

School teacher, you want your class for Jesus. Ask and you shall receive—"For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

B. SHERLOCK.

HINTS AND HELPS TO READERS OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE.

A GRAVE defect in the religious life of the day is ignorance of the Bible. The divine Book is often *read* but seldom *studied*; and not a few of those who do read it often do so at great disadvantage. Sometimes they open the Bible at random, and read what comes next to hand, without any reference to its connexion or scope; sometimes they read the Bible through, chapter by chapter, as a self-imposed task; but when the task is finished they have no distinct idea of what the Bible teaches as a whole.

If we would study the Bible with profit, a definite object is indispensable, and the only legitimate object in such an undertaking is *to know God's will in order to do it*. Therefore, we should endeavor *so* to read God's word as most effectually to secure this end.

In the remarks which I am about to offer, several points are assumed:—1. I assume that you are a Christian, and desire to know the whole will of your Lord; or, 2. That you sincerely desire to be a Christian, and that you read God's word to learn *how* you may become one. 3. I assume that you have no knowledge of the tongues in which the Scriptures were originally written; that you are dependent entirely upon your English Bible for information on the great matters which pertain to human salvation. Assuming these points, my object is to give some hints that may aid you in studying your English Bible to the best advantage, so that you may become an *intelligent* Christian, ready "to give an answer to every one that asketh a reason for the hope that is in you."

A cursory examination will show that in the English Bible you have no fewer than sixty-six distinct treatises or tracts, bound together in one volume. A closer examination shows that these