

should be entirely distinct from preparation for Confirmation. We have for decades labored this point of the value of early Confirmation, and need now only reaffirm our belief that no bishop would venture to appear in any Court to defend his refusal to confirm a candidate who could fulfil the simple requirements which the Prayer Book lays down. No one wishes to bring bishops into Court, they have an advantage which we are sure they do not desire to press. But since there are some dioceses in which the bishop is resolute, the way out of the difficulty may be taken which the Prayer Book suggests. If candidates cannot be confirmed until they have reached a certain age, children may be prepared for their First Communion and admitted to it, under the excepting terms of the rubric. They are ready and desirous to be confirmed; they must not be deprived of two sacraments if one is withheld on a ground at which the Prayer Book does not even hint. It is very desirable that Confirmation should precede Communion, but it is not necessary. And if a general custom of admitting children to Communion grew up, we think that the bishops would very soon modify their age-rule for Confirmation.—("Church Times").

In Memoriam.

The death of the Rev. Canon William Swinburn, which occurred at Hastings on August 5th, removes from the ranks of the clergy one who was greatly beloved by the people to whom he ministered because of his kindly disposition and his great sincerity in carrying out the work to which he had devoted his life. Born in Ireland and educated for the ministry at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, he left his homeland when quite a young man for Australia, where he for some years labored, not in vain, for the advancement of Christianity and the happiness of the people. Coming to New Zealand, he first settled in Invercargill, where he ministered for some time, and then sought a change to the North Island, being appointed to Waipawa. He later returned to Southland, and at Bluff he became so seriously ill that he was compelled to retire from active work. About six years ago he settled in Hastings, living in retirement in Arveden street, where his death took place. It was only on rare occasions that he was seen abroad, and those who knew him well will miss the kindly greeting with which he recognised them as he passed along the busy thoroughfare. He leaves a widow and a grown-up family of one daughter (Mrs H. N. Coleman, of Havelock North) and three sons. The funeral took place at the Havelock

Cemetery on August 7th, and the high esteem in which he was held was shown by the large number of friends who followed his remains to their last resting place.—("H.B. Tribune").

May the Almighty God and Chief Shepherd grant him in His presence a place of refreshment, light and peace and a reward of faithful service.

Meeting of Clergy.

A meeting of the Clergy of the Northern part of the Hawke's Bay Archdeaconry was held at the Deanery on August 7th. The opinion of the clergy was freely expressed that something should be done to make Synod an opportunity for stirring up spiritual life and not merely an occasion for transacting formal business and revising canons.

The question of spiritual healing was discussed and the approaching visit of Mr Hickson.

The clergy thought it was desirable that a Choral Festival should be held annually in the Cathedral, the music to be such as to help country choirs in the proper method of rendering the ordinary services of the Church.

The subject set down for discussion was that of Socialist Sunday Schools. The clergy agreed that so far as such schools encouraged disloyalty and anarchy they should be dealt with by the State. If their anti-religious influence is to be combated, the Church can do it only by greatly improving her own Sunday Schools and by extending her work of religious education. There is a very urgent need that all Sunday Schools should be made more efficient in their methods, and that a proper syllabus of instruction in Christian Faith and practice should be adopted.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Havelock North on St. Luke's Day (October 18th), the Patronal Festival of the Havelock Church.

Synod.

SEPTEMBER 8th.

Services in connection with the Session of Synod have been arranged as follows: Holy Communion each day at 7.15 a.m., Mattins at 9.30 a.m., Evensong at 7.45 p.m.

On Friday, the opening day, there will be a Choral Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. The clergy are expected to vest in cassock, surplice and hood.

The services on Sunday, September 10th, will be Holy Communion, 8 a.m.; Mattins, 10 a.m.; Choral Eu-

charist, 11 a.m. (preacher, the Rev. P. Tamahori); Evensong, 7 p.m. (preacher, the Most Rev. the Archbishop).

All clergy and lay members of Synod are desired to be present at the 11 a.m. Eucharist, and the clergy are requested to wear their robes both at this service and at Evensong.

The Bishop will hold a conference with the clergy at 10 a.m. on Monday, with the Maori clergy at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, and with the Lay members of Synod at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

On Saturday, September 9th, the foundation stone of a new block of buildings at Te Aute College will be laid by the Archbishop in the afternoon. All members of Synod are requested to attend and the clergy to wear their robes.

A Lay Sermon.

Sir Tristram Eve, K.B.E., preaching on Church Finance at the Brighton Parish Church recently, said he was not happy as a preacher and would just have a talk with the congregation "on equal terms." He explained the functions of the Central Fund (corresponding to our General Diocesan Fund) for which collections were to be made in all the dioceses, and hoped the laity would respond more liberally than they did last year. He said it was not the business of the Church to chase the laity and cadge and badger for money, but it was the duty of the laity to seek out the needs of the Church and to supply them.

He appealed for real systematic almsgiving, not merely giving towards the upkeep of their own churches, which was simply paying for what they received, but giving that others might receive. People, Sir Tristram said, took enormous trouble to make everything successful to which they belonged, but they did not worry if the only thing that really mattered—the praise and worship of God and the doing of His Will—was successful or not. He called it a "low-down, dirty swindle" to pretend to belong to the greatest Society on earth, and have the credit of being a Christian, and never give a "bob" to the Society at all.

St. Winifred's School, Gisborne, has now 36 pupils and is growing in popularity. Parents who wish to send their girls to a really good Boarding School are advised to communicate with the Principal, Miss Webb. The standard of teaching, the home atmosphere and the real Christian and moral influence of St. Winifred's are all that can be desired.