

The Church Guardian,

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BIBLICAL STUDY.

We hope our readers will encourage the young people under their control to try and answer the "Biblical Questions," appearing in our columns. In fact, they are interesting to persons of every age, as a test of their knowledge of that Book which is so precious to the Christian. When we consider the millions of books issuing from our teeming presses, which are eagerly devoured, many of them full of objectionable language, and immoral teaching, and realize how little time is devoted to the study of the Bible, it may well make us sad at heart. A brief session of the Sunday School once a week, in some cases, daily reading of the chapters, without much understanding of their meaning, and we have the average attempt that is made to fulfil this portion of the duty of those who call themselves followers of Christ. For five days in the week, trained teachers systematically impart worldly knowledge, while not one hour is given to teach even the simplest principles of religion. "The one thing needful," without which man's life on earth, be it ever so brilliant in successes, is a failure, seems carefully put out of sight in the education of the day. Biblical study needs to be encouraged in every way. The older children in the Sunday School, and in our Church families, ought to be furnished in some way with Commentaries, at least, on the New Testament, such as those published by the S. P. C. K. It is true that the teachers themselves, with few exceptions, are such "as could not hope for a moment's success in any secular school work." It is too true that "in most cases they are merely undertaking a duty which expends itself in keeping a class of restless children quiet, and in seeing that they comply with the various regulations about Missionary services, library books, and punctuality cards." It is annoying to find the ignorance there is about the Bible, and that sometimes, in unexpected quarters. Sometimes educated people complain of the simplicity of sermons. It is only the wise Pastor's knowledge of the average ignorance of his congregation that leads him to preach such sermons. The man who does not understand the requirements of the day will preach over the heads of his people, but not one who has studied the knowledge of the people on religious subjects. How this ignorance is to be remedied, it is difficult to

know, so long as all the time and system are given to secular study. The *Churchman* suggests a system of instruction by correspondence, under the direction and approval of the Bishops and Clergy, with competent persons at the Church centres to undertake it. It promises to "aid in the work of organization, to give outlines of plans, and to suggest subjects." We shall look with interest for the development of this scheme. There are Lay Church people in Canada who are competent to undertake such work, and Churchwomen especially might be the means of doing incalculable good to the daughters of the Church by directing their attention to an organized study of Biblical subjects. And fathers and mothers ought to feel more than they do the necessity imposed on them, to see that their children not only read, but understand the Word of God,

PERVERSIONS TO ROME.

We are asked, from time to time, "Can you recommend any reliable book to place in the hands of persons who are drifting towards the Church of Rome?"

Our reply is—Read the Reverend G. H. Curteis' Bampton Lectures, 1871, entitled, "Dissent in its relation to the Church of England," Lecture III, "The Romanists," published by Macmillan & Co., London. Price 8s. The Clergy can easily obtain the loan of this book through one of Dr. Bray's libraries.

CHURCH STATISTICS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

HANTS COUNTY.

It is now nearly nine years since the last census was taken in Canada, and, doubtless, very many changes of all kinds have taken place since that time. But still, in a great measure, the several districts cannot have materially altered, and, with the exception of a natural increase, and, in a few places, an increase from emigration, the population, in a religious point of view, bears about the same relation to each denomination, as it did in 1871. This, however, must be bare conjecture on our part. As Churchmen, we hope the Church has increased her ratio of the population, and that 1881, the time for taking the next census, may find us much stronger than we were when last it was taken.

These statistics, which we propose giving now in detail, will be valuable, we think, so far as they will disclose the number of people professing to belong to the Church in each parish, and in the districts of each county, and will enable the clergy to judge how few or many, if any, in their extensive cures, are unknown to them, and uncared for.

We shall begin, as the census returns begin, with Hants County, and we shall esteem it a great favor if the clergy will explain or correct anything, which, in ignorance, we may mis-state with respect to their several Missions.

1871.

Total Population.	Church Population.
Scotch Village, 2,435	283
Kempt, 1,633	35
Walton, 1,633	179
Noel, 1,978	560
Maitland, 2,463	535
Shubenacadie, 1,093	169
Nine Mile River, 1,620	129
Rawdon, North, 776	198
Rawdon, South, 719	240
Brooklya, 1,108	232
St. Croix, 1,615	310
Windsor, 2,715	590
Falmouth, 1,598	117
Forks, 720	367
21,301	3,894

Thus it will be seen about 18 per cent of the population in Hants County profess to belong to the Church, or 2 per cent. above the average Church population of the whole Province.

We believe this percentage will be very considerably improved upon when the next census comes to be taken. And we ground our hopes upon the following basis:—There is a much larger number of Church Clergy in this County than in 1871. There were then four, although there had been five, and for a time six,—now there are ten. In 1871, the Venerable Doctor MacCawley was President of King's College, and Rector of Falmouth; while the late Rev. Dr. Hensley, Vice-President, was in charge of the Forks. Both these much-loved and greatly respected and lamented Priests were in bad health, the first by reason of the infirmities of age, the other, owing to the serious illness which had confined him for many months to his house. It is therefore to be supposed that the present President, assisted by the Rev. Prof. Wilson and the Rev. C. J. Brenton, will be able to do a larger and better work in these two places than could possibly be done under the former incumbents. And added to this, Mr. Sargent is at Rawdon, Mr. How, with Dr. Almon, at Newport, Mr. Jamieson at Maitland, and Dr. Maynard—besides having the valuable assistance of Mr. Willets, and the other clergy near him in his work—at Windsor. Much more, therefore, ought to be, and is expected from this improved state of affairs in this County, and, as we have already said, we have no doubt, but that all these gentlemen, with the blessing and help of Almighty God, will give a good account of their work in 1881.

ST. ANDREW'S WATERSIDE CHURCH MISSION.

THE Halifax Branch of this most useful Mission to Sailors we are glad to know is not idle, but is doing a good work, in a quiet way, for this important class of our transient citizens.

In addition to the Sunday Services in the loft on Pickford & Black's wharf, it has secured three rooms alongside the Church of England Temperance Society's Lunch Room, on the Market Wharf, which, it is hoped, will soon be furnished and opened as a Reading Room, and pleasant quarters for seafaring men.

This Branch now urgently appeals to all friends and well-wishers of the sailors, for contributions in money or useful furniture for the Rooms, so that these men, in many cases away from their families and homes, who, in the past, have been forced into all kinds of bad society, may, away from haunts of vice and sin, with the blessings of Christianity and cleanliness surrounding them, be led to live a happier, better, and more moral and Christian life.

Contributions may be sent to Geo. Francklyn, Esq., the Treasurer; or Rev. R. Wyllie, the Chaplain; or Augustus Allison and Selwyn H. Shreve, Esqrs., who are taking an active interest in the work.

Money will be needed for rent, and for the ordinary expenses.

FREE CHURCHES.

BETHNAL Green people are not good church-goers; but during a certain Advent, the Churches in that Parish were attended by great numbers of the weavers, and other men of the working class, in an extraordinary manner. Why was this? See the notice put forth by the Bishop of London—it is headed with these words, "ALL THE SEATS ARE PER-

PECTLY FREE." This is the secret! Never were cause and effect more clearly shown than in this matter. What is good for Advent season, is good for all seasons. What is good for Bethnal Green churches, is good for all churches. We cannot plead ignorance. Christianity, reason, experience, all speak the same decisive language, and with one voice, say:—"If you would preach the Gospel to the working classes, make the churches perfectly free and open."—*Rev. Sir John Molyneux.*

THIRD SERIES OF HISTORICAL "BIBLICAL QUESTIONS."

101. What Queen was grand daughter to Omri?
102. Mention the 3 Kings who reigned successively 40 years?
103. Where is the title "My Lord" applied to great men first used?
104. What trade was Aquila? and who was his wife?
105. Mention 4 different colored horses spoken off in one chapter of the Bible?
106. From what place did St. Paul write his Epistle to the Ephesians?
107. Where is mention made of a "pulpit of wood"?
108. How did the Rechabites gain their livelihood?
109. What success had the preaching of the first sermon by the Apostles?
110. Mention the three worthies who divided the Jordan?
111. How many (and mention them) veils covered the Tabernacle?
112. To whom is the word Bishop applied in the Bible?
113. Who completed the Canon of Prophecy?
114. What did the boring a slave's ear through with an awl signify?
115. Where is the prophecy of the drying up of the 7 mouths of the Nile?
116. Whom did Saul see at Endor in the presence of the witch?
117. Name those who were buried in the Cave of Machpelah?
118. Who, on a tile, was ordered to "pour out upon it the city of Jerusalem?"
119. Who, on the 7th day, offered a golden spoon at the dedication of the Altar?
120. With whom did St. Peter reside at Joppa and what was his business?
121. Who mentions the names of many Ladies in one chapter of his Epistles? and where is the chapter?
122. What Books are sometimes called 3rd and 4th Kings?
123. Who sent colonies into Canaan, which became the Samaritans?
124. Mention twice when the sun was stayed from going down?
125. Who raised a pillow over his wife's grave, and at what place?
126. Name the three instances of resurrection in the Old Testament?
127. Where is the earliest recorded Fable? and give its title?
128. What occupation is our Saviour called by the people in St. Mark?
129. Mention two heroines who slew the generals of their country's foes?
130. Give chapter and verse of two books in the Old and New Testaments where "fire and brimstone" are mentioned?
131. What verse contains all the letters of the Alphabet (except j)?
132. Who was the first mortal to whom Christ appeared after His resurrection?
133. How many vessels were filled with water when it was turned into wine?
134. What two chapters in the Bible are identically alike?
135. Who is the first man recorded as buried in a coffin?
136. How many quotations from the Old Testament found in the New? and what two Books are most quoted? and how often? and who quoted from the Pentateuch when sorely tried?
137. What Latin Poet describes Christ and the blessings of His government?
138. Tell what Solomon's ships triennially brought to him besides asses and peacocks? and what is the way called?
139. How many Books in the Old and in the New Testaments?
140. Mention the names of the Great Dragon in the Revelations?
141. What became of Mordecai? and whose Uncle was he?
142. Who was Esther? and what Queen did she succeed?
143. Who was Ruth? and who was her second husband?
144. Who was Elizabeth? and state her husband and son's names?
145. Who was Dorcas? and give her other name?
146. Who says,—"Terrible as an army with banners"?
147. What do you mean by the "Massacre of the Innocents"?
148. Who preached the most sublime sermon from a mountain side?
149. Where is mention made of Augustus Caesar?
150. Name the 7 Churches of Asia?