

that the whole question is still before us in all its solemn bearing. Is the Bible to be a factor in the educational system of the country? What is to be the *National* system of education?

If we fail to get the Referendum or, getting it, we lose on the vote of the people, then I am not alone in thinking that the matter will be deferred for 50 years. Our generation at least, will not live to see it brought forward again. In the event of failure now, what should be our Church's attitude? Should we say the burden of the responsibility does not rest with us—"we did our best and lost." I say, the burden of the responsibility would still rest with us. It is the Church's duty to see that the children of the Church are educated. If we can get a National system of education that appeals to a Christian so much the better. And that is what we must work for and pray for, for it is sorely needed, and now is our opportunity; but failing this, we must do all in our power as a Church to raise Church Schools throughout the Dominion; so much do I believe that we can meet these great social evils only by giving our children, in their earliest days, a knowledge of the Bible, and a standard of life and action. That standard being the pattern life of the man Christ Jesus. Without this we shall have this standard, and that standard, accordingly to the standard that obtains at the time, and the standard of the Christ be lost.

This then is the position. If the Bible in State Schools cause is lost, we must go for our own Church Schools "con amore," and establish them wherever possible, cost what it may.

But why not support this policy right away, the policy of our own Church Schools, in lieu of the "Bible in State Schools," and be independent of the state and of the public vote. For two reasons (1) because it is most important that we should have a National system—that every child living in this Christian land should have the right and the opportunity of receiving religious instruction; and (2) because it would be impossible to establish Church Schools in every district and centre, and so, still possible for a child to be "educated" without any knowledge of the Bible.

I would make it quite clear that I am not running one against the other, "The Bible in our State Schools," against Church Schools. We want both—we want the former, to ensure the possibility of religious instruction being within the reach of every child in the land. We want the latter—the Church Schools, in order to build up our own children in the faith.

It was ignorance that crucified the Christ—the ignorance of the people. Ignorance to-day is still the great foe of the Cross.

I well know the work of our Sunday Schools, and the splendid and self denying labours of our Sunday School teachers. I know how their value has increased ten fold by the preparation classes given week by week by the Parish clergy, often sadly overworked. These will ever be valuable adjuncts to the educational system of our Church. But over and above this, we need, in our centres, Church Schools where the great central truths of our faith are taught and imparted, not merely by

word, but by atmosphere. This I believe to be one of the greatest needs of our Church to-day, and through this, which I believe to be "higher education," we are to meet and meet effectively those great social evils which are only to be met by a knowledge of the Incarnate Christ, and through the power of His Resurrection.

MARSDEN CENTENARY.

It is not necessary for me to enter into details in connection with the Marsden Centenary Commemoration. These were laid fully before you at last year's Synod. The man himself—his zeal; his devoted work, his great love for the Maori people, showing itself as it did, in devoted service and self sacrifice—all these call for a memorial worthy of the man and of the occasion.

You will remember that the last General Synod, held at Nelson, decided to commemorate the landing of Marsden in the following ways:—

1. To hold a series of services in Maori and English at the Marsden Cross, Bay of Islands, during Christmas week, 1914.
2. To hold a Church Congress in Auckland in February, 1915, to which representatives from all parts of the Anglican Communion were to be invited.
3. To establish a Memorial Fund of £20,000 to found and foster religious education in the Province.

1. With regard to the services on Christmas Day, the following is a copy of a resolution agreed to at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Marsden Centenary Celebration Commission, held at Auckland on July 27th, 1914—"That the General Secretary write to the Bishop of each Diocese, stating that it depends on the number of people intending to visit the Bay of Islands for Christmas Day next, as to whether or not satisfactory arrangements can be made with the Steamship Companies, and to ask the Bishops to arrange that the General Secretary be informed by the end of October, at the latest, of the number of people from their Dioceses likely to make the visit, it being understood that such people are to be held responsible for the amount of their fares from Auckland. This is necessary as the Steamship Companies will, in all probability, require a guarantee from the Commission." I should like to take this opportunity of making this known among the members of Synod, and I will take further steps to make it known to a wider circle of Church people, through the medium of our Diocesan Gazette.

2. With regard to the holding of the Church Congress. This will be held in Auckland on February 8th, 9th, and 10th 1915, when the following subjects will be dealt with:—

Monday, February 8th.—Morning, 10—12:—The President's Address: "Old Testament in the Light of Modern Research."

- (1) Its Importance and Historic Value;
- (2) Its Message for to-day.

Afternoon, 3—5.—"Ministry."

- (1) Supply and Training.
- (2) Methods of Work.