

Letter from the Bishop.

Bishopscourt.

August 28th, 1914.

My dear People,

I am afraid that I am somewhat late in recording my trip to Wairoa and Frasertown, but it is yet fresh in my memory, so I will do so.

I left "Naurea," the home of Archdeacon and Mrs. Williams, where I had been their guest on Monday, the Archdeacon driving me down to meet the Gisborne-Wairoa coach. It was cold and forbidding and soon settled down to heavy driving rain. The driver was a cheery person and would not let the rain damp our spirits, only ourselves, he having forgotten to bring the waterproof sheets. He said apologetically (?) that it was good to forget things sometimes; it was the only way of being remembered! and in this he was quite right. I have not forgotten him.

We reached Morere three hours late in pitchy darkness, and thoroughly chilled. Left in the morning in pouring rain. It was my intention to stay at Nuhaka and hold a service for the Maoris, but in such pouring rain there was no hope of a congregation, so I went through by coach to Wairoa. The Vicar met me and I was glad to get his warm welcome and the cheery fireside.

On the Thursday, at 7 a.m., we had a Celebration of Holy Communion in the Parish Church at Wairoa. After breakfast the Rev. Hemi Huata, the Maori priest in charge of Wairoa, drove me as far as Waihua, where we had lunch with Mr and Mrs Glendinning, who gave us a kindly welcome. Here the Rev. Henare Wainohu, the Maori priest in charge of Mohaka, met me, and after lunch we continued our journey to Mohaka, crossing the river by a wire bridge in a box for the river was in heavy flood. At Mohaka I was the guest of Henare. In the evening I held a Confirmation in S. James', the Maori Church. The Church, which is a large one, was full, and eight candidates received the rite of confirmation. On Friday I rode back to Wairoa with Henare, visiting several settlers on the way.

On Sunday, Holy Communion at Wairoa English Church, service at 11 a.m., with Holy Communion in

the Maori Church at Ruataniwha, where there was a good congregation. Lunched with the Maoris and held an afternoon service: Then on to Frasertown, motored by a kind friend, and preached in the evening. The Church was full.

On Monday I left for Tinirotō on horseback with the Vicar of Frasertown, in piercingly cold weather, visiting en route. We had an evening service in the School and I was then welcomed socially. Here Mr Butler is doing good work as a lay reader. We left Tinirotō on our return journey, calling at the Maori Pah at Te Reinga, where we had a service, which the Maoris much appreciated. A social of welcome at Frasertown in the evening.

Wednesday afternoon, motored back to Wairoa and took the funeral of Mr Mitchell, an old Maori warrior who had fought for us in the Maori Wars, addressed the communicants in Wairoa Church in the evening, and met the Vestry in the Vicarage afterwards.

On Thursday I celebrated Holy Communion in Wairoa Church at 7.30. Addressed children in day school at 10.30. Visited in the afternoon, and was entertained at a social in the evening.

On Saturday I drove with Hemi to Nuhaka, where I was hospitably entertained by kind friends. Met the Church people in the School Room in the evening: very wet and cold. Small attendance.

Sunday: Morning service at 10.30 a.m., with Holy Communion for English and Maori; a good attendance of English. At Nuhaka there is a large Maori population. The Maori Vicarage is now completed, and here I hope to put a strong Maori priest. Nuhaka seems to me to be the place in the Diocese that especially needs attention and love and prayers. It would respond to a loving ministration, and real self-sacrifice, but I have no one in view, and we need someone at once. Will you pray that such a priest may be found to take up again the work here which is crying out for a man.

On Tuesday I left Wairoa for Napier by the "Magic." We did not do twenty knots but we got here, and the captain was most kind.

I wish I could visit Wairoa often. Some day I hope to get a motor car, and then I will keep in close touch with it, and with Mohaka and Nuhaka. I can then run

up when I have an odd day to spare.

Since my Wairoa visit great things have happened. Europe is plunged into war, and Britain is taking her share in it with her usual gallantry and courage. The sons of New Zealand have responded splendidly to the call of the Empire. Let us do our part and remember them daily in our prayers. I have issued prayers for the clergy to use at our services. Copies of these can be obtained for private use on application to Mr J. B. Fielder, Diocesan Secretary, Napier.

May God in His mercy grant us deliverance, and may we humbly learn the lesson He would teach us.

I am,

Yours very sincerely in Christ,
Wm. WALMSLEY WAIAPU.

Bishop's Engagements.

September 3rd: Standing Committee.

September 4th: Confirmation, Te Aute College.

September 6th: Confirmation at Te Hauke.

September 13th: Eskdale, 3 p.m.

September 20th: Ordination at the Cathedral, 11 a.m.

September 24th: "Quiet Day for Clergy," and opening of Synod.

September 27th: Preach at the Cathedral, 7 p.m.

I would that wars should cease,
I would the globe from end to end
Might sow and reap in peace,
And some new Spirit o'erbear the old,
Or Trade refrain the Powers
From war with kindly links of Gold,
Or love with wreaths of flowers.
Slav, Teuton, Kelt, I count them all
My friends and brother souls,
With all the peoples, great and small,
That wheel between the poles.
But since, our mortal shadow
To waste this earth began—
Porchance from some abuse of Will
In worlds before the man
Involving ours—he needs must fight
To make true peace his own,
He needs must combat might with
might,
Or Might would rule alone.

—Tennyson.