

THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY.

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Testimonials for Old-Fashioned Truths.*

I.

LUKE 13, 24—30.

The sermons of our Savior sparkle with telling parables. As we peruse the record which the evangelists have given of His active ministry, we cannot but be impressed with the fact that they were distinct favorites in His public and private discourses. I call them telling parables because they are striking illustrations to drive home momentous and important truths. Some one has said: "They are earthly stories with a heavenly meaning." Such a parable has been selected to rivet our attention to-day. Under God's gracious guidance let us, then, consider:—

THE CLOSED DOOR.

- 1. The door is now open.*
- 2. The door will surely be closed.*
- 3. The closed door will find you within or without.*

The Savior had just been asked by one of the audience to whom He had been preaching: "Lord, are there few that be saved?" This man had evidently missed the point which our Lord had made in His sermons. He was asking about a matter which was of no concern to his soul's welfare. Hence Christ gave him an answer which should set him right. He told him: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate." That was equivalent to saying: "No man who thinks seriously about his eternal salvation will worry about such a question, but will rather focus his attention upon this one thing that he be saved. To engrave this truth indelibly upon his heart, the Lord tells this parable: The master of a house is anxiously waiting for more and more guests to come to his beautiful mansion. At his hour he will arise and

* This series of Lenten Noonday Talks was delivered at the American Theater, St. Louis, Mo., March 8—12, 1920.

BOOK REVIEW.

Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.:

1. *SPIRITISM*. A study of Its Phenomena and Religious Teachings. By *Th. Graebner*. 128 pages. 60 cts.

The strong delusions that are visited, before the end comes, upon men who have denied the love of truth embrace uncanny prying into the unseen world. Besides, the interest in the hereafter has been greatly increased also among Christians by the late war, which suddenly snatched thousands of their loved ones from them. Spiritists have not been slow in recognizing their opportunity, and have started a vigorous propaganda for their cause throughout the world. This searching inquiry into their teachings and its soul- and mind-destroying effects is a timely, deserved, and successful *exposé* of a rampant modern error. It is the needed antidote of truth for the spiritistic poison, and by exhibiting the shallowness of the claims of Spiritism, its horrid relationships, and appalling consequences will pave the way, we trust, for the reclaiming of many a soul now caught by this strong delusion through the Gospel of the Savior, who died also for Spiritists.

2. *THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH*, with Special Reference to the Lutheran Church of America. By *G. Luecke*. 101 pages. 60 cts.

In five parts this book states in popular style the distinctive doctrines, the Confessions, the distinctive practises and customs, the organization of the Church of the Reformation, and the various divisions of the Lutheran Church in America. A wealth of information has been brought within a very small compass in this book, which will be welcomed both by busy pastors and inquiring laymen.

3. *HOW OFTEN SHOULD A CHRISTIAN RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?* By *M. S. Sommer*. 20 pages. 10 cts.
4. *ENDORSEMENTS OF THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE RELIGIOUS WEEK-DAY SCHOOL* by American Educators, Editors, and Statesmen. Collected by *Th. Graebner*. 16 pages. \$1.35 per hundred.
5. *GOD BLESS OUR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS*. By *N. J. Bakke*. 15 pages. 4 cts.; dozen, 36 cts.; 100, \$2.50.
6. *THE HISTORY OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST*. According to the Four Gospels. 20 pages. 4 cts.; dozen, 36.; 100, \$2.50.

The contents and aim of all these tracts are fully stated in the titles. They are all timely and deserve a wide dissemination.

7. *IN HOURS OF DARKNESS*. By *B. Schumacher*. 9 pages music and text. 20 cts.
8. *AGNUS DEI. The Lamb of God*. A Sacred Cantata. Words by *Paul E. Kretzmann*. Music by *G. C. Albert Kaeppl*. 83 pages. \$1.00.