

Bible Study.

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This critical study of the Bible is needed for the full revelation of its riches. While golden nuggets of truth in profusion bestrew its surface, yet precious ore will still repay the miner's toil. While many of its teachings, like wayside flowers, breathe forth their generous fragrance on the passing breeze, so that life's weary wayfarers may inhale its sweetness, others, like medicinal plants, will only yield their healing simples in the alembic of prolonged and earnest study. Its great essential truths are so plain that who's runs may read, but others will exhaust the profoundest and most critical inquiry and be not themselves exhausted.

It is noteworthy, and an omen of brightest augury, that in an age of sceptical tendency, when all things are questioned and the very foundations of the faith are recklessly assailed, this grand old Book, which is the source of our religious hope and ground of our confidence, is more than ever receiving the devout investigation, the loving study of the race. By means of the international lessons, millions of Sunday-school children and multitudes of their elders are engaged in the consecutive study of the Word of God, and the ablest Biblical scholars of the age employ their best talent in the elucidation of Divine truth for the instruction of the little child. Thus shall the rising generation be better equipped for the battle of life than any of its predecessors, and in the words of life implanted in the soul possess an antidote against the malaria of scepticism which empoisons the air. We hope also that an increased stimulus will thus be given to the study of the Word of God, convinced that nothing will more conduce to the improvement of the understanding and the formation of a noble Christian character.

Biblical Examinations.

DEAR SIR,—The Sunday-school and Epworth League Board have endorsed the examinations conducted in connection with Victoria College through "The Canadian Methodist Quarterly Bible Study Union," and the Executive of the Methodist Young People's Association of Ontario has decided to use them as a means of developing the proposed Bible Study Institute scheme. The examination will be held about January 15, 1894, and will be on Acts xv. 35 to xxviii. 31, accompanied with an essay on "The Life of the Apostle Paul." There will be three classes of certificates granted in each of the three grades (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior). Juniors are those between six and fifteen years of age, Intermediate between fifteen and twenty, and Senior those over twenty. The questions will therefore be adapted to all classes of persons. Presiding examiners will be appointed wherever there is a candidate, to whom the

questions will be sent under seal, and who will send the answers to the undersigned. The fee is twenty-five cents, to cover cost of examination papers, certificate, and postage. The ordinary Sunday-school lesson helps will be sufficient for the Junior and Intermediate examinations, but for the Senior the candidate would require the "Analytical Bible Studies" of Dr. Burwash in the *Canadian Methodist Quarterly* for July and October, 50 cents; a *Life of Paul, Stalker's*, 60 cents; or *Farrar's*, combined with the *Life of Christ*, \$1; and the *Cambridge Bible on Acts* (large, \$1.25; abridged, 35 cents.) Those who wish to review and get a complete study of Acts should have the *Quarterly* for July and October, 1892, 50 cents. Order all helps from the undersigned.

Any candidate can, upon the payment of a fee of 50 cents, have the examination of the *American Institute of Sacred Literature*, and receive both certificates, i.e., of our *Bible Study Union* and the *Institute*, for the one fee of 50 cents.

We hope that this systematic study of the Bible, with a view to an examination, will be taken hold of by our ministers, Sunday-school workers and Young People's Societies. It would raise the standard of work in our Sunday-schools, increase the interest in our Bible-class studies and Young People's meetings, and improve the qualifications of our teachers if these examinations were universally adopted. Scholars and teachers alike should take up the work, and Epworth Leaguers and Christian Endeavorers could not in a better way fulfil their pledge than by systematically studying the portion of Acts indicated, with a view to an examination. Wherever possible, those preparing should work together under the direction of a leader, who may be the only one of the class who requires the complete set of helps. If a class of two or more cannot be formed, undertake alone to study consecutively the whole section of Acts in which the Sabbath-school lessons of this quarter occur, and try to get in your mind a complete outline of the life and work of the great apostle. We had several hundred enrolled in our "Bible Study Union" last year, but the Presbyterian Church, with a smaller constituency, had a very much larger enrollment in their "Higher Religious Instruction" department. Send on your name and address as a member of the Union, and, if a candidate for examination, also the fee. We should have over 50,000 members and at least 10,000 candidates. Young People's Societies and Sunday-school senior classes should enroll as a whole, besides hundreds of adults who are not engaged in the work of either. Address all applications, stating the grade, to

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HE who is false to a present duty breaks a thread in the loom, and will find a flaw when he may have forgotten its cause.