

**NOTES OF CATECHISINGS
FOR THE USE OF CLERGY
AND TEACHERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649658695

Notes of Catechisings for the Use of Clergy and Teachers by G. W. Herbert & Canon Knox-Little

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Cover @ 2017

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G. W. HERBERT & CANON KNOX-LITTLE

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NOTES
OF
CATECHISINGS

FOR THE USE OF
Clergy and Teachers.

COMPILED BY
THE REV. G. W. HERBERT.

WITH A PREFACE BY
CANON KNOX-LITTLE.

Revised and Enlarged Edition.

NEW YORK:
JAMES POTT & CO., PUBLISHERS,
14 & 16 ASTOR PLACE
1889.

Gift
Mrs. J. H. Davis
6-12-29

ABBREVIATIONS USED.

- O. B. L., Our Blessed Lord.
B. V. M., Blessed Virgin Mary.
M., the Gospel of S. Matthew.
Mk., the Gospel of S. Mark.
L., the Gospel of S. Luke.
J., the Gospel and Epistles of S. John.
S., the Synoptists; *i. e.*, the first 3 Gospels.
N. T., New Testament. O. T., Old Testament.
R. V., Revised Version.
Ben: Dom: Benedictus Dominus. Fr. Benson. Hayes.
The Psalms are quoted from the Prayer-book Version.
The Hymns are *Ancient and Modern.* William Clowes & Sons.
Miss. Anec., The Missioner's Manual of Anecdotes. J. T. Hayes.
Preach. Prompt: The Preacher's Promptuary of Anecdote. Griffith & Farran.
Cf., Confer. Cp., Compare.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE Notes contained in this Volume have been compiled by a London Clergyman of large experience in teaching the young, and they are now published in the hope that they may be useful to Clergymen and Teachers in giving instruction in Day and Sunday Schools.

It has been the saddening experience certainly of some Parish Priests that a considerable number of young people pass through long periods of Sunday-school teaching, and yet are in the end painfully wanting in a knowledge of the Christian Faith. This happens, probably, either because Teachers—however well intentioned—have been themselves uninstructed, or because they are possessed by the unhappy idea that vague and unconnected lessons in Scripture, especially in the Historical Books of the Old Testament, are the same as regular instructions in Religious doctrine and practice. The results have often been sufficiently saddening: *indefiniteness* in teaching has led to *inexactness* in knowledge—a fruitful source of many sorrows.

Sunday Schools, however, afford an invaluable opportunity, if wisely used, as in them many may be instructed whose necessary work hinders them from religious teaching at other times; but the

Church's *great* opportunity lies chiefly in the Day School: *there* there are teachers who have had the advantage of careful training, and the children are helped by the regular order and discipline, which can be more easily maintained.

These Notes, then, are intended as an assistance towards a *definite* and *systematic* course of instruction, and it is hoped that they may be of use to Clergy and Teachers in their own preparations for giving such instructions, whether privately or at their stated meetings. About a third part of one of the sections will probably be enough for each occasion, and furnish the Teacher with material for a lesson and the Clergyman with a subject for the catechising which may follow. It is not so much the *quantity* taught as the care taken in teaching it which is of importance. Most earnest teachers will know that to *tell* and to *teach* are very different things; truth merely *told* may appear dry and repulsive, truth wisely *taught* may be clothed with a vivid interest.

The Church guides us, (1), in the *order* of instruction by the regular division of the Ecclesiastical Year, and, (2), in the *subject-matter* by her injunction as to 'the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments' (in fact, the Catechism); 'and all other things that a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health.' The Bible, of course, is a storehouse of Doctrine as well as a fund of example; and whilst we must remember that *the* important lessons to be learnt are the principles of the Christian Faith, still it ought not to be forgotten that the Old Testament is needed by way of illustration at the very beginning of the Creed.

It would be impossible to specify the sources from which these

Notes have been drawn. Some have been compiled from standard works, others from memoranda made in church on various occasions, with such alterations or additions as seemed best ; for the rest, thanks are due to the Revs. T. Bates, Ch. Bodington, Canon Body, J. M. Davenport, Archdeacon Dawes, Jas. Dixon, J. W. Horsley, Thos. Leach, W. J. C. Lindsay, A. B. Sharpe, and G. W. Barrington Simeon.

The Compiler has done his part with loving care, and he will have his reward if this Volume be useful to those in earnest in the great work of teaching the young ; for, after all, the most carefully constructed manual of instruction will remain a dead thing unless it be used by prayerful and earnest minds, and in constant reliance on GOD the HOLY GHOST. If so used it may be of real blessing. Sunday-school lessons, lovingly and carefully given, may do more than we often dream of, by laying the foundations of deep and solid convictions, to fashion the inner life of supernatural affection for our Most Holy Redeemer. The apparent hardness or coldness of mere dogmatic statement is seen to be only apparent where the Truth passes—as it ever should pass—through the channel of a loving heart, and is felt to be alive with life, sinewed with power, warm with tenderness—the very expression of the Mind of CHRIST. For, indeed, all the Truths of Christianity centre in and radiate from His Sacred Person : and to teach what He has revealed, and to teach it in His own spirit of diligent and self-forgetting Love, is in the best sense 'to preach CHRIST,' and to help in kindling in the souls of His Children that deep and lasting devotion to Himself which is the most fruitful and unfailing spring of a Christian life.

It is hoped that what is now issued is in faithful conformity to the teaching of the Catholic Church as presented to her children by the Church of England, and that by GOD'S blessing this little Volume may assist in building up souls in 'the Truth as it is in JESUS.'

W. J. KNOX-LITTLE.

THE COLLEGE, WORCESTER,

Passiontide, 1884.

N.B.—Catechisings on any other kindred subjects, and corrections of those contained in this issue, will be thankfully received by the Vicar of St. Peter's, Vauxhall, London, s.e.