

Editorial Notices.

Please address all Editorial matter to The Editor, "Church Gazette," Box 29, Waipawa.

Literary Matter should reach the Editor on or before the 15th of the month. News Items, including Parish Notes, on or before the 18th of the month.

All Business Communications must be sent to the Diocesan Secretary. All communications regarding subscriptions to the "Church Gazette," and all notices of alteration in number of copies required should be sent to the Diocesan Secretary, Box 227, Napier.

Waipapu Church Gazette.

Friday, September 1st, 1922.

MORAL WITNESS.

At the last meeting of the Northern Hawke's Bay Clerical Society several suggestions were made for infusing into the proceedings of Synod more spiritual significance. Our Church assemblies from meetings of Bishops, and General Synod downwards concern themselves too little with the problems of the day and spend undue time in discussing the financial concerns of the Church and questions of Church organisation. Some members of Synod regard the meetings as a feast on dry bones, though, it is to be feared, there are a few who regard the discussion of great spiritual questions in Synod as so much waste of time that should be devoted to "business." An able article in the "Church Standard" enumerates ways of killing interest in Synod. One is the prominence of what it calls "canon-tinkers." Canons do occasionally need revision and the business of doing so has to be gone through. After all, proper organisation of details is only the machinery—the work of the Church is to save the world, to convert sinners, to build up the saintly character in individuals and to impress the world around with the beauty of the Christian life and ideals. The machinery for doing this is important but we must not stop at making and repairing machines, we must use them for the purpose for which they have been built. The clergy feel that the Church should, in its assemblies, as a light set upon a hill, bear witness to the world of Christian principles and morals. She is not sufficiently clear and definite in her official pronouncements on great moral questions, and the world gets the idea that she is too intent on financial and business matters to spend time in

considering the weightier things, and the things which concern the world around. Perhaps the root of the trouble lies in our parishes. Vestries consist often of laymen who are concerned with the finances only of the parish, and who too frequently do their utmost to "put the brake" on a zealous Vicar, whose spiritual vision leads him to emphasise the missionary work of the Church or who wishes to improve the services so as to express deeper devotion, who ignores the wishes of the less spiritual members of his congregation for things that tickle the ear and make for business success, and urges repentance, faith, due observance of Sacraments and greater reverence. The Anglican Church is timid and flabby, and any priest or bishop who dares to speak out boldly against the evils of the day becomes a mark for attack to hundreds, sometimes thousands, of the nominal Churchmen who claim membership in the Church but whose belief and practices do not conform to her teaching and standards, and whose lives and ideas are foreign to her spirit. Haziness in faith and reluctance to lead in the solution of moral problems have weakened the Church's appeal and influence until she is in danger of being despised by men for her vacillation, and of being thrown aside by the Master as an instrument inefficient for the work entrusted to her.

Parochial Notes.

St. Matthew's, Hastings.

Vicar: Rev. R. T. Hall.

Assistant Curate: Rev. O. Gibson.

The G.F.S. held a successful cake and produce stall in July, when £16 was obtained for the Hostel Fund. The monthly lecture to the G.F.S. in August was given by Dr. E. Boxer, who dealt in a very able and interesting manner with the basis and progress of modern medical research.

The Mothers' Union met on August 1st. There was a splendid attendance, and all present enjoyed an address by Mrs Crompton-Smith, of Havelock North, on "The Training of Children in Obedience."

A successful social rally was held by the C.E.M.S. on August 2nd, when 30 men were present. We hope that this will be only the first of many such gatherings, and we ask all our men to join in the work of the Society. Fellowship and service is our motto.

In future on Thursdays there will be a celebration of the H.C. only on alternate weeks, viz., the 1st, 3rd and 5th.

Confirmation classes are held as follows:—Senior girls on Monday, 7.30 p.m.; women on Wednesday, 2.30

p.m.; girls 5 p.m.; lads 7 p.m.

Te Karaka.

Vicar: Rev. H. Collier.

The Girls' and Boys' Clubs recently held a social, when a most enjoyable evening was spent in games and community singing. We hope to have another social in the near future.

Arrangements are well in hand for the forthcoming flower show, which will be held on November 16th.

A handsome brass gospel stand has been presented to St. John's Church by Mrs Manual, in memory of her mother. The Gospel stand matches the cross which is a memorial to Mrs Manual's brother who fell in the war and who at one time was a devoted lay reader in this parish.

Mrs Pickett has kindly taken in hand the task of collecting funds for renovating the Sanctuary curtains and Altar frontals, which need renewing.

Mr Fred Hobbs has been appointed choir-master at St. John's.

Havelock North.

Vicar: Rev. Canon K. E. Maclean, B.A.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." "Blessedness" in the Bible is an expression of the highest joy. "Blessed" is the first word of the Psalms. It is also the first word of the Sermon on the Mount.

Perhaps there was never a time when a true understanding of those words was more needed than now. The Divine Maker and Ruler of the Universe decreed that all life is one—therefore there is no division between the material and the spiritual. They depend on each other. The material is dead without the spiritual; the spiritual is cramped and hindered through the lack of necessary supplies from the material. The world has come to its present pass of confusion, struggling, fighting, and far-spread misery, through the materialism of the Great War, of the Profiteer, of the Capitalist, of the Socialist.

How is the antagonism between different classes, causing infinite waste of power, to be transmitted into friendship and unity so that the present dissonant forces may be harmonised, and thereby their power be doubled? There is no other way than by the reception on both sides of the spirit of love and of wisdom, for true love is the highest wisdom.

To repeat: "Life is one," and its forces are wasted if man seeks to break it into divisions. And there is only one corporate body in our midst which has the opportunity of healing those divisions. It is a body little recognised either by capitalists