

Various ceremonies have from time to time been associated with baptism, but are all non-essential, however symbolical and beautiful. In the first English Prayer Book of 1549, a white vesture called the "Chrism," was put upon the candidate with the accompanying words: "Take this white vesture for a token of innocency which, by God's grace, in the Holy Sacrament of Baptism, is given unto thee." The Church of England has retained the custom of "con-signation," or the signing with the sign of the cross, which dates from a very early period. S. Jerome writing in the second century, says of the baptised, that he "bore on his forehead the banner of the cross." It marks the child as belonging to the Good Shepherd, even as a lamb is marked with its owner's mark or sign. It also emphasises the fact that the new life imparted by baptism is the outcome of the meritorious Cross and Passion of the Lord Jesus. It is necessary to bear in mind that baptism can never be repeated. "One Lord, one Faith, one baptism." The gift in baptism is God's gift, and who shall dare to limit the power of God to bestow upon an unconscious infant the fulness of His grace? To speak of the baptism of infants in a disparaging way, to speak slightly of "sprinkling" as if it was something different in essence from adult baptism, is to overlook altogether the meaning of Christ as the "Second Adam," and the work of the Holy Ghost, "the Lord and giver of life." A child baptised in infancy with the proper "matter" and "words" is baptised once and for ever, and under no consideration can it ever be baptised again. Re-baptism (so-called), is an empty and meaningless form, and contrary to the spirit and teaching of the New Testament.

(To be continued.)

"They that know no evil will suspect none."—Ben Johnson.

"The word 'edify,' a favourite word of St. Paul's, points to the church as a house, 'the habitation of God in the Spirit,' each part contributing to the welfare of every other and furthering the life and strength of a whole."—C. S. Findlay,

Diocese of Waiapu.

BISHOPRIC ENDOWMENT FUND.

The following was sent to the lay members of Synod and all church wardens shortly after the last Session of Synod:—

Sum required to be raised in the diocese, £2500; to be met with a subsidy of £2500.

Executive Committee: Archdeacon D. Ruddock, Canon F. Mayne, Canon C. L. Tuke, Mr C. H. Edwards, Mr T. Tanner, Mr F. W. Williams.

General Committee: Messrs S. E. Macarthy, W. Bull, Charles Edkins, J. P. Williamson, Richard Thorp, Percy J. Hammond, Percival Thorn, C. A. de Lautour, Wetini Anaru, F. G. Gregorie, J. Thornton, Thos. Tanner, J. H. Sheath, H. Burnett, F. W. Williams, E. W. Andrews, H. T. Handley, G. C. Fletcher, W. Robinson, J. A. McLean, Edward V. Warmington, A. H. Wallis, Frank G. Magnusson, Robert Wellwood, George Ebbett, J. B. Fielder, Col. Winter, Dr E. A. W. Henley, Dr J. C. Fosswill; treasurer, Mr F. W. Williams; secretary, Archdeacon D. Ruddock.

The lay members of Synod, at its recent session held in Napier, have formed themselves into a committee pledged to use their efforts to complete the See Endowment before the 30th June, 1911.

It is proposed that with the Wardens and Vestry, the Synodsmen form local committees in each parish or district, and arrange for a systematic canvass of church people in order to raise the necessary capital.

The Executive Committee urgently beg that immediate action may be taken, and a progress report furnished at the end of each month. The diocese may lose the balance of the subsidy if not claimed before the end of June next.

Parochial News.

[N.B.—To ensure insertion in the next month's issue of the GAZETTE, matter must be received by "The Editor, WAIAPU CHURCH GAZETTE, Havelock North, Hawke's Bay," not later than the 15th of the month. Notes should be brief, and to the point, and legibly written on one side of the paper.]

S. John's Cathedral, Napier.

Vicar: Rev. Canon Mayne.

Curate: Rev. W. G. Coates.

There will be no issue of the local parish paper for January, as the vicar of the parish is absent enjoying a well deserved holiday at Taupo. The vicar is accompanied by his wife and family, and latest reports state that all are enjoying the change and specially the vicar, who is much improved in health.

The Christmas services were hearty and very well attended. There were celebrations of the Holy Communion at 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., and after the Mattins. During the day the vicar was very considerably assisted by the Bishop, who celebrated at 7 a.m. and after Mattins. It is pleasing to note that the number of communicants was

larger than on previous years. The preachers for the day were the Bishop at Mattins and the vicar at Evensong, while the curate conducted a short children's service in the church at 3 p.m. Very little was attempted this year in the way of decoration, owing to the great scarcity of white flowers, and what little was done soon perished with the heat. The arrangement of the altar vases was most effective, and the flowers fresh and beautiful as the result of a little attention and watering. It would seem best in future to refrain from using flowers and greenery that cannot be placed in water, as dead flowers do not honour the King of Kings.

The Bishop kindly celebrated on the three successive holy days—St. Stephen M, St. John Evangelist; Festival of Holy Innocents, as also upon the festival of the Circumcision and the Feast of the Epiphany. To mark the importance of the latter festival Evensong was said at 7.30 p.m., a congregation of fifty-seven assembling. The Bishop preached a beautiful and very helpful sermon upon the message of the Epiphany.

During the absence of the vicar from the parish the Bishop has himself taken charge. During the period the Bishop is preaching a course of sermons on "The Formation of Christian Character," taking one by one the subjects suggested by the text 2 St. Peter 1, 5, 6, and 7.

We regret to record the death at the early age of 26 of Mr Sam Williams, a prominent member of the Cathedral Club and a former member of the choir. His illness was a long and a very painful one, borne with much fortitude. He was pleased to receive the Blessed Sacrament from the hands of the Bishop, who also conducted the funeral at the public cemetery. We can only pray that the Peace of God which passeth all human knowledge will be with his relatives abroad and with his brother Fred in their hour of need.

BAPTISMS.

3rd January, 1911, George Edward Refordt Rennison; 9th January, 1911, Dorothy Violette Hardley.

OFFERTORIES.

Christmas Day, £20 11s 7d; Feast of Circumcision, £17 4s 1d; First Sunday after Epiphany, £11 16s 3d.

S. Augustine's, Napier.

Vicar: Rev. Canon Tuke.

Definite action has been taken by the vestry upon the good results of the canvass of the parish for a stipend to support a curate. At its last meeting it guaranteed £150 per annum for this object. The vicar has reported this to the Bishop, who is interesting himself in procuring a suitable man. Two or three have written to the vicar, who hopes soon to be able to report an appointment.

The services on Christmas Day were well attended and very hearty with their bright music. The old familiar hymns never grow old and are always taken up heartily by the congregation. The attendance of communicants was