

how to meet and supply the existing lack.

A startling illustration of this lack was recently given by a Christian teacher in the vicinity of Boston. He is both a Sunday-school worker and a teacher in the public schools. He desired to test the knowledge of the average Sunday-school pupil in so simple a matter as the story of Jesus Christ, and to this end he took fifty scholars from the public school under his charge, and, without previous announcement, asked them to write out an answer to the question, "What do you know about Jesus Christ?" They understood that this was a call for surface facts in the life-story of the subject of the question, as would be appropriate were the question asked, "What do you know about George Washington?" The teacher knew that these scholars had been in the Sunday-school for nearly or quite ten years, and that they represented six Christian denominations. They had thirty minutes in which to write out their answers. The result was certainly a surprise to many who were informed of it, if, indeed, it was not to the teacher himself.

About three-fifths of these pupils showed a lamentable lack of knowledge at points where they might be supposed to be well informed. The following are specimen extracts from some thirty of the written answers returned:

"Jesus was the father of Christ. He was borne in Jerusalem in the year one."

"Before Jesus was born the people did not know of any God."

"He was the son of David, an Israelite. His mother's name was Mary Magdalene."

"He was the son of Moses and Mary."

"He had many sons, and his mother's name was Mary. He drove

Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden."

"He caused the world to be destroyed by a flood, and commanded Noah to build an ark."

"Jesus made the Ten Commandments on a mount, while preaching a sermon to his people."

"Most of his life was spent in Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to the heathen."

"He had very few advantages, on account of the Jews being down on Christians."

"He was captured while eating with some people, and was led between two thieves, bearing his own cross, to the place where he was crucified."

"He had been on the cross three days when he was taken down."

"They buried him in a potter's field, purchased by one of his disciples."

"After his death he arose from the dead, and lived on the earth for forty-five years."

It is to be borne in mind that the pupils giving these answers had been under the influence of the Christian family, the Christian Sunday-school, and the Christian pulpit; therefore the blame of the existing lack must be shared by all three of these agencies, instead of being shuffled off on to any one of them by itself. It is also a noteworthy fact, reported by the teacher—himself a Protestant—that the best answers to the question came from Roman Catholic pupils. It will be admitted by Christians generally, that the lack of elementary Bible knowledge on the part of Protestant children indicated in this examination is a cause for profound regret; but just where the trouble is, and how it can be met, is a question that would not be answered alike by all.

Of course, this ignorance of elementary knowledge is not confined