

devotional training. There is no more pressing need in our Bible Class work to-day than to study and nurture the devotional life of our members. When we realise that so many of our class members come from careless, even irreligious homes, that their lives are full of study, work, sport and so many other things that they live under the delusion that they have time: that they find faithfulness to spiritual rule so difficult: we should take the greatest pain to help and nurture the devotional life of our Bible Class members.

The devotional life is never strong without daily Bible reading and Meditation. The Bible Reading Fellowship notes are excellent helps in this direction. But what of those boys, young men, even fathers, who want spiritual knowledge and a system of Bible reading and who are unable to attend any Bible Class or Church to get such knowledge? Can they receive in any other way. Yes, through the Lone-member branch of the Bible Class Union. This L.M. branch is the correspondence school of the B.C. Union, and is run specially for the benefit of those unable to attend Church or Bible Class. Such study as is required to be done under this scheme is done in one's own time, and the instruction is absolutely free. Now is the time to join. Take this opportunity. For further particulars write

R. DYER,

Lone Member Secretary,
511 Wellwood St., Hastings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(To the Editor Waiapu Church Gazette.)

NON-CONFORMITY.

Dear Sir,

I am indeed very sorry that I have hurt the feelings of your correspondent who signs himself "Layman." But has he ever really considered what an abominable thing Non-Conformity is in this world? In our Lord's most heartfelt prayer on the night of His betrayal, His great petition for His followers was "That

they also may be One in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." Surely it is hard to imagine anything more distressing than that men should call themselves Christian, and yet deliberately break away from, and institute sects to rival, and compete with Christ's Holy Church, His Bride, and His Body—"the fulness of Him which filleth all in all." (Ephes. i, 23.) Of course, I know that the majority of non-conformists to-day are non-conformists mostly because they happened to be born that way, and have been brought up on the excuses of those who were responsible for the original schism of their own particular sect. One has a great deal of sympathy for them, and realises it must be very difficult for them to repent of the sins of their fathers. But nevertheless the fact remains that non-conformity to the Catholic Teaching of the Church must always be a terrible sin. I am only too well aware that "many Church of England adherents are married to Non-Conformists, and (in some cases) find them very much more God-fearing people than many Anglo-Catholics." This knowledge makes me very sad, but it does not make non-conformity right. May I ask "Layman" to consider that the Christian life is a "Way" (Acts ix, 2 and xxii, 4). Belief alone, in the Lord Jesus, if not accompanied by obedience to the Church which He founded and left with us here in earth for our help and guidance, can never accomplish anything for us. To me it seems a contradiction of terms, for surely belief implies obedience. Christ came to give us a "Way" which would lead to the salvation of our souls. How can "Layman" possibly sincerely imply, as his letter seems to imply, that those who will not conform to this Way are as good as those who profess to, but fail? I would far, far sooner fall in the Way than be found dead amongst those who uphold any other way of their own. However, Sir, I am afraid I intrude too much upon your space. If "Layman" cares to write to me, and enclose a postal order for 1s 3d, I will gladly send him a little book which deals far more fully with this question.—Yours faithfully,

C. G. G. SALT.

AN AID TO SELF-EXAMINATION.

"If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." (I Cor. xi, 31.) When you are alone in the Presence of the Eternal Father-God kneel down and pray:—

"Eternal Father, Fountain of all life, Who upholdest all creation, quicken my conscience with the Light of Thy Holy Spirit, that I may see myself as I am in Thy sight, that I may judge myself, and see what part I am taking in the building of Thy Kingdom in the world of men. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

In the stillness of God's Presence ask yourself the following questions: Am I living the life of a Christian? I have been baptised into Christ's Body, the Church; am I striving to lift that Body up, and to draw all men into it; or am I living for myself and my own circle of friends? Am I ever ashamed of my religion? Do I support counter-attractions in this world which may draw men away from their duty to God? Have I settled in my own mind that the Christian Way is the only Way of Salvation for the whole world? Do I lead others to suppose that any laws of men can be better than the laws of God? Am I content with myself as I am; in what ways is my personality weak? Do I speak of other people contemptuously? When I see faults in others, do I talk about them, or do I help them? What do I do to help others overcome their weaknesses? Do I listen to gossip and scandal; and what do I do to suppress these things, and to sow the seed of goodwill and sympathetic understanding? What is my idea of being a "sport"? Do I think it more sporting to swear than to pray; to be seen in an hotel bar than in a church? Do I encourage gambling? Does my example lead others, especially young people, to think that the pleasures of this world are more important than the things of God? Am I afraid of being thought "goody-goody"? What is my sex life like? In what way am I trying to purify