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Full Forgiveness.

THE REV. JUL. A. FRIEDRICH, Iowa City, Iowa.

Translated from Dr. E. Preuss's *Die Lehre von der Rechtfertigung*, Part V.
(Concluded.)

And did not Peter say in the Apostles' Council that he believed that he should be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ? Acts 15, 11. This statement strikes the Socinians so hard that in their catechism¹⁾ they deem it necessary to use fully a page and a half endeavoring to refute it. The passage, says the catechism, reads thus: "Now, therefore, why tempt ye God to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Acts 15, 10, 11. And then the catechism explains that the pronoun *they* refers to the Gentiles. To whom? To the Gentiles? Why, the apostle had just spoken of the "fathers." V. 10. Besides, in the original text the pronoun *they*²⁾ is masculine, like "the fathers," but the noun *Gentiles*³⁾ is neuter gender. Now, nobody refers a masculine pronoun to a neuter noun without urgent reason, especially if a masculine noun is much closer. Besides, the entire argument of St. Peter would be perverted in a most ridiculous manner if we would explain it according to the Racow Catechism. The manner of the justification of the Gentiles was under discussion in the Apostles' Council at Jerusalem. Acts 15. Some had asserted that faith alone was not sufficient, but that the Gentiles must also be placed under the Law. Acts 15, 5. And now imagine, Peter arises and proves—what? Not the justification of the Gentiles by the justification of the apostles, but the justification of the apostles

1) *Catechismus Racoviensis*. [*Catechesis Ecclesiarum Polonicarum*, published in Polish 1605, in Latin 1609. Racow (or Rakow), a small town in Russian Poland, was the center of the Polish Socinians at the end of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth century. See *Concordia Cyclopaedia* sub "Socinianism" and "Socinians."—*The Translator*.]

2) Ἐκεῖνοι . . . πατέρες, vv. 11, 10.

3) τὰ ἔθνη, v. 7.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Christian. By *William Dallmann, D. D.* 221 pages, 4×5¾. \$1.25.
(Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This third, enlarged edition of Dr. Dallmann's *The Christian* is a beautiful gift edition. But, however beautiful the binding may be, the real beauty of this book is in its contents. On 213 pages of a pocket-size edition the author has 130 — not articles, not essays, not sketches, but Dallmannian presentations of great religious truths. In his own peculiar way — simple, pointed language, short sentences, many Scripture-verses and Scripture-references, many examples from history and from the experiences of men in all walks of life, fearless confessing of the truth, blunt and yet kind and tender-hearted, hating sin, but loving the sinner — Dr. Dallmann has given us a *vade-mecum* of unusual merit, which can be used in many ways: it may be read at the morning and evening devotional hour of the family, pondered over by the shut-ins and those on the sick-bed, consulted when in doubt, used for the strengthening of faith in tribulation, made a daily companion when riding to and fro on the street-cars, taken along on one's travels, studied as a review of Christian doctrine and its practical application to daily life, given to inquirers concerning religious truth or as an answer to him who asks what the Lutheran Church teaches, or presented to a friend for the enlightenment of his spiritual life. The preacher will find in *The Christian* a wealth of sermon material. We agree with Professor Graebner, who wrote the brief introduction, that "it is a wonderful book."
J. H. C. F.

Der Kleine Katechismus Luthers eine herrliche Gabe der Reformation. By *Prof. J. T. Mueller, Th. D.* 40 pages. 20 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

This tract — originally a paper read by Professor Mueller at a meeting of one of our synodical Districts — deserves special mention just at this time, for we are getting ready to celebrate the four-hundredth anniversary of Luther's Small Catechism. Let us not neglect this opportunity to teach our Lutheran people anew what a gem our Small Catechism is, and let us also not neglect the opportunity to put this little book into the hands of many who are not members of our Lutheran Church in order that they may become acquainted with the teachings of our Church and thus with the true Christian religion. Pastors will find much material in Professor Mueller's tract, for he treats "1) The History of the Catechism, 2) The Contents, 3) Its Use, 4) Its Blessing." But why should we

not give the whole tract into the hands of our people? The Catechism is one of those things which many of us have had since our childhood days, but which in the course of years we fail duly to appreciate. Luther's words to his little son may well be recalled. When the boy joyfully reported to his father, "*Jetzt habe ich den Katechismus ausgelernt*," Luther said to him, "*Durchgelernt wohl; ausgelernt nie.*" J. H. C. F.

Proceedings of the Eastern District of the Ev. Luth. Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. 61 pages. 40 cts.—**South Wisconsin District.** 88 pages. \$1.15.—**Atlantic District.** 63 pages, 40 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The proceedings of the Eastern District contain an English doctrinal essay by Pastor Geo. Luecke on "The Proper Use of the Doctrine of the Church." The report of the South Wisconsin District is unusually large; the proceedings proper cover 96 pages and contain an English doctrinal paper on "The Activities of a Lutheran Pastor" by Pastor O. F. Engelbrecht. On 88 pages, annexed to the report proper, there is a German essay on "The History of the South Wisconsin District" by Prof. Otto F. Hattstaedt, who presents valuable historical material also for those who are not members of his District. At the meeting of the Atlantic District the Rev. Prof. Wm. Arndt read an essay on "The Sacrificial Death of Christ," which has been printed in the proceedings of that District.

J. H. C. F.

Primary and Junior Hymnal. 30 cts. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

The compiler of these seventy-eight hymns gives the reason for putting this book on the market by saying in the preface: "Teachers of Primary and Junior grades in both day- and Sunday-schools have for some time felt the need of a hymnal to put in the hands of the children. In the day-school it is difficult to induce children of the second or third grades to buy a church hymnal, because it contains many more hymns than the pupils will use for some time to come and because the book will be worn out before the child gets to the higher grades. Teachers who select their hymns from various sources will find one collection convenient. The need is also felt in Sunday-schools in which the Primary Department meets separately. The hymns being selected from different sources, extreme vigilance is demanded as to doctrine and the needs of childhood. The *Primary and Junior Hymnal* was brought into being to fill the need. Children have in this book an inexpensive hymnal, which they may use in school for the opening exercises and for the memorizing of hymns; teachers have a compact collection of hymns to fill the ordinary needs in primary grades in day-school and Sunday-school; parents have a book that will materially improve the interest in daily devotion if the children can be induced to sing the morning or evening hymns." We have two hymnals, our church hymnal, to which, a number of years ago, our *Sunday-school Hymnal* was added. We doubt the advisability of adding a third hymnal. Before new hymnals or new catechisms are introduced into the Church, one should think twice, and then again a few times. J. H. C. F.

'Glory to God in the Highest! A Children's Vesper Service for Christmas Eve. Compiled by *M. G. Webber*. 16 pages. Single copy, 6 cts.; dozen, 60 cts.; hundred copies, \$4.50. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

Those who are looking for a somewhat different Christmas program, and yet one that is not at variance with the Christian and Lutheran idea of Christmas, the celebration of the festival of the Christ-child, will be glad to use this new program, of which the compiler, M. G. Webber, says: "This Vesper Service, arranged for parochial and Sunday-schools, is based upon the Vesper Service found in the *Ev. Luth. Hymn-book*. A sufficient number of hymns are inserted, and recitations are indicated at various places. This order of service tells the Christmas-story in its proper order, beginning with references to the Messianic prophecies, their fulfilment, the watching shepherds, the angels, the visit of the shepherds to Bethlehem, and a statement of the purpose of our Lord's incarnation."

J. H. C. F.

'Scripture-Text Calendar. Concordia Edition, 1929. — **Bibeltex-Kalender.** Gedanken zur taeglichen Betrachtung, 1929. Single copy, 30 cts.; 5 copies, \$1.40; 50 copies, \$9; 100 copies, \$17. (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.)

These are two beautiful calendars — one German, the other English — to be hung on the walls of Christian homes. Both contain a beautiful colored frontispiece and a large colored picture on the calendar page for each month, with a description of the picture. On the calendar page of both is printed a small calendar of the previous and the following month. Both give the calendar days in large, heavy type, with a short Bible-text added, the same texts being used in both editions. On both, the Sundays and church holidays are printed in red ink; both give the phases of the moon. The German calendar records the miracles and parables of the Lord; the English calendar indicates the vestment colors to be used during the church-year and gives a general weather forecast and the constellation of the heavens. We doubt whether a general weather forecast for the entire year serves any purpose at all, since our official weather forecasters cannot even from day to day forecast the weather and therefore often disappoint us. The reading-matter given under the caption "The Heavens" ought to be omitted or revised in the edition of 1930. It serves no good purpose to make such a statement as: "Venus is nearly a twin sister of the earth in size and mass, and many astronomers are of the opinion beings similar to those on earth could live on this near neighbor," or: "Directly overhead about 8.30 or 9.00 p. m., view the world's new north-pole star — not now, but 11,500 years hence." Such a statement as: "The sun is 91,347,000 miles from the earth" also serves no definite purpose. We have read that the sun is only 20,000,000 miles from the earth. Of course, the small difference of 71,000,000 miles does not mean much to the "scientists." We suggest that such statements be omitted from our calendar until the scientists themselves have arrived at a better understanding and at an agreement. If in the mean time they feel that they must give some figures, why not add three or six or nine more ciphers? It will take only a little more space and a little more printers' ink. In spite of all this we should like to see the calendar in the homes of our people.

J. H. C. F.

Day by Day with Jesus. A Calendar for Family and Private Devotions. Edited by *Prof. W. H. T. Dau, D.D.* Single copy, 60 cts.; dozen, \$6.00. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York and Chicago.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

In every Christian home some portion of the Bible ought to be read every day. The purpose of the calendar *Day by Day with Jesus* is to encourage such daily Bible-reading and, as its title implies, to keep the Christian with Jesus, who says: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," which words are printed in large type on the face of the calendar. For each day a short Scripture-text together with an exposition of it and either a short prayer, some hymn verse, or a brief illustration is given; longer Scripture readings for morning and evening meditations are indicated. Over 120 contributors have been at work on this calendar, and the reputation of its editor, Dr. Dau, as well as that of its contributors, vouches for the Biblical soundness of the material presented. We believe that pastors are doing their people a real service by introducing this calendar into the homes of their congregations. J. H. C. F.

Christmas All the Year. By *Theo. Graebner*. 96 pages, 7×4¾. Single copy, 30 cts.; dozen, \$3.00, not prepaid. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.)

Heart's Treasure. By *Theo. Graebner*. 128 pages, 7¾×5. Single copy, 50 cts.; dozen, \$4.80, not prepaid. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.)

Pilgrims on the Narrow Way. The Catechism in Story. By *Theo. Graebner*. 64 pages, 6×8¼. Single copy, 30 cts.; dozen, \$3.00, not prepaid. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.)

Ring Bells of Christmas. Collected by *Uncle Timothy*. 64 pages, 6×8¼. Single copy, 30 cts.; dozen, \$3.00, not prepaid. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.)

Famous Missionary Pioneers. By *W. G. Polack*. 64 pages, 6×8¼. 30 cts.; dozen, \$3.00, not prepaid. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.)

The Hero of the Forest. By *W. G. Polack*. 64 pages, 6×8¼. 30 cts.; per dozen, \$3.00, not prepaid. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.)

Among the Hereros in Africa. By *H. Beiderbecke*. 64 pages, 6×8¼. 30 cts.; dozen, \$3.00, not prepaid. (Ernst Kaufmann, New York.)
— Order above-mentioned books from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

These seven small, inexpensive books have been published to be given as Christmas-presents. The first is a collection of stories, such as *Christmas All the Year*, *When the Car Broke Down*, *Phil's First Day Back of the Counter*, *Her Easter Lily*. The second book is much like the first; it contains such stories as *Heart's Treasure* (a Christmas-story), *The Man from Lost Mountain*, *The Stairway that Led to Success*, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life," "I Was an Hungred, and Ye Gave Me Meat," *The Gingerbread Men*, *The Girl and the Dictionary*. The third book is a collection of more than forty stories, which illustrate the teachings of the

Catechism. Since Luther wrote his Catechism four hundred years ago, this book is put on the market at this time to help celebrate this event. The book also contains many pictures. The fourth book, by "Uncle Timothy" (Prof. Theo. Graebner), is a combined collection of stories and poems. The fifth book gives sketches on John Eliot, David Brainerd, Samson Occum, Hans Poulse Egede, Christian Frederick Schwartz, J. Hudson Taylor, Adoniram Judson, Guido Fridolin Verbeck, Cyrus Hamlin. The sixth book tells of David Brainerd's work among the Indians. The seventh book relates the experiences of a Lutheran pastor (Pastor Beiderbecke) as missionary in Africa. All the books make wholesome reading and should be given the preference by far to many other books that might be picked up from a promiscuous lot found on the book tables of the stores.

J. H. C. F.

Communion Liturgy. By *Karl Haase*. Published by Karl Haase, Seward, Nebr. 30 cts. Order from the author or from Concordia Publishing House.

Every organist knows how important it is that the notes for the various parts of the liturgical service be not scattered, so that they have to be looked for here and there, but be at hand in collected form. Professor Haase here offers a publication which contains the notes and the text for both the German and the English Communion liturgy and the ordinary Sunday service. Since the price is low and the print excellent, I have no doubt that Professor Haase's offering will soon be very popular.

Evangelisch-Lutherischer Hausfreund-Kalender, 1929. Begründet von *Dr. O. Willkomm*; Herausgeber: *Martin Willkomm*, Berlin-Zehlendorf. 45. Jahrgang. 18 cts. (Verlag und Druck von Johannes Herrmann, Zwickau, Sachsen.) Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Just as in previous years, we heartily recommend this *Hausfreund* almanac to all our readers who are able to read German. It contains an abundance of interesting, edifying, and instructive reading-matter. Articles which especially attracted the reviewer's attention are those on the Small Catechism of Dr. Luther, on the sainted Mr. Lamprecht, and on the beautiful German hymn *Gott des Himmels und der Erden*, the value of the last-named article being enhanced by pictures of Rudolph Schaefer. God bless editors and readers of this little work, which offers such wholesome and palatable food!

From the Publishing House of *A. Deichert (Dr. W. Scholl)*, *Koenigstrasse, Leipzig*, we have received the following publications for review (may be ordered through Concordia Publishing House): —

1. **Grundriss der Geschichte des Lebens Jesu.** Von *Theo. Zahn*. M. 3.60; bound, M. 5.

That old age is not an absolute hindrance to literary activity is strikingly illustrated by the case of Dr. Theo. Zahn, who, in spite of his ninety years, is still producing books of solid merit and great importance for New Testament students. We are inclined to value these works all the more highly since they reflect, not the hasty judgment of a neophyte critic,

but the ripe views of a scholar, who throughout a long and industrious life has pondered the questions on which he writes and now can speak with authority, as far as that is humanly possible. His *Outlines of the History of the Life of Christ* embraces 82 pages and hence is not a thick book, but it is surprising what a multitude of historical and critical questions are touched on in that comparatively small compass. After a brief introduction the material is presented in five sections. The first section treats of political and religious conditions in Palestine at the time when Jesus was born; the second, of the descent, birth, and childhood of Jesus; the third, of His public ministry up to the time of the imprisonment of John the Baptist; the fourth, of the year of grace for Galilee (the great Galilean ministry of Jesus); the fifth, of the last half-year in the earthly life of Jesus. This little work is especially valuable for busy ministers, whose many duties will not permit them to read more extensive and elaborate treatises on this great subject. Zahn, it ought to be mentioned, is known not only as a scholar of immense learning, but as a conservative theologian. We regret that he does not believe the holy writings to be free from all contradictions and to be inspired in every detail.

2. *Grundriss der Einleitung in das Neue Testament.* Von *Theo. Zahn.*
M. 5; bound, M. 6.50.

Dr. Zahn is probably better known through his isagogical studies with reference to the New Testament than through any other publications of his. In the course of three years, 1897—1899, appeared his famous *Einleitung in das Neue Testament*, which made his name a household word in all theological schools. Of hardly less importance were his studies relating to the history of the New Testament Canon. The work under consideration offers on 120 pages a sufficiently comprehensive sketch of Dr. Zahn's views on the authorship and occasion of the various New Testament books. He proceeds chronologically. After a few introductory paragraphs he at once goes *medias in res* and discusses the Epistle of James, which he regards as the oldest book in our New Testament. Next, the three letters of Paul which Zahn considers the oldest Pauline writings are discussed: Galatians; I. and II. Thessalonians. The order in which the other New Testament books are treated is the following: I. and II. Corinthians; Romans; the letters of the first Roman captivity, namely, Colossians, Philippians, Ephesians, Philemon; the three last epistles of Paul, that is, the pastoral letters; the epistles of Peter, Jude, and the Epistle to the Hebrews; the first three gospels and Acts and the writings of St. John. Among recent publications giving an introduction to the New Testament writings this work easily deserves first place. In spite of the brevity of treatment which the nature of the work imposed, one will find that here all the great historical questions relating to the origin of our New Testament books are touched on. Zahn throughout is conservative. To mention a few details, he regards Rom. 15 and 16 to be integral parts of the letter to the congregation in Rome. Hebrews, he thinks, was written by Barnabas. The gospels are treated quite exhaustively. The two-source hypothesis, so much in favor nowadays, is rejected by him. The reviewer cannot agree with all the opinions of Zahn, but is glad to testify that the venerable Doctor's discussion has been of immense value to him.