

be willing to receive the teachers. Then the Government objected, and had to be persuaded that it was better to convert than to destroy the Maoris. So, with all these hindrances, it was not until 1814, more than five years after they left England, that the missionary party, with Marsden at their head, reached New Zealand. Marsden found that a war had broken out between Ruatara's men and another tribe. He boldly went, unarmed, to the enemy, slept in their midst in the open air, and in the morning persuaded them to make peace. On Christmas Day, 1814, he preached the first sermon ever delivered to the Maoris, choosing as his text, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

The Mission he thus began had many ups and downs. The story of the following years is full of wars, treachery, narrow escapes of Missionaries—sometimes of their murder. Many mistakes were made, of course, and the colonists, who poured in after the Missionaries, treated the Natives barbarously.

All is changed now. New Zealand is a settled colony, and the Maoris live at peace. Heathenism has practically disappeared, and there is a Christian Church containing numbers of Native Clergymen. So mightily has the Lord blessed the work begun amid such difficulties, eighty-four years ago. May we not take courage when things look dark in our own days? (*Selected.*)

THE DAY OF INTERCESSION.

No doubt the very first condition of the progress of the Church is our own earnest prayer. Every week, nay, every day, we, who have Christian privileges, should be praying for the growth of Christ's Kingdom, and when the annual Day of Intercession comes round, if we do not try to bear our part by private and public prayers, and, consequently, by adding to the vast stream of Intercession for the Blessing and Help of Almighty God upon those who are working and upon those for whom they

work, we incur a very grave responsibility and become guilty of a very grievous sin.

Now the Day of Intercession is appointed throughout the Anglican Communion for the Eve of S. Andrew, *i.e.*, Tuesday, the 29th instant, or any day of the week in which the Festival of S. Andrew falls. Hence our different Clergy may call their people together for Intercession at their one or more Stations, on any day from Advent Sunday till the following Saturday inclusive. We earnestly hope that this will be done, and that the special Intercessions authorised by the Bishops of Canada will be duly used, and that the opportunity will be embraced of giving to our people some interesting Missionary stories or details of the work, that is by God's mercy being done.

For the sake of those who have not preserved the authorised Prayers, although we gave them in November, 1895, we now repeat them as follows:—

Immediately after the General Confession at Morning and Evening Prayer.

O Lord, thou hast commanded us to preach thy gospel to every creature. But we have been backward in obeying thee. We confess that we have been wanting in zeal for thy glory, and the salvation of our fellowmen. We have felt too little concern about the souls of others. And now, O Lord, we desire to humble ourselves before thee for this our sin. Pardon us, we beseech thee, in thy great mercy. Give us grace to be more faithful in time to come. And do thou stir up within us a more earnest desire for the salvation of souls: for his sake who hath bought us with his own blood, even Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

After the third Collect, instead of the Litany or the Prayers usually said at Morning and Evening Prayer

O Merciful God, let thine especial blessing rest upon this Diocese, in which thou hast cast our lot, and upon