

## The "Gazette."

We would remind our readers that the present issue begins a new year. We take the opportunity to thank a great number of our subscribers and the clergy for very kind letters of appreciation and one or two who have given us their friendly criticism. We value both very highly.

There are, however, a few clergy and some laymen who give us no help whatever, and who seem not to know the value or the objects of a Church GAZETTE. We will therefore endeavour as concisely as possible to set these down.

First as a Church newspaper we conceive it to be our duty:

1. To set forth the Catholic faith and order as taught and practised by our portion of the Catholic Church.

2. To strengthen the hands of the clergy, and to make known the claims and objects of those Institutions through which the Church carries on her various activities.

3. To help Churchmen to view broadly and sympathetically the work of other parts of the Catholic Church, and specially of the Mother Church of England, and of the various provinces and Mission Churches in communion with her.

As a Diocesan GAZETTE we endeavour to provide:

1. A medium of communicating between the Bishop and the clergy and laity.

2. A record of Diocesan and Parochial work.

It is our duty to prosecute these aims to the utmost of our ability, and it is the bounden duty of every priest and of every layman who professes loyalty to the Church to assist us:

1. By taking and reading the GAZETTE and getting others to do the same.

2. By sending us any Parochial news that is of general interest and importance.

If you can suggest improvements let us have them—if you can help with a donation in addition to your subscription—send it along, but more

than money, more even than literary contributions—more than anything we want *readers*. The GAZETTE is not a business venture for collecting unwilling half-crowns, it is a paper to read.

Please help to increase our circulation:

There are unfortunately one or two parishes where the parochial authorities will not undertake the distribution of the GAZETTE and the collection of subscriptions. Will subscribers in those parishes please send their names and subscriptions direct to the Editor, and use their influence to obtain new subscribers?

## United Ministers' Conference

The Annual Conference of Anglican and non-Anglican Ministers of the Poverty Bay district that for the past nine or ten years has met at Te Rau College about Whitsuntide was held again at the same place on Whit Monday, May 28th. There were present nine Anglican clergy and six non-Anglican. The Rev. J. Aitken was voted to the chair. The first half-hour was occupied with a devotional reading given by Rev. H. T. Rawnsley, being a precis of an ordination address by the Bishop of Ely. This was followed by the controversial subject, "The place of the Holy Communion in Evangelical Theology," which was opened by the Rev. Wills (Wesleyan), who was followed by Rev. D. B. Malcolm (Anglican). The discussion was well kept up till 1 p.m. most of those present taking part. The aim that has always been kept in view at these Conferences is for each one to speak out his mind without fear or favour so that each one may have a better understanding of the other's position, which seems to be the first essential if any progress is to be made in the direction of unity. No compromise and no surrender of principle is involved in such meetings, and the Holy Spirit's presence and blessing may undoubtedly be looked for. The discussion was good and the spirit of the meeting excellent.

One of our Subscribers writes:—  
"I would not like to lose the GAZETTE it is such a comfort to people in the back-blocks who cannot attend Church . . . What a comfort the GAZETTE is . . . I will send 6/- every year."

## Church Fairs and Ice Cream Suppers.

Concerning the multiplied Church entertainments, such as fairs, festivals, concerts, tableaux, amateur theatricals, etc., I wish to utter some words of testimony to God's professed people as to their winning the heart and purse of the world. These methods of raising money for the Lord are all contrary to the precepts and examples of His Word, and therefore cannot please Him. They are counterfeit methods of giving and cultivate bogus benevolence. The simple method of free-will offerings alone is approved and all other methods are virtually condemned. Study Ex. 35: 5, 21, 29; Matt. 10: 8; Luke 6: 38. One-tenth or more, cheerfully and directly given, was the law of the Old Testament stewardship and it is the privilege of the New.

What if Moses had instituted a great carnival or bazaar to draw the surrounding heathen to the camp in order to get means to build the tabernacle? How would it comport with the character of the early Christians to read in one of Paul's epistles a suggestion that the saints in Corinth get up some Church fairs to raise some money for the poor saints in Jerusalem, or an exhortation to Lydia to stir up the godly women of Philippi to get up a grand fair, festival or baby show? With all our modern devices man's way may procure more money, but God's way will insure the greater blessing. These worldly devices are belittling, contemptible and dishonest. It is almost a shame to speak of them in detail.

What shall we say? What would the Master say of a bevy of vain and bedizened young ladies accosting and fascinating young men in order to sell them commodities above value which they do not want? What of the many devices like grab-bag, fish-pond, ring-cake, or a raffle, involving the gambling principle? What of the Church of God peddling out small wares and fun to the world, or getting up a variety show or milkmaids' drill to replenish her treasury? How belittling to the Church, how dishonest to God and how contemptible in the eyes of the world.

The great infidel once said, "I think your God must be in great need of money by the tricks the Churches practice to get it for Him."

Even those who aid and attend the