

**A CATECHISM OF CHURCH
HISTORY, FROM THE
DAY OF PENTECOST
UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY**

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A catechism of church history, from the day of Pentecost until the present day by C. E. Gardner

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C. E. GARDNER

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A CATECHISM
OF
CHURCH HISTORY

FROM THE DAY OF PENTECOST UNTIL
THE PRESENT DAY

BY THE
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P R E F A C E

THIS Catechism, of which the former editions were all published in America, is intended to give to Bible-classes, and the older pupils in Sunday Schools, some acquaintance with Sacred History subsequent to the formation of the Church of Christ; to show the continuity of the Church to our own times; and to enable them to read with greater intelligence larger Histories of the Church, if they have the desire and opportunity of pursuing this most important study.

But, while it is thus introductory in its nature, it is so arranged, and interspersed with brief biographies, that the learner may carry away with him a very fair knowledge of the subject in an intelligent and lasting manner.

As in the "Gradual Catechism," by the same writer, the questions are for the most part contained in the answers, so as to enable the

history to be read off as a narrative without referring to the questions. But there is not the same attempt, as in that manual, to be brief in the answers; for here, where the substance is matter of fact and not of doctrine and definition, there is no advantage in learning by heart. The pupil is required simply to gain the information contained in the answers, and to state it in his own words. The full indexes of contents and chronology will serve to refresh the memory, and as a means of examination. For teaching in class the teacher may read aloud the answers (and the questions where necessary), and afterwards ask the questions; or, a portion may be prepared beforehand as a home-lesson.

C. E. G.

POONA, 1899.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

1. *What is Church History?*

Church History is an account of the spread of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world, and of the opposition with which it has been met continually.

2. *Whence do we learn Church History?*

In the Holy Gospel we learn the nature of the Church, and the Rules by which it is to be governed, and all that JESUS CHRIST our LORD, its Founder, "began both to do and to teach," during the thirty-three years of His earthly sojourn. The Acts of the Apostles show what He continued to do, "working with His disciples," during the next thirty-three years or so. The Epistles, as a commentary, throw more light upon this subject. And Church Historians, from time to time, continue the account up to the present time.

3. *What general principles do we see ruling the history of the Church, which make it unlike all secular History?*

As the Church is the continuity or extension of the Life of Christ on earth, Church History is seen to reproduce many features of His earthly sojourn.

4. *Explain this.*

Church History shows that the Church, like her Lord, was born in poverty and obscurity, and persecuted throughout; that she had intervals of peace and popularity, which usually succeeded, and were the preludes of, fiercer attacks. We are told that she will have her final persecution like her Master's Crucifixion, when she will be forsaken by many who ought to uphold her; and finally will have a glorious Resurrection, and then her heavenly life.

5. *How do you know that the Church will survive her Crucifixion?*

Her Lord has told us "the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."

6. *What do you call the heavenly life of the Church?*

The heavenly life of the Church, that is the life of those members who have departed this life in a state of Grace, and enjoy the blessed companionship of their Master in Paradise, is called the Church Triumphant.

7. *What do you call the company of those who are still living on earth?*