

They bring me sorrow touched  
with joy,  
The merry, merry bells of Yule."

He passes through a mood of sorrow to a more joyful and more Christian temper:—

"Rise, happy morn, rise, holy morn,  
Draw forth the cheerful day from night;  
O Father, touch the East, and light  
The light that shone when Hope was born.

(To be continued.)

## 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, Bishopscourt.

Secretary & Treasurer—

Mrs F. W. Williams, Hukarere-rd, Napier.

Members of Council—

Mrs Mitford Taylor, Mrs A. W. Lascelles.

### BRANCHES:

Cathedral Parish, Gisborne, Havelock N., Rotorua, Dannevirke, Hastings, Wai-pukurau, Te Aute.

## "WAKE UP, AUSTRALIAN MOTHERS!"

### King George's Call to Women.

Address by Bishop of North Queensland.

(Continued.)

The Mother's Union exists to give effect to the ideals of home life, so dear to our King—so necessary to our nation. It aims at banding together those into whose hearts the Lord God has breathed this knowledge of what constitutes a nation's strength. Listen to its threefold objective.

First it seeks "To uphold the sanctity of marriage." A prominent American spoke lately of the shameful and sorrowful pre-eminence gained by his country as "the divorce-habit." Divorce is a national habit easily gained but very difficult to conquer. It is a habit that may grow in Aus-

tralia to the undoing of the nation. And it can best be combatted by good women. "It is impossible to note," wrote the Bishops at Lambeth, "with other than the greatest pain and the gravest condemnation the ease with which in these modern times divorces are obtained, and the frequency of the cases in which the husband and the wife are in collusion in the appeal to the Courts of Law." This is true everywhere in the Empire, not excepting Australia. So here, as elsewhere, the humiliating spectacle can be seen of men and women, who are notoriously loose livers, and are far more dangerous to the community than lepers, moving to and fro in respectable society among young girls and boys, secure because they have not crossed the conventional border line beyond which even the most lax condemns. "For the formation of a clean public opinion, and for its practical outcome in the refusal to be in social relations with adulterers and adulteresses," the Bishops at Lambeth would "most earnestly appeal to clean-living women in all the many ranks and grades of life. Pure women are the great human power for good in this cause, and not in this cause only. They can apply a punishment which will soon prove remedial in its effect; they can refuse to have social relations with adulterers or adulteresses." If they will be brave in this vital matter the flood of evil can be stemmed and turned.

The second object of the Mother's Union is "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 Empire." The Earl of Meath never wearies in warning us that "lack of discipline in youth tends to self-indulgence in later years," while "no nation can be permanently strong which is founded on the quicksands of indiscipline." Good habits are learned best in earliest childhood. Before they can walk children can most successfully be taught obedience, as they can be taught to lift their hands in prayer before their baby lips can frame their mother's words. And, once attained, such habits are never altogether lost in future years. The Japanese have realised this fact to perfection. They have framed a people with a magnificent spirit of devotion to the public weal. But the real work of training is completed at home before the child enters the lowest class in the Public School. The child has learnt to obey. The Japanese have a saying that "good

parents are strict parents." But there is a danger, even here in Australia, of overstrictness. Mr. Kipling has a pathetic story of a little black sheep of a boy who was made by hardness and suspicion into a habitual liar, and then forced into a wilderness of childish misery. Mothers and fathers do not be hard with your children, but for their sakes, and for the nation's need, do not allow them to grow up weak, self-indulgent men and women, because you have not the strength of purpose to say "nay" to their childish desires. Let the children have a strong faith in father's justice and patience, and in mother's tenderness and truth! This knowledge will be a bright beacon to guide them from one end of life to the other.

The third object of the Mother's Union is "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." It is one of the most pitiful experiences of life that so much religious effort is barren of results. Baffled and discouraged by the strength of evil, men and women are tempted to give up their puny struggles for the good. May not this be because they have largely given up the conviction that prayer is a force? Prayer is a real force, as we can test by experience if we will try to find out what God's will is, instead of vainly hoping to force Him to bend His will to our wishes. Climb up more often into the heights, and behold God's Glory and His Presence. When with angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven you have looked upon the whole earth as it really is, full of the Glory of God, you will have found the sure antidote both for discouragement and weakness. By climbing you will show your children how to climb, and your faith will be an anchor for them in the days when they are tossed to and fro on every wind of doctrine.

A young artist, whom I knew when he was passing through the dreary swamps of doubt, wrote years after to tell me that he had won his way to sure grounds of faith. He said:—"It was my mother's life did it. I felt all along that her life must have been built upon truth."

Happy he  
With such a mother! faith in woman-kind  
Beats with his blood, and trust in all things  
high  
Comes easy to him, and though he trip and  
fall  
He shall not bind his soul with clay.

The Mother's Union is free to all. It is Anglican so far that its office holders must be full members of the