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A Lesson in Pastoral Theology from a Tragical Leaf of American History.

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On Wednesday, July 11, 1804, at 7 A. M., Alexander Hamilton was shot and mortally wounded in a duel with his political foe, Aaron Burr, Vice-President of the United States, at Weehawken, on the New Jersey shore, opposite New York City. He was at once carried to New York and lingered in great agony until the next day, when death came at two o'clock in the afternoon. He left a distressed wife and seven children, the youngest a babe in arms, the oldest a son, sixteen years of age, while a still older son had fallen in mortal combat only two years before. Hamilton died in his forty-eighth year, in the fulness of his great powers, and was buried in the churchyard of old Trinity on Broadway, on the side towards Rector St., opposite the site occupied in 1664 and later by old St. Matthew's, now united with our Synod.

Hamilton until then seems not to have been a professing Christian and member of a church. The loss, in so ignominious a way, of this great man, Revolutionary hero, trusted companion and aide of the unforgotten Washington, illustrious statesman and generally respected citizen, caused a revulsion of feeling throughout the country which has not subsided to this day and which makes it well-nigh impossible for the historian to judge calmly the subsequent turbulent career of his antagonist "damned to everlasting fame." All this is not only extremely interesting, but that part pertaining to Hamilton must be held in mind if we wish to measure aright the difficulties confronting any one that was to be called in for spiritual consolation by the dying man. It seems that Bishop Moore was first sent for, but left the house without complying at that time with Hamilton's wish to receive Communion; that Dr. Mason was then sent for, who, as he says, told him he could not

BOOK REVIEW.

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York:—

A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians. *Ernest De Witt Burton*, Professor of New Testament Interpretation in the University of Chicago. Cloth. 541 pages, including index. \$4.50.

A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Revelation of St. John with Introduction, Notes, and Indices, also the Greek Text and English Translation. *R. H. Charles, D. Litt., D. D.*, Archdeacon of Westminster, Fellow of the British Academy. Two volumes. 273 and 497 pages. \$9.00.

The professional growth of the practical pastor depends upon his study of Scripture. The Word of God, in which his whole work centers, must be his one unceasing fountainhead of spiritual knowledge, strength, and inspiration. The pastor who ceases to study the Bible, thoroughly and systematically, soon faces spiritual famine, and with him his congregation. Nor should the pastor satisfy himself merely with a superficial study of the Book of books; it is his sacred duty to search the Scriptures, to ransack the gold mine of revelation in search of hidden treasures of divine thought, with which he may enrich himself and his hearers. This presupposes commentaries that are of real help to him in interpreting the text. In recommending the above-named commentaries by Burton and Charles, the reviewer desires to stress obvious dangers connected with their use. The exegetes are, of course, not of the Lutheran faith, nor in sympathy with Lutheran conservative interpretation. Hence in many instances they yield to the decisions of Higher Criticism. Very frequently the interpretation of the text is manifestly false. Nevertheless, both commentaries possess intrinsic value and deserve favorable notice as storehouses of linguistic, historical, and archeological material. Thus Burton's *Commentary on Galatians* has 89 pages of isagogical matter, in which every question relating to the authorship, genuineness, etc., of the epistle is thoroughly discussed. This is followed by 362 pages of exegesis proper, on an epistle which contains but six short chapters. Also, there is an appendix of detached notes on important terms of Paul's vocabulary, based upon conscientious research and substantial scholarship. This appendix covers 158 pages. Lastly there is a double index, one on English words, subjects, and authors, and one on Greek words and phrases. All this comprehensive information is arranged with that lucidity of detail which marks the American and British scholar. The chief value of Dr. Charles's *Commentary on Revelation* consists in the textual studies and the *apparatus criticus*, the latter of which covers 149 pages. A new translation of Revelation has been attempted by the commentator, in which he seeks to recover the poetical form in which John wrote so large a part of the Apocalypse. Throughout the book the interpreter sets forth his premillenarian views. His position is clearly defined in the Introduction, where he says: "John the Seer insists not only that the individual follower of Christ should fashion his principles and conduct by the teaching of Christ, but that all governments should model their politics by the same Christian norm. None can be exempt from these

obligations, and such as exempt themselves, however well-seeming their professions, cannot fail to go over with all their gifts, whether great or mean, to the kingdom of outer darkness. In any case, no matter how many individuals, societies, kingdoms, or races may rebel against such obligations, the warfare against sin and darkness must go on, and go on inexorably, till the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of God and of His Christ." This drift of thought finds expression in the entire interpretation, and suggests careful reflection on the part of the student in using the commentary. However, as a mine of archeological, linguistic, and historical information both books are invaluable for the Bible scholar. MUELLER.

The Westminster Press, Philadelphia:—

The Gospel of Matthew. Charles R. Erdman. 224 pages. Cloth with gilt lettering. \$1.00.

This exposition of St. Matthew's Gospel is dedicated to "all who love His appearing." The millennialistic tendency indicated by this dedication is further explained in the "Foreword," where the author says: "The seething unrest of nations, the savageries of war, the threatenings of anarchy, increase the yearning for the rule of One whose wisdom is faultless, whose love is perfect, whose power is supreme. Such a ruler is Christ, and under His scepter the earth is to attain its age of glory and gold." In preparation of this reign of glory, the author urges all who love "His appearing" to study the Gospel-story of Jesus, the King, as set forth by Matthew. He writes: "It is inspiring, therefore, to read again that version of the Gospel-story which emphasizes the royal features in the portrayal of our Lord. Such a review is certain to make His followers more loyal to His person, more devoted to His cause, and more eager to hasten the hour of His undisputed sway as the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace." In accord with this purpose the writer, throughout the treatment of the gospel, keeps the kingship of Jesus in view, setting forth the gospel contents under the following captions: The Antecedents of the King, The Proclamation of the King, The Credentials of the King, The Messengers of the King, The Claims of the King, The Parables of the King, The Withdrawal of the King, The Person and Work of the King, The Servants of the King, The Rejection of the King, The Prophecies of the King's Return, The Trial, Death, and Resurrection of the King. The method of interpretation is everywhere lucid, the diction simple and forceful, the style clear, and the exegesis practical. Except for the author's millennialistic views, his lack of appreciating the true character and efficacy of the Sacraments, and several Calvinistic shadings, to which Lutheran scholars cannot agree, the reader will find Erdman's *Matthew* very helpful in studying and interpreting the Gospel of the King. MUELLER.

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

Paul Gerhardt, His Life and His Hymns. Rev. William Dallmann. 80 pages, 4×6¾. 50 cts.

It is with pleasure that we recommend this booklet to our pastors and to our people, for, as the author says in his foreword, "surely our people ought to have a booklet to tell them something of the staunch

Lutheran confessor whose hymns they love to sing." In eleven brief chapters the author treats the following topics: Gerhardt's Birth, Gerhardt at College, Gerhardt at the University, Gerhardt Tutor in Berlin, Gerhardt at Mittenwalde, Gerhardt Preacher in Berlin, Gerhardt and the Great Elector, Gerhardt at Luebben, Character of Gerhardt's Hymns, Gerhardt's Hymns Widely Spread, Anecdotes.

Pastor Dallmann has developed his own peculiar style of good, pointed, terse, vigorous, and homely English. Like unto the Rector at the "Prince's School" at Grimma he has the "happy faculty of putting plain truths into plain speech." The following quotations may serve as specimens both of style and contents. In the chapter on "Gerhardt at College" Pastor Dallmann writes: "At chapel every pupil said his prayers in Greek, Latin, and German. At every meal a chapter of the Bible was read. Before every recitation the Primus of the class recited the Lord's Prayer in Greek or Latin. Latin had to be spoken to the professors and to one another, otherwise punishment was sure to follow. Hutter's Latin Compend of Theology was learned by heart.

"The boys rose at five, made their beds, swept their rooms, brushed their clothes and shoes, wore a sleeveless coat of clerical cut, and lived in cells that could not be warmed.

"The morning soup was served at 7, dinner at 10, luncheon at 2, supper at 4, the night bite at 7, and then Good Night!

"The boys were hardly ever permitted to visit in the town of about 3,000 people, but they made a weekly hike to the woods at Nimbschen, famous for the cloister from which Catherine von Bora, Luther's wife, escaped at Easter, 1523. This hike was first made on August 12, 1595, and since then it became a standing institution. Vacations — there were no vacations."

Speaking of "The Character of Gerhardt's Hymns," we read on page 54: "There is in Gerhardt no artificial declamation and no academic rhetoric; he sings as artlessly as the bird in the bush and talks as naturally as a cultivated gentleman, and hence many of his turns have become proverbs, the property of the people.

"Gerhardt is an ideal Lutheran poet. There is a beautiful blend of nature and grace, of creation and redemption, of earth and heaven, of time and eternity, of the bodily and the spiritual. Nothing human is foreign to him; he sings in the morning and in the evening, he sings of the weather and of travels, he sings of his home and his country, of sickness and of health, of sorrow and of joy, of holy living and of holy dying. Though he lived in the dire distress of the most terrible Thirty Years' War, and though he had much trouble in his own life, Gerhardt is never a sour and gloomy pessimist; at times he is, indeed, cast down, but ere long he looks to heaven for help, and he always ends with confident ring in his voice and happy smile on his face."

Twelve illustrations add to the value of the booklet. Members of Bible classes and young people would, no doubt, appreciate it as a Christmas gift.

FRTZ.

Eine kleine Kraft. Festschrift zum 50jehrigen Jubilaeum der separierten ev.-luth. St. Johanniskirche U. A. K. zu Planitz. Im Auftrage der Gemeinde verfasst von ihrem Pastor, *M. Willkomm*. Mit zahlreichen Bildern. 160 pages, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8$. \$1.00.

In this well-printed volume Pastor M. Willkomm tells the story of the origin, growth, and afflictions of "an Evangelical Lutheran congregation free from the state." The book is charmingly written, contains much interesting historical information, especially where the points of contact with the Missouri Synod are treated, and is embellished with many excellent half-tone cuts.

The Abingdon Press, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, has sent us a 74-page booklet by Roy L. Smith: **Moving Pictures in the Church.** 35 cts., net.

Reading of the Bible in State Schools. 15 pages, 3×5 .

This is a lecture delivered before the Lutheran Men's Club of Saginaw by Rev. Fr. Meyer. Copies may be ordered from L. A. Linn, 620 Court St., Saginaw, Mich. The arguments usually urged against the reading of the Bible in State schools are here ably set forth. It is the reviewer's conviction, however, that the grounds on which our entire argumentation is based should receive more attention than has been accorded to them.

Lutheran Book Concern, Columbus, O.: —

The Lord Thy Healer. *Rev. J. Sheatsley.* A Book of Devotion for the Use of Pastors when Visiting the Sick. 270 pages, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$. \$1.50. Order from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

Rev. Sheatsley introduces this manual of devotion with five chapters containing practical suggestions to pastors who are ministering to the afflicted. There follow some thirty outlines of devotions with the bodily sick, about thirty with the spiritually sick, a great number of general lessons, and a few lessons suitable for the church festivals. The devotions consist of Scripture-texts, expositions of these, prayers, and sacred poetry. The size of the volume is just right for the coat pocket.

The Sunday-school Times Company, Philadelphia: —

Light on the Old Testament from Babel. *Albert T. Clay, Ph. D.* Fourth Edition. 1915. 438 pages, 6×9 . \$3.00.

Dr. Clay is assistant professor of Semitic Philology and Archeology and assistant curator of the Babylonian Section in the Department of Archeology, University of Pennsylvania. He has done a considerable amount of original research in the excavations conducted by the University of Pennsylvania and is one of the most learned students of Assyriology in our day. He is a Lutheran.

Light on the Old Testament from Babel treats in fifteen chapters those discoveries in the field of cuneiform research which are of especial importance to the Bible-student. Dr. Clay discusses the Babylonian Creation and Deluge stories, the Tower of Babel, the Code of Hammurabi, the name Jehovah in cuneiform literature, and many topics of interest suggested by his general subject. As distinguished from the radical critics, Dr. Clay ac-

cepts the historicity of the patriarch stories, Abraham being to him a true person. Regarding the corroborative evidence of recent archeological discovery, he says: "Episodes which have been affirmed to belong wholly to the realm of fiction, or which have been regarded as mythical or legendary in character, are now proved to be historical, beyond doubt." "It must be a source of gratification to many to know that the ruin-hills of the past have yielded so many things to prove that much which the skeptic and the negative critic have declared to be fiction is veritable history." "Weighing carefully the position taken by the critics in the light of what has been revealed through the decipherment of the cuneiform inscriptions, we find that the very foundations upon which their theories rest, with reference to the points that could be tested, totally disappear. The truth is that, wherever any light has been thrown upon the subject through the excavations, their hypotheses have invariably been found wanting." Regarding the positive results of archeological scholarship with reference to our knowledge of the Bible he says: "Episodes, passages, words, receive new meanings. Acquaintance with the religious institutions of the nations with whom Israel came in contact has offered a better understanding of Israel's religion; and incidentally many questions, as, for example, their besetting sin — proneness to idolatry — receive new light. In short, the study of the life and customs of these foreign peoples shows certain influences that were felt in Israel; and with this increased knowledge we naturally gain a more intelligent understanding of the Old Testament."

The volume is illustrated with a large number of fine half-tone reproductions of photographs and is beautifully printed on a very high quality of paper.

The Methodist Book Concern, New York:—

The New Testament Epistles Hebrews, James, First Peter, Second Peter, Jude. *D. A. Hayes.* 266 pages, 5½×8½. \$2.50.

Dr. Hayes is professor of New Testament Interpretation in Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston. He has given us previously *Paul and His Epistles* and *John and His Writings*, two notable works which combine sound scholarship with a reverential spirit and belief in Christian fundamentals. In the present volume, seventy pages are given to Hebrews, forty to James, sixty to First Peter, forty to Second Peter, and twenty to Jude. Hayes discusses very fully the question of authorship. He marshals the various solutions proposed for Hebrews and inclines to the belief that Apollos probably is the author. In James the apparent difference between this epistle and Paul in the doctrine of justification is ably treated, although the author's conclusion is not new to Lutheran theologians. Second Peter the author regards as so much inferior to First Peter and bearing so many marks of different authorship that he declares very emphatically against its canonicity. His reasoning is not quite satisfactory on this point. In the main the author appears to adhere to the Christian system of belief. The freedom of classroom style crops out, sometimes betraying the author into paradox and hyperbole. Looking aside from such minor blemishes, Professor Hayes's book should be welcomed as a scholarly introduction to these epistles. It is a very readable book.

Alma Mater. Vol. XII, No. 2. 40 pages, 7×10. \$1.00 a year. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

Our college journal is now rounding out the twelfth year of its existence. As an organ of the ministerial preparatory and graduate schools of a general Lutheran body, *Alma Mater* occupies a unique position in the world of religious journalism. Its appeal is restricted, but all the more potent. It supplies a link between the schools and their graduates, and its monthly record of college activities is of considerable historical value. The alumni columns in the issue before us touch points in Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Brazil, and in many States of the Union.

Lutheran Synod Book Co., 815 25th Ave., S., Minneapolis, Minn.: —

Beretning om det fjerde aarlige Synodemøde af den Norske Synode af den Amerikanske Evangelisk Lutherske Kirke, afholdt paa Vestre Koshkonong, Wis., fra den 4de til den 10de August 1921. 127 pp., 6×9. 50 cts.

The fourth annual report of the Norwegian body which is in fellowship with the Synodical Conference. Six doctrinal papers are submitted: "The Church Invisible," "The Church Visible," "Christian Day-schools," "Unionism," "Church Discipline," and "Being Partakers in Other Men's Sins," all of these being Norwegian except the third. These papers, as well as the record of business transacted at these sessions, convey the impression of a body that has in it the seeds of a vigorous church-life.

J. Frimodts Forlag, Kopenhagen, Denmark: —

Spiritismen og dens Saakaldte Beviser. *Alfr. Lehmann.* 1921.

The phenomena of Spiritism continue to exercise the minds of students of the occult. Dr. Lehmann has written two volumes entitled *Overtro og Trolddom* (Superstition and Sorcery), and in the little brochure announced above summarizes his conclusion. The booklet contains interesting references to the unconscious dishonesty of many mediums. Its criticism of both the physical and psychical phenomena of Spiritism is unsatisfactory inasmuch as the author proceeds from materialistic premises. He believes, however, in telepathic communication, and holds that all the information which mediums possess has been gained through this means — a conclusion from which other students of the subject will strongly dissent. GRAEBNER.

The Methodist Book Concern, Cincinnati: —

Pantheistic Dilemmas and Other Essays in Philosophy and Religion.
Henry C. Sheldon, Professor in Boston University.

In these essays the author discusses Pantheism, Pragmatism, the Philosophy of Henri Bergson, the Notion of a Changing God, Attempts to Dispense with the Soul, Doctrinal Values Contributed by the Reformation, John Henry Newman as Roman Catholic Apologist, and finally the Maxims and Principles of Bahaimism. As in his other books, so also in this one, Henry Sheldon proves himself an able apologist of the Christian religion, and a subtle critic of the fallacies of human reason and thought as embodied in the systems which the book treats. Any one who wishes to acquaint himself with current philosophical and religious trends will find Sheldon's *Pantheistic Dilemmas* a sane and clear exposition of the main issues of modern philosophy.

MUELLER.