

**A CATECHISM ON THE
THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES OF
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

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A Catechism on the Thirty-Nine Articles of the Church of England by James Beaven

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JAMES BEAVEN

**A CATECHISM ON THE
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A CATECHISM
ON
THE THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES
OF THE
Church of England.

BY THE
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ETC., ETC.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

It is right to state, that, owing to the residence of the Author in Canada, this little work has not had the benefit of his revision in passing through the press. It has been thought desirable also to make some slight alterations, both by way of enlargement and abridgment, in order the better to fit the work for use in the University. In these cases the Editor has been obliged to act upon his own responsibility.

A CATECHISM
ON
THE THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

INTRODUCTION.

For what purpose were the Articles of Religion drawn up?

“For the avoiding of diversities of opinion, and for establishing of consent touching true religion.”

Express this in other words.

They were made in order to avoid differences of opinion in religion, and to cause persons to agree in holding the truth.

How is this done in these Articles?

Partly by laying down the truth we are to hold fast, and partly by pointing out the errors we are to avoid.

By whom were these Articles first agreed upon?

By the archbishops and bishops of both provinces in England, and by the whole clergy.

What do you mean by "both provinces?"

England is divided for purposes connected with the Church into two provinces, that of Canterbury and that of York; of which the archbishops of Canterbury and York are the governors.

What is an archbishop?

A bishop who is placed over other bishops.

Where and when did the archbishops, bishops, and clergy agree to these Articles?

"In the convocation holden at London in the year 1562."

What is a convocation?

A synod or meeting of the bishops and clergy of the provinces.

How could the whole clergy meet together to agree to these Articles?

The clergy of each diocese met together beforehand, and sent deputies to speak for them at the convocation.

What do you mean by a diocese?

A portion of country under the government of one bishop.

Were the Articles published only by the authority of the bishops and clergy?

No: they were also assented to by the queen, and published by her authority; as appears by the ratification at the end of them.

What further authority have they since received?

An act of parliament requires the clergy to subscribe them.

Are the laity required to subscribe to the thirty-nine Articles?

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge require their members to sign them: but the Church does not make any such demand upon her lay-members.

How many Articles are there?

Thirty-nine.

Into what parts may you conveniently divide them?

Into five parts.

Give the subjects of the five parts.

1. On the doctrine concerning God.
2. On the rule of faith.
3. On the spiritual condition of man.
4. On the Church and its ordinances.
5. On the civil duties of members of the Church.

PART I.

WHAT is the subject of the first part ?

On the doctrine concerning God.

What Articles does it comprise ?

The first five.

ARTICLE I.

What is the subject of the first Article ?

“ Faith in the Holy Trinity.”

What is the meaning of the word *Trinity* ?

Threefoldness, or subsistence in Three Persons.

What do you mean by “ the Holy Trinity ?”

The Three Persons in One God.

What does this Article teach concerning the one God ?

“ There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions ; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness ; the Maker and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be Three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity ; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.”

Do we know the certainty that there is but one