

THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY.

VOL. XVI.

APRIL, 1912.

No. 2.

WALTHER THE LUTHERAN.

(Continued.)

When Walther wrote the Preface to the third volume of *Der Lutheraner*, which we reproduced in our last article, events had occurred which can safely be set down as practical results of his testimony in behalf of genuine Lutheranism, and which foreshadowed Walther's activity as an organizer of the scattered forces of confessional Lutheranism in America.

And first, the immediate effect of Walther's outspoken defense of the original position of the Lutheran Church in doctrine and polity proved to be separating, disintegrating, disorganizing. Echoes of his testimony began to be heard in the councils of the Lutheran bodies operating at the time in the United States. There were mutterings of discontent on the part of men whose conscience had been touched by what they had read or heard of Walther's work. The confessional writings of the Church were being studied, present conditions and practices were being measured and tested by the standards of the Lutheran Church, and protests for conscience' sake were being raised against deviations from the Lutheran norm. Some of these documents deserve to be handed down to posterity, in order that our children who are growing away from the use of the language of their fathers may be enabled to recall at a later time what were the distressing conditions out of which the Missouri Synod ultimately arose, and what were the elements that contributed toward its growth and gave it the distinguishing marks that still characterize this Synod.

BOOK REVIEW.

Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo., announces the following publications:—

1. BIBEL NR. 1912. In three styles, at \$1.50, \$2.75, and \$4.00, 40 cts. carriage additional.

This is a German family Bible, reproducing faithfully Luther's version, only the old orthography having been changed to the modern. The Bible text is in fairly large, clear-cut, characteristic letters, and well printed on thin paper of sufficient consistency to carry ink. By this device the bulk of the book has been considerably reduced. All prominent texts have been printed in bold-face type. The book contains 240 illustrations of Schnorr von Carolsfeld, struck from good plates. The Apocrypha are printed in smaller type. Ten Biblical charts are added at the end, and a family chronology has been provided at the front. The binding is strong and yielding, the cover is embossed with a chastely ornate design. All features considered, the price is a marvel of cheapness. We do not know of a possible competitor of this beautiful Bible in the book-market of to-day, and we do not believe that its excellencies can be surpassed in the near future. It is one of the most creditable products which Concordia Publishing House has yet brought forward.

2. LENTEN PRAYERS. Compiled by *Rev. R. W. Huebsch*.
40 pages; 35 cts.

Sixty-three prayers from Rambach's *Meditations and Contemplations on the Sufferings of Our Lord* are here offered in a good translation, and in a plain but tasteful little book.

3. LEHRBUCH DER DEUTSCHEN SPRACHE fuer hoehere Schulen von *August Crull*. Third revised edition. XII and 234 pages; 85 cts.

In twelve years the first edition of Crull's *Lehrbuch* was exhausted; half that time sufficed to exhaust the second edition. This was possible with the limited market of our own synodical constituency, and shows the increasing demand for this book. This book deserves a national market. The students of German in America can find no book of its kind produced in our country which offers such wealth of information and exercise in as practical form as this one, and it is a question whether they could import a better one.

4. HILFSBUCH ZUR BIBLISCHEN GESCHICHTE fuer die Hand des Lehrers, im Anschluss an "Biblische Geschichten fuer Mittelklassen und gemischte Schulen" bearbeitet von *Wilh. Simon*, ev.-luth. Lehrer zu Schaumburg, Ill. XV and 503 pages; \$1.65.

Director Lindemann, in expounding the method to be followed by the instructor in Bible History, has laid down some excellent rules. His first and fundamental rule is, that the teacher *study* in the evening the lesson which he is to explain the next day. This may sound trite. Of course, we say, the teacher *must* study. But study is a relative term, at least, it practically becomes such. Not two teachers study alike, not two can. Some lack aids, and they may be dull at the time of study. Their study may yield paltry results. Others may have too many aids, and their imagination may be lively. These may not complete the task before them, because of the abundance of material which they must collect and digest. And a real study of a lesson in Bible History, according to our authority, is a complex effort. There is memorizing to do. There must be a proper disposition of the material to be treated. Uncommon and difficult terms must be explained in a few striking words. A map may have to be used; data from natural history or from chronology may have to be furnished; an available illustration may have to be explained. Last, not least, the objective of the story, the "pointe," must be fixed.

The book before us meets these wants, every one of them. It is the most practical, most efficient, and most delightful aid to a

teacher at his preparation for the Bible History lesson of which we have knowledge. If at any time in the history of our parochial schools the teacher's study in this department was made pleasant, well-directed, and fruitful, it is now. We have only words of praise and commendation for this book.

The author's plan may be briefly sketched as follows: After some pertinent introductory remarks, he takes up the text of the story as it is offered in the text-book of the children. Every important term receives a brief illuminating gloss. Occasionally the equivalent term from the English Bible is given. At the end, references to cognate matter in the Catechism and hymn-book are given, and a list of collateral Bible readings is appended. A memorial verse, or stanza, concludes the whole. Critical points of doctrine are frequently explained in an excursus in small type after the treatise proper. The entire book is intended exclusively for the teacher.

Bible History has been correctly termed "the foundation of the entire instruction in religion, yea, of all true piety." Director Lindemann presented the importance of this study in his *Schulpraxis* (p. 22 f.) in these words: "The faith of Christianity rests on the divine revelation, on historical facts, without the knowledge of which no person can lay claim to the Christian religion and to a healthy life of faith. Stories, such as that of the creation of the world, and of the human race, of the fall, of the promise of salvation, of the gathering and guidance of the Church of God in the time of the Old Testament, of the manifestation of the Messiah, and the complete redemption of the entire world, finally, of the preaching of the Gospel among all nations — briefly, the history which the Holy Spirit has narrated in the Bible, everybody must necessarily know who wishes to be called a true Lutheran. It is this history, too, which, more than any other, produces true culture; for it is not only true in every respect, but it is told in a manner to make it truly beneficial. Except a person has learned from Bible History to understand the way in which God works, he can have no correct judgment of the modern history of the world and the Church. (Accordingly, a God-fearing peasant not infrequently has a better judgment of historical events than a learned professor who lacks the Biblical foundation.)

"Children understand the Bible stories with greater ease and better results than the abstract teaching of the Catechism. For this reason, the first and best religious training that can be offered them is, to tell them Bible stories. In the various characters and nations that occur in these stories, the children learn to understand most clearly, on the one hand, the great corruption of the entire nature

of man, on the other, the mercy of God and the operations of His grace. In studying others, they learn to know their own heart,—they learn to regard unbelief as the perdition, faith as the only salvation of every person. They learn that men, left to their own devices, rush headlong into one misfortune after the other, and have no peace, except when they suffer the Gospel to heal them. They learn to regard earth as a vale of sorrows on account of sin. They learn that all the saints have found comfort in their heavenly citizenship, of which, in accordance with the divine promise, they became partakers by faith.—Such knowledge is truly enlivening and saving knowledge.”

We congratulate all who must teach Bible History to children upon the publication of Teacher Simon’s book.

5. THE SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE. Authorized Version, with a New System of Connected Topical References to all the greater themes of Scripture, with annotations, revised marginal renderings, summaries, definitions, and index. To which are added helps at hard places, explanations of seeming discrepancies, and a new system of paragraphs. Edited by *Rev. C. I. Scofield*, D. D. Oxford University Press. 1362 pages, and an indexed atlas of the Bible; \$4.00.

The character of this Bible is indicated by the exhaustive title, which adequately describes the various efforts made in this book to lead the student of the Bible to a correct and full understanding of its meaning in particular places, of its plan and scope in a given book, of its harmonious teaching throughout, and to facilitate a comprehensive grasp of its teaching. Dr. Scofield has had the co-operation of men of national reputation in the preparation of this Bible, *viz.*, Dr. Weston of the Crozier Seminary, Dr. Gray of the Moody Bible Institute, Dr. Erdmann of Princeton Seminary, Dr. Moorehead of Xenia U. P. Theological Seminary, Dr. Harris of the Toronto Bible Institute, Dr. Arthur T. Pierson, and Arno C. Gaebelein. Besides these, European scholars, like Prof. Barrellet, of the Theological Faculty of Lausanne, Professors Sayce and Margoliouth of Oxford, and Mr. Walter Scott, have aided the work by “suggestions of inestimable value.”

The feature from which this Bible derives its name, are the subject references, found in the center of the page. Any important Biblical concept is noted at the place where it occurs for the first time; the next place where it occurs again is indicated, and the

first and last places in the entire Bible where the concept is found are given in brackets at each link of the chain. Take, *e. g.*, the concept "inspiration;" the system of references directs us first to Exod. 4, 15, thence to vv. 28 and 30, thence to ch. 17, 14, to 19, 6, 7, to 20, 1, to 24, 3. 4. 7. 8. 12, to 32, 16, to 34, 1. 27. 28, to 35, 1; to Num. 11, 24, to 22, 38, to 23, 5. 12—16; to Deut. 4, 2. 13, and along a line running through the following passages: Deut. 5, 22; 10, 1—4; 29, 29; 31, 24; 2 Sam. 23, 2; Job 6, 10; 32, 18; Ps. 68, 11; Is. 6, 5—9; 8, 1; 30, 8; 59, 21; Jer. 1, 9; 30, 2; 36, 1—32; 45, 1. 2; Ezek. 2, 2; Amos 3, 7; Micah 3, 8; Hab. 2, 2; Zech. 7, 7; Matt. 4, 4. 7. 10; 5, 18; 10, 14; 11, 13; 12, 3—5. 40; 19, 4—8; 22, 31. 32; 24, 15. 37—39; 26, 54; 28, 19. 20; Mark 1, 44; 7, 8—13; 10, 4—9. 19; 12, 26. 36; Luke 1, 3; 4, 17—21. 27; 10, 16; 11, 49—51; 16, 29—31; 17, 27. 29. 32; 20, 37; 24, 25—27. 44. 45; John 3, 14; 5, 46. 47; 6, 31. 32. 45. 49. 63; 7, 21—23; 8, 40. 47. 56; 12, 48; 13, 18; 14, 10; 15, 27; 16, 12. 13; 17, 8. 17. 20; Acts 1, 8. 16; 9, 15; 28, 25; Rom. 16, 25. 26; 1 Cor. 2, 7. 16; 14, 37; Gal. 1, 11. 12; Eph. 3, 3. 5; 6, 17; 1 Tim. 4, 1; 2 Tim. 3, 16; 1 Pet. 1, 10—12. 25; 2 Pet. 1, 21; Rev. 1, 1. 19; 2, 1. 8. 12. 18; 3, 1. 7. 14; 14, 13; 19, 9; 21, 5; 22, 18. 19.

We have selected one of the most exhaustive chains of references, in order to enable any one who will take the trouble to test both the strong and the weak points of the chain. Not every link in the chain is of equal value; some might have been omitted, others inserted, *e. g.*, Ps. 45, 1. The chain can be picked up at any point along the line, and can be traced forward, but not backward.—The text of the Bible has been divided into paragraphs by italicized sub-heads; however, the chapter and verse divisions of the Authorized Version have been preserved. Here, too, opinions will be found expressed from which one must dissent. *E. g.*, the sequence of events in Gen. 1, 1—3 is represented thus: v. 1 recounts the original creation; this is destroyed by some unknown catastrophe, the results of which are stated in v. 2, and Jer. 4, 23—26 is cited to justify this idea; v. 3 recounts "the new beginning."—Trichotomy is taught in the note to Gen. 1, 27.—Among the definitions we note that of justification in a note on Rom. 3, 28: "J. may be defined as the judicial act of God whereby He justly declares righteous one who believes on Jesus Christ. It is the Judge Himself who thus declares. The justified believer has been in court, and has been cleared."—Each book of the Bible is provided with an introduction.—Marginal notes briefly explaining points in Biblical archaeology, chronology, are given *in loco*.—The expository notes are really helpful, and, upon the whole, this Bible is the soberest of the annotated Bibles that have been published in our generation.