

Narrow Escape of the Bishop.—On Monday the Bishop drove to Waihuka with the Vicar, Mrs. Roberts, and children, and on the return journey the party had a narrow escape from a serious accident. The horse jibbed whilst ascending a hillside and backed the buggy over the bank. The Bishop and Mr. Roberts jumped clear, but the vehicle turned completely over on Mrs. Roberts and the children. Assistance was soon to hand and the unfortunate ones beneath were extricated, fortunately uninjured, and beyond a broken shaft and some torn clothes the damage was slight.

The Bishop is getting used to the experiences and ways of the back-blocks, and the country Parson's trials.

The Rev. W. H. Roberts has left the Parish for Gisborne, and the Rev. T. A. Meyer has been appointed to the temporary charge of the district.

Farewell to the Vicar.—The Rev. W. H. Roberts was bidden farewell by the up-country people at Matawai on October 22, when a large number of people attended a social held in his honour.

Mr. J. Pigott (Matawai), Mr. Hicks and Mr. J. Clarke (Rakauroa), and Mr. G. Little (Motu), voiced the kindly feelings of the Parishioners towards Mr. Roberts and their regret at his departure from them.

Te Karaka and Neighbourhood assembled in full force on November 10th in the King's Theatre. Mr. C. A. Armstrong, Resident Engineer, presided, and at the request of Mr. Pearson, who had energetically and perfectly organised the whole function, made presentations to both the Rev. W. H. Roberts and Mrs. Roberts.

Mr. Armstrong regretted that Mr. Roberts was leaving the Parish, and made complimentary allusion to the faithful manner in which he had carried out his duties in spite of all obstacles, and testified to the esteem in which he was held from one end of the Parish to the other. He also expressed the thanks of Te Karaka residents to Mrs. Roberts for her valuable work in the Sunday School.

The following presentations were then made:—To the Rev. W. H. and Mrs. Roberts, by the Parishioners, a valuable silver tray suitably inscribed; to Mr. Roberts, a gold-mounted Swan fountain pen; to Mrs. Roberts, from the Sunday School, a framed photograph of the scholars and a set of poultry carvers.

In reply Mr. Roberts said he felt highly gratified to have won the esteem and affection of those among whom he had resided for the last three years, and in parting would urge them to remember that for which a Clergyman's residence in their midst was a standing witness, viz. the pre-eminence of the spiritual side of human nature. Physical development, sport, or civic spirit were admirable, but unless the spiritual faculties were also developed man would fail to rise to the highest. He wanted to see the Church of God a greater power in their lives. He thanked them heartily for their tokens of friendship and souvenirs.

Mr. J. Pigott, who has been such a great help in the Parish, particularly in the up-country districts, has for a long time been contemplating entering the Sacred Ministry. He now feels definitely sure of his vocation, and through the kind efforts of our Bishop

on his behalf arrangements have been made for him to take up his studies with a view to Holy Orders.

Mr. Pigott will probably proceed to S. John's College, Auckland, after Christmas. His many friends should follow him in his preparation with their earnest prayers.

Rotorua.

Vicar: Ven. Archdeacon Tisdall, M.A.

Our chief news this month is that we have had a visit from our Bishop—all too short a visit.

The Rev. F. A. Bennett drove him in from Taupo on Friday, November 11th. On that evening we had a most solemn Confirmation Service in S. Luke's. Thirteen candidates,—eight males and five females,—all adults except two, were presented to the Bishop for the "Laying on of Hands." There was a full congregation, who listened most attentively to the simple, yet most helpful and soul-stirring, address, which the Bishop gave to the candidates.

On the Saturday evening there was a Maori Confirmation in S. Faith's Church, Ohinemutu, at the close of which the Bishop solemnly licensed three Maori Lay Readers.

On Sunday, the Bishop was celebrant at S. Luke's at 8 a.m., and preached at the evening service. There was a large attendance at 8 a.m., when the newly-confirmed made their first Communion, seventy-six communicants coming up to receive the most comfortable Sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Lord. In the evening the Church was crowded in every part. The most noteworthy part of this service, however, was the coming forward of eight men, members of the local branch of the C.E.M.S., solemnly to receive at the Altar rails from the hands of their Bishop, his blessing and license to act as Lay Readers. There should have been a ninth, but he was unfortunately kept from being present by sickness in his household. The collections for the day, amounting to £10 6s. 4d., were for the Melanesian Mission.

On Monday the Bishop, accompanied by the Revs. W. Goodyear and F. Bennett, was driven off to Galatea and Te Whaiti by Mr. Parata in his new motor car.

During the Vicar's absence at Synod the services here were taken by the Rev. E. C. Budd, Chaplain to the Public Institutions in Auckland. Mr. Budd was able also to visit and hold services at the Waipa Prison Camp during his stay. Regular services at the Prison Camps have been begun again, and will be carried on by our new band of Lay Readers.

The Mamaku Church Committee have got the site for their Church nearly levelled, and we hope soon to have the plans of the Church ready to be sent up to the Diocesan Trustees for approval.

Fresh duties and responsibilities will be falling upon our Vicar through his being appointed Archdeacon of Tauranga, and it will be absolutely necessary for him soon to have the help of an Assistant in Orders. The members of the C.E.M.S., realising this are issuing an earnest appeal to all local Church folk and to visitors who come and worship in S. Luke's, to make a great effort to pay off as soon as possible the debt on the Parish Hall and on the Vicarage. Were we relieved from the heavy interest

we are now paying it would be possible perhaps, with some outside help, to offer a stipend sufficient for an Assistant in Holy Orders.

The enlargement of our Church is also becoming a matter that will be very pressing before long. Our local congregation is growing every year, leaving little room for visitors. During the past winter we have had none too much sitting room, and now with the Season coming on we shall probably have no room for all who may desire to come and worship. In this matter we think that we have good claims for help, not only on the Diocese but on the whole Province as well. Here in the very centre of tourist resorts we should have, and desire to have, a most roomy and beautiful House for the public worship of God, and a service entirely true to the Prayer Book's grand ideal of Common—that is Congregational—Worship. May we commend these thoughts to all readers of the GAZETTE.

Waipukurau.

Vicar: Rev. F. W. Martin.

A general meeting was held to make final arrangements for the annual Floral Garden Fête. Owing to the drought it was decided to add several classes in home industries to meet the circumstances. The date was fixed for 18th January, 1910.

The Ladies' Guild meets regularly every Thursday, and is well attended.

Mr. G. H. Curle, the Lay Assistant, has settled down in Takapanu. He preaches with much acceptance and great earnestness, and is meeting with a good response from his flock.

The Vicar has introduced into S. Mary's Sunday School the stamp album system, obtained through A. H. Reid, Dunedin. Each child is given an album, with spaces for each Sunday in the Church's year. Stamps, bearing passages of Scripture around the margin, with a pictorial illustration in the centre, are issued each Sunday to the children, and they affix them and keep the albums. Canon Curzon-Siggers, of Dunedin, highly recommended them as being instructive. The Vicar hopes to have them introduced into the other Schools in the Parish.

Classes for young and adult candidates for Confirmation are being carried on at Onga Onga and S. Mary's, and there is a considerable number of candidates.

DON'T complain about the weather,
For easier 'tis, you'll find,
To make your mind to weather,
Than weather to your mind.

DON'T complain about the sermon,
And show your lack of wit;
For, like a boot, a sermon hurts
The closer it doth fit.

DON'T complain about your neighbour,
For, in your neighbour's view,
His neighbour is not faultless,
That neighbour being YOU!

"The flowers are God's undertones of encouragement to the children of earth."

Let the day have a blessed baptism by giving your first waking thoughts into the bosom of God. The first hour of the morning is the rudder of the day.