

Summer on Jesus and the Gospels—recommended "Lives of Christ" to be read, and thus we enveloped ourselves for the time in the atmosphere of His life. November, the time for the venture came on, two papers were prepared, and the first given out. Would the experiment succeed? As the student in the laboratory watches the crucible, so waited I.

The response was hearty: The papers poured in; the examinations were the talk of the church for a time; and the announcement of the results was anxiously looked for. There were two "Papers." The first was easy, and intended for all. Here are the first and last questions:

First Examination in the Life of Jesus. 1. For what were the following places noted: Nazareth, Cana, Mount of Olives, Gethsemane? 7. Write (a) four verses from the Sermon on the Mount; (b) four other sayings of Jesus; (c) the three last verses of Matthew's Gospel.

Forty caligraph copies were given out, in sealed envelopes, to be answered without opening the Bible. Thirty answers were received in return. Teachers and scholars tried; young and old wrote—with bad writing and spelling, and good; there were young people's answers neatly written; there were boys' answers illuminated with blots; writers were in age, from one of threescore, and many years a teacher, to a little lad of eight, lately promoted from the primary class. All showed an earnest effort to do the best, and the answering was *good, very good*.

The Second Paper was intended for senior scholars; and the open Bible was available for this. Only eight answers were given in, but these were of a very high order. Every writer hit the centre, and one scored a "bull's eye"; for all were in the *nineties*, and one young woman made the round *hundred*. As samples, here are the first two questions: 1. Give the purpose and main idea of each of the Gospels. 2. Give a page-sketch of Jesus, either as the physician or as the preacher. The prizes for first and second places in each paper, will be given at our Sunday School gathering next Monday.

We have come out of this impressed with several things. We have the conviction stronger, that to *know* Jesus we must know *about* Him: His life is the study of studies for His disciples; and the Gospels are the books of the Book of Books. We have the impression that we do

not know as much, as we thought we did. We have observed that every candidate was a *member of the Sunday School*; and may fairly draw the inference, that with exceptions here and there in a church, the Bible-study of to-day is done in the Sunday School! On Sunday afternoon many good church members sleep!

The suggestion of all the above came from England, where our fellow Congregationalists have system of examinations in Religious Knowledge. This Bible species of the Chautauqua idea is under the direction of the National Council of Congregational Guilds, and embraces three general subjects, Scripture, History and Doctrine; Christian Evidence; Church History, I have copies of the examination papers of last March, but I cannot speak as to the prevalency of the system. Here in Canada a similar plan is being taken up among the Presbyterians. I have before me a pamphlet which is headed "Higher Religious instruction. Examination Syllabus for 1889." Here also there are the three general subjects, Biblical, Doctrinal, Historical, and an essay. This plan is new to them, but will no doubt widely prevail in a denomination which has always been a Bible-reading people. On account of this movement among these two influential bodies, I am the more forward to mention our little venture; for ought not we too, who also have been a Bible-reading people, follow as a denomination, in the steps of our brethren of the Westminster Confession, and our brethren across the sea? I would be glad to aid in carrying out such an idea.

Paris.

J. K. UNSWORTH.

O, CHILD OF SORROW.

O child of sorrow, look above,
These dark, dark days will end,
Above thee reigns the God of love,
Believe—He peace will send.

Is pain thy trouble? Go to Him,
The true Physician—He;
Without Him vain all medicines are
As seed, if no rain be.

Or art thou lonely? Weary one,
Thy God is ever near;
Whether amid the city's crowds
Or in a desert drear.

Then cheer thee, tried one; look above,
For bright, glad days will come;
Sure sorrow, pain and loneliness
Shall flee, for Heaven's thy home!

R. N. O.