayne continues President of the Cathedral branch; Mrs Ruddock has been appointed Secretary in place of Mrs F. W. Williams; and Mrs H. Thomson is Treasurer. The number of members of this branch has greatly increased of late; the monthly meetings have been well attended.