

Churches overseas are occupying many minds. The Revision and Enrichment of our Book of Common Prayer is, we would fain hope, approaching its last stage after the painstaking steps of busy years. Valuable suggestions as to the better use of Music in our public Services have been made to us by a duly appointed group of experts and students. The Committee upon the Property and Revenues of the Church, to which we ventured to call Your Majesty's attention last year, is about to publish a Report which will, as we hope, lead to improvement in the use of our resources. Measures recently adopted by the Church Assembly for helping the Clergy in the care of their houses of residence and for the uniting of small parishes are awaiting the approval of Parliament, and, as we hope, the Assent of Your Majesty.

An urgent problem affecting the innermost life of the Church is the supply of duly qualified men for the Sacred Ministry. The War and other causes have brought about a condition of things which calls for our immediate attention. In response to a request from the Convocations, a strong Committee has been formed to investigate and report upon the subject.

In these and all other matters it is our earnest desire that, carrying the commission which Christ has given us, we may be enabled with necessary earnestness and usefulness to contribute to the furtherance of the Eternal Gospel on which rests, as we believe, the one sure and lasting hope for mankind.

We would conclude, as always, with the humble prayer that the blessing of Almighty God our Heavenly Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, may rest upon Your Majesty and upon every member of the Royal House.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious answer:—

I thank Your Grace and the Bishops and Clergy of the Province of Canterbury in Convocation assembled, for your loyal and dutiful Address.

You approach me at a time when the country is faced with various problems; and when life is difficult for many of my people. I am confident that the National Church, which from the earliest days has been so closely identified with the history of our country, will ever strive to raise the minds and hearts of the Nation above and beyond material ends.

It is a matter of personal concern to me that unhappily so considerable a proportion of the population is still out of work; and I deplore the suffering and harm caused to the community by the scarcity of houses. I thank you for your assurance of sympathy and active co-operation in any well-considered measures which will lead to the improvement of the present conditions in these and other respects.

Your account of the work already accomplished, and still being continued by Convocation and by the Church Assembly deeply interests me. It is gratifying to know that the Governing Bodies of the Church regard with watchful care every aspect of its manifold life: and that you are earnestly endeavouring to strengthen and improve every instrument needful to carry out its Divinely appointed purpose.

I observe with special satisfaction that you have placed foremost among the tasks awaiting you, the vital question of Christian Unity. It has always been my fervent hope that a greater

measure of unity might be promoted among the different religious communions: and I trust that your deliberations may be so guided as to lead to closer fellowship between Christian people.

I pray that the Divine Blessing may rest upon you and assist you in all your undertakings.

CONVOCATION OF YORK.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

We, Your Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects, the Archbishop, Bishops and Clergy of the Province of York in Convocation assembled approach Your Majesty with the dutiful assurance of our devotion to Your Majesty's Throne and Person.

We earnestly desire and pray that the conditions of stable Peace in Europe, still so evidently endangered, may be restored and that in this endeavour the Government and peoples of this Realm and of France may be joined together as they were in the time of trial which they endured as friends and allies.

We have noted with profound satisfaction the declaration of Your Majesty's Government with respect of the League of Nations. We believe that the peace of the World can only be securely based on a foundation of Justice, mutual understanding and good will. We regard with dismay the disposition, but too apparent in some quarters, to return to that state of suspicion, competing armaments, and secret alliances, which the League of Nations was designed to replace by a saner and more hopeful ordering of international life. We believe that by strengthening and using the League of Nations Your Majesty's Government will secure the peace of the World, and therein also serve the best interest of Your Majesty's Empire.

Another ground for hope which we greatly value is that cordial co-operation between the two great English speaking Nations on which the best interests of the world so greatly depend and we rejoice that Your Majesty's Government has concluded an arrangement with the Government of the United States of America, by which the disgraceful smuggling of alcoholic liquors into the Republic in defiance of its laws will be effectually restrained.

The signature of a Treaty of Peace with Turkey will we hope bring to the sorely tried Churches of the East some security from the troubles by which they have been afflicted so that by the Blessing of God Christianity may yet flourish in its ancient seats.

We trust that the proceedings of the recent Imperial Conference of the Nations united under Your Majesty's Sovereignty may result in strengthening the ties which bind these Nations together and in making the principles and ideals which are cherished within the British Empire a power in the world.

Here in England unemployment continues to depress and disorganise the life of the populous communities in which we live and work. We observe with distress its ill effects not only on the general life but more particularly on the life of the young in the critical years of adolescence, when the disciplines of school have been outgrown, and the habit of self-