

Mata. Mata to take part.

At 2.30 p.m. the Bishop of the Diocese addressed a congregation of women, taking as his subject, "The Women of the Bible."

The first portion of the service at 7 p.m. was taken by the Rev. E. A. McCutcheon, the second being taken by the Rev. R. Hodgson. The Ven. Archdeacon Chatterton read the lesson. The sermon was preached by Bishop Williams, whose subject was, Cols. IV.: 14, "Luke, the Beloved Physician."

This service was followed by a parish social, the hall being crowded to overflowing. It was a wonderful evening, a veritable feast of good things, and a warm family feeling was in evidence. The vicar, in a very happy captivating speech, opened the evening's entertainment. Mr R. G. Webb, of the High School staff, gave a very full and most interesting and illuminating address on the early history of Christianity and its pioneers in this district.

Our Bishop also gave a short interesting address, in the course of which he recalled some personal experiences, humorous and grave.

Some excellent musical items were given, including some from the Whakarewarewa Maori Choir, all of which were of a very high order.

A climax was reached when the huge centenary cake had its 100 candles lighted. After extinguishing the candles the first cut was made by our Bishop. Then followed the sale of the cake at 6d a slice, with every now and then a bit of real wit and humour thrown in.

But that cake! If it only could have spoken its history! It weighed over 150lbs., the ingredients of which came from parishioners from all parts of the parish. And the preparations? Well, to enter the parish hall on a certain occasion was to see something, not to be easily forgotten. Enthusiasm, happiness and real work all combined to make a most animated scene. For here were twenty women drawn from St. Luke's and Devon St. Ladies' Guilds, each with a mixing bowl and provided with equal proportions of the ingredients, assiduously working to the accompaniment of jokes, jibes, and laughter and all trying to visualise the results of their efforts.

When each portion was well and truly mixed and put into a whole the women's responsibility ended. For

this great lump was then entrusted to the baker for cooking and icing. Nor did he fail. The cake was "a beauty" and much in demand, for over 420 slices were sold, the proceeds amounting to nearly £11.

On Saturday the children from several Sunday Schools came together to the Parish Church for a service at 11 a.m. It was a touching and inspiring sight. Maori and Pakeha children sat side by side to take part in a Christian service, the church being packed full.

Bishop Bennett told the children the story of the bringing of the Gospel to the Maori, and pointed out how, in doing so, the early missionaries carried their lives in their hands, and faced many and grave dangers, for the Maoris then were wild and uncivilised. He contrasted the position of to-day, stressing the power of Christianity to make life a beautiful thing, so that at this centenary observance we had the fact of Maori and Pakeha children worshipping side by side in a Christian service. He described the old Maori religion, customs and superstitions, and noted the wonderful influence of Christianity in removing so much that was undesirable. He appealed to those present to "sow by many waters" by following the example of the early Christian missionaries.

After the service the children assembled outside the church and marched to the Government grounds where they were entertained by their elders and spent a most happy time in games, lunch and afternoon tea, and a lolly scramble were all much appreciated, and the children left the grounds somewhat tired, but very, very happy.

On Sunday, 20th October, at the 7 a.m. service, the celebrant was the Rev. McCutcheon, the Bishop of Waiapu assisting. At 8 a.m. the Bishop was the celebrant, the Rev. Manihera assisting. This service was followed by what proved a very happy affair indeed. The Ladies' Guild had prepared a splendid parish breakfast and a large number of parishioners sat down to this meal in the spirit of good fellowship. It was a true "family" gathering and much enjoyed and appreciated.

At 10.45 a.m. a large congregation assembled outside St. Luke's Church and processed to the Government grounds where a well attended open air service was held. The Municipal

Band headed the procession, followed by several clergymen, both Pakeha and Maori, the Bishops of Waiapu and Aotearoa, the combined Maori and St. Luke's Choirs, and the general public. During the procession the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" was sung and so nicely was it timed that the procession entered the grounds just as the hymn concluded.

The service commenced with the hymn "O God Our Help in Ages Past," the prayers following being taken by the Rev. E. A. McCutcheon. The Rev. E. Ti Tikao read the first lesson. This was followed by the hymn "Thy Kingdom Come." The Ven. Arch. Chatterton read the 2nd Lesson, the concluding prayers being taken by the Rev. R. Hodgson. The congregation then sang the hymn "All People That On Earth Do Dwell."

The preacher for the occasion was the Bishop of Aotearoa, who gave an inspiring address on the early work of the missionaries and the changes wrought for the better in the lives of the Maoris.

THE EARLY DAYS

Looking round the gardens, the Bishop said he could plainly remember the days when he used to go through a narrow track which was surrounded on all sides by wild manuka bush as high as the ornamental trees growing at the present time amidst the beautifully laid out gardens and lawns. Here was but one instance of the remarkable transformation brought about by civilisation.

He could also remember the days when the Ohnemutu pa was surrounded with palisades, which were a relic of the defence used by one tribe to ward off the attack of another. When the first missionaries came to New Zealand, they found the Maoris in a disgraceful condition, cannibalism among the various tribes being all too common. These pioneers of the British Empire, messengers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, had to take great risks to their personal safety, but they were inspired by the spirit of God to carry on the work of bringing Christianity to the Maori.

The Bishop then went on to describe various phases in the life and work of Mr. Chapman and his colleague, in their endeavour to establish mission stations at Koutu and other places in the Rotorua district.