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## ORIGEN AGAINST CELSUS.

It must be a welcome opportunity to all Christian teachers and preachers at least, and to all students of theology, if not to all Christians, to gain a closer vision of the first elaborate attack upon Christianity preserved to us, to which, as far as we know, any scholar and thinker of the pagan world condescended. We see in Tacitus (*Annals* 15, 44) and Pliny (*Epp.* 10, 96) with what haughty contempt such leaders of culture referred to the humble and despised sect, and with what consummate ignorance, we may add. This was during the reign of Trajan (98—117 A. D.). Under the Antonines a Greek philosopher, Celsus, published a special treatise against the Christians. The allusions to the distressful and troublous situation of the empire, when Celsus wrote, the great war on the Danubian frontier which Marcus Aurelius was compelled to undertake in 178, which he carried on in 179, and in which he died without bringing it to completion, in 180—this era best fits the allusion by Celsus. In 177 had occurred the terrible persecution at Lyons and elsewhere: Celsus intimates (VIII, 68) that the Christians are not sincerely loyal to the emperor; he says outright that, "if all [the subjects of the Roman empire] were to do the same as you [the typical Christian], nothing will prevent him [the emperor] from being left alone and desolate, and things on earth fall under the control of the most wicked and most savage barbarians [the Marcomanni], and no rumor left either of your own worship [the Christian] or of true philosophy." I do not share the view of many scholars, even of Origen himself in the earlier part of his treatise, that this

## BOOK REVIEW.

*LITURGY AND AGENDA.* Abridged Edition. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 144 pp. Style M. Bound in select black Persian morocco leather, with red under gold edges, and gold cross on front cover, \$1.50. Style C. Bound in imitation black leather, edges red without gold, cross stamped in imitation gold leaf, \$1.20.

A delight to the eye and a relief to the mind of our pastors is furnished by this thoughtfully compiled and beautifully manufactured article. It contains all that the city pastor in his many-sided official activities and the traveling missionary need. The addition of prayers and Scripture-passages for use when visiting the sick and dying enhances the value of the booklet.

*THE MODERN GRAMMAR.* By *Albert H. Miller.* Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 215 pages; 60 cts.

Little of text and much of exercise, simple rules and apt illustrations, rapid advance and constant review — these characteristics of the book are at the same time its recommendation.

*THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER FOR THE CHRISTIAN HOME.* (92 illustrations.) By *Dr. M. Reu.* Wartburg Publishing House. 297 pages; \$1.25.

The story of Luther's life, here told in its important events and in a pleasing style, well serves the need of the Lutheran home for such a biography.

*THE SMALL CATECHISM OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER.* With Brief Explanations in Questions and Answers. Same author and publisher. 35 cts.

A German-English exposition of the Lutheran Catechism on parallel pages is here offered. It reduces the material to 335 questions and employs 229 Bible-texts. Considering the good judgment otherwise used in the compilation of the material in this book, it is a little surprising that the "Christian Questions" have been dropped — one of the best helps for communicants. The reason that the "Christian Questions" are not by Luther would be too pedantic. After all, they are *from* Luther. From the pedagogical point of view we consider this one of the best catechisms of the American Lutheran Church. It is the ripe fruit of a life that has been devoted chiefly to the study of the Catechism.

*QUELLEN UND DOKUMENTE ZUR GESCHICHTE UND LEHRSTELLUNG DER EV.-LUTH. SYNODE VON IOWA U. A. ST.* 5. und 6. Lieferung. Von Dr. Geo. J. Fritschel. 45 cts.

The documents reproduced in this serial publication are of great value to the historian of the American Lutheran Church, and it would be desirable, not only that this publication be continued, but that it should elicit similar publications from other Lutheran bodies.

*WARTBURG HYMNAL FOR CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND HOME.*

Same publisher. Text edition 462 pages; with music, 472 pages.

The threefold purpose which this book is to serve is well met by the selections of standard hymns for use at the service in church, and of hymns for private devotion such as are used in all Christian homes. The mechanical make-up, especially of the edition with music, is very good.

*LUTHER PRIMER.* A little book of goodly excerpts from the writings of Dr. Martin Luther. By *Albert T. W. Steinmeyer.* Survey Publishing Co., Columbia, S. C.

An excellent idea this, of studying the Reformer at important and interesting episodes in his life by means of his own writings. May this Primer be followed by a series of Readers.

*THE ALLEGED "HISTORIC EPISCOPATE."* By *David H. Bauslin, D. D.* Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, O.

Everybody will enjoy this common-sense review of the Episcopalian claim in 36 pages.

*THE LUTHERANS OF NEW YORK.* Their Story and their Problems. By *George U. Wenner, D. D., LL. D.* The Peterfield Press, New York. 160 pages; \$1.25.

The story of the New York Lutherans has been condensed into 72 pages brimful of interesting facts sympathetically told. The re-

mainder of the book discusses the problem of synods, of language, of membership, of religious education, of lapsed Lutherans. The author has just completed half a century of service at the same church in the metropolis, and has seen Lutheranism grow up in New York as no one else now living has.

*A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.* By Williston Walker. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 624 pages.

This volume is a marvel of conciseness, and yet teeming with life. The demarcation of historical periods (Beginnings to Gnostic Crisis, to Constantine, to Imperial State Church, to close of Investiture Controversy, Later Middle Ages, Reformation, pp. 335—480; Transition to Modern Religious Situation) shows where the author puts his emphases and indicates the general trend of his presentation. The story of the Church's development is told with that spice of detail which makes the reading a pleasure, not only a profit. The facts concerning the American Lutheran Church have been condensed into one page, which to a Lutheran seems unsatisfactory; but this, too, indicates what to an author who writes down epochs with a sweep commends itself as of primary importance. Really, in the religious life of America the Lutheran Church has not been prominent. Some people are just beginning to discover it even now.

*THE COURSE OF CHRISTIAN HISTORY.* By W. J. McGloughlin. The Macmillan Company, New York. 323 pages; \$2.00.

The Professor of Church History in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has written this book for his classes. He divides the nineteen centuries of Christianity into nine periods: 1 A. D. to 100, to 323, to 600, to 1050, to 1300, to 1517, to 1648, to 1789, to 1917. His subdivisions for the Fifth and the Sixth Period are Eastern and Western Christianity, for the Eighth: Roman Catholic Church, Lutheranism, Zwinglianism, Calvinism, Anabaptism, English Reformation, and for the last period, the great church-bodies of modern times. Barring an ominous silence on the story of Christ's birth in Matthew and Luke and Baptist bias on the subject of Infant Baptism, his surveys are exact and comprehensive. 58 pages of questions for review and suggestions for further study enhance the value of the book.

*THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF RECONCILIATION.* By James Denney, D. D. Geo. H. Doran Co., New York. 339 pp.

The author takes his stand with the expounders of the "moral influence" theory of the atonement, and in this class his treatise ranks high. He is very well read in this department of theology, and his reviews of the authors from whom he differs are fair. He rejects the legal or forensic teaching on the atonement — the *satisfactio vicaria* — and considers the term "merits of Christ" embarrassing to a theologian who wants to hold fast to the "moral personality" and "the moral power" of Christ, p. 23, and view "the whole business of salvation as transacted in the moral world." The work of Christ "meets divine

necessities in the moral world." p. 161. He thinks Luther was "carried away by a passion" when he "exulted in Christ's identification of Himself with men." p. 263. He delights in the stress which Luther placed on faith ("Luther is abundantly right in his emphasis on faith alone"). But faith, in his conception, is not so much the act of appropriating the reconciliation which Christ effected, as "the absolute committal of a person to the sin-bearing love of God for salvation. It is not simply the act of an instant, it is the attitude of a life." p. 291.

*THE PILGRIMS AND THEIR HISTORY.* By Roland G. Usher, D. D. The Macmillan Co., New York. 310 pp.; \$2.00.

*THE STORY OF THE PILGRIMS FOR CHILDREN.* Same author and publisher. 142 pp.; \$1.25.

*THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS.* By Edmund James Carpenter. The Abingdon Press. 255 pp.

The approaching tercentenary of the planting of the New England colonies no doubt has called forth these essays. They are all illustrated. They are all worked up out of the original records. Dr. Usher has studied those records with a keenly critical eye, and blasts some of our traditional beliefs regarding the Pilgrims by the evidence which he produces. He has, moreover, enriched his volume with bibliographical notes, for which students will be grateful. The little volume which he has written for children seeks to popularize the main facts which his research has yielded him. — Dr. Carpenter's book does not ask us often to look into the records, but he has reproduced every essential fact in them, and told them in a way that is both entertaining and instructive. The Lutheran influence on the Reformation in England which he touches in his first chapter has been underestimated.

*BRITAIN AFTER THE PEACE.* Revolution or Reconstruction. By Brougham Villiers. E. P. Dutton & Co. 249 pp.; \$2.50.

Written on British soil for Britains by a Briton, this book would seem not entitled to universal interest. But it is, decidedly. What the author relates about the vast social, commercial, and other changes which the war wrought, how conscription came to England, how resources of the nation were commandeered, etc., has all been duplicated here. In fact, one gets the impression that our part of the war is a replica of England's. But the remarkable feature of this book is that the author starts from the premise — and everything seems to prove it a true one — that the war has created a revolutionary condition throughout the world, and the coming of peace may accelerate revolutions that are now brewing. The question of employment for the soldiers that are being mustered out, of taxation to be levied upon impoverished peoples, of the readjustment of industries, etc., are taken up individually and calmly discussed. It is a most thoughtful book.

*RECOLLECTIONS OF A RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT.* The Suicide of Monarchies (William II and Nicholas II). By *Eugene de Schelking*. The Macmillan Co., New York. 327 pp.; \$2.50.

The former secretary of the Russian embassy in Berlin, who after the termination of his diplomatic career in 1903 went into political journalism, became connected with the *Paris Rouss* and *Le Temps*, then with the Petrograd *Novoie Wremya* and *Birjevia Wiedemosti*, and was very active as a Slavophil here, writes down his impressions of Alexander III, William II, and Nicholas II, and shows how the diplomatic maneuvers of the decades before the outbreak of the war tended to this awful catastrophe. The book is brimful of the most interesting episodes in high political life, to many of which the author was an eye-witness.

*THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN PARIS.* An Historical and Descriptive Sketch. By *Rev. W. Wackernagel, D.D.* General Council Publication House. 63 pp.; 25 cts. and 50 cts.

Did you know that in Paris there are 19 Lutheran churches? This well-written and illustrated booklet tells the story of Lutheranism in the capital of Paris and its *faubourgs*, how it obtained its peculiar character, what prospects the separation in 1906 opened up, etc.

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE: *Amerikanischer Kalender fuer deutsche Lutheraner auf das Jahr 1919*; 15 cts. — *Lutheran Annual 1919*; 15 cts. — *White Buffalo*, by *Fr. J. Liesmann*; 74 pages; 35 cts. — *Concordia Collection of Sacred Choruses and Anthems* for more ambitious choral organizations: 1. *Lord, Now Lettest Thou. Ernst I. Erbe.* Mixed Choir and Bass Solo; 40 cts. 2. *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes. Ernst I. Erbe.* Mixed Choir and Bass Solo; 60 cts. — *Holy Night.* Children's Christmas Service. *H. F. Bade* and *T. Struckmeyer*; dozen, 40 cts.

R. H. GENRICH (407 La Salle St.), Wausau, Wis.: *The Stockbridge Indians, Our Indian Missions, and an Appeal*; 15 cts.

LUTHERAN PUBLISHING Co., Lt. (201 Rundle St.), Adelaide, S. A.: *The Word of Saving Truth in Question and Answer*; 6 d.

NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE, Milwaukee: *The Ancient World.* A Compendium of Church History for Christian Students, by *Karl Koehler*; 25 cts. Write for sample, and encourage this enterprise.

AUGUSTANA BOOK CONCERN, Rock Island, Ill.: *Augustana Synodens Referat 1918.* — *Institutional Inner Missions*, by *Rev. V. J. Tengvald*; 25 cts. — *Olavus Petri, the Church Reformer of Sweden*, by *Nils Forsander*; 30 cts. and 60 cts. — *The Castaway.* A story for the young, by *Runa.* — *Elsie in the Uplands.* A vacation story, by *Mathilda Roos.*