

THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY.

VOL. XX.

APRIL, 1916.

No. 2.

THE CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE BIBLE IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Active efforts are being made at the present time in various quarters for the reintroduction of the Bible into our public schools. This movement gives rise to a controversy very similar to the one which raged on the occasion of the elimination of the Bible as a text-book from the American public school system. The following brief historical consideration of that earlier struggle, therefore, seems appropriate at the present time.

The opposition to the Bible as a text-book began about 1840, especially in the large cities,¹⁾ and at the instigation of the Roman Catholic Church. According to Goodrich,²⁾ the Catholics at this time numbered 800,000, out of a total of about 10,000,000 church-members in the United States. The Roman Catholics favored legal exclusion of the Bible from the public schools; Daniel Webster opposed legal exclusion.³⁾

The controversy was really due to the rise of state-supported public schools. Denominational schools wanted state support; but it became the established policy of the State not to give such support. The controversy involves the interpretation of the Constitution and the question whether the Bible is a sectarian book.

1) Monroe's *Cyc. of Ed.*, I, p. 373.

2) Peter Parley's *Tales about the U. S.* (1883), p. 227.

3) Cheever, *Right of the Bible in Our Public Schools.* (New York, 1854.)

BOOK REVIEW.

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

1. *BRIEFE VON C. F. W. WALTHER.* 2. Bd.: Briefe aus den Jahren 1865—71. IX and 236 pages. \$1.

It is gratifying that the compiler and editor of this historically and spiritually valuable collection of letters of one of the foremost Lutheran theologians of America, Prof. Fuerbringer, has been encouraged by the universal favor with which the first volume was received to continue his painstaking and tactful labors, and to promise us (?) another volume. The present volume contains 130 letters, arranged in chronological order (December 30, 1865, to September 14, 1871). Besides the glimpses which we get in these letters of the man and the theologian in Walther, we are impressed with the widely extending influence which he exercised, and the intense and varied interest which he displays in a period when Lutheran aversions and convergencies are beginning to show in America. Within the period covered by these letters fall the Colloquium with the Iowa Synod, the approaching understanding with the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio Synods, and a quickening of Lutheran consciousness in Saxony and Bavaria, besides a growing cordiality between the Norwegian and the Missouri Synod. Serious, yea, momentous affairs of the Church or of individual members form the burden of this volume, and the subjects in hand are treated with a stateliness that is become second nature with Walther. But there are many lively touches of purely human interest scattered through these pages that will attract the reader no less than the graver contents. We hope that this enterprise will be carried to completion by the publication of all the letters of Walther that are available.

2. *DIE LEHRE DER SCHRIFT VOM EWIGEN LEBEN.* Von P. Albert H. Brauer. 96 pages. Paper, 30 cts. Bound in cloth, gilt edge, 60 cts.

The impression of solemnity produced in the reader by this reprint of a synodical paper on the Life Everlasting, which the author read before the Illinois District Synod thirty years ago, is deepened by the intelligence which the editor, his brother, conveys to us, viz., that the author himself has entered that state of our ultimate existence of which he spoke to his brethren. The volume is a fitting memorial of the service which the author rendered his Church while living.*

3. *THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT SOCIALISM.* A Treatise by E. C. L. Schulze. 86 pages. 40 cts.

With portions of this treatise the readers of our German church-paper, *Der Lutheraner*, are acquainted. The subject of Socialism, in which the author interested us in his German articles, has been expanded in this volume so as to embrace every essential phase of this malevolent modern vagary that enters our political life, and yet is not a purely political issue; our church-life, and yet is the practical negation of that life; our home-life, though it bids fair to take the true idea of the home away from us; our individual life, though it is bent upon crushing individuality. This may seem a formidable indictment, however, only to such as do not know Socialism, as have not studied Socialism from its authentic sources and acknowledged authorities. The pointed citations which the author offers for his theses we consider a most valuable feature of his dissertation.

4. *THE DIFFERENCE.* A Popular Guide to Denominational History and Doctrine. By I. G. Monson. 74 pages. 50 cts.

This treatise divides into two parts. In the first, the origin of Churches and cults outside of the Lutheran Church is briefly told, while the second part arrays the errors of the false beliefs against the true teaching of the Scriptures, after the method of Guenther's *Symbolik*.

5. *THE SHADOW OF A CRIME.* Based on the German *Seile der Liebe* of Alfred Ira. By Mary E. Ireland. 127 pages. 30 cts.

This latest addition to the new series of juvenile books which the Concordia Publishing House is putting out is a good, clean story with an excellent moral, told in a fascinating manner.

6. A doctrinal paper on *THE FOURTH ARTICLE OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION, CONCERNING JUSTIFICATION*, read before the Central Illinois District Synod by Rev. E. Flach. 46 pages. 15 cts.

7. A doctrinal paper on *THE REFUTATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH*, read before the Central District Synod by Rev. Wm. Moll. 47 pages. 16 cts.

* The proceeds from the sale of this volume are set aside for the author's widow.

8. A doctrinal paper on *THE VERDICT OF THE BASIC CONFESSION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH ON THE ROMISH MASS*, read before the Southern Illinois District Synod by *Prof. Dau.* 63 pages. 18 cts.
9. A doctrinal paper on *THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH*, read before the Kansas District Synod (first instalment) by *Prof. M. Graebner.* 25 pages. 12 cts.
10. A doctrinal paper on *THE CORRECT USE OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL*, read before the Nebraska District Synod by *Rev. W. Mahler.* 60 pages. 18 cts.
11. A doctrinal paper on *FAMILY WORSHIP*, read before the California and Nevada District Synod by *Rev. E. Rudnick.* 47 pages. 15 cts.
12. A doctrinal paper on *POPERY IN THE MIDDLE AGES AND THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY*, by *Prof. T. Graebner*, read before the Western District Synod. 58 pages. 18 cts.
13. A doctrinal paper on the question: *WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES STATE REGARDING THE LAST DAY OF THE WORLD?* by *Rev. P. Graupner*, read before the Canada District Synod. 33 pages. 10 cts.
14. *OSTERKATALOG* und Verzeichnis der Konfirmationsscheine. Concordia Publishing House. 1916. 48 pages.

The American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, 901 Summit Ave., Jersey City, N. J., has issued a forceful tract: *WHY GO TO CHURCH?* by *Rev. P. Lindemann.* 25 cts. per hundred.

Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wis., has, in a tract of 18 pages, *MARTIN LUTHER*. Excerpted from *Beacon Lights of History*. Edited by *William Dallmann.* 5 cts.

Rev. F. W. Herzberger, 3619 Iowa Ave., St. Louis, has prepared the libretto for a *JUBILEE CANTATA* for the Four-hundredth Birthday of the Reformation, in three parts. The leading poetic idea elaborated in this collection of choruses and recitatives is the illuminating effect of the Reformation. ("At Eventide There Shall Be Light, or, The Holy Gospel's Halloween.") The music is to be obtained by a prize contest of composers. 25 cts.

Success Publishing Co., St. Louis, has issued Vol. IV, No. 13 of *SAENGERBOTE*. 15 cts.

Schriftenverein, Zwickau, Saxony, continues its seasonable war-time publications by the following new issues:—

1. *ZUM JAHRESTAG DES KRIEGSANFANGES*. A sermon from Ps. 65, 2—4 by *Rev. H. G. Amling*, of Berlin. 12 pages. 10 Pf.

2. *DANKPREDIGT ZUR KRIEGSJAHRESWENDE*. A sermon from Ps. 118, 21 by *Rev. M. Hempfing*, of Niederplanitz. 16 pages. 10 Pf.
3. *TROSTPREDIGT UEBER JES. 38, 17*. By *Rev. O. Willkomm*, of Niederplanitz. 16 pages. 10 Pf.
4. *SEID GETROST! FUERCHTET EUCH NICHT!* An exhortation by *K.*, based on Matt. 14, 27. 8 pages. 5 Pf.
5. *KOMMT UND LASST UNS CHRISTUM EHREN!* A Christmas greeting to the soldier in the trenches. Contributions by *M. Willkomm* and *Fr. Gillhoff*. 40 pages. 25 Pf.

The Lutheran Publishing Co., Ltd., of Hochkirch, Victoria, Australia, has issued in an English edition the instructive paper of *Rev. E. Darsow* on the *ADVANTAGES AND BLESSINGS OF SYNODICAL FELLOWSHIP IN THE TRUE LUTHERAN CHURCH*, which was read before the Queensland District of the Lutheran Synod in Australia. 25 pages. 6 pence.

Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill., sends us the *REPORT OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION* of the Association of the English Churches in the Augustana (Swedish) Synod. 64 pages of minutes plus statistical tables.

Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.:—

1. *THE INFLUENCE OF LUTHERANISM OUTSIDE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH*. By *Jacob A. Dell*. 16 pages. 6 cts.

Belongs in the class of studies of the remoter effects of Luther's work, always to be taken *cum grano*.

2. *SERMONS ON THE EISENACH GOSPELS*. By *Rev. J. Sheatsley*. 579 pages. \$2.50.

A preacher must have something to say, and take time to say it. Both conditions are fulfilled in the 65 sermons in this volume. The sermons have come out of the text, which, as a rule, has been well divided. The style is plain; good English and direct address characterize this preacher. The sermons cover about ten pages, large octavo, each, and must have required forty minutes for their delivery. The exposition of the texts treated does not produce any remarkable results. There is nothing labored in these sermons. The great dominant facts in the life of a Christian, sin and grace, are woven into the discourse. Greater precision and a more searching interpretation of the text is desirable. For instance, in "The Baptist's Call to Repentance" repentance is characterized as a "change," which is correct. p. 22 f. It is necessary now, in order to lead the thought of the hearer aright, that the change be correctly described. The author cites as an instance of repentance the publican, who went down to his house "justified and a different man from what he had been," and then adds the instance of Zacchaeus, who "repented in the sycamore tree, and then restored any ill-gotten gain fourfold, and gave half his goods to the poor." Here the "change" which justifying faith works, and which affects only the sinner's standing with God

required separate and exhaustive treatment. Mingling justifying faith with sanctifying faith creates a confusion of serious consequences. And the author could have well afforded to speak of Zachacaus in a later division, where he treats the fruits of faith by which the "change" is made evident to man as "the second thing" in the Baptist's call. — "The Good Signs of the Times" (p. 69 ff.) are poorly stated. One need not be a pessimist to place a question-mark against every hopeful item which the author enumerates. Looking a little deeper into the movement toward Christ which the author sees in the social, commercial, and political world of to-day would have yielded different results. The use which the average modern social worker is making of Christ does not benefit him at all. He might substitute Seneca for his Christ, and suffer no loss. The author has explained this matter much better on the "True Brotherhood of Jesus," especially on pages 389 to 392.

3. *CATECHISM BIBLE NARRATIVES*. A Series of Bible Narratives on the Five Chief Parts of Luther's Smaller Catechism. For use in Lutheran Sunday-schools. By *Rev. Geo. W. Lose*. 410 pages. 75 cts.

The plan of attaching the truths of the Catechism to a Bible-story which, when properly told, is seen to contain those truths is a good one. It is perhaps the only feasible plan which will enable an ordinary Sunday-school teacher to attempt the teaching of the Catechism to his class. And that the teaching of the Catechism is a *conditio sine qua non* for raising sound Lutherans no Lutheran will question. Different teachers may prefer a different Bible-story for setting forth a given truth of the Catechism, but the selections here offered are usually to the point. For "conversion," *e. g.*, we should have preferred the Pentecostal sermon of Peter and its effects, which the author treats elsewhere, to the story of Saul's Conversion. The extraordinary features connected with this event might lead the catechumen to believe that they must occur in every conversion. This is not saying that Paul's *conversion* was extraordinary.

The General Council Publication Board, Philadelphia, Pa.:—
THE PASTOR'S GUIDE, or, Rules and Notes in Pastoral Theology. By *Jacob Fry, D. D., L. H. D., LL. D.* 109 pages.

The method of teaching a seminary class by means of brief, pithy theses that are developed in the lecture of the teacher we would consider an ideal one in every department of the professional study of theology, but chiefly in the department of Pastoral Theology. This method has been followed by the present author. In his booklet, which offers *multum in parvo*, there is on every page material to stimulate reflection and start inquiry, and thus to produce that independence from human authorities and that spiritual virility which we love to see in a manly, "strong" pastor. But there is also much in this little treatise that challenges serious contradiction. The view propounded here regarding "trial sermons" is not helped much by the warning remarks which the author has added. We believe it to be a psychological impossibility for both the preacher and the hearers

of a trial sermon to forget that the preacher is on exhibition. All the information that is necessary in order to insure an intelligent choice of a pastor can be conveyed to the congregation in other ways. Also in the suggestions how the pastoral relationship with a congregation may be terminated, there are some things that smack of the contract system. A chapter on the pastor's duty to advise those who wish to commune should be added. The authority of synod and of the church council seems overemphasized. Strong dissent, too, is aroused by the demand that pastors should officiate at the burial of non-church-members and assisted by a lodge, or assisting a lodge. The danger of rousing hostile sentiment against himself by a refusal to officiate surely is not the only danger which confronts the pastor on such occasions. Nor is it the gravest danger. In this matter, as in the matter of admitting non-Lutherans to one's pulpit, or occupying a non-Lutheran pulpit, the confessional character of the act must be guarded. While it is true that the servant of the Lord owes it to the afflicted to minister to them in their sorrows, it is no less true that he must guard against a profanation of that which is holy, and of making himself the servant of men.—It is plain that there are a number of serious practical issues to be adjusted between the various parts of the American Lutheran Church before unity is reached. Since genuine unity cannot be reached by disregarding, but only by removing, differences, we are glad to have seen a plain expression of views from which we must differ in this book, and to have had an opportunity to call attention to them.

Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn., has issued a tract of 27 pages on the *DOCTRINAL TEACHINGS OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE* (10 cts.), which gives a good survey in the narrowest compass of the negations which one of the most vicious religious vagaries in America opposes to the fundamental truths of Christianity.

The Christian Herald, New York, N. Y.:—

LUTHER IN THE LIGHT OF MODERN RESEARCH. By *Heinrich Boehmer*. Translated by *Chas. F. Huth, Jr.* 318 pp.—*A PICTORIAL LIFE OF LUTHER.* Being the first publication of the collection of rare prints in the possession of *Rev. W. Koepchen*, who also contributes the descriptive text and titles. 89 pages.

The work of Boehmer, the Bonn professor, who has proven one of the ablest apologists of Luther against Roman Catholic attacks, is well known in the original German. While plainly siding with the Reformed against the Lutheran teaching regarding the Lord's Supper, Boehmer has such a commanding grasp of the literature that has grown around the name "Luther," displays such a fine judgment in sifting historical accounts, and exercises such consummate skill in condensing long-winded controversies, and exhibiting the facts of decisive moment, that his work has been indispensable to all who wish to obtain a quick and complete view of the Reformer's character and labors. The translation which Prof. Huth has prepared from the latest edition of Boehmer's book is a good idiomatic rendering. To-

gether with the seventy-five views of personages and events connected with the life-work of Luther which Rev. Koepchen has furnished and described for this volume, Boehmer's treatise is a welcome contribution to the commemorative literature which is beginning to appear, heralding the four-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, which occurs in 1917.

The Colonial Press, Fort Wayne, Ind.:—

THE EDDYITE. A Christian Science Tale by *Geo. W. Zauttit.*
223 pages.

This novel is eight years old, but its contents are perennially fresh. It portrays in the form of a story the practical workings of Christian Science from inside knowledge and actual experience. To many this tale will prove more convincing than an enumeration of the errors of Christian Science.

National Christian Association, Chicago, Ill.:—

THE CHARACTER, CLAIMS, AND PRACTICAL WORKINGS OF FREEMASONRY. By *Rev. C. G. Finney.* 272 pages.
75 cts.

This reprint of a publication by the President of Oberlin College, which in its day (1869) created a sensation throughout the country, is a very meritorious enterprise that bespeaks a large patronage in our day, when Freemasonry is regaining its lost strength because the known facts concerning it are not published any more as they were in the decades after the Morgan episode.

Three tracts containing valuable information have been sent us, *viz.*, **ANNUAL OF THE UTAH GOSPEL MISSION OF CLEVELAND** for 1916; 28 pages; **WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS DONE TO MEXICO**, by *Dr. A. Paganel*, Mexico, D. F.; 19 pages; **DIE PROPHETENSPRUECHE UND -ZITATE IM RELIGIOESEN DRAMA DES DEUTSCHEN MITTELALTERS**, von *Dr. phil. Joseph Rudwin.* 37 pages.

In the *Hibbert Journal* for January, 1916, Count Goblet D'Alviella writes on "Some Moral Aspects and Issues of the Present War"; Sir Frederick Pollock, on "The 'Fight for Right' Movement"; Rt. Rev. J. W. Diggle, D. D., "Against Departmental Religion"; Prof. A. S. Pringle-Patterson, on "Mr. Balfour's 'Theism and Humanism'"; Charles A. Mercier, M. D., on "Vitalism"; Prof. G. T. Ladd, on "The Human Mind *vs.* The German Mind"; Miss M. E. Robinson, on "The Definite Failure of Christianity, and How it Might Be Retrieved"; Prof. W. A. Brown, on "Is Christianity Practicable?" Prof. E. Armitage, on "The Incompetence of the Mere Scholar to Interpret Christianity"; Rev. Ch. Hargrove, on "The Warlike Context of the Gospels"; C. R. Ashbee, on "Quality *vs.* Quantity as the Standard of Industry and Life"; Prof. J. Y. Simpson, on "Religion in Russia To-day"; Rev. R. H. Law, on "Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism." Besides these there are 42 pages of "Discussions," surveys and signed reviews.