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CAN THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH BE UNITED?

The issue involved in this question has been launched in a publication which has recently left the Concordia Press at St. Louis.¹⁾ The unification aimed at is one in doctrine. It does not advocate organic union, but a confessional consensus of all American Lutherans. This is a distinct merit of the book. Efforts to amalgamate, or federate, organized church-bodies must necessarily recognize other interests besides the one in which all Lutherans are agreed *a priori*, viz., that the confessional standards of the Church be maintained as a common norm of doctrine and practice by all who have adopted the denominational designation of Lutherans. It would not be easy to conceive a Lutheranism which would reject, in principle, the normative authority of the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church, and still claim recognition as a Lutheran society. Lutheranism, in such a case, would be a term of different import from the one which the term has in the common acceptance. Accordingly, the book starts with a fair prospect of having an easy sailing in Lutheran waters. The only pertinent question that could be raised in the premises is,

1) *Zur Einigung der amerikanisch-lutherischen Kirche in der Lehre von der Bekehrung und Gnadenwahl.* Im Anschluss an die norwegischen Vereinigungssätze und deren Kritiken. Von Dr. F. Pieper. St. Louis, Mo. Concordia Publishing House. 1913. 100 pages; bound in cloth; 40 cts. Carriage prepaid.

BOOK REVIEW.

Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.:—

1. **POPULÄERE SYMBOLIK.** Lutherischer Wegweiser zur Prüfung der verschiedenen Kirchen und religioesen Gesellschaften. Von *Martin Guenther*. Fourth edition, enlarged. VIII and 456 pages. \$2.00.

In fifteen years the large third edition of Guenther's *Symbolik* has been exhausted, and the same editor, Prof. Fuerbringer, has prepared a fourth edition, which everywhere shows the careful hand of the revisor. The "Special Reports of the Bureau of the Census" which were issued in 1906, and important publications of recently organized religious societies have been consulted, and the reader has the feeling that he has an up-to-date publication before him. The book divides into two parts: I. The Evangelical Lutheran Church and the churches and religious societies which are arrayed against it, pp. 1—86. II. Comparative presentation of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of the doctrine of the heterodox churches and societies, pp. 87—423. The First Part is a concise account of the genesis and evolution of the leading churches with their divisions and subdivisions, and of religious societies outside of the pale of Christianity. It is quite easy to trace the genealogical lines of the various denominations by the information offered in this part. The Second Part contains the body of the Christian doctrine. It is divided into thirty-five chapters, which follow the order of the *loci* of the dogmaticians, beginning with bibliography and concluding with eschatology. The chapters are divided into one hundred and seventy-nine paragraphs. Each paragraph starts out with a thesis embodying "the pure teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church." This is exhibited by references to the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church, and by an array of Scripture texts. The references are not printed in full, while the texts are. Frequently the references and texts are reinforced by cross references to paragraphs containing cognate matter. After the thesis of each paragraph there follow as many antitheses as the status of doctrine in the various religious bodies renders necessary. Each antithesis embodies a brief statement of "the false teaching" of this or that church. The evidence is given in small print immediately after the antithesis, and consists of citations from the confessional writings of the church under review. Wherever there are no confessional writings in the common acceptance of the term, the citations are taken from the writings of the founders or prominent teachers of the religious society. After these citations there is another group of Scripture texts which show the falsity of the teaching contained in the citations.—The merits of a book of this kind, and particularly of the arrangement of its material, are apparent. Doctrinal differences which have brought about divisions in that part of mankind which professes belief in the Bible are matters of concern to every reader and believer of Scripture. He wants to understand the grounds and the bearings

of these differences, and measure them against the grounds which he has for his own belief. Guenther's book is an excellent aid to the conscientious Lutheran, who seeks to verify the tenets of his church, and to justify his refusal to fellowship those who hold other beliefs. Divisions in the Church are a sad phenomenon, and their study, in one respect, is no pleasant task. But if heresies must arise, as the apostle states, in order that "they which are approved may be made manifest," 1 Cor. 11, 19, the study of these heresies must result in something good to the believer: it will confirm him in his own faith, to be shown the untenableness of opposing beliefs. Guenther's book is without a parallel in the Lutheran Church. There are many kindred publications, but none are exactly like Guenther's, nor are they as painstaking and minute in their presentation of the *pro* and *con* of each doctrinal point. The editor's work has been performed in the spirit of the author, and has materially enhanced the value of the book.

2. *BOOK OF DEVOTION*. The Psalms with Prefaces, Summaries, and Prayers for Family Use. Compiled by *Rev. F. Kuegele*. 282 pages. \$1.25 and \$1.50.

It is nearly twenty years ago when the *Lutheran Witness* announced this publication. The President of the English Synod of Missouri had reproduced that portion of the *Altenburg Bible* which contains the Psalms. It was not exactly a translation, but an adaptation, though most of the expository and devotional material of the German book was transferred to this English publication. The book has well served its purpose, and deserves to be retained by the Church. Beyond the correction of a few printer's errors, there are no changes in this new edition.

3. *THE VOICE OF HISTORY*. By *Martin S. Sommer*. VI and 275 pages. \$1.00, postpaid.

The struggle of humanity for liberty and for true enlightenment against tyranny and superstition is the thought which has guided the editor in the compilation of the twenty-two chapters of this book. We have here excerpts from 1. Josephus: The Siege and Fall of Jerusalem; 2. Irving: Mohammed—His Methods; 3. Cox: The Crusades; 4. Lea: The Moral Condition of the Church in the Middle Ages; 5. Milman: Henry—Hildebrand—Canossa; 6. Gibbon: The Western Schism; 7. Milman: John Huss; 8. Irving: Reception of Columbus at Palos; 9. Sommer: Martin Luther; 10. Prescott: Inhabitants of Mexico; 11. Baird: The Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day; 12. Froude: The Bloody Mary; 13. Prescott: The Inquisition under Ferdinand and Isabella; 14. Prescott: Protestantism in Spain; 15. Von Ranke: Oliver Cromwell; 16. Creasy: The Defeat of the Spanish Armada; 17. Gardiner: The Gunpowder Plot; 18. Motley: The Assassination of William the Silent; 19. Horne: The Thirty Years' War; 20. Chapman: Gustavus Adolphus—His Triumph and Death; 21. Macaulay: Frederick the Great of Prussia—His Habits—the Soldier; 22. Irving: George Washington. Each selection is briefly prefaced by a biographical notice of the author, and remarks which call attention to the value of the selection. The editor de-

clines "responsibility for every statement of the different historians," but there is little to decline, so far as the facts of history recounted in this book are concerned. The book offers good reading-matter. In view of sinister influences which seem to be at work, causing the strange disappearance of, and the still stranger disinclination of publishers to reissue, certain historical books which used to belong to the standard reading-matter of young people a few generations ago, we cannot but commend this publication.

4. A doctrinal paper (concluded) on the *MISSIONARY ACTIVITY OF PAUL*, read at the convention of the District Synod of North Dakota and Montana, by *Rev. C. H. Lueker*. 33 pages. This publication contains, besides, a school sermon by *Rev. M. Hudtloff*, from Ps. 127, 3—5, and Articles of Incorporation adopted by the Synod. 15 cts.
5. A doctrinal paper on the *THIRD ARTICLE OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION* (Of the Son of God), read at the convention of the District Synod of Central Illinois by *Rev. F. W. Brockmann*. The President's address is an introduction to this paper. 63 pages. 18 cts.
6. A doctrinal paper on the *LUTHERAN VERDICT ON THE ROMAN DOCTRINE OF PURGATORY*, read at the convention of the District Synod of Southern Illinois, by *Prof. Dau*. 67 pages. 18 cts.
7. A doctrinal paper on the *OFFICE OF THE KEYS AND ITS PRACTICAL IMPORTANCE*, read at the convention of the Kansas District Synod, by *Prof. J. Herzer*. 67 pages. 18 cts.
8. *STATISTISCHES JAHRBUCH* der Deutschen Evangelisch-Lutherischen Synode von Missouri, Ohio und andern Staaten fuer das Jahr 1912. 233 pages. 50 cts.

At the close of the year 1912 the Missouri Synod, according to the figures here submitted, numbered 1,652 (+ 61) congregations connected with the Synod, 1,265 (— 55) congregations served by pastors of the Synod, and 1,144 (+ 78) missions. There were at all these places 934,199 (+ 16,890) souls, 565,129 (+ 9,290) communicant, and 132,292 (+ 2,556) voting members. They were served by 2,204 (+ 79) pastors. (The entire number of pastors, including disabled, resigned, and emeriti pastors, and professors at the Synod's institutions of learning, was 2,467.) There were in the Synod 2,216 (+ 15) parish schools, with 94,167 (+ 102) pupils, served by a teaching force which still consisted in 1,166 (+ 11) cases of the local pastors, in all other cases of 1,069 (+ 22) male, and 252 (+ 14) female teachers. The number of Sunday-school pupils was 71,966 (+ 5,228). Baptism was administered to 36,048 (+ 759) persons, mostly infants, the rite of confirmation to 23,854 (— 435). The number of communicants at all places and on all occasions during the year was 1,028,457 (+ 22,043). The pastors of the Synod officiated at 11,844 (+ 811) marriages, and 12,074 (— 3) funerals. (The numbers in parentheses show the increase or decrease over the year 1911.)

9. *DIE PSALMEN, DAVIDS* nach Dr. Martin Luthers Uebersetzung. 7 cts.

A handy reprint, in flexible cover, of the Psalms.

10. *CONCORDIA PENCIL TABLET* No. 3. 80 pages. 5 cts.

Success Printing Co., St. Louis, Mo.:—

1. *HOMILETISCHES REALLEXIKON* nebst Index Rerum von E. Eckhardt. M—R. Battle Creek, Nebr. 1912. pp: c 91—c 588 and appendix. \$2.10. Postage, 21 cts.

The valuable work of Pastor Eckhardt, who is indexing the literature of the Synodical Conference, has now reached the fifth volume. With every additional volume the work is becoming more indispensable to the preacher and pastor and to the historian. In the present volume such topics are treated as these: Materialismus, Mensch, Mission, Missourisynode, Mitteldinge, Mitwirkung, Obrigkeit, Papsttum, Pastor, Pietismus, Predigt, Predigtamt, Rechtfertigung, Reformation, Reich Gottes, Reue. The Appendix contains a scheme by which outlines of the Gospel and Epistle pericopes can be located in the preceding volumes of the *Index*, also supplements to letters M—R, and a chronological table exhibiting the year of publication of the periodical literature of the Missouri Synod and of its Synodical Reports.—The author announces that Vol. 6, work on which has already begun, will be devoted entirely to the subject of "School." Vol. 7 will contain letters S—T and Vol. 8 the remainder of the alphabet. As Rev. Eckhardt's work was begun as a subscription work, and will be completed as such, the edition will be nearly sold when the work is completed. Only a few copies above the actual supply needed have been printed.

2. *SAENGERBOTE*. Lyrisches Quartalheft. No. 2. 15 cts.

The delight afforded the reader by the first issue of this unique publication is increased by the present issue. Both the number and variety of the poetic contributions, and the editorial articles, show with what zest the enterprise is being taken up by a host of friends.

Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wis.:—

1. *DOGMATIK* von A. Hoenecke. 15. Lieferung. 80 pages. 40 cts.

This serial issue completes the treatise on the Church, the Ministry, Civil Government, the Domestic State, Antichrist, and begins the eschatological part of the work (state after death; resurrection).

2. *WHY I AM A LUTHERAN*. William Dallmann. Fourth edition, revised. 24 pages. 5 cts.

This tract has done good service in our church before, and promises to continue doing such service in this revised edition.

3. *MORAL PERILS THREATENING YOUR CHILD*. A Plea to Parents. 57 pages. 10 cts.

4. *BE INSTANT IN PRAYER*. 45 pages. 10 cts.

Both these publications were prepared by Rev. F. Haertel, Pastor of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chicago. When the

author, some time ago, addressed the students of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on moral perils to young people, especially in our large cities, many of those who heard him were much impressed with what he said, and with his manner of saying it. This book treats a kindred, if not the identical topic. A publication on this subject has been asked for from many quarters. This book well answers a recognized need of our times.—The second publication is a tastefully prepared little octavo print with overlapping cover, containing morning and evening prayers, and prayers for special occasions.

Verlag der Ev.-Luth. Synode in Australien:—

VERHANDLUNGEN DER EV.-LUTH. SYNODE IN AUSTRALIEN, versammelt zu Adelaide, S. A., vom 15.—20. Maerz 1912. 1 sh.

These Proceedings of the Synod of Australia contain a paper by Prof. C. F. Graebner, the President of Synod's school at Adelaide, on the question, "Why should we continue to jointly carry on the work of our institution [the college and seminary] with joy and zeal?" The reports of Synod's missions are very illuminating and encouraging.

Lutheran Publishing House, Decorah, Iowa:—

DEN HELLIGE SKRIFTS INSPIRATION. Af H. J. S. Astrup, missionsprest. 96 pages. 50 cts.

The author's purpose in this treatise is to explain and defend the plenary, or verbal, inspiration of Scripture. Starting out with the correct claim that, the inspiration of Scripture being an article of faith, valid arguments for this fact can only be found in Scripture itself, the author discusses, 1) the testimonies of Scripture for the plenary inspiration; 2) the history of this teaching. The spirit of gnesio-Lutheranism is in evidence throughout this book.

Chicago Lutheran Seminary Press:—

THE CHICAGO LUTHERAN SEMINARY RECORD. April, 1913. Year-Book for the year 1913—1914.

This is virtually the annual catalogue of the General Council's Chicago Seminary.

The Macmillan Company, New York:—

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY. By Dr. Harold Hoeffding. Authorized Translation by Charles Findlay Sanders. 324 pages. \$1.50.

The Copenhagen professor of philosophy has found an able translator in the Gettysburg (Pennsylvania College) professor of philosophy. Hoeffding's book is useful chiefly as a means for obtaining quick information regarding the principal philosophers, and their systems, from Pietra Pomponazzi (*De Immortalitate Animae*) to William James (*Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study of Human Nature*), and for a bird's-eye view of the development of philosophy since the Italian renaissance.