

Missouri is as Bad as Indiana
(From the Minneapolis Journal.)

Tests of Biblical knowledge made among college and high school students by Dr. George R. Criseman, superintendent of the Teacher Training School of Warrensburg, Missouri, have shown startling ignorance of the greatest Book of the English speaking race has in its possession. The tests were made with one hundred students in the Warrensburg College, and with eighteen hundred high school pupils at Jefferson City, Sedalia, and three or four other large towns in that State. Sets of questions, simpler than those given the college students, were presented to the high school pupils, but there was little difference in the ignorance shown.

Some of this ignorance was so fundamental that it would, perhaps, be amusing, did it not show a wide-spread change in the present generation of students over those of half a century ago. In the quotation from James Russel Lowell's poem Irene, in which occur the lines,

No jealousy, no Levite pride
That passeth by the other side,

eighty per cent of the students did not know to what story in the Bible reference was made. Perhaps worse than this was the fact that sixty-five per cent did not know the Golden Rule; that seventy per cent did not know what to call the Sermon on the Mount; that twelve per cent did not know the Lord's Prayer; that sixty per cent did not know what Jesus said about loving one's neighbors; that sixteen per cent did not know where Jesus was born nor the name of His Mother. A further tabulation showed these sample bits of guesswork.

Forty per cent thought Paul "a book of the Bible."
Twelve per cent thought Pilate "a book of the Bible."
Twenty-five per cent thought Pilate "an author of the Bible."
Twenty-five percent thought James "a river."
Forty-five per cent thought Gallilee "a river."
Seven per cent thought Agrippa "an apostle."
Three per cent thought Herod "an apostle."
Nine per cent thought Samaria "an author."
Six per cent thought Mark "a king."
Six per cent thought Revelation "a province."
Six per cent thought Caiphas "an apostle."
Twelve per cent thought Ephesians "a province."
Six per cent thought Martha "a book of the Bible."
Twenty-four per cent thought Alleluia "a blessing."
Nine per cent thought amen "an applause."
Twelve per cent thought Alleluia "a loud noise."
Fifty per cent thought amen "a stop."
Thirty three per cent thought Centurion "a century."
Fifteen per cent thought Centurion was "the middle point."
Nine per cent thought elders "bushes."
Thirty per cent thought Gethsemane "a city of Egypt."
Twenty-five per cent thought resurrection "the building of the temple."
Nine per cent thought tithes "things fastened together."
Twenty-five per cent thought tithes "missionalry money."

Editor's note. Correct answers to these question will be furnished free upon receipt of a self-addressed envelope.