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## I.

From the home-land of Luther two theologians have come who have prominently aided in the building up of the Lutheran Church in America in the nineteenth century. Their work has left on the particular organization with which they cast their lot an impress that will not soon be effaced, though in the onward rush of years the memory of their names and personalities may become dimmed.

Walther's work in the Missouri Synod was nearly done when Stoeckhardt arrived. Between the landing of the Stephanists and Stoeckhardt's election to the chair of Exegesis at Concordia Seminary there lies a full half century. The Missouri Synod's battle for existence among the older Lutheran bodies in America had been fought, its *raison d'être* established.

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1) Born February 17, 1842, at Chemnitz, Saxony; preparatory education in a private *Lateinschule* at Tharandt; 1857—62 at *Fuerstenschule* at Meissen; 1862—66 studies theology at universities of Erlangen and Leipzig; 1866—70 tutor at Ladies' Seminary at Tharandt; 1870—71 assistant pastor at the German Lutheran Church des Billettes at Paris, and, temporarily, at the Sedan Hospital; 1871—73 private tutor in Old and New Testament Exegesis at University of Erlangen, and instructor at Gymnasium of that city; 1873—76 pastor of a state church at Planitz, near Zwickau, Saxony; 1876—78 pastor of the independent St. John's congregation of same city; 1878—1887 pastor of Holy Cross Church, St. Louis, and lecturer on Old and New Testament Exegesis at Concordia Seminary; 1887—1913 Professor of Old and New Testament Exegesis at Concordia Seminary; 1903 created Doctor of Divinity by the theological faculty of Luther Seminary, Hamline, Minn.; died January 9, 1913.

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## THE ST. LOUIS EDITION OF LUTHER'S WORKS.

Ever since the THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY announced the publication of the closing volume of the St. Louis edition of Luther's Works (Vol. XIV, pp. 247—9), it has seemed appropriate that a word should be said in this periodical about the entire edition. The execution of the plan had to be deferred time and again, chiefly on account of lack of space. It would probably have to be deferred indefinitely for the same reason, if a recent incident had not caused a brief notice of this extraordinary undertaking within the American Lutheran Church to appear most opportune.

Prof. Haussleiter, of Greifswald, has recently subjected certain charges of Jesuit writers against Luther to a critical examination.<sup>1)</sup> In refuting the misrepresentations of Grisar, the latest Roman biographer of Luther, Prof. Haussleiter shows that one of the lies imputed to Luther rests upon a mistranslation, which has been corrected in Vol. 16, Col. 1456 f. of the St. Louis edition of Luther's Works. In calling attention to this fact, Prof. Haussleiter expresses his opinion of the St. Louis edition as a whole. He holds that it is a work which no one engaged in scientific investigation can afford to ignore.<sup>2)</sup>

It is, however, not for the purpose of canvassing a favorable opinion which a person competent to judge has passed on our achievement, but from the sincere belief that a real service can be rendered, that we have prevailed upon ourselves to mention the St. Louis edition in this rather prominent form. The St. Louis edition, moreover, was never specially noticed in the THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY. It was a German work, of which the majority of our readers were amply advised through German channels. Besides, when this periodical came into existence, the publication of the St. Louis edition had been in progress for nearly two decades, and had been so widely heralded, here and in Europe, that another word of notice or commendation seemed supererogatory. Now that the enterprise, after thirty years of persevering effort, is finished, the chronicler at least of events in the life of the American Lutheran Church may feel impelled to write down for posterity what has actually happened to Luther's writings in America.

The St. Louis edition was produced from the edition of Walch, and will, no doubt, supersede that edition in the course of time. For not only does it contain, page for page, all that Walch had received into his edition, except where duplicate portions had slipped into Walch, but it has added a respectable

1) "Luthers Luegen in Grisars und Sintherns Darstellung. Eine Untersuchung von Prof. D. Dr. Johannes Haussleiter, Greifswald." In *Allgem. Ev.-Luth. Kirchenzeitung*, November 1, 1912, col. 1046 ff.

2) "Die amerikanische revidierte Bearbeitung der Walchschen Ausgabe, an der die wissenschaftliche Forschung nicht voruebergehen darf," etc.

collection of new materials which were unknown to Walch. Writings of Luther discovered since Walch, and embodied in the Erlangen and in the still incomplete Weimar editions, have been taken over into the St. Louis edition. This applies especially to the volumes edited by Dr. Hoppe, Vols. 3—9 and 14—22. To enumerate only the more important additions, we have in Vol. 6 the Exposition of Hosea, Joel, and Amos; in Vol. 7, Luther's sermons on Matt. 18—24, and John 3 and 4; also the sermons which Luther preached at Coburg Castle in 1530, and which had not been printed in any previous edition of Luther's works. In Vol. 10 (Dr. Stoeckhardt and Koerner, editors) we have the valuable Opinion on Self-defense, by Luther, Jonas, and Melancthon, Luther's Disputation on the Mass, and his Preface to the Funeral Hymns, which are not in Walch. In Vol. 14 there are two expositions each of the Minor Prophets, from Jonah to Zechariah; the second is in each case new material. The additions contained in Vols. 15—20 ("Reformatory Writings") and in Vol. 21 ("Letters") are too numerous to mention. Recent research of Lutherophils has gathered a very great harvest of new finds and discoveries, which were available for these volumes.

Comparatively, however, the added material of the St. Louis edition is its lesser merit. The student of Luther's writings who will take the trouble to read and digest the contents of the 1024 pages of introductory matter, and of the 31,000 footnotes, in the various volumes of the St. Louis edition, will first rise to a proper appreciation of the amount of critical editorial labor bestowed on the St. Louis edition. In the volumes containing expositions of the books of the Old Testament (Vols. 3—7) new translations of Latin writings of Luther have been made to such an extent that occasionally two thirds, or three fourths, or even a greater portion of the volume are virtually a new production, and the references at the top of the page to the old edition of Walch mean no more than this that Walch's translation of the same material is found in the places indicated. Innumerable errors of the translators, the printers, and the editors of former editions have been

brought to light, including also the more modern editions of Erlangen and Weimar; false connections, spurious portions, lacunae, mistaken chronology, etc., have been shown. And these errors have in many cases been of a most serious nature; Luther has not infrequently said the very opposite of what the older editions of his writings make him say; and the editors of those editions seem to imagine that the more incomprehensible and contradictory a statement of Luther appears, the more genuinely Lutheran it is to be considered.

Add to these features the valuable chronological tables of sermons and of letters in Luther, the collection of proverbial sayings and quaint expressions found in Luther's writings, and the special indexes, *e. g.*, to Genesis and the Postils, and, last not least, the fine, clear print on pages with liberal margin, and you have in the St. Louis edition, internally, a scholarly work of eminent degree, and externally, a mechanical product of high order.

This work was produced in America by followers of the Reformer. It is a monument both to Luther's work four hundred years ago, and to the faith and zeal of Lutherans four centuries after his work was done, and in a land of the existence of which the first faint rumors probably had reached Luther when he stood before Charles V at Worms. The work should be made far more accessible to American scholars, who, of late, are manifesting a laudable interest in Luther's writings. It ought to be in our public libraries, and may there serve, incidentally, as an antidote to the biased and incorrect presentations of such a work as the *Catholic Encyclopedia* and Grisar's *Luther*, which are beginning to catch the eye of the general reading public, or of the student bent on research work. All sorts of preparations for a proper celebration of the impending quadricentennial of the beginning of the Reformation are now being suggested. We beg to add this suggestion: Spread the excellent St. Louis edition, an American Lutheran product, and urge all who can to study it. That will be a preparation for October 31, 1917, that will produce lasting effects in the lives of the readers.