

Note VII. page 64.

By means of the Catechism, he [the child] is taught his duty to God and man, and instructed in the great mysteries of the Christian faith.

The Rev. Henry More, D.D., observes, "that there are three kinds of preaching—catechising, expounding a chapter, and preaching, usually so called, whereof the first is the best, and the last the least considerable of them all. This worst and last is the very idol of some men, and the others rejected, as things of little worth. I confess this exercise may be of laudable use in such a congregation, where all the people are thoroughly grounded in the fundamentals of Christianity, and are well skilled in the knowledge of the Bible; otherwise, if the other two ways of preaching be silenced, by this more overly and plausible, it is to the unspeakable detriment of the flock of Christ, which will happen, when it is performed in the very best manner."

The neglect of catechising and instructing youth in the fundamentals of their Christian profession, which no system of preaching can ever supply, will more than account for those essential deviations from the purity of the faith which have been recently remarked, and lamented among Dissenters from the Church, and even among many within her pale, who entertain low views concerning the Sacraments.

How highly important the Church of England views catechising appears from the Rubrics at the end of the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer and the fifty-ninth Canon, from which the Clergy must feel that it is especially incumbent upon them to attend to this part of their duty.—And, for its better discharge, it will be found necessary to divide the Church Catechism into minute portions, for, though of small compass, its depth and extent are so great, that in order to bring it home to the understandings of the young, and thence to their hearts and consciences, the several questions must be broken down, so as gradually to exhibit their whole meaning and import to the tender mind.

For this purpose I know of no recent help to Catechising, more full and appropriate, than that published by the Rev. Dr. Beaven, the learned Professor of Divinity in King's College. The introduction is particularly valuable, and the questions are drawn up with great simplicity, as well as searching ability, and so constructed as frequently to elicit the proper answers. I think so favourably of this manual, that I feel no scruple in confidently recommending it to the use and patronage of my Clergy.

Besides helps to Catechising, sound manuals on the Book of Common Prayer, the Articles, and different services of the Church, in the form of Catechisms, would be exceedingly useful. This manner of teaching history, and many of the arts and sciences, has been most successfully employed of late years, and surely it is of still greater consequence to apply it to the acquisition of religious knowledge, and this the more especially, since religion has, from the beginning, been taught in the way of question