

ness, pray for grace to follow the example of His great humility.

III.

Once more, from his Christmas cradle, Christ Jesus claims our love. He presents Himself to us there, not only as our God and our Saviour, but as our baby Brother. He embodies in Himself that most sweet and tender relationship, and pleads for our love in the appealing, the irresistible accents of His baby voice. What, then, shall we do with this Jesus Who asks for our love? Shall we give it to Him? Ah! how can we help it? How could we refuse to love Him Who loved us so much that He laid aside His glory, and took upon Him our nature, and was born as a helpless infant that He might save us from our sins and unite us to Himself? Surely the cry must be wrung from our hearts, just as truly at the Manger of Bethlehem as on Calvary beneath the shadow of the Cross: We love Him because He first loved us.

And how can we show our love to Him this Christmas? For remember, as I said just now, this is a practical matter. The question is, What shall we do? Well, my friends, He Himself has told us what to do. "A new commandment," He said, "I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples." Let us take the spirit of Christ-love into our hearts and houses this Christmas. Let us crush down our selfishness, our quarrelsomeness, and bitter tempers. Let us be kind and self-forgetting and thoughtful for others; for our parents and children and brothers and sisters. Let us be generous and charitable to the poor and friendless. Let us do our utmost to make Christmas a happy time for the children, for the sake of the Babe of Bethlehem. So shall we show that our hearts are full of love and gratitude to Him Who Himself was a little child, and poor and friendless, and outcast, and in want, and Who has said: "Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye do it unto Me."

Parish News.

The Rev. H. A. Haslam, of Tolaga Bay, is leaving shortly for England, having resigned the charge of the parish.

Waipawa. The Bishop confirmed two candidates at Onga Onga, Clara Russell and Marjory Bibby on November 15th, and twenty-one candidates at Waipawa on the following evening. Messrs C. Thorne, C. Edwards, H. Miller, A. Watson and W. Gandy, A. Cheers and Misses H.

Mawson, M. Miller, H. Miller, A. Gandy, E. Smith, Elsa Smith, D. Moroney, U. Moroney, M. Cheers, H. Mackay, A. Ireland, N. Vestey, M. Wheeler, V. Watson, G. Morley. The Bishop celebrated at a special celebration at 7 a.m. on the 16th, offered with the special intention of prayer for the Confirmees. There was a large number of communicants.

Though no sensational cures have so far resulted to patients from this parish who attended the Mission, yet all of them and the intercessors as well received a wonderful spiritual benefit. The intercession services have been continued and the whole tone of our ordinary services is higher. The Mission has been a great experience to us all and has made us realise more clearly than ever before the presence of Christ in His Church. There are no cases of "bitter disappointment" such as were prophesied by those who do not understand that the spiritual joy can uplift men and women so that life's burdens lose their irksomeness and physical infirmity gives way to spiritual strength.

Mr Allen, of Ruataniwha, took evensong on November 4th. We are pleased to welcome him amongst us as a lay reader.

The Vestry have decided to obtain estimates for the building of a Kindergarten School. We have £415 in hand chiefly derived from gifts from the Rathbone bequest. The opening of a Kindergarten Sunday School would be a distinct gain to the parish.

The fancy fair held in Waipawa last month by the Ladies' Guild under the able management of Mr Thorne, realised about £112. Mr Thorne's artistic decorations were a conspicuous feature of the "fair."

Hastings. There were 200 Communicants at the Thanksgiving Service on the Sunday after the Mission.

Opotiki. About 12 patients went to the Mission in Gisborne and all have received great benefit. The spiritual uplift has been immense and not only have the congregations increased—but the devotional atmosphere has been—and is still much more evident than before.

We have now eight prayer circles of six members each, and some forty names of sick people, who are divided among these circles, so that they are surrounded by a "barrage" of prayer. The answers to these prayers have already begun, for all of which we thank God, the source of all health and strength. Later on we hope to have a healing service and, taking our Lord at His word, to lay hands publicly on these sick folk. Some six or seven patients are being prepared for the Rotorua Mission.

Two new Sunday School teachers

are joining the staff, Miss Isobel Parkinson and Miss Joy Kelly. We pray for a blessing on their work.

Of course the devil is annoyed at all this, so he is attacking us on the financial plane, and our position is somewhat disconcerting. Our bank overdraft is £270 with a limit of £300.

The builder reports dry rot of borer, not only in the pulpit (1) but also in the original beams and principals of the church, and a possibility of a collapse of the room. Also the floor of the Parish Hall has collapsed owing to the piles having sunk. The church needs painting, and the front fence and gates entirely replacing.

The normal monthly expenditure is £35, and the offertories are never more than £27.

The Vestry have had the help of Captain Macpherson, who is kindly canvassing the district and an appeal has been issued to all church people. The result is encouraging, and already over £70 a year has been promised by the envelope system. Please give us your prayers, that we may weather the storm and not lose sight of our spirituality whilst we are raising money.

We have received copies of the Opotiki Parish Magazine, which maintains its standard of excellence. In spite of financial difficulties the magazine records, "It takes 65 muscles of the face to make a frown, but only 35 to make a smile. Why waste your energy? Why worry? Keep smiling."

Gisborne. The recently confirmed candidates made their first Communion on November 4th, there being 195 communicants present at the service.

The Ladies' Guild held their annual sale of work on November 1st and their funds were considerably increased.

On the 1st Tuesday of the month, after the Mission, Deaconess Esther Brand addressed a gathering of the Mothers' Union, on some practical results following the Mission. After the address, printed cards of Family Prayers were sold to the different members. The Deaconess conducts an Intercession Circle at 2.30 p.m. every day in the church except Saturday. The two wid-weekly Eucharists are still being continued. A good number of adults are now being prepared for Confirmation, and the Bishop will confirm them in December. The Holy Trinity Girls' Club closed their winter session on November 13th, and they do not resume work till March or April next year. Deaconess Esther Brand gave a talk to the members on this night on "Books, and What to Read," the address being keenly listened to by those present.