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BALAAH.

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The history of Balaam, as recorded by Moses, Numb. 22—24, is beyond doubt one of the most interesting and instructive parts of the Old Testament. There are many things which commend it to the special study and meditation of the thoughtful and diligent Bible student. It is a singular and unique personage and character which in these chapters is portrayed to the reader of the good Book,—Balaam, the Seer,—and yet we see in this strange man the picture and type of many that have received from God great spiritual gifts and have occupied a high place in the Church of God, but, being blinded by the things of this world, have forgotten again their high calling and have rushed anew into the snares and clutches of Satan, into temporal and eternal ruin. But if the character and personage of Balaam are such as to arouse our special interest, his extraction, the remote time in which he lived, his sudden appearance in the history of Israel, and the part which he plays in it, also certainly engage our attention in no small degree. Balaam is a native of a heathen country, a contemporary of Moses and Joshua, and without having any previous intercourse with God's chosen people, he is suddenly confronted with the same, at a time when Israel had pitched its tents on the eastern boundaries of the promised land, ready to fight in the name of their God, their hearts swelled with the certain hope of victory and conquest. Called by a heathen king to

BOOK REVIEW.

COUNTRY SERMONS. *New Series.* Vol. III. Sermons on the Epistles for the Church Year. Trinity Cycle: Trinity to Thanksgiving. By *Rev. F. Kuegele.* Augusta Publishing Company, Crimora, Va. 1908. VI and 340 pages. Price, \$1.25, postpaid.

Beginning with Trinity Sunday, this book treats, first, the regular pericopes to the end of the ecclesiastical year. Three sermons are offered for XV. p. Tr. and two for XX. and XXIV. p. Tr. For XXVI. and XXVII. p. Tr. the first selection has been treated. Next follows an appendix consisting of four sermons: Harvest (Joel 3, 18), Reformation (regular Epistle and 2 Thess. 2, 3—10), Thanksgiving (Jer. 18, 7—10).

The ethical side of the Christian religion finds utterance in the thirty-six sermons of this book. The sanctifying ends of divine grace in the believer, the nurture and admonition by which the Heavenly Father brings up His children, the entire life of a dutiful child of God, his hopes and fears, his loves and aversions, his tribulations and consolations, his humble penitence and all-conquering faith,—these are the weighty matters that fill the pages of this book. And they are presented not in dry, moralizing form, but with the lively earnestness and the stimulating fervor of an enthusiastic guide who does not merely show the traveler the point to which he must go, but induces him to go thither, despite his weariness and the disheartening obstacles in the way. There is not a line of cant in this

book; the solemn seriousness and the quickening power of personal Christian faith speak from every paragraph. Even discourses in which the doctrinal element predominates have been given a very practical turn. *E. g.*, the sermon on the difference between Law and Gospel (XII. p. Tr.) with its familiar divisions (1. in their revelation; 2. in their effect; 3. in their glory; 4. in their duration) is really a discourse on the efficient conduct of the pastoral office. True to the apostle's scope the author treats the Epistle for VI. p. Tr. thus: Baptism, a Strong Inducement to Follow Sanctification; 1. because it works the forgiveness of sin; 2. because it signifies the arising from sin. The difficult Epistle for XIII. p. Tr. is treated on these lines: The promise first, the Law second; 1. in time; 2. in value; 3. in the heart; and v. 20 in this Epistle is expounded as follows:

One needs no mediator; for mediation requires at least two parties which are at variance. When God gave the promise to Abraham, He did not make use of a mediator, but spoke to Abraham in His own person, promising the Seed in whom the blessing would come. In giving the Law God did also speak the ten words immediately to the people, but the people fled from the mountain, and said unto Moses: "Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die," Ex. 20, 19. Moses was such a mediator who went back and forth, now speaking with God, then to the people; yet he could not reconcile them that the people would have drawn nigh to God with confidence and boldness. The mediator of the Law could make no peace between God and the people; the Seed, the Fulfiller of the promise, had to come, and He was heard when He prayed: "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us," John 17, 21. Here is He who is one with the one God, and in whom we are heirs. Great is the Law of Moses, and it was promulgated with great magnificence, but Jesus Christ is the Seed promised to Abraham, and this promise could not be annulled nor superseded by the Law with all its glory.

One of the most searching and, at the same time, comforting discourses in this collection is the one for VIII. p. Tr.: Three Marks for the Sonship of God: 1. the struggle between the spirit and the flesh; 2. the indwelling of the Spirit of adoption; 3. the witness of the Spirit with our spirit. Beginning with the XXIII. p. Tr. to the end of the church year, and also in the two discourses for Reformation Day, the author treats eschatological themes. One sermon in this section deserves special mention for its beauty; it is the second sermon for XXIV. p. Tr.: Inheritance of the Saints in Light. The stately majesty of the Christian's hope of heaven is here depicted in excellent style; there is robust thought, no sentimentality, calm reflection, and a deep current of joy in this sermon.

God speed this excellent volume on its way through the church, and may the harvest from this sowing be rich in the day of reaping!

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM. With Short Explanations and a Few Bible Verses. For Very Busy People. Milwaukee, Wis. Northwestern Publishing House. 38 pages. Price, 10 cts.

The author is the Reverend William Dallmann. He says in the "Foreword": "This Catechism is not to displace any other; it is intended for working people unable to take a longer course of instruction in class; also it is intended for children before they enter the Pastor's confirmation class. The writer has for years felt the need of such a help; this is his effort to fill the gap." Here is a sample of the author's method.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean? Answer: —

We should fear and love God, that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body; but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

Whosoever *hateth* his brother is a *murderer*; and ye know that, no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3, 15.

If even hate or anger in the heart is murder, what are we? Do you see the need of a Savior?

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, . . . Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him. Rom. 12, 19. 20.

Agree with thine adversary quickly. Matt. 5, 25. That is, make friends at once with the one you quarreled with.

If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink. Rom. 12, 20.

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven. Matt. 5, 44.

All explanations have been omitted from the First Article and the Seven Petitions. — We consider this little book eminently useful for instructing the two classes of people whom the author indicates in his Foreword. We would like to add a third: Communicants preparing for communion will be greatly benefited if they make this booklet their handbook for private devotion before and after communion. Every important truth of Christianity and every plain duty of Christians has been stated on these pages without waste of words. It is an excellent miniature portrait of Christianity as the Lutheran Church understands it.

Three very appropriate programs for children's services on Reformation Day and on Christmas Day have been published by the American Lutheran Publication Board, Pittsburg, Pa., as follows:

THE GLORY OF THE REFORMATION. 19 pages text and music.

Price, 5 cts. per copy; 50 cts. per doz.; \$3.50 per hundred.

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE. 20 pages text and music. Prices same as foregoing.

THE CHRIST-CHILD. 39 pages 8vo. text and music. Prices same as foregoing.

We regret that these publications reached us at a time when the forms for the forthcoming issue of the THEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY were closed.

WHY I AM A LUTHERAN AND NOT A SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST.

By *William Dallmann*. Milwaukee, Wis. Northwestern Publishing House. 1907. Price, 5 cts. each; 100 for \$1.00.

We cordially recommend this timely and well-written tract.

The following stories for children from the Augustana Book Concern arrived too late for announcement before Christmas:

THE LORD IS MY REFUGE. Stories for children, collected and translated by *Prof. C. W. Foss*. With beautiful chromo-lithographic and other illustrations. Price: Boards, with pretty cover design in colors, 35 cts.

UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY. Stories for children, collected and translated by *Prof. C. W. Foss*. With beautiful chromo-lithographic and other illustrations. Price: Boards, with pretty cover design in colors, 35 cts.

STORIES FOR CHILDREN. By *Z. Topelius*. Vol. VI. Translated by *Prof. C. W. Foss*, Ph. D. Illustrated. Price: Bound in illuminated board covers, 25 cts.
