

to the secretary and treasurer in support of the work, and are still coming in. Deaconess Esther will shortly take up her residence in the smaller of the two houses, and begin work in a quiet way, visiting Parishes where committees have been formed, and addressing meetings. Indeed this she has already begun. Thus the work will gradually grow, and, as the funds come in, the Preventive and Rescue work will be established.

But this will not constitute the whole range of Deaconess Esther's work. I am most anxious that when this, her initial work, is set going, she will be enabled to undertake a work which is of great importance—the establishment of a training home for Church workers and Deaconesses. I should indeed, be thankful if we could have in our Diocese, such a training home as that which has long been established in Christchurch, which has proved such a strength to that Diocese. The fact that several of my Clergy have expressed the need of a Deaconess in their parishes shows how real the need is—a need which I believe a well trained Deaconess can fill. The working power of the large parishes would be increased enormously through this means. Here I speak from experience having worked for ten years a large town parish with a Deaconess on the staff.

I would thank those Parishes that have formed committees, and have responded so whole heartedly to the appeal that has been made for this work. I would also thank individual subscribers.

AN AGE OF UNREST.

We are living in an age of Social unrest. Everywhere are signs of it. This is not in itself bad, it means that men are not satisfied with things as they are. They desire something better.

Knowing what we do of the social degradation that obtains in the Old Country, in the centres of civilisation, the sweating system with all its attendant horrors, can we—with any conception of the great brotherhood of man, as taught and manifested by Jesus Christ, and applied by the great Apostle Paul—can we say these things do not concern us here in New Zealand. Surely our hearts go out in sympathy to our brethren across the seas. Then there are social evils that touch the very life of this Dominion and which cause serious concern:—The loose way men regard the marriage bond; the lack of parental control; the want of home life; the inordinate love of pleasure. These are evils which touch as closely. There is one evil of which I would specially speak. The decrease in the birth rate. This touches the very life and heart of the nation, for it touches the sanctity of the home. How can God's purpose be fulfilled in a people, or how can a nation hold her own amid the nations of the world if our mothers refuse the burden and the joy of motherhood. Such a nation in the very nature of things must go under: she is not fulfilling her destiny—and the remedy for these evils is not from without. It can come through no legislation; or no resolutions of Synod, but only through the power of the Incarnate Son of God. "The Kingdom of God is within." It is the quiet controlling influence of the Christ—the will held in

subjection to the sway of Christ: every thought in sweet captivity to His will.

There are organisations at work in the Diocese such as the Mother's Union and G.F.S., which I am thankful to say have a place, either one or both of them, in most of our Parishes. And I am most thankful for the band of women who serve on our central Diocesan Councils, and to those who minister in the several Parishes. Through the medium of these two societies much can be done to strengthen the home life by holding before its members the dignity and glory of a pure womanhood, and the sacredness of life, and of motherhood.

I would here express my thanks to those who have subscribed to the building of the G.F.S. Hostel, which will supply a real want in Napier. The amount that has come in through donations justifies the Building Committee in taking steps to procure a site with a view to building very soon. I am most thankful that this long cherished scheme is within sight of fulfilment. Through these and such organisations, the Church is able to get into touch with the few. But why does not the Church rise and meet these great social evils? It has frequently been made a charge against the Church of England that she leaves it to the other bodies to deal with these social problems. The question to my mind, resolves itself into a yet bigger one—How is the Church effectively to do it? How is she to meet these crying evils? I believe there is but one way, and that by getting at the very root of things—by educating the children of our land. And by education I mean the training and discipline of the whole triune being, body, mind, and spirit. I have respect for the educational system of the Dominion as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. It has no place in its system for the training and development of the spiritual faculties. Australia, in all save one State, Tasmania, Canada, South Africa, Norfolk Island, have all realised this, and, by the voice of their people, have rectified it.

Is New Zealand to remain in this unique and unenviable position of being the only colony in the Empire that withholds the Bible from her State Schools. Surely in justice to the many adherents to the Bible in State Schools League, the Referendum will be granted, and the question decided by the vote of the people. It is a momentous question, since it concerns the very life and stability of the Dominion. It is not for me to answer the objections that have been raised by opponents of the League—they have been answered. But it is for me to say, that we cannot as Christians and loyal sons of the Church, be content with the present state of things, with a system that makes it possible for a child to be educated,—educated forsooth! without any knowledge of God's word, or of the very name of Jesus.

Let us do all in our power to further the cause of the League, by our prayers and by our constant efforts in every possible way.

The war has postponed the bringing up of the Bill before the House—but only postponed it. The Bill is not withdrawn. The war has also affected the active canvassing that was going on. It was thought best at headquarters that this should be in abeyance for a time. But let us remember