

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE.

Being a paper read by the Rev. L. N. Tucker, M.A., Assistant-Minister of St. George's Church, Montreal, at the meeting of the Diocesan Sunday-school Association, 21st May, 1888.

I must ask, at the outset, your indulgent consideration of the paper which I am about to submit to you. My subject is probably the widest that could exercise the pen of a writer. Whole volumes and libraries have been written upon it. Only the presumption of ignorance could hope to treat it adequately in the space of twenty minutes. To treat it adequately, indeed, within any limits would demand higher qualifications than those which I possess. And my personal shortcomings have been aggravated by circumstances. My time has been so fully taken up with other duties that I have had to prepare this by fits and snatches. I must therefore ask your indulgence for what I have left unsaid as well as for what I have said weakly and imperfectly.

DEFINITION.

The Bible, I would define, in general terms, to be the mind and will of God made known to man through the medium of men and in human language. There is therefore a divine and a human element in the Bible. The Divine element must, in its very nature, be perfect. It was communicated to the writer either by direct Revelation in those things which lie beyond human knowledge or by Inspiration or divine enlightenment in those things which are part of human experience. The human element must also, in its nature, be imperfect. The writer's individuality is not effaced by the divine afflatus. The limitations of his mind and knowledge are not removed by a miracle, but are controlled so as not to mar the effect of his message. It follows that the object of the student of the Bible is to discover the mind and will of