

## Editorial Notices.

Please address all communications re business or Editorial matter to Rev. M. W. Butterfield, c/o "Waipawa Mail," Waipawa.

Literary Matter should reach the Editor on or before the 15th of the month. News Items, including Parish Notes, on or before the 22nd of the month.

The Manager will send extra copies of the Gazette to any clergy who wish to have them for samples to gain new subscribers.

## Waipapu Church Gazette

Thursday, August 1st, 1918.

### Possibilities of Reunion.

#### PROFESSOR COOPER AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

The Moderator of the Established Church of Scotland, Professor Cooper, Glasgow University, addressed a large audience in the Crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral recently. The Bishop of London presided.

Dr. Cooper spoke on the question of reunion as it affects Scottish Presbyterians and the Episcopal Churches of Scotland and England. He emphasised the great urgency of Christian reunion and the need of a sound basis in fundamentals. In the matter of the Scriptures, the Nicene Creed, the two great Sacraments—three parts of the famous Lambeth Quadrilateral—they of the two great Scottish Presbyterian Communion already were in agreement with the Episcopal Churches; the fourth, Episcopacy, they would receive on its merits and for the sake of unity. A reunited Church of Scotland would be episcopal; it would also possess the full hierarchy of Church courts from Kirk Session to General Assembly, as it existed in the days of the seventeenth century Episcopacy. Dr. Cooper quoted with full approval the resolution of the last Lambeth Conference, which suggests that in any project of reunion with any Presbyterian Church "which, while preserving the Faith in its integrity and purity, has also exhibited care as to the form and intention of ordination . . . it might be possible to make an approach to reunion on the basis of consecrations to the Episcopate on lines suggested by such precedents as those of 1610." He explained what those precedents were: that in 1610 episcopacy was introduced into Scotland by

the consecration of certain ministers who had only received Presbyterian ordination, and that the Presbyterian system of Church courts was retained. He referred to the subsequent part of the Lambeth resolution regarding arrangements for the inevitable period of transition, and he emphasised the necessity of an arrangement that would safeguard Episcopalians from being obliged to receive sacraments from those whose orders they doubted, and also Presbyterians from having to disown their ministerial position. Such an arrangement, he said, had been favorably considered by a recent private gathering of leading men in all three communions, and it held out immense hope for the future.

The Moderator felt that the time was ripe for fuller consideration of the whole question. He explained the negotiations that had been going on with a view to the union of the Established and United Free Churches. These negotiations had been resumed again after being interrupted by the war; the situation was most promising; war conditions had brought the ministers and people of the two Churches together in a way that would have been unthinkable a few years ago, and now people were thinking of a wider union, one with the Episcopal Church and the Church of England.

Dr. Cooper referred at length to the Scottish Episcopal Church in the warmest terms, making a most generous acknowledgment of her position and history, and altogether dissociating himself from the shallow and abusive talk once all too common among Scottish Presbyterians, when they spoke of the Episcopal Church as the English Church or as an exotic. He emphasised the fact that the Episcopal Church is "genuinely Scottish. . . has a real root in the country: has been the peculiar shrine of some of the most chivalrous and pathetic of our national traditions" and now takes "her full share in the public life of Scotland, and is co-operating effectively in every movement for the social, moral and spiritual improvement of the people." When such things as these are said thus formally and officially, it is evident to all who have eyes to see that the atmosphere is changing, and things will soon be possible in reality that could scarcely be imagined a decade ago.

### Fire Worshippers.

The old heathen custom of fire-worshipping dies hard. The cold weather experienced in July has made a marked difference in the attendance at many churches. Public entertain-

ments are as popular as ever, but the fireside is much more attractive than the church altar. There are some robust Christians, of course, who do not mind suffering a little physical inconvenience for the sake of offering public worship to God, but a great many of us are not made of such stern stuff. The soldiers of King George V. do not shrink from parading and fighting in the roughest and coldest weather, but a large number of the soldiers of Christ remain in their dug-outs when the weather is unpropitious. Battles are not won in this way. Moreover, those who stay in the dug-outs do not even send along the ammunition that has been issued to them to be used in the King's service, and forget to bring it with them when the weather improves and they at last appear on parade.

We certainly want more fire in the Church, perhaps in the pulpit, certainly in the hearts of Churchmen. A correspondent of one of the country districts in another diocese remarks that on several recent cold Sundays the congregation has consisted entirely of the old and infirm, while the young and healthy have been conspicuous by their absence. It certainly seems that it is not the coldness of the weather but the coldness of zeal and enthusiasm that is responsible for the poor attendance of worshippers on winter Sundays.

### Obituary.

#### THOMAS TANNER.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr Thomas Tanner, for so many years intimately associated with the work of this Diocese.

It is almost presumption to speak of the deep, earnest Christian life of the father of our Synod. Amidst all his public activities his love for Christ and the Church always came first. He was prodigal in his generosity, not only to the Church, but also to every deserving charity and philanthropic work. As Chairman of Committees in Synod his judgment was always keen and impartial, and his knowledge of procedure and insistence on the proper order of business being observed was a great factor in the expedition of Synod business. Of no one could it be more truly said that he fought the good fight and finished his course and has gone un-sullied to his reward. His work will live on in the Waipapu Diocese for many generations. May God send us many more Churchmen with a similar zeal for God and His Church. May the Almighty Lord in His mercy grant him a place in His Kingdom of refreshment, light and peace.