

Christ had handed on to him to carry on His eternal plan. It was not authority to act on his own, but to try and grasp in all its wonderful forms the great plans, and be loyal and true to them. He would try to emulate General Gordon, who said: "I will try to hold the balance true." He would pray for grace to enable him to hold the balance true, and reveal to the people the full dimensions of the purposes of Christ. He asked the people to pray for him, that in his dealings with the Clergy and in his other work he might keep the balance true. There was no unity where there was no loyalty, so he was there to be loyal to the authority Christ had laid upon him, and he knew the people would help him. The new Bishop said he would never forget that supreme moment when the hands of the Bishops were on his head, and he realised that Christ's power was given to him. The preacher went on to say that grace adapted itself to every age. Like water which adapted itself to vessels of all shapes, grace was adapted to all men. Some said they were not built to receive grace, but all had the one talent of accepting grace. Christ became a man and had a human body that He might lay bare to them the character of God so they would see and understand. He expressed by His works the eternal mercy and love of God. He hoped the Cathedral would be the centre of great worship, where men would express the worship of God through their lives. He wanted the people to realise that each should show their adoration to God, and work together with self-sacrifice. Bishop Sedgwick said he could not leave the pulpit without expressing his joy to come to a Diocese that included such a large proportion of Maoris. He had always desired to have missionary work. Ever since his election he had thanked God that he would minister to Maoris. He prayed that this Church might become a great mission centre. The Bishop concluded by saying: "May God bless this Diocese, him whom He has called, and the people to whom he has been called."

During the offertory the hymn "Father of all, from land and sea" was sung.

The Benediction was pronounced by the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Service concluded with the recessional hymn "Now thank we all our God,"

The Bishop has issued the following Pastoral Letter to be read to the people by the Clergy on the first Sunday in Lent, or as soon after as possible:—

Bishopscourt,
February 26th, 1914.

My dear People,

Some of you I have already been able to meet, through the kind hospitality of the Vicar and Vestry of the Cathedral parish, but there are many whom I shall be unable to meet for some time. I am therefore asking your Vicar to read to you this pastoral letter from the pulpit.

I was desirous of commencing my work in the Diocese, as your chief pastor, before the season of Lent commenced, that we might spend it together. This necessitated a good deal of effort, but I am thankful to say that it has been accomplished.

Lent is the time when the voice of God, speaking through His Church, says to each soul, "Seek ye My face." It is a time, then, of special effort and self-sacrifice, and when the soul seeking to free itself from the many claims and calls of the world, and trying to rise to higher things, responds to the call of God and says, "Thy face, Lord, will I seek." It is a great effort of will that is required. It does not mean merely the attendance of the special Services provided by your Vicar, though these, when rightly used, are great helps, and I would urge you so to use them. The seeking of God's face means individual effort after holiness, the setting of one's face steadfastly to go up to the Holy City. It is the making of a real effort to know God.

There is but one way, the way of penitence. It is sin that obscures the face of God, and paralyses the will power. And it is just here that we need God's help. Tied and bound by the chain of sin, we cannot free ourselves. We need, first of all, the search light of the Holy Spirit, that we may know ourselves, and find out that sin that is obscuring God, that we may take it to Him for pardon; and we need too, the Holy Spirit to make us contrite. We cannot be truly sorry of ourselves.

Let the spirit of the Psalmist be yours: "Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart, prove me, and examine my thoughts. Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Lent, too, is a time of special effort of prayer. Will you pray for the Diocese, for your Vicar, for the parish, and may I ask you especially to pray for the work of the Bible in Schools' League, that God will abundantly bless it, that the work may be brought to a successful issue, and that Christians throughout the Dominion may be more zealous to promote it.

The cause is big. It is God's cause. Let your prayers be big and then your efforts will be correspondingly large.

May this be a very blessed Lent to you all, full of earnest effort, and consummating in a joyous Easter.

I am,

Yours faithfully in Jesus Christ,

Wm. WALMSLEY WAIAPU.

Diocesan Notes

The Bishop will be glad to receive from the Clergy intimation of the date of the last Confirmation Service held in their parish or district and the time when they would expect to be able to present candidates for Confirmation. The information is required to enable the Bishop to arrange his engagements.

The Rev. Thomas Cartwright Cullwick, formerly Archdeacon of Southern Melanesia, was instituted to the Cure of the parochial district of Waipawa on Sunday, February 15, by the Archdeacon of Hawke's Bay. There was a large attendance at the Service.

The Rev. F. W. Whibley, who has been in temporary charge of the Waipawa district, will for a short time take up his former charge of Weber.

The Rev. T. Meyer, who has been for some few months in charge of the Weber district, has been appointed to the temporary charge of Tolaga Bay.