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A COMPARISON OF THE APOSTOLIC WITH OUR LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN REGARD TO THE LANGUAGE QUESTION.

(By request.)

A practical question of the greatest importance that confronts our Lutheran congregations to-day is the so-called language question. Every one of our German congregations must sooner or later answer the question: "Shall we introduce the English language into our pulpit and school"? Congregations that have already answered this part of the question in the affirmative will soon find it necessary to determine how much English it is expedient to introduce. These questions are more easily asked than answered to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. The experience of centuries teaches that there always will be some who declare themselves most emphatically against any introduction of a new language, who look upon such an innovation as a falling off from the faith of the fathers, as a pandering to syncretism and heresy, and as the ruination of our parochial schools. And if we pastors and teachers, and the members of our congregations do not know what ground and position to occupy when we are confronted by this question, much harm and havoc is likely to result which might have been avoided, if the question had been properly dealt with.

In studying the language question, we find that the first apostolic congregations experienced a transition of language somewhat like the one we are constrained to deal with. If experience is the best teacher, then, most undoubtedly, can we

BOOK REVIEW.

DEIN REICH KOMME! Missionsvortraege. St. Louis, Mo.
Concordia Publishing House. 1909. Price, 20 cts.

It has been found desirable at our mission festivals, besides stating the Scriptural reasons and explaining the Scriptural methods of the missionary activity of the Church, to give to the congregations an historical account of the genesis and development of particular missions. Abundant material for lectures of this kind is offered in this pamphlet of 64 pages, and still more is promised. Rev. Fr. Sievers exhaustively treats the "Home Mission Work of our Synod," pp. 3—24, Rev. A. H. Kuntz pictures the "Life of a Missionary in the Northwest," pp. 25—31, Rev. A. F. Ude gives a "Brief Survey of the Various Missions of our Synod," pp. 32—40, Prof. F. Zucker describes "Our Mission in India," pp. 41—50, Prof. N. J. Bakke relates "The Beginning of our Negro Mission," pp. 50—58, and Rev. Tr. Wangerin writes on our "Mission to Deaf-Mutes," pp. 59—64. All the articles evince thorough knowledge of the particular subject, and are written in a genial style. One feels the heart-beat of intense and sympathetic interest throbbing in each one of them.

DOGMATIK von A. Hoenecke. 2. Lieferung. Northwestern
Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wis. pp. 81—160. Price,
40 cts.

The present number of Dr. Hoenecke's posthumous work (see THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY, vol. XIII, p. 125 ff.) is a worthy sequel to the first. The wealth of dogmatic material contained in this number may be estimated from the following synopsis of the contents:—

§ 10. The Eternity of God. Thesis: When predicating eternity of God, we assert that time-distinctions do not exist for God, either as regards His existence or His volition and activity; and we consider this the best form for expressing the eternity of God, *viz.*, that with God there is only an eternal to-day, an uninterrupted present, without a past and a future. § 11. The Immanent Love of God. Thesis: By the immanent love of God we mean the interchange of imparting and receiving in God. § 12. The Goodness of God. Thesis: By the goodness of God we mean the freedom of God from every defect and every imperfection, not only as regards His being, but also as regards His thought and will. Chapter II. The Transitive Attributes of God. Division I. Attributes Relating to His Being. § 13. The Omnipresence of God. Thesis: The omnipresence of God is that property of God by which He penetrates and fills all things, both as regards His essence and His energy, however, without being included in any space, not even in the entire universe. Division II. Attributes Relating to His Knowledge. § 14. The Omniscience of God. Thesis: The omniscience of God is His perfect knowledge, both as regards contents and quality, embracing, as regards the contents, Himself and the entire universe, and as regards the quality, all things and all ages in an intuitive, eternal, and infallible manner [of knowing]. § 15. The Wisdom of God. Thesis: The wisdom of God is that property of God by virtue of which He has fixed for His entire creation the most glorious goal, and knows how to attain this goal by means which are unfailling and perfectly accord with His holiness. Division III. Attributes Relating to the Divine Will. § 16. On the Will of God in General. Thesis: The will of God is that effort of God by which He seeks to realize what He has recognized as good, and to hinder what He has recognized as evil. § 17. The Transitive Love of God. Thesis: The transitive love of God is that property of God by which He imparts Himself to some being outside of Himself, and that, for the purpose of advancing, not His own interest, but that of the other being, His creature. § 18. The Holiness of God. Thesis: The holiness of God is that property of God by which He loves what is morally good, and hates what is morally evil. § 19. The Justice of God. Thesis: The justice of God is that property of God by which He rewards every good act which He has prescribed, and punishes every evil act which He has prohibited. § 20. The Omnipotence of God. Thesis: The omnipotence of God is the unlimited power of the will of God to do anything that does not imply some imperfection in Him or some contradiction to His entire Being. Section IV. Of the Trinity of God. § 21. Of the

Holy Trinity. Thesis: The doctrine of the Holy Trinity, *i. e.*, the doctrine that there is but one God, and that in this one God there is a Father, a Son, and a Holy Ghost, is a doctrine which we know only from the Holy Scriptures and which is, in the highest sense, a mystery, *i. e.*, a secret transcending human reason.

LUTHER'S CHRISTMAS SERMONS. *Epistles*. Translated, with the help of others, by *Prof. John Nicholas Lenker, D. D.* Vols. I and II. (Vols. VII and VIII of Luther's Complete Works.) Third Thousand. The Luther Press, Minneapolis, Minn. 1908.

We have here in English garb the contents of Walch's edition, vol. XII, col. 1—827, and of the Erlangen edition, vols. 7 and 8, that is to say, the sermons of Luther on the Epistle Pericopes of the Lutheran system from the First Sunday in Advent to Pentecost Tuesday inclusive. The work is entirely Dr. Lenker's own; but the translation which the Henkels of New Market published in 1869 has been compared, and, in parts, followed. We have compared the three first sermons with the original in Walch and with the rendering of Ambrose Henkel, and can say that translator's honors are about evenly divided between Henkel and Lenker. In many parts the translation of Dr. Lenker is plainly an improvement upon Henkel's; but there are also a great number of places in which we would still prefer the old rendering. *E. g.*, in the first sentence of the first sermon Henkel has rendered "in seinem Leibe," in regard to his body. This is not only weak but faulty. Physical culture was not in Luther's mind when he wrote those words. Dr. Lenker has justly paraphrased this idiomatic German expression "in his relations to other men upon earth;" for that is what Luther really sets forth in the body of the sermon. On the other hand, Luther's "eine feine buntfarbene Rede" is rendered by Lenker "an eloquent appeal," by Henkel "a fine, flowery address." The latter rendering, no doubt, is preferable.—The volumes now being published in the American Luther Series are an excellent contribution to the homiletic treasures of the English Lutheran Church. They rank next in importance and merit to the Church Postil. Good sermons on the Epistle lessons are not so abundant as on the Gospel lessons. We bespeak for these efforts of Dr. Lenker a general and grateful acceptance.

LUTHER'S LARGE CATECHISM. Translated, with the help of others, by *Prof. John Nicholas Lenker, D. D.* (Part Second of Luther's Catechetical Writings, vol. I.) Seventh Thousand. The Luther Press, Minneapolis, Minn. 1908. 188 pp. Price, 50 cts.

This reprint from the volume of Luther's Catechetical Writings to which we called attention in the THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY (vol. XII, p. 255 f.), is a handy booklet, well adapted for wholesale distribution. Our catechumens during catechetical instruction could not be given anything better for collateral reading than this booklet.

REFERAT. Luth. Minnesota-Konferensens af Augustana Synoden Jubelmoete i Minneapolis, Minn., den 7.—11. Okt. 1908, och af dess Femtiofoersta Aarsmoete i Minneapolis, Minn., den 16.—23. Febr. 1909. Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill.

This Swedish Report gives an account of the Jubilee Convention of the members of the Augustana Synod in Minnesota and of their 51st regular convention. The opening sermon of Dr. J. A. Krantz, preached on the latter occasion from Rev. 3, 1—6 ("A rousing call of the Lord Jesus, issued to the pastors and congregations of our church, on the basis of conditions which prevailed in the church at Sardes"), is given in full. The rest is taken up by the roster of the Conference, reports of officers and committees relating to church extension, educational work, charitable institutions, and statistical tables (the latter in English). The Conference endorsed the Minnesota Anti-Saloon League, and resolved to cooperate with it, accepted a donation from the Carnegie Fund which Governor Johnson had secured for Gustavus Adolphus College, and declined to cooperate with the Synod of the Northwest in educational matters.

THE FIRST CONVENTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE ENGLISH CHURCHES OF THE AUGUSTANA SYNOD. Augustana Book Concern. 1909.

The reviewer confesses to have read this pamphlet of 64 pages with that "fellow feeling" which "makes us wondrous kind." "The English Question" has perplexed the Swedish Augustana Synod as much as the German Missouri Synod. The same causes have been at work as in our own organization, producing the same effects. This

pamphlet relates how "the English Question" is being solved in the Augustana Synod. Besides the minutes and Constitution of the Association it contains a number of addresses and sermons which exhibit the aim and scope of the new organization, the methods which are proposed for the carrying on of its work, and kindred topics. The pamphlet is valuable to all who are charged with the direction of the affairs of the church in bilingual church bodies, and to the historians of the American Lutheran Church.

THE PSALMS. Translated and commented upon by *Emil Lund*.
 Rock Island, Ill. Augustana Book Concern. 692 pp.
 Price, \$3.25 net.

"This translation and commentary have for aim to give to the readers of the Holy Scriptures a brief interpretation of our old dear Psalter in a scientific, though popular form. The author has consulted the works of men such as Hengstenberg, Delitzsch, Baethgen (1904), Myrberg, Melin, and others, and made comparisons with our usual Bible version, the American (revised) Bible of 1901, the Swedish revision of 1903, the German Bible, and other editions. The translation is as literal as possible. The comments and notes are short and concise,"—thus the author characterizes his own work, and his description tallies with the facts. After 21 pages of introductory matter, in which the author discusses the names of compositions of the psalms, the musical instruments of the Hebrews, the titles, authors, and dates, the divisions, contents, and purpose of the Psalms, he presents the five books of Psalms. Each psalm is prefaced by remarks concerning the date and occasion of its authorship and its leading contents; next the prosodical structure of the psalm is indicated; this is also brought out by the form of print adopted for the text. Then follows a literal rendering of the psalm by meters, and a brief comment after each meter. The author's chief labor evidently has been bestowed upon the translation of the text, and this part possesses merit and proves helpful to the student, all the more, because the author frequently compares his rendering with that of the Revised Version of 1901. But not all his renderings are preferable to the existing versions. In the expository notes of the author modern influence is betrayed; *e. g.*, Ps. 22 is thus characterized: "The psalm is evidently composed on the sufferings of David, and on those of the righteous in general; prophetically, however, it deals with the terrible sufferings of Christ, whose type David was." (p. 115.)