

Lenten Discipline.

Our fellow Churchmen throughout the Diocese are reminded of the near approach of Lent, which commences on Wednesday, Feb. 5th.

The necessity for Discipline is more than ever apparent in this present age of unrest, when it is impossible to say what will happen next, so dark is the political horizon. Nor could a more disastrous need of it be witnessed than in the chaotic state of the Turkish army, where so many thousands of lives have been sacrificed to inefficiency and criminal laxity. The absolute necessity of Discipline has also come home to the ranks of Labour in the great industrial upheaval now in progress. No concerted action is possible without practice.

Needless to say, then, that every true member of Christ will admit the necessity for Christian Discipline, the bringing of the whole man into subjection to its one paramount Master, and in the face of the prevailing unbelief and luxury, it is more than ever imperative.

It is well to repeat the truism that what may be done at any time is only too often done at no time. The world recognises this, and appoints special seasons for special kinds of Discipline, which she is content to relax at other times.

The Territorials have their appointed seasons for training. Athletes of all kinds submit to a course of Discipline before they venture on their various trials of strength and skill. Students, too, prepare for their contests, knowing well the value of the old Latin motto, "mens sana in corpore sano"—a healthy mind in a healthy body. Our younger readers especially are familiar with the "Time Table" by which not only the proportion of work and play is regulated, but also the proportion of attention to be paid to different branches of study.

The Christian year, with its alternating fasts and festivals, is the Church's Time-Table, whereby not only are the special seasons for stricter discipline indicated, but also the particular lessons our wise Mother would have us learn, are before us.

As soldiers in the army of Christ, and scholars in the school of the Great Teacher, we are entering upon our season of strictest training, and opening our books to learn the lesson of self-discipline.

"The disciple must be as his Master."

If our Blessed Lord in those forty days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness underwent a course of training for His Public Ministry, if He "learnt obedience by the things that He suffered, and self-control by self-discipline, His soldiers and disciples must so use the discipline of Lent as to recover the self-control they have lost, and to maintain and increase what they have.

We are to follow his example outwardly, that we may learn to become like Him inwardly.

Therefore, let your first aim this Lent be to know more of God, to give Him more of our thoughts, our influence, our words. Make it a season for solemn heart-searching. The proof of our true experience will be found in our humbly lamenting our sins, and the end of true repentance is "perfect remission and forgiveness of sins."

If earnestly desiring these things, we shall make use of the extra services, and be regular and devout in our attendance at the altar. So shall we call down a great blessing, not only on ourselves and loved ones, but also upon our parishes in general, and enter upon our Eastertide with a fresh sense of its joy and gladness.

General Synod.

The General Synod opened its session at Nelson on Thursday, Feb. 16. There was a Celebration of the Holy Communion at 7.30, and the Synod assembled in the Provincial Hall at 3 p.m., when after Prayers and the Roll being called, the Primate delivered his opening address. This was ordered to be printed, and we shall have opportunity at a future date of referring to the same. In the evening Divine service was held in the Cathedral, the sermon being preached by the Bishop of Auckland. The service was hearty and congregational, and in spite of the really oppressive heat the Church was crowded. On Thursday afternoon, after the Primate had delivered his address, only formal business was done; but on Friday the Synod set to work on the business of which notice had been given. Much of the business brought forward is still under consideration, but it will be of interest to our readers to know that with

regard to the Marsden Centenary the following has been agreed upon:—

(a) A series of services in Maori and in English at the Marsden Cross, the site where the first Christian service was held, during the Christmas week of 1914.

(b) A Church Congress for all New Zealand, to be held in Auckland in February, 1915.

(c) That a fund of £20,000, as a Memorial Fund, be raised to found and foster religious education in the Province.

That the objects of the Fund should include:

1. The contribution of £500 a year, if necessary, for three years for the Bible in State Schools movement.

(2.) For the training and payment of a Guild of Church Teachers of Religion in Schools.

(3.) For helping to found Church Secondary Boarding Schools for Maoris or Pakehas.

(4.) For such other purposes as the Commission deems to be connected with religious education.

The matter was fully debated, and met with the warmest support.

With regard to the Church Congress, it was explained that a Guarantee Fund would be necessary, and the members of Synod guaranteed a sum of over £300 towards the £1000 which is claimed to be necessary.

Canon Garland was invited to address the Synod on the Bible in State Schools League, and received a cordial welcome.

The Synod on the following day passed a resolution strongly affirming its adherence to the aims of the League, and commending its work to the hearty support of Church people.

The duty of the furtherance of the work of the Missions of the Church has received due consideration. A Bill has been introduced by the Bishop to establish a Provincial Board of Missions, and the principle of the Bill has been generally affirmed, but the details of the Bill have still to be considered.

The Synod has agreed upon the following exchange or sale of land in which our Diocese is concerned:

"That the Waiapu Board of Diocesan Trustees, incorporated, be authorised—

"(1.) To exchange part of Section 11, Block 8, Buckley Township, for