

BIBLE STUDY.

It is hard to estimate the importance to the world of the uniform system of Bible study in Sunday-schools inaugurated some years ago, and gradually developing towards perfection. It is a new œcumenical system of church service growing out of the necessities of a new age, and more catholic than any missal or prayer-book of the past, dealing less perhaps with worship, but much more with intellectual life. The necessity which gave it birth was this. Bible study was in former generations among the more devout principal part of education. In some countries, such as Scotland, it formed the basis of all school learning. It has been displaced. Systematic text books and multiplying sciences have left but little room for direct Scripture study in the day school and even this is offensive to many. The Sunday-school arose to fill the want thus created, but efforts to work upon the heart and conscience, to bring about religious experiences in the lives of scholars, gradually took the place of systematic Bible study, and this in turn yielded largely to singing, speeches and other exercises, and attractions, such as the distribution of books and newspapers and tickets for Sunday-school festivals and pic-nics, until the ordinary pupil became very confused as to what he went to Sunday-school for. The orthodox answer to the question would have been to learn to be good, but the true conscientious answer, to get books, papers and Christmas presents, or to get visited by the Dorcas-ladies. At such a time as this necessity demanded something more systematic in the way of regular Scripture study, the most intelligent pupils in ten years of Sunday-school attendance, being found more ignorant of simple matters of Old

Testament history than their fathers were in their babyhood. The uniformity of lessons throughout the world has brought it about that newspapers, both religious and secular, can scarcely avoid giving space to a weekly Bible lesson—that the mightiest theologians of the day give thought to the preparation of such lessons for teachers and scholars, and to the publication of books bearing upon the subjects thus to be studied. The whole Christian world is for a time to study the holy character and the burning life of Elijah—is to some extent, fascinated by its dramatic grandeur, to some extent filled with its holy ardor and inspired with its lofty courage. Like Moses, who saw a fire in the bush, mankind cannot resist turning aside to see what this remarkable phenomenon means, cannot help hearing the voice crying: "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground;" can scarcely fail to hear the voice of Jehovah speaking to it anew with promises of faithfulness and deliverance. It is not for the children alone, but for all who desire to know what that great legacy of the ancient East (the Bible) has in it for us, to study week by week the Sunday-school lessons, and to breathe in the life with which the holy pages are instinct

The English revisers of the Old Testament have held forty-one sessions. They have carried their revision as far as Ezekiel xiv., 14. The English revisers of the New Testament have held sixty-five sessions. At their last meeting they reached the sixth chapter of Hebrews.

KINGSTON—REVIVAL. A remarkable Presbyterian revival is in progress at Murraintown. The Rev. Donald Ross, of Lancaster, and Rev. Mr. Barry, of Currowall, are engaged, and was Rev. Mr. Smith, of Kingston, but that gentleman having retired, Rev. Mr. Bell has been engaged for. Over one hundred and fifty have professed conversion, and there are seventy-five converts.