

# THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY.

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## SENECA AND NERO.

### II.

In 62, Burrus died, and Seneca knew that the newer and coarser favorites (*Tac. Ann.*, 14, 52) were incessantly intriguing against him, charging particularly against him the enormous wealth he had amassed, the magnificence of his parks and villas, and that he disapproved of Nero's appearing in musical monologs and in horse-racing. The emperor was old enough, they urged, to dispense with his preceptor. Seneca requested permission to retire from public affairs. The emperor accepted his resignation, but refused to take back to himself the wealth which he had bestowed upon him who had been foremost in his affections (*praecipuus caritate*).

But three years were left to the brilliant Corduban, years which he largely spent far from the madding crowd and from the insincerities of a courtier's life. More than half of Seneca's extant prose writings, inclusive of his enquiries into physical phenomena (*Quaestiones Naturales*), were composed by the retired minister of state in these three years. He resided often on his estate near Nomentum, not far from Rome, or on the Gulf of Naples.

He was now indeed an old man, and was bent on living what little span there might be largely in company with his better self, and cheered by the company of his second wife, Paulina, a lady sprung from the aristocracy of Rome. The greater and better part of these readings must deal with the thinker and moralist, and largely be made up from his own

## BOOK REVIEW.

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

1. *UNSER HELLAND*. Predigten ueber die altkirchlichen Evangelien des Kirchenjahres von *J. H. Hartenberger*. VIII and 431 pages. \$2.20.

The fields of the old pericopes have been so often harvested by homiletical reapers in our Church that their productiveness would seem to have been exhausted long ago. But they are found to be virgin soil by every new husbandman who comes to till them with prayer and study. Like every other word of God they never cease yielding seed to the sower and bread to the eater. Besides, the individuality of the reaper, his method of binding his sheaves and offering them, not only as messages from the Lord, but also as testimonies of his personal faith, add a strong element of interest to every new collection of sermons on the Gospel pericopes. The distinguishing feature of the present collection lies in their remarkable simplicity. There is nothing labored in these efforts to grasp and set forth some leading truth of the text. Every treatise proceeds along correct lines of thought, and its parts and connections are as self-vindicative as the divine Word which has started them. The application is earnest and cordial, and evinces pastoral tact.—The book contains 71 sermons: 57 on the 57 possible Sundays of the church calendar and 14 for the greater festivals of the Church.

2. *LUTHERBUCH*. Von *Gustav Just*. Jubilaeumsausgabe. 100 pp. 28 cts.

This is a new edition of a deservedly popular compend of church history for Lutheran schoolchildren. It describes, in three chapters, the rise and spread of the Christian religion from the days of the apostles to the labors of Boniface in Germany. Chapters 4 and 5 are devoted to the papacy and futile efforts at a reformation prior to Luther. The life of Luther is told in chapters 6 to 18. Chap. 19 describes the fortunes of the Lutheran Church after the death of Luther down to modern times, and the concluding chapter relates how the Lutheran Church was planted in America. Only the leading facts of each historical period indicated are treated, and these briefly, but the narrative is lively and fascinating, and leaves a true picture of events in the readers' minds.

3. *DAILY PRAYERS*. Selected and Adapted by *C. Abbetmeyer*. 90 pages. 44 cts.

This manual of prayers for use by the family and the individual offers, in the first part, eight series of prayers for every morning and evening of the week and for the principal festivals of the church-year; in the second part, fourteen prayers for use in private devotions on stated occasions. We hail this collection as one of the best handbooks available in our circles.

4. *WILLIAM TYNDALE*. The Translator of the English Bible. *William Dallmann*. 84 pages. 28 cts.

The contents of this little volume and the relative significance of its publication are described by the publisher as follows: "The series of historical books which we began with the little volume *John Hus*, which received such unusually cordial reception by our trade, is now continued by the addition of another from the pen of the same author, the Rev. William Dallmann. Pastor Dallmann has been a prominent figure before the reading public of the Lutheran Church for nearly a generation. The vivid pictures his short, but comprehensive descriptions unfold, his trenchantly precise style of saying exactly what he wants to say, the lesson he points out with a few terse words, or leaves to the reader to infer, — all these have made Dallmann one of the most widely read English authors of the Lutheran Church. The present volume is a biographical sketch of Tyndale's life and work in England, Germany, and Holland, with an appreciative chapter on his influence. Tyndale was the chief author of the Authorized Version of the English Bible, and well deserves to be far better known in our circles than he is. This book is even more copiously illustrated than its predecessor in our series, in many instances with rare prints gathered by the author."

5. Doctrinal papers on *THE DELUGE* (German), by *Rev. R. T. Fehlaw*, 12½ pages, and on *THE PRESENT-DAY MISSION OF THE CHURCH* (English), by *Rev. O. W. Wismar*, 26 pp., submitted before the Southern District Synod. 12 cts.
6. A doctrinal paper on *THE TEMPORAL SUPPORT OF MINISTERS* (German), by *Rev. H. Meyer*. 30 pages. 12 cts.
7. A doctrinal paper on *THE REFORMATION BY LUTHER VIEWED AS A WORK OF GOD* (German, concluded), by *Rev. F. C. Verwiebe*. 40 pages. 15 cts.
8. *THE LUTHERAN BEREIA BIBLE CLASS*. Gratis.
9. *BEREA BIBLE CLASS LESSONS 1916—1917*. Edited by *Pastors A. Doerffler and L. Sieck*. 11 cts.

The former pamphlet describes the purpose and the organization of a Lutheran Berea Bible class; the latter gives the material for study during the current year: the life of Joshua and the parables of Jesus. As "guide-posts to study" and incentives to the pupils "to do personal work" these lessons deserve recommendation.

10. *CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION.* 22 cts.

Printed with a dark-green border and a reproduction of Wehle's Luther in light green, over which the legend is printed in bold letters, this certificate is the most practically worded document, attesting the legal authority of a minister, that has come under our survey.

*Success Printing Co., St. Louis, Mo.,* has issued No. 15 of the well-known *SAENGERBOTE*.

*GERMAN FOR TWO YEARS.* By *William Sihler.* The Forms. Elements of Syntax. Material for Review. 500 Conversational Idioms. Helps to Memory. Decorah, Iowa. Published by the author. 205 pages. \$1.25.

Prof. Sihler has taught German at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, for twenty years. The method pursued by him has been suggested by observing that "German children do not learn German by translating; they learn it by hearing and repeating German words and combinations of words." We believe that he is right in saying: "The feeling for a language cannot be acquired in any other way." Accordingly, the 72 "lessons" with which the book opens are to indicate to the teacher, or autodidact, the principles of grammar (etymology and syntax) which he is to apply in the corresponding 72 "exercises" which follow. "No translations are required. The correct way of using German is to have the pupils repeat the exercises so often both in writing and orally that the words themselves will suggest what is missing, the same as they do to a person who has learned the language in childhood." The next section of the book contains well-selected material for review, which is followed by 500 conversational idioms, grouped in 26 divisions. "Helps to Memory" and a sufficient "Word List" conclude the volume.

*Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, Ohio:—*

1. *THE EISENACH GOSPEL SELECTIONS.* Made Ready for Pulpit Work. By *R. C. H. Lenski.* Second edition, carefully revised. Two volumes bound in one; 719 and 480 pages. \$3.50.

The first edition of this work, which we noted in Vol. XV, p. 190 f., has been exhausted within the space of five years. This indicates that there is a demand for a work of this kind, and may invite other workmen into this field in which there is room for many. As in the former edition, so is the peculiar doctrinal position of the Ohio Synod conspicuous also in this edition for its absence, at least for its clear and pointed utterance.

2. *HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION.* By *Rev. P. A. Peter.* 208 pages. 35 cts.

Utilizing the immense material stored up in *Seckendorf's Commentary*, *Meurer's Luther*, *Rein's Luther*, *Janus*, *Pope*, and *Council*, *Guericke's Church History*, *Ridpath's Cyclopaedia of Universal History*, and pertinent articles in the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia*, the author has prepared a very readable popular treatise on the Reformation. He treats, first, the Necessity of the Reformation, pp. 9—31;

secondly, the Beginning of the Reformation (to the publication of Luther's Theses), pp. 32—82; thirdly, the Struggles and Conflicts of the Reformation (to the Diet of Augsburg), pp. 83—158; fourthly, the Labors and Victories of the Reformation, pp. 159—206.

*The Lutheran Church Review* for July is devoted to the coming quadricentennial of the Reformation. It abounds in information which all who are preparing for the celebration of the Lutheran jubilee next year cannot afford to pass by. Dr. Schmauk contributes two articles on "The Luther and Reformation Literature of the Last Fifty Years," and a "Discussion of Reformation Literature for the Quadricentennial"; Dr. Fry writes on "The Seventh Jubilee of the Reformation—Some Reminiscences." (The Jubilee referred to is that of 1867.) "The Luther Jubilee," by Dr. Spaeth; "Celebrations of the Reformation," by Dr. Jacobs; "Luther as a Preacher," by Dr. Steinhæuser; "Erasmus and Protestantism," by Prof. Barinck; "Claus Harms's Ninety-five Theses" (of 1875), translated by W. A. L., and unsigned articles on Luther Articles in the *Lutheran Church Review* 1882—1916; Reformation Articles in the *Lutheran Church Review* 1882—1916; Luther and Reformation Articles in *The Evangelical Review* 1849—1870; Reformation Articles in the *Lutheran Cyclopaedia*; Reformation Literature Recommended by the Quadricentennial Office, constitute the remainder of the contents.

*Lutheran Board of Publication, Columbia, S. C.:—*

**SOME COUNTERFEIT RELIGIONS.** By F. C. Longaker, Ph. D.  
38 pages. 10 cts.

Spiritism, Russellism, Eddyism, Mormonisms, and Socialism are the five counterfeits discussed in this pamphlet. The discussions are brief and spirited, but they are sufficient.

**HOLIDAY OR HOLY DAY?** By Rev. Geo. U. Wenner, D. D.  
12 pages.

The author knows the Lutheran teaching on Sunday; he rightly identifies it with the teaching of the apostles, and distinguishes it from the Sabbatarianism of the Middle Ages and the Westminster Confession. He is right, again, in deprecating the Sunday desecration prevalent in our age. He is right, a third time, in declaring that Church and State must be kept separate, and hence Sunday legislation, even in a limited extent, must always be questionable. But he is wrong in claiming: "This is a Christian country"; "Christianity is the common law of the land." With this claim the author spills much of the good contents which he had gathered into his pamphlet. If "country" means the same as population, ours is decidedly not Christian by any reliable census report. If "country" is = government, this government was erected on absolutely non-religious lines. If our "country" wants "a civil Sabbath," it may decree one any time, and it need not be the first day of the week. But such an ordinance will not be a religious one. May the day be far distant when American Christianity looks to the civil magistrates to enforce any sort of Sunday observation!

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