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## At the Milestone.<sup>1)</sup>

PROF. W. H. T. DAU, St. Louis, Mo.

"It may be out of place to enter minutely upon the history of the Missouri Synod, the greatest and most important of the Lutheran synods of our country; but there is one fact that I do not like to pass over in silence, — I must at least suggest it, — *viz.*, I see before me no more striking instance of the blessing which God bestows on men's faithfulness than this very Missouri Synod. If it had not with such iron tenacity held to its confession of the pure doctrine; if it had not offered such trenchant testimony, and had not fought against each and every deviation from the path which it had recognized to be the only true way; if it had shown itself more yielding in its church-polity (*Praxis*) than in its teaching; if it had adapted itself in ever so small a measure to the views of our rather impressionable age, it would *not* have achieved the results which it may now claim. The Missouri Synod has brought, into captivity its every thought to the obedience of Christ, and that attitude of hers the Lord has rewarded. In the view of the earliest and the present members of the Missouri Synod the glory of God and the unalloyed truth of His Word, which has found its clearest expression in the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, is to be esteemed more highly than the favor of men and airy human figments. If the Lord God had not taken pity upon the Lutheran Church in America by placing the Missouri Synod in its midst, we would to-day be an insignificant band, perhaps still bearing the name 'Lutheran,' but, for the rest, offering ourselves as an open pasturage for foxes and other game. If I call to mind what the grace of God has accomplished through the Missourians, I cannot join those who are barking at them. It is my conviction that the Missourians ascribe their success to the mercy of God, and not to

1) From *Ebenezer*, a memorial volume commemorative of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Missouri Synod, just published by Concordia Publishing House.

## BOOK REVIEW.

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

**Ebenezer.** Reviews of the Work of the Missouri Synod during Three Quarters of a Century. Edited by *W. H. T. Dau.* Illustrated. 536 pages. \$2.00.

A review of this publication will appear in the next issue. BENTE.

*Verlag "Schriftwort," Kolberg and Koenigsberg i. Pr.:—*

What a single pastor can do in disseminating the teachings of God's Word is shown by a number of tracts published by Rev. F. Huebener of Koenigsberg in Prussia. He has issued seven tracts on such subjects as: **Dein Wort ist nichts denn Wahrheit; Damit wird das vorige Gesetz aufgehoben; Taufe; Jesus Christus der wahrhaftige Gott und das ewige Leben; Jesus Christus das Lamm Gottes, das der Welt Suede traegt,** etc. The method followed in these tracts is to present a series of Bible-passages that illustrate the general theme at the head of the publication, without any comment. The author's effort, evidently, is to let the Word of God do its own teaching in the most direct manner. Besides these tracts, the same author has published tracts on the question, **Whether a Believing Christian may Still Remain in the State Churches of the New Church Federation; Liberty from the Sabbath,** a defense of the Evangelical Lutheran position over against the doctrine of Jews and Seventh-day Adventists; **The Right and Duty of Infant Baptism; What the Snow Preaches to Us; Our Old Faith; A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; And, After All, There Is a God!** In these tracts the author presents in a forceful manner the Scripture proof for the doctrinal point which he is explaining and a genial exposition of the same. These tracts were gotten out without any financial aid from outside by a poor minister in Germany, and many were distributed gratis on railroad trains, at public meetings and elsewhere.

*Lutheran Schools Committee, Detroit, Mich.:—*

The battle for the Lutheran congregational school that was begun two years ago against hostile forces in the State of Michigan has to be fought over again. Our brethren in Michigan are engaged in a very intelligent campaign to make the constituency of Michigan see the danger in the new legislation of their State Legislature regarding schools. Two publications have been issued by the committee in charge of this campaign that show how wide awake the defenders of our congregational schools are and how well they can make the voters of Michigan see the point. The two publications are: **"The Private School and Religious Liberty. A Candid Presentation of the Cause of the Lutherans of Michigan versus the Public School Defense League";** and **"An Important Amendment and an Antisocial Petition. Examined by Th. Graebner."** We cordially commend both these well-written tracts to the attention of our readers.

*Lutheran Deaconess Home, Fort Wayne, Ind.:—*

This new institution presents, with its second annual report, a well-written tract, entitled: **How Does Scripture Encourage Man to Engage in Charity Work?** The author's name is withheld at his request. The tract shows the principles underlying all charitable endeavor, and the proper method of Christian charity work. D.

*Rev. J. A. Friedrich, St. Charles, Mo.:—*

**Von den Pflichten, die einer christlichen Gemeinde mit den durch das Amt der Schluessel verliehenen Rechten auferlegt werden.**

This excellent paper, which was read before the Western District of the Missouri Synod, convened at Altenburg, Mo., is here offered to a wider circle of readers in pamphlet form, and may be obtained from the essayist at 50 cents a copy. The duties of a Christian congregation are comprehensively stated and lucidly set forth under the following headings: The Preaching of the Gospel, The Judgment of Doctrine, Fraternal Admonition, and The Christian Administration of Internal and External Congregational Affairs. We commend this instructive essay not only to pastors, but also to our Christian laymen. The subject is certainly worthy of constant and thorough study.

MUELLER.

**A Kingdom for a Dance.** A sermon on Mark 6, 17—29, exhibiting the evil character and effects of dancing, preached and published by *W. M. Czamanske*, Sheboygan, Wis. One copy, 5 cts.; one dozen, 40 cts. Order from the author.

MUELLER.

*The United Lutheran Publication House:—*

**The Conservative Character of Martin Luther.** *Geo. M. Stephenson*, Ph. D. 143 pages, 5×7½. \$1.20.

Dr. Stephenson purposes to set forth within the compass of these 143 pages "the more permanent elements in the work of Martin Luther." The conservative nature of the principles for which the Reformer contended are treated in seven chapters, which cover the life of Luther from his formative years to the adoption of the Augsburg Confession. In the main, the author's judgments are adequate to the various phases which are lifted into prominence, and with the author's conclusions we have no quarrel. In detail one will differ with Dr. Stephenson, as when he appears to find fault with Luther's adherence to the literal sense of Scripture. Considering the small amount of letterpress, the price is rather high.

GRAEBNER.

*Lutheran Bureau of the National Lutheran Council* has issued No. 4 of its publication, entitled **World Service**. It is designed as a practical help for the campaign of 1921, to gather the means for continuing the charitable work of the U. L. C. in Europe and Africa. The open door in the war-stricken countries to Christianity and Lutheranism is shown in this publication, and the articles contained in it breathe the spirit of determination of the Lutherans of the U. L. C. to make the best use of present opportunities to aid in extending Lutheran teaching on the other side of the Atlantic.

The articles which *Dr. Franklin Gruber, D. D.*, has contributed to various publications have been issued in reprints, namely, **Is the Doctrine of an Infinite and Unchangeable Deity Tenable?** (from the *Lutheran Quarterly*, January, 1921); **The Theory of a Finite and Developing Deity Examined** (from the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, October, 1918); **The Lutheran Church and Christian Union** (from the *Lutheran Church Review*, April, 1918); and **Conservation in Matters Pertaining to the Church**. In the two former publications the new philosophical fad of the finite Deity is ably combated, while the two latter publications discuss an issue that is confronting the Lutheran Church with increasing urgency from other church-bodies.

D.

*Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.:—*

**Missionary Sermons.** Collected and Edited by *Rev. L. H. Schuh, Ph. D.*  
549 pages. Cloth. \$2.50. Order from Concordia Publishing House,  
St. Louis, Mo.

This volume offers a series of fine sermons on various topics of missionary interest, grouped under the following captions: Missions in General, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Inner Missions, Negro Missions, and Jewish Missions. Simple in style, clear in arrangement, based upon substantial texts, and fraught with the spirit of Christian faith and grateful service, the sixty-one discourses, contained in this book, place at the disposal of the pastor who is looking for information on missionary topics, useful and varied material covering practically every phase of missionary endeavor. No doubt, every pastor who is interested in mission-work, will be grateful to the editor and publishers for this handy collection of timely missionary sermons.

MUELLER.

*Geo. H. Doran Company, New York:—*

**THE NEW MISSIONARY SERIES:** **William Carey**, by the *Rev. Percy Jones*; **David Livingstone**, by *Grace Arthur*; **Robert Moffat**, by *Grace Arthur*; **John Williams**, by *Albert Lee, Ph. B., B. Sc.*; **James Chalmers**, by *A. Gratten Hall*; **James Hannington**, by *Edward Talbot*; **Doctor Wilfred Grenfell**, by *A. Gratten Hall*; **Mackay of Uganda**, by the *Rev. W. S. Herbert Wylie, M. A.*; **Abel of Kwato**, by *A. Gratten Hall*; **Gilmour of Mongolia**, by the *Rev. Kingscote Greenland*; **Heroes in Madagascar**, by *Harold A. Ridgwell*; **Pandita Ramabai**, by *Muriel Clark*. 4¾×6. Each 60 cts. Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

These are excellent little books. In good, simple English and in a bright, interesting style they tell how men like Carey, Livingstone, Moffat, and others were prompted by their faith and by their love to Christ and their fellow-men, to bring the Gospel of salvation to the lowest of men under the most trying and discouraging circumstances. Ramabai's statement in the volume *Pandita Ramabai* that "in the Old Testament God is not revealed as Father" (page 33) has not been refuted by the author, but he has left it to the reader to make the correction. We highly recommend this series of mission-studies. Each book has about sixty pages and can be read in less than three-quarters of an hour. The books will make good reading for schools; also before young people's societies and ladies' societies. For these purposes we especially recommend the first eight mentioned. As a gift at any time these volumes ought to be appreciated by any one, young or old. Each book has a specially designed pictorial cover in full colors, as well as black and white illustrations throughout.

FRITZ.

*The Macmillan Company:—*

**The Origin of Paul's Religion.** *J. Gresham Machen, D. D.* 329 pages,  
6×9. \$3.00.

This volume contains the James Sprunt lectures of 1920 delivered in Union Theological Seminary in Virginia by Prof. Machen of the New Testament department in Princeton Theological Seminary. It deals with the problem of the origin of Christianity viewed under the aspect of the origin

of Paul's theology. From the first pages on the reader realizes that a master of exegetical method and a theologian of unusual ability is essaying this apologetic — not only for the Apostle Paul as a true disciple of Jesus Christ, but for the entire New Testament and, indeed, for revealed religion itself. The book does not attempt any review in detail of the missionary journeys of Paul, and what it says about the life of the great apostle is supplied only for its bearing on the main subject, formulated by the author thus: What relation did Paul sustain 1. to the original disciples of Jesus, 2. to Judaism, 3. to paganism? Chapter 4 submits proof for the author's contention that the religion of Paul differed in no point from the religion of the gospels, least of all do epistles and gospels conflict with regard to the person of Christ. The three serious attempts that have been made to explain the theology of Paul on the basis of natural evolution are then taken up in order: 1. the liberal view, according to which Paul's religion was derived from Jesus and is of permanent value, but his theology merely the temporal categories in which he expressed his religion and no longer of value; 2. the radical view represented by Wrede, according to which Paul's religion was derived from his pre-Christian Jewish conception of the Messiah; and 3. the radical view represented by Bossuet, according to which it was derived from the syncretistic pagan religion of the Hellenistic age. The book, fascinatingly written and replete with historical information, constitutes an answer to the new theology and indirectly to the mother that gave it birth, the higher criticism. It is gratifying indeed to find among scholars of the first rank men who hold to the old-fashioned Christian belief that Jesus was "a heavenly Redeemer come to earth for the salvation of men"; that in Him "the true Son of God walked upon the earth and suffered for the sins of man."

Machen's *Origin of Paul's Religion* is one of the few books that one would recommend especially to our younger clergy for purchase and study. No one but will rise from it with a comprehensive understanding of the new theology, its methods and conclusions, and of the fatal weaknesses which become apparent in this same new theology when subjected to the searching rays of a scientific historical criticism.

GRAEBNER.

*G. F. Lehmann Verlag, Muenchen:—*

*Weltfreimaurerei, Weltrevolution, Weltrepublik. Dr. Fr. Wichtl.*  
5th edition. 280 pages, 6½×9¼.

This book caused a sensation throughout Austria and Germany when first published, and continues to issue in new editions. Its startling title argues a fine book-selling instinct. However, the volume does not disappoint those who expect information on the bearing which Freemasonry has had on the origin of the World War, and on the international issues involved in Masonic propaganda. A labyrinth of plots and counterplots is traced by the learned author, who has laid under contribution, we may well believe him, hundreds of volumes bearing the Masonic imprint. The thesis of Dr. Wichtl is that Freemasonry, aspiring to international leadership and planning a world-republic under Jewish leadership, caused the murder of the Austrian archduke and throughout the war persistently followed its own deep-laid plans. There is much incidental information on the work of Freemasonry and its principles. In its conclusions it fits in amazingly with the exposition of the "International Jew" in Mr. Henry Ford's weekly.

GRAEBNER.