

and bring out the latent enthusiasm of everyone. The Synodical address was simple, forcible and spiritual, it combined strong Churchmanship with the true Evangelical Spirit, a combination which is one of the marked features of the present time and was particularly noticeable in the recent Mission. During the Synod the Bishop was essentially a Chairman: he knew his own mind and stuck to it, so that everybody felt that there would be no shifting and shuffling. "I don't know about the Canons, but I have ruled," settled one knotty point and probably prevented a good many others being raised.

Another impression given was the earnest desire of the Clergy for Spiritual help. The devout and reverent attendance at the "Quiet Morning" on the Saturday was very impressive, and the fact that several of the younger Clergy made a request that an address might be given them on every morning while Synod lasted, testifies to the hungering spirit which no doubt was aroused during the Mission, or during the preparation for it. The way that they attended the addresses which were given in response to their appeal sufficiently shewed the genuineness of the request.

Another impression given was the responsiveness of the Laity as a body. There was not a single matter among the many which were suggested in the Bishop's address, that did not come up in Synod and almost all were laymen's questions. In every case there was a manifest wish to carry out the Bishop's suggestions and it seemed as if on the one hand faith dictated the acceptance of the principle, while on the other prudence took time and undertook trouble to carry it out in the best possible way. That forty-two laymen should form themselves into a General Committee to raise the Bishopric Endowment Fund, speaks volumes.

Some of the debates contained a good deal of interest, those on the New South Wales System and the opium question gave very valuable information, and the debate on the Hukarere School brought out oratory of no mean order especially on the part of the Maori speakers.

An amusing and practical episode was the account given by Mr Whibley of the way in which he "fleeced his flock." Getting all his farmers to give him the value of one fleece (at least) or the fleece itself, he was able to send home £34 as a thank-offering for the Church Army; hence he suggested the wisdom of receiving gifts

"in kind" for Church purposes—a suggestion which was cordially received.

The strongest impression left is the immense value of a real spiritual introduction to a Synod, which is likely to lead to a real spiritual tone being manifested throughout it.

Synod Settings.

The Archdeacon of Waiapu always appears happy and fit, but to see him at his very best is at the moment when he is introducing a new Bill to the Synod!

This year the Archdeacon's new Bill was one to make clearer what is required before an application can be made for the formation of a Parish, and the Bill was passed practically without amendment.

We give the main features of the Bill:—

2. The applicants shall furnish with the application the following documents:—

- (a) A plan showing the boundaries of the proposed Parish;
- (b) A list of not less than fifty registered Church members, of whom at least twenty must be Communicants, resident within the boundaries of the proposed Parish;
- (c) Sketch plans of a suitable Church and Vicarage already erected, with a memorandum from the Trustees showing the buildings to be in good repair;
- (d) A statement that the proposed Parish is in a position to raise locally not less than £250 per annum to support the Vicar, and undertakes to do so.

6. It shall be the duty of the Sessional Committee on Returns and Accounts in each year to report the case of any Parish failing to comply with the Regulations set forth in Clause 2 hereof.

7. If the Committee should report that any Parish has failed to comply with the Regulations as aforesaid, the Synod shall take such action as shall to it seem fit under Title B, Canon V., 8 of the General Synod.

Boundaries of Parishes and Parochial Districts.—A resolution was passed asking the President to appoint a Commission to inquire into the boundaries of the various Parishes and Parochial Districts in Hawke's Bay.

A number of Parishes and Parochial Districts are far too large, and because of the cutting-up of large runs there has been a great influx of population, making it all the more difficult for the Clergy to keep in touch with their Parishioners. With the object of studying the conditions of the several districts, and of suggesting changes in their boundaries for the more effective work of the Church, the Bishop was asked to appoint a Commission, and it is hoped that the result of its inquiries may be communicated to the Bishop before the next meeting of Synod.

Expenses of Clergy Transferred from one Parish or Parochial District to Another.—The Standing Committee was asked to take this matter into consideration; it was pointed out that the expenses of moving are considerable, one speaker stated that in his case they amounted to £70, in another case to £50.

And in view of the large expenditure entailed in moving, let us say, from Hawke's Bay to the Bay of Plenty, or *vice versa*, a Vicar might be compelled to refuse what might be in every way a wise change of work. It would then be a great help to the Clergy on moving if, at least, part of their expenses could be paid by the Diocese.

A donation of £10 was promised by one of the Clergy towards a fund for this purpose.

Hukarere School.—Archdeacon Tisdall moved—

"That this Synod desires to place on record its deep regret at the total destruction by fire of the Hukarere School, and to extend to the Misses Williams, and the Principal, teachers, and scholars its sincere sympathy with them in the severe blow that has come upon them; it notes with thankfulness that owing to the splendid discipline that was observed by everyone there was no loss of life or accident of any kind; it further trusts that no effort will be spared and no time lost in the rebuilding of the school that has done so much for the uplifting of the Maori race."

A number of speeches were made both by Pakeha and Maori representatives showing the utmost sympathy with the resolution, and warm appreciation of the great work of the school, which was founded in 1875; and also the general desire that the new school should be built, as soon as possible, on a more extensive site, and with accommodation for a larger number of girls.

The Mission.—It certainly would not have been fitting if the Synod had not passed a resolution of gratitude for the Mission.

The resolution was moved by the Archdeacon of Waiapu, and was carried unanimously, only two or three short speeches being made, for if all the members of Synod had spoken out what they felt, the Synod would not have concluded its work on the Thursday night! Silence was on this occasion the most eloquent testimony to the heartfelt concurrence of the whole Synod with the resolution, which we append:—

Archdeacon Williams moved—

"That (a) this Synod desires to place on record its thankfulness to Almighty God for the blessings received by the Diocese during the Mission, and its appreciation of the self-sacrificing efforts of the Missioners in His service; and prays that those efforts may by God's grace be productive of lasting good to the Church, and that His blessing may rest continually upon the Missioners and their work. (b) That the Right Rev. the President be respectfully requested to forward a copy of this resolution to Canon Stuart and the Committee in England as an indication of gratitude for the excellence of the arrangements made by them for the conduct of the Mission."

Church Book Depôt.—The Mission has shown clearly the need of such a depôt, and the question was brought before the Synod by the Rev. Dawson Thomas, speaking for the Gisborne Clerical Society.

It was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Gisborne Clerical Society to correspond with other Dioceses in the matter and report to next Synod.

In this connection a letter in the last number of *The Layman* is of interest:—