THE PARENT'S BEST GIFT;

CONTAINING THE

CHURCH CATECHISM:

TOGETHER WITH DIVINE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

OUT OF THE

HOLY SCRIPTURES.

DERBY:

PRINTED BY RICHARDSON AND CO.,
FRIAR-GATE.

Price One Penny.

THE

ROMAN ALPHABET

OF LETTERS.

A	a	N	n	fi
B	b	O	o	ff
C	c	P	p	fl
D	d	Q	q	ffl
E	e	R	r	ffi
F	f	S	s	æ
G	g	T	t	œ
H	h	U	u	&
I	i	V	v	,
J	j	W	w	;
K	k	X	x	:
L	l	Y	y	.
M	m	Z	z	?

THE

PARENT'S BEST GIFT;

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CHURCH CATECHISM:

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Also proper Directions for the Behaviour of Children towards God, their Parents, Teachers, Masters, &c.

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THE CHURCH CATECHISM.

1. Question.

WHAT is your name?

Answer. N. or M.

2. Q. Who gave you that name?

A. My godfathers and godmothers in my baptism, wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.

3. Q. What did your godfathers and godmothers then for you?

A. They did promise and vow three things in my name. First, That I should renounce the Devil and all his works, the pomps and vanity of this wicked world, and

all the sinful lusts of the flesh. Secondly, That I should believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith. And Thirdly, that I should keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life.

4. Q. Dost thou not think that thou art bound to believe, and do as they have promised for thee?

A. Yes, verily, and by God's help so I will. And I heartily thank our heavenly Father, that he hath called me to this state of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. And I pray unto God to give me his grace, that I may continue in the same unto my life's end.

5. Q. Rehearse the Articles of thy Belief.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and

earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

6. Q. What dost thou chiefly learn in the Articles of thy belief?

A. First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who hath made me and all the world.

Secondly, In God the Son, who hath redeemed me and all mankind

Thirdly, In God the Holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me, and all the elect people of God.

7. Q. You said that your godfathers and godmothers did promise for you that you should keep God's commandments, tell me how many there be?

A. Ten.

8. Q. Which be they?

Answer.

THE same which God spake in the twentieth chapter of Exodus, saying, I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

I Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

II. Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the like-

ness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down to them nor worship them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and show mercy unto thousands in them that love me and keep my commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV. Remember that thou keep holy the sabbath-day. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou shalt do no manner of work, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy man-

servant, and thy maid-servant, thy cattle, and the stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day, wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day and hallowed it.

V. Honour thy father and mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt do no murder.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is his.

9. Q. What dost thou chiefly learn by these commandments?

A. I learn two things; my duty towards God, and my dutv towards my neighbour.

10. Q. What is thy duty towards God?

A. My duty towards God is to believe in him, to fear him, and to love him, with al. my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength, to worship him, to give him thanks, to put my whole trust in him, to call upon him, to honour his holy name and his word, and to serve him truly all the days of my life.

11. Q. What is thy duty towards thy neighbour?

A. My duty towards my neighbour is to love him as myself, and do to all men as I would they should do unto me. To love, honour, and

succour my father and mother. To honour and obey the king, and all that are put in authority under him. To submit myself to all my governors, teachers, spiritual pastors and masters. To order myself lowly and reverently to all my betters. To hurt no body by word or deed. To be true and just in all my dealings. To bear no malice nor hatred in my heart. To keep my hands from picking and stealing, my tongue from evil speaking, lying, and slandering. To keep my body in temperance, soberness, and chastity. Not to covet nor desire other men's goods, but to learn and labour truly to get my own living, and to do my duty in that state of life, unto which it shall please God to call me.

12. Q. Let me hear you repeat the Lord's prayer?

OUR Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. Amen.

13. Q. What desirest thou of God in this prayer?

A. I desire my Lord God our heavenly Father, who is the giver of all goodness, to send his grace unto me, and unto all people, that we may worship him, serve him, and obey him as we ought to do. And I pray unto God that he will send us all things that be needful both for our souls and bodies. And that he will be merciful unto us, and forgive us our sins; and that it will please him to save and defend us in

all dangers ghostly and bodily; and that he will keep us from all sin and wickedness, and from our ghostly enemy, and from everlasting death. And this I trust he will do of his mercy and goodness, through our Lord Jesus Christ. And therefore I say Amen. So be it.

14. Question.

HOW many Sacraments hath Christ ordained in his Church?

A. Two only, as generally necessary to salvation, that is to say, Baptism, and the Supper of the Lord.

15. Q. What meanest thou by the word Sacrament?

A. I mean an outward or visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given unto us, ordained by Christ himself, as a means whereby

we receive the same, and a pledge to assure us thereof.

16. Q. How many parts are there in a Sacrament?

A. Two; the outward visible sign, and the inward and spiritual grace.

17. Q. What is the outward visible sign, or form, in Baptism?

A. Water: wherein the person is baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

18. Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace?

A. A death unto sin, and a new birth unto righteousness; for being by nature born in sin, the children of wrath, we are hereby made the children of grace.

19. Q. What is required of persons to be baptized?

A. Repentance, whereby they for-

sake sin; and faith, whereby they steadfastly believe the promises of God made to them in that Sacrament.

20. Q. Why then are infants baptized, when by reason of their tender age they cannot perform them?

A. Because they promise them both by their sureties; which promise, when they come to age, themselves are bound to perform.

21. Q. Why was the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ordained?

A. For the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of the death of Christ, and the benefits which we receive therbey.

22. Q. What is the outward part, or sign, of the Lord's Supper?

A. Bread and wine, which the Lord hath commanded to be received.

23. Q. What is the inward part, or thing signified?

A. The body and blood of Christ, which are verily and indeed taken and received by the faithful in the Lord's Supper.

24. Q. What are the benefits whereof we are partakers thereby?

A. The strengthening and refreshing of our souls, by the body and blood of Christ, as our bodies are by the bread and wine.

25. Q. What is required of them that come to the Lord's Supper?

A. To examine themselves whether they repent them truly of their former sins, steadfastly purposing to lead a new life: have a lively faith in God's mercy through Christ, with a thankful remembrance of his death, and be in charity with all men.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Out of the Holy Scriptures.

26. Q. WHO was the first man?
A. Adam.

27. Q. Who was the first woman?
A. Eve.

28. Q. Of what did God make man?
A. God made man out of the dust of the earth.

29. Q. Of what did God make woman?
A. Of one of the man's ribs.

30. Q. Where did Adam and Eve dwell?
A. In Paradise?

31. Q. What cast Adam and Eve out of Paradise?
A. Sin.

32. Q. Who was the best man?
A. The man Jesus Christ.

33. Q. Who was the man after God's own heart?

A. David.

34. Q. Who was the wisest man?

A. Solomon.

35. Q. Who was the strongest man?

A. Samson.

36. Q. Who wrote the Scriptures?

A. Holy men inspired by the Holy Ghost.

37. Q. Who was the first Martyr after Christ?

A. Stephen.

38. Q. What death did he die?

A. He was stoned.

39. Q. Where was Christ born?

A. In Bethlehem.

40. Q. Who was the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ?

A. The Virgin Mary.

41. Q. Who was the reputed father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

A. Joseph, a carpenter.

42. Q. Who betrayed his Lord and Master?

A. Judas Iscariot.

43. Q. What did he betray him for?

A. For the love of money, which is the root of all evil.

44. Q. What became of Judas after he had betrayed Christ?

A. He went out and hanged himself.

45. Q. Who denied Christ?

A. Peter.

46. Q. What became of Peter after he had denied Christ?

A. He went out and wept bitterly.

47. Q. Who killed Abel?

A. Cain.

48. Q. Who was the first Martyr?

A. Abel.

49. Q. Who was the oldest man?

A. Methuselah.

50. Q. Who was preserved in the ark when God drowned the world?

A. Noah, his wife, and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their three wives.

51. Q. Who wrestled with God?

A. Jacob.

52. Q. What was his name called after he had wrestled with God?

A. Israel.

53. Q. How many sons had Jacob?

A. Twelve; of whom came the twelve tribes of Israel.

54. Q. What were their names?

A. Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher; these were the twelve tribes.

55. Q. Who was the faithfullest man that lived?

A. Abraham, who is called the father of the faithful.

56. Q. Who was the meekest man?

A. Moses.

57. Q. Who was the hardest hearted man?

A. Pharaoh.

58. Q. Who condemned Christ?

A. Pontius Pilate.

59. Q. Who crucified Christ?

A. The bloody Jews.

60. Q. Out of whom did Christ cast seven devils?

A. Mary Magdalen.

61. Q. Who was the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ?

A. John.

62. Q. Who forsook Christ for the love of the world?

A. Demas.

63. Q. Who are the best of children?

A. They that fear God and keep his commandments, and obey their parents.

64. Q. Who are the worst of children?

A. They that lie, swear, steal, break the sabbath, despise God, and keep not his holy commandments.

65. Q. What becomes of the wicked when they die?

A. They are cast into hell, there to be tormented by the Devil and his Angels.

A PRAYER,

For either Morning or Evening, to be used by young Scholars.

UNTO thy care and protection, O heavenly Father, I commit myself this day; preserve me from all evil, from lying, taking thy holy name in vain, profaning the sabbath, or from doing any thing contrary to thy divine will and com-

mand: by thy grace enable me to do my duty, that neither sloth, idleness, nor ill company, may occasion the neglect of it. That I may be dutiful to my parents, obedient to my governors, teachers, spiritual pastors and masters; that I may love thee above all things, and make thy laws the rule and guide of my actions. Preserve me from all misfortunes and accidents; leave me not to myself, to my own weak and shallow understanding, but so guide and direct, so keep and preserve me, that I may live in thy fear here, and be crowned with thy favour hereafter. Bless my father and mother, my sisters and brothers, my relations, and all mankind. Bless all schools, and nurseries of true religion, (particularly that in which I am educated) help me to improve in learning,

(but particularly in the ways of thy laws) and in the works of thy commandments. By thy providence defend and keep me this day (or night) from all evil. Grant these my petitions, merciful Lord, for the sake of thy only Son Jesus Christ, who hath taught and commanded us to say, Our Father, &c.

Grace before Meat.

BLESS, O Lord, these thy creatures to our use, and us to thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace after Meat.

BLESSED and praised be thy holy name, O Lord, for these and all thy other blessings bestowed upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN EJACULATORY PRAYER,

To be used by every Child when he enters the Church.

SURELY the Lord is in this place; this is none other but the house of God! This is the gate of heaven: blessed are they that dwell in this house, they will always be praising thee.

When he enters his Seat.

LORD, I am now in thy house, assist me, I pray thee, and accept of my service: let thy holy Spirit help my infirmities, disposing my heart to serious attention, to the honour of thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Before he leaves his Seat.

BLESSED be thy name, O Lord, for this opportunity of attend-

ing thee in thy house and service: make me, I pray thee, a doer of thy word, and not a hearer only; accept both us and our sacrifices, through our only mediator Jesus Christ. Amen.

Directions for Children's Behaviour towards God at Church.

1. ON all occasions observe to be reverent in the church; for it is before the Almighty you there stand: observe, also, decency in approaching; do not run, but walk discreetly.

2. When you enter the door, take off your hat, and look up seriously and devoutly towards heaven, remembering where you are; and as you go to your pew, cast not your eye on any one, but walk slowly and soberly to it.

3. When you have entered your pew, fall on your knees, and covering your face, repeat softly these words: "Let the words of my "mouth, and the meditations of my "heart, be now and ever accept-"able in thy sight, O Lord, my "Strength and my Redeemer,"

4. Having said this, rise, and bow to those to whom you owe respect, as your master, usher, also to parents, relations, guardians, and those who are near you: then sit quietly in your place, and wait the service.

5. Observe when others rise and when they kneel, and when they sit down, do the like, at the same time and no other: do not try to repeat the service, unless you are perfect in the words, nor to read the Psalms unless you can do it well, then read

softly, and repeat it in the same decent, soft, and sober manner.

6. Never speak to any one during the time of prayers, or preaching; observe what is said by the clergyman, and regard nothing besides; do not look at any person, particularly during the time of service, but keep your eyes modestly fixed upon the minister.

7. Go many times to church before you let your voice be heard there: first learn the form of devotion, and the meaning of it, and when you understand it, join in it; and listen carefully to the sermon; you are not to get by heart the words of the preacher, but it will be great credit to remember the substance thereof.

8. When church is over cover your face again, and repeat devoutly to yourself this short prayer:

"Grant, O Lord, that the words "we have heard this day with our "outward ears, may be so inwardly "grafted in our hearts, that they "may finally bring forth in us the "fruits of good living, to thy ho-"nour and glory."

Having said this, rise and bow to those you bowed to at coming in, and remain in your place while others have done the same: and when you have orders to leave your pew, walk decently, and behave with reverence in your way home.

Of Behaviour to Parents and Teachers.

NOTHING becomes a child so much as obedience to parents, therefore never refuse to do what they order: for you are to consider it is to them you owe every thing, especially your first station in life:

for that reason reverence and obey them in all lawful commands, and according to their condition understand your own.

And as you are placed above vulgar children (who run wild about the streets) by being brought up at school, therefore you are also to love school, and respect your teachers; but be not proud, because you are above the vulgar, for there are others above you.

FINIS.

THE

ITALIC ALPHABET

OF LETTERS.

A	*a*	*N*	*n*	*fi*
B	*b*	*O*	*o*	*ff*
C	*c*	*P*	*p*	*fl*
D	*d*	*Q*	*q*	*ffi*
E	*e*	*R*	*r*	*ffl*
F	*f*	*S*	*s*	*æ*
G	*g*	*T*	*t*	*œ*
H	*h*	*U*	*u*	*&*
I	*i*	*V*	*v*	*!*
J	*j*	*W*	*w*	*,*
K	*k*	*X*	*x*	*-*
L	*l*	*Y*	*y*	***
M	*m*	*Z*	*z*	☞

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