

appoint a recess committee to consider fully the question of the Church's attitude to the exception mentioned in St. Matthew's Gospel and report to the next Session of Synod.

Apparently, that recess committee was, for some reason, not appointed, or, if appointed, did not function.

It would, I think, be of great value to the Church of this Province if such a committee could be set up, with the same order of reference so that the General Synod might make some definite pronouncement upon the bearing, if any, of that exception upon the general rule of the Church. Such pronouncement would be an assurance to the community that the attitude of the Church on the question of the re-marriage of divorced persons was not the outcome of cold and unsympathetic ecclesiasticism, but the result of a careful and unbiassed study of the teaching of Jesus Christ, the Truth.

The prevalent misunderstanding of the meaning and force of the so-called exception is the main stumbling block which prevents many Church people from giving their wholehearted support to the Church's definite teaching re the indissolubility of the marriage bond. Personally, I cannot believe that the so-called exception gives any sanction whatsoever to divorce and re-marriage, much as I sympathise with the unhappy lot of those who are unequally yoked together. The State is quite at liberty to make its own laws and has to legislate for "all sorts and conditions of men," but human laws cannot alter or suppress or water down God's laws, and Christian men and women are in honour bound to obey God rather than man. The Church is not a subservient department of State, but the body of Christ sent out and commissioned to teach and uphold in the world the will of God and the teaching of Christ. "Divorce", as Mr. Gladstone said in 1857, "is opposed to the law of the Church, to the law of nature and to the law of God." "Marriage," as Lord Merivale says in his little book "Marriage and Divorce," "was no evolutionary development or organised outcome of human progress. It is founded on words of Divine authority, spoken nineteen centuries ago with a certainty quite unmistakable."

Important Problems.

(1) In view of the fact that the exception mentioned in St. Matthew's Gospel is held by many scholars to refer to pre-nuptial sin, and in view of the fact that wilful pre-nuptial deceit on the part of either party might be held to invalidate the very essence of marriage, it is quite possible that the Church in some cases through her own Courts, should issued a "decree of nullity" after the Civil Courts have dissolved such a marriage for

other reasons. In such cases there could be no "cause or just impediment" why the innocent party at any rate should not be "re-married" in the Church with the full marriage-service. At present, however, we have no such Courts and no such custom.

(To be continued next month)

DIOCESAN AND MISSIONARY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Schedule showing Receipts for the General Diocesan Fund and Missions to 23rd April, 1937.

Quotas and Balances to be raised for the year ending 30th June, 1937.

Parish or District.	General Diocesan Fund.			N.Z. Board of Missions.		
	Receipts.	Quota.	To Raise.	Receipts.	Quota.	To Raise.
	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Clive ..	17 11 0	42	24 9 0	13 5 15	15	14 6 7
Dannevirke	90 9 4	154	63 10 8	51 12 6	125	73 7 6
Gisborne ..	77 15 7	224	146 4 5	87 1 0	200	112 19 0
Hastings ..	115 12 4	350	234 7 8	43 14 7	180	136 5 5
Havelock N.	33 19 2	280	246 0 10	89 6 6	210	120 13 6
Napier—						
S. Andrew's	55 11 7	98	42 8 5	29 7 6	50	20 12 6
S. Augustine's	62 16 11	133	70 3 1	32 8 5	90	57 11 7
S. John's ..	126 13 1	357	230 6 11	52 19 3	150	97 0 9
Opotiki ..	37 5 5	56	18 14 7	10 0	30	29 10 0
Ormondville	11 10 6	84	72 9 6	6 13 3	40	33 6 9
Otane ..	165 6 2	420	254 13 10	117 6 0	350	232 14 0
Patutahi ..	66 11 1	84	17 8 11	1 1 0	40	38 19 0
Porangahau	3 14 6	84	80 5 6	9 0 0	45	36 0 0
Puketapu ..	8 13 6	98	89 6 6	14 0 0	95	81 0 0
Rotorua ..	87 17 1	126	38 2 11	50 14 4	100	49 5 8
Takapau ..	2 8 1	84	81 11 11	10 0	40	39 10 0
Taradale ..	11 0 0	42	31 0 0	2 11 8	40	37 8 4
Tauranga ..	75 14 0	126	50 6 0	7 1 0	85	77 19 0
Te Karaka ..	35 13 5	84	48 6 7	3 7 3	65	61 12 9
Te Puke ..	29 19 4	42	12 0 8	7 12 9	35	27 7 3
Tolaga Bay ..	53 17 3	42	— — —	43 8 6	35	— — —
Waerenga-a-hika	62 4 8	84	21 15 4	36 0 1	60	23 19 11
Waipawa ..	23 13 3	84	60 6 9	9 9 0	75	65 11 0
Waipiro Bay	203 16 2	420	216 3 10	123 2 1	125	1 17 11
Waipukurau	30 15 9	98	67 4 3	39 1 7	95	55 18 5
Wairoa ..	10 0 0	84	74 0 0	13 14 3	30	16 5 9
Whakatane	36 7 8	70	33 12 4	20 4 10	45	24 15 2
Woodville ..	54 18 4	70	15 1 8	7 3 4	30	22 16 8
Maori ..	19 10 4	35	15 9 8	6 12 10	50	43 7 2
Hukarere S.	— — —	—	— — —	— — —	5	5 0 0
Sundries ..	17 16 10	245	227 3 2	64 3 8	22	— — —
	£ 1629 2 4	4200	2582 14 11	970 10 7	2557	1637 1 7