

THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY.

VOL. XXI.

APRIL, 1917.

No. 2.

ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH THAT SAVES.¹⁾

1. SINGULARITY OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

In the judgment of modern men everywhere Christianity occupies the foremost position among the religions of the world. As regards the number of its adherents, it is surpassed by some Oriental religions, but it is unquestionably the greatest as regards spiritual power, moral dynamic, and civilizing force.

Men whom extensive and close observation, protracted and exhaustive study, have enabled to form conclusive opinions on the matter have declared that the Christian religion, by reason of its basic principles, is in a class by itself. With the assurance that characterizes the matured conviction of the historian, Guizot declares: "Outside of Christianity there have been grand spectacles of activity and force, brilliant phenomena of genius and virtue, generous attempts at reform, learned philosophical systems, and beautiful mythological poems, but no real profound or fruitful regeneration of humanity and society. Jesus Christ from His cross accomplishes what erstwhile in Asia and Europe princes and philosophers, the powerful of the earth, and sages, attempted without success. He changes the moral and the social state of the world. He pours into the souls of men new enlightenment and new powers. For all classes, for all human conditions He prepares destinies before His advent unknown. He liberates them

1) Two lectures delivered before Lutheran students of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wis. Published by request.

BOOK REVIEW.

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS. Commemorative Essays on the Reformation of Dr. Martin Luther and Its Blessed Results. Edited by Prof. W. H. T. Dau. *Second Edition.* Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 338 pages; \$1.10.

It was our privilege to review the first edition of *Four Hundred Years* in the previous issue of THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY. Only three months have elapsed since then, and we find a copy of the *second* edition on our table. In less than half a year the first large edition has been sold out! That speaks in no uncertain terms of the hearty welcome the book has received. Says the editor in the Foreword: "What diffidence attended the initial stages of the preparation of the book, and what fears accompanied its going forth to the reading public, have all been happily dissipated. Not only have the reviewers been extremely kind to this imperfect tribute to the workmen in a great age, but the public has encouraged the enterprise in a still more forceful way. The first edition has become exhausted before all reviewers have had time to express their opinion of the book." Surely, the cordial reception given *Four Hundred Years* is great cause for rejoicing. It gives testimony to the fact that in thousands of Christian homes the great things God has done for us through the Reformation by Dr. Martin Luther have been eagerly studied and restudied by means of these instructive essays. And who can estimate the blessed results attending such study! The demand for *Four Hundred Years*, we learn, is so imperative, that, though the editor, Prof. Dau, had contemplated to have additional articles prepared for this second edition, its publication could not be delayed therefor.

In the present edition one new article has been admitted which had been called for, but could not be furnished in time for the first edition. This is an admirable essay on "*Luther's Hymn 'Ein' Feste Burg,'*" from the pen of the Rev. F. W. Herzberger, a widely known Lutheran poet, who is eminently fitted to write on matters poetical and musical. He speaks 1. of the original German text, 2. of the chorale, or tune, 3. of the most noteworthy English translations.

On the spur of the moment we cannot recall the name of the great writer who condemned a book that lacked an index as being next to useless. Be it said, therefore, that this second edition of *Four Hundred Years* has a carefully prepared *Topical Index*.

A valuable feature of *Four Hundred Years* that we failed to call attention to in our previous review is the *Chronological Table of the Age of Luther*. By means of it the reader, picking out an article at random, as his fancy dictates, can easily orient himself as to its environment in the Reformation period.

"For obvious reasons," says the editor in the Foreword, "the book cannot receive many more additions without increasing its volume out of proper proportion. But if the favor with which *Four Hundred Years* has been received should be continued so as to warrant a third

edition, it is possible that a way may be made for meeting a number of the most important *desiderata* as regards the contents of the book." We fervently hope that this third edition will soon be called for. The *magnalia Dei* of 1517 and later, as recorded in *Four Hundred Years*, are, indeed, so great, and have been attended by such blessed results for both Church and State, that it should be a pleasure to all who love their Lutheran Zion to do all in their power to disseminate these truths by earnestly concerning themselves to distribute *Four Hundred Years* not only among our Lutheran Christians, but also among English-speaking people in general.

For such as are as yet unacquainted with *Four Hundred Years* we append its rich table of contents: "Formation — Deformation — Reformation. Luther's Family. Luther's Successive Appeals. Luther at Worms. Luther and Erasmus. Luther and Justification. Luther at Marburg. Luther the Faithful Confessor of Christ. The Three Principles of the Reformation: *Sola Scriptura, Sola Gratia, Sola Fides*. The Open Bible. Luther and the Peasant War. Luther's Marriage. Luther's Two Exiles: Wartburg and Coburg. Luther's Hymn 'Ein' Feste Burg.' Wittenberg in the Days of Luther. Luther and His Friends. Luther as a Preacher. Luther's Influence on Popular Education. The Economic Teachings and Influence of Luther. Luther a Lover of Nature. Music and the Reformation. Luther and the Classics. When England Almost Became Lutheran. Luther's End. Tributes to Luther. Luther and the Constitution of the United States. Lutheranism and Christianity. Chronological Table of the Age of Luther. Topical Index."

We close this brief review with the words of the editor: "May the blessing of the Lord accompany this humble remembrance of the great Reformation on his second journey, and may it rest on all its readers!"

LOUIS WESSEL.

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

1. *WAS STEHT DER VEREINIGUNG DER LUTHERISCHEN SYNODEN AMERIKAS IM WEGE?* By Prof. F. Bente. 110 pages; 66 cts.

The movement toward Lutheran union in America will be sobered, clarified, tested as to the strength of its spiritual motives, and, last, not least, fructified by this presentation of the obstacles to union. It is a valuable treatise that is here offered to the lovers of the American Lutheran Zion. When this book has been read and digested, there ought to be an attempt made on the part at least of a few representative men to get together and discuss the question: What could be done immediately to remove the obstacles here noted? — The book treats the history and the doctrinal position of the General Synod, the United Synod in the South, the General Council, the Ohio Synod, the Iowa Synod, the Buffalo Synod, the Norwegian Synods, and the Danish Synods. To complete this American Lutheran survey a chapter on the history and doctrinal position of the synods federated in the Synodical Conference ought to be added in a future edition.

2. *UNSER ERBTEIL*. Eine Gedächtnisschrift auf das 400jæhrige Reformationsjubilæum, den 31. Oktober 1917. Zweite Auflage. 242 pages; \$1.10.

Increased by an article on "Luther as a Man of Prayer" and a topical index, this German jubilee and memorial volume of the Reformation, which we noted in our last issue, appears in a second edition. May its circle of influence be ever more widened! Its mission is a blessed one and will redound in blessing to all who have helped to produce it, and to render a new edition necessary so soon.

3. *FIGURES OF SPEECH*. An Adaptation of Crull's *Figuren und Tropen*. 28 pages; 17 cts.
4. *CAPITALIZATION AND PUNCTUATION*. 23 pages; 17 cts.

These two pamphletlike publications of Dr. C. Abbetmeyer are the result of his classroom work as teacher of English for a number of years. They are designed for use in the classroom, but will be welcomed by all who pay some attention to their style and to correct writing.

5. *SYNODICAL REPORT OF THE ENGLISH DISTRICT*. 78 pages; 17 cts.

Contains Prof. Hennmeter's paper on "The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man."

6. *SYNODICAL REPORT OF THE TEXAS DISTRICT*. 96 pp.; 20 cts.

Contains Prof. Herzer's paper (German) on "The Glorious Blessings which the American Lutheran Church, in particular, the Missouri Synod, has Derived from the Lutheran Reformation."

7. *SYNODICAL REPORT OF THE IOWA DISTRICT*. 72 pages; 17 cts.

Contains Rev. Theo. Hanssen's paper (German) on "The Principal Messianic Prophecies in the Pentateuch."

8. *SYNODICAL REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA DISTRICT*. 116 pages; 25 cts.

Contains Prof. F. Bente's paper (German) on "The Obstacles to Union Existing in the Lutheran Synods of America."

9. *SYNODICAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT*. 64 pages; 13 cts.

Contains Rev. H. M. Zorn's paper (German) on "The Leading Principle of the Reformation — the Scriptures."

10. *SYNODICAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT*. 76 pages; 17 cts.

Contains Prof. R. Biedermann's paper (German) on "Article V of the Augsburg Confession: The Office of the Ministry."

11. *AT EVENTIDE*. A Sacred Cantata. Words by *F. W. Herzberger*. Music by *B. Schumacher*. 109 pages; \$1.00.

The publisher says of this composition:

"The author of the text as well as the originator and publisher of the undertaking is the widely known Lutheran poet *F. W. Herzberger*. The text of this cantata has been before the Lutheran public since 1916. The composer is *B. Schumacher*, a musical talent that has been developing itself rather quietly, but that will undoubtedly receive prompt recognition.

"The author furnishes both the English and the German text. The music is written for the former, but carefully and successfully adapted to the latter. *Herzberger's* text has been too generally commended upon favorably to need any additional recommendation here. It has been so much reprinted during the past few months that any praise now would seem to be superfluous.

"The composer is manifestly a careful scholar of classic models. He is evidently very familiar with counterpoint, the counterpoint of *Bach* and of *Mendelssohn*. He is more a *Bach* pupil than a pupil of *Mendelssohn*. *Bach* and *Mendelssohn* both were Lutheran stars.

"In motif he is conservatively modern, except when text or historical association prompt him to adopt the choral-motif; and in all such cases he scores a success. His treatment of 'Aus tiefer Not' challenges admiration both as to variety in the placement of the *cantus firmus* and as to facility of figuration. This spontaneity of contrapuntal flow is characteristic of *Schumacher's* work throughout. His rather frequent 'sequences' and chromatic passages seem so natural that both critics and singers will be pleased.

"The principal solo parts fall to the lot of tenor, who sings *Luther's* rôles. The chorus, however, has most of the work, and properly so. The accompaniment is written for organ, but can well be played on the piano, calling for rather a good performer. The vocal score as well as the solos are within the range of capability of fair church choirs.

"The cantata fills 109 pages of music octavo, and requires from eighty minutes to 1½ hour for its performance. It is printed on regular music paper, sewed (not wire-stitched), and provided with substantial paper cover, and costs \$1.00 net. The libretto alone (English) sells for 10 cts. per copy. The German libretto will probably soon be published at the same price."

Seminary Press, St. Louis, Mo:—

- DIE LUTHERISCHE LEHRE VON DER RECHTFERTIGUNG*, in Vortraegen dargelegt von *Dr. F. Pieper*. 97 pages. — *Vortraege ueber: Die Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche, die sichtbare Kirche Gottes auf Erden*. Im Anschluss an das Referat von *Dr. Walther*. Von *Dr. F. Pieper*. 191 pages; \$1.50.

It is an auspicious selection of subjects which this new enterprise has made for its virgin effort. The series of lectures which are here reproduced are classics of our Church. They will never become antiquated. No subjects are more apt to quicken Lutheran consciousness and to exhibit convincingly the *raison d'être* of the Lutheran Church than the two offered in this volume.

University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minn.:—

THE LITURGICAL ELEMENT IN THE EARLIEST FORMS OF THE MEDIEVAL DRAMA. With special reference to German and English Plays. By *Paul Edward Kretzmann, Ph. D.* 170 pages; \$1.00.

The special study here presented appeals to a well-defined circle of knowing ones, but these will find the appeal powerful. The patient search and the critical grouping of congruent data which the author has embodied in this scholarly treatise call for like patience and close attention in the perusal of his work. To the specialist in liturgics the treatise is of very great interest. The traces of the liturgy of the Church which are found in the medieval plays will be studied from a different point of view by the student of literature and the church-historian. The former will probably terminate his research and his interest with the discovery of the sources from which the materials of the texts examined have come. The latter will be struck with the observation to what extent the Church has influenced even the formal side of a popular diversion in the Middle Ages. Besides, he may find valuable traces of liturgical forms in those plays. The author's paper has been written "in support of the theory that the stock plays of the early medieval age, which are concerned with Biblical or apocryphal subjects, all contain in a more or less pronounced degree the liturgical element. The plays were either based directly upon the liturgy and taken from it, as were the early Latin plays, or the suggestion for their composition and their episodal structure was taken from the liturgy of some festival day or from some minor liturgical cycle clearly discernible in the breviaries." The author thinks that he has "gathered sufficient material to show more fully and conclusively than has hitherto been done that the Judgment (Eschatological) Plays belong to the Advent season, the Annunciation and Visitation to Advent and Christmas, the Prophetae to Christmas, the Pastores to Christmas, Rachel to the Feast of the Innocents, Magi to Epiphany, Purification of Mary to Candlemas Day, Christ and the Doctors to the First Sunday after Epiphany, the Old Testament Plays to Septuagesima and the beginning of Lent, the Ministry Plays to the Lenten season, and the Passion Plays to Holy Week. The Planctus is built up of Great Sabbath material and Good Friday lessons, the Descensus chiefly of Great Sabbath material. The Resurrection Plays belong to Easter and its Octave. The Ascension and Pentecost Plays are based on services of that season. The Mary Plays are based on material of the Mary festival services." Of the justice of this claim of the author we are not prepared to judge. But the reading of this treatise induces fruitful reflection on the state of the Church and of her teachings in the Middle Ages.

D.

Reviews of books from the Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill.; Sherman, French & Co., Boston, Mass.; Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass.; George H. Doran Co., New York; and the F. J. Heer Printing Co., Columbus, O., have been reserved till next issue.