

The Mission.

Letter of the Bishop of Waiapu to the Diocese.

BISHOPSCOURT,

NAPIER.

AUGUST 12TH, 1910.

MY DEAR PEOPLE:—

The Mission, for which many of us have been praying for months past, is at hand. The message, which God is sending in answer to our Prayers, will soon be sounding in our ears. It remains for us now to ask ourselves the solemn questions:—

“Am I ready to receive GOD’S MESSAGE?”

“Am I willing to act upon GOD’S MESSAGE?”

Remember that when “the desire for a Mission originates in earnest Prayers, and in pure zeal for the glory of GOD and the well-being of our people, the Mission is from GOD. Then it is a ‘time of visitation.’” This coming Mission is therefore “FROM GOD”—hence its solemnity; for this Mission is the outcome of “earnest prayers” and of “pure zeal for the glory of GOD and the well-being of our people”—hence our responsibility.

Think seriously over those solemn words in S. Luke xix, 41-45: “And when He drew nigh, He saw the city and wept over it, saying: ‘If thou hadst known in this day, even thou, the things which belong unto peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes . . . because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.’”

The “palsy of custom,” self-satisfaction, self-righteousness and formalism had become so ingrained in the hearts of the majority of those Jews to whom Jesus spoke, that even He could not touch their souls, and could only weep and die for them.

What reception will this MESSAGE FROM GOD receive in New Zealand? in our own Diocese? in our own Parish? in our own hearts? When “Jesus of Nazareth passeth by,” will He find a welcome awaiting Him? Will He find a home prepared for Him? Will He be able to pour out His forgiving love upon penitent souls, conscious of their deep needs? Will He be able to strengthen and brace up weak and feeble wills? Will He have the opportunity of bestowing that abundant life which He longs to impart? God grant that He may not have to weep over us!

Dear people, I earnestly invite you to “buy up” this great opportunity. I earnestly invite you to come regularly to the Mission Services with an open and unbiassed