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Little Journeys in the Higher Anticriticism.

PROF. TH. GRAEBNER, St. Louis, Mo.

I. The Myth Hypothesis.

(Continued.)

"Historic Doubts Relative to Napoleon Bonaparte."

Whately's *Historic Doubts Relative to Napoleon Bonaparte* was directed primarily against the skepticism of David Hume, but a few extracts from its pages will readily show how apt a reply it is to the mythological theory in every form. Archbishop Whately imitates the subject of his criticism to such an extent that one may read many passages and whole pages without being able to detect the slightest trace of the writer's irony. He speaks with a sober face throughout:—

"The celebrated Hume has pointed out the readiness with which men believe, on very slight evidence, any story that pleases their imagination by its admirable and marvelous character. Such hasty credulity, however, as he well remarks, is utterly unworthy of a philosophical mind; which should rather suspend its judgment the more in proportion to the strangeness of the account, and yield to none but the most decisive and unimpeachable proofs." It is reasonable, he concludes, to inquire into the evidence on which people in his day believed the extraordinary story of the exploits of one Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France. He notes, first of all, a great dissonance in the testimony:—

"According to some, he was a wise, humane, magnanimous hero; others paint him as a monster of cruelty, meanness, and perfidy: some, even of those who are most inveterate against him, speak very highly of his political and military ability; others place him on the very verge of insanity. But allowing that all this may be the coloring of party prejudice (which surely is allowing a great

BOOK REVIEW.

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

Starck's Prayer-Book. From the German edition of *Dr. F. Pieper*. Translated and edited by *W. H. T. Dau*. 612 pages, 6×9 in. Blue cloth binding, Style C, \$2.25. Gift edition, Style DC, bound in divinity circuit seal grain, gilt-edge binding, \$5.00.

In this beautiful new prayer-book the general contents and style, but above all the distinctive spirit of devotion which characterizes old Starck's *Prayer-Book*, have been conserved, while the text has been modernized and so anglicized, we were about to say Americanized, that the reading of it in daily devotion must be a delight to our people. Dr. Pieper years ago revised the original German edition, and Prof. Dau's translation, which is an entirely new rendition into English, is based on this. The introduction of the translator contains an interesting personal note in the reference to his task, which was begun some ten years ago and was concluded during the late war. Prof. Dau says: "This work proved to the editor a great mental and spiritual relief. It was a luxury to spend many an hour in the company of a person on whom the spirit of prayer has been poured out in such abundant measure as on Starck. It was faith-confirming and -inspiring work which the translator was permitted to do. He can offer no better wish to the readers of this book, now that it starts on its voyage to the increasing English homes and hearts in our church community, than this, that the light and strength, the cheer and comfort that has come to him out of the pages of this book in many a weary and despondent day may stream into the hearts of the readers, even though they be free, as the editor hopes they are, from all weariness and despondency."

No one expects the work of Prof. Dau on this prayer-book to be anything else than extremely well done, and so it is. Very wisely he did not attempt a translation of the poetry contained in the original Starck, but supplied from English and American sources suitable extracts of sacred poetry. As the reader may know, the special strength of Starck's book is

the very large number of prayers for persons in affliction. Of the 524 pages in this translation 283 pages contain prayers for the use of the sick, the dying, and those visited by war, famine, conflagration, or other suffering.

The work of the bookmaker has been very well done, print, paper, and binding meeting the highest standards. GRAEBNER.

Catechetical Preparations. Part II. The Creed. *Rev. Prof. F. W. C. Jesse.* 175 pages. \$1.00.

The pastor and the teacher will find the *Catechetical Preparations*, of which two volumes have now been issued, *The Decalog* and *The Creed*, valuable material for teaching the Catechism to the children in the school and in confirmation classes, and also to adults who are being prepared for church-membership. Pastors can also well use the material for the purpose of preaching a series of sermons on the Catechism. Such sermons are not only gladly heard by the people, but they fill a real want. Especially at this time of doctrinal indifferentism and modern liberalism careful attention ought to be given to thorough Biblical indoctrination. Young pastors and older pastors who are compelled to preach and instruct through the medium of the English language will, for obvious reasons, welcome the English theological literature which in an increasing measure is published by our Concordia Publishing House. FRITZ.

Der 46. Psalm. Das Schutz- und Trutzlied der lutherischen Kirche. Referat, vorgetragen vor der Synode des Nord-Wisconsin-Distrikts und auf dessen Beschluss dem Druck uebergeben von *P. E. Kretzmann, Ph. D., B. D.* 51 pages. 25 cts. Special price if purchased in quantities.

The essay read by Dr. Kretzmann on the 46th Psalm at the convention of the North Wisconsin District was received with such enthusiasm that the District requested the author to publish the work in pamphlet form, and immediately subscribed for 1,000 copies. In this German essay the speaker, by dividing the Psalm into three principal parts, vv. 1—3, 4—7, and 8—11, shows: 1. The Christians' hope in the gracious presence of God with His Church; 2. that in the most threatening times a Christian may rest assured that God, who has proved Himself stronger than His enemies, will again show His power; 3. that the Church will gloriously stand, and its opponents will be defeated, when the end of the world is at hand.

Luther based his Battle-hymn of the Reformation, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," on the 46th Psalm. This essay makes good reading-matter at any time, but especially in the year of the four-hundredth anniversary of Luther at Worms (1521—1921). May it be widely distributed also among the lay members of our churches! FRITZ.

Lutheran Annual 1922. 112 pages. 15 cts.

Amerikanischer Kalender fuer deutsche Lutheraner auf das Jahr 1922. 112 pages. 15 cts.

These two publications are well known to our readers. Besides the usual calendar giving the months and days of the year, the Sundays of the church-year with their Gospel- and Epistle-lessons, the time of sun-

rise and sunset and other astronomical phenomena, the books contain interesting and profitable reading-matter; postal rules and regulations; the time differences of various cities in different parts of the world; Missouri Synod statistics; a complete list of seminaries, colleges, and academies of the Synodical Conference with the names of the members of the faculties; a list of the religious periodicals of the Synodical Conference, the institutions of charity, the home-finding societies, the Lutheran hospices, and the information bureaus; the names of the various officers, members of boards and committees of the Missouri Synod and its Districts; a complete register of the pastors, professors, and parochial school teachers of the Synodical Conference; and an alphabetical list of places having congregations served by our pastors. It goes without saying that a copy of either one of these two annual publications ought to be found in the home of every one of our families.

Proceedings of the Sixth Convention of the English District.

95 pages. 45 cts.

Siebenundzwanzigster Synodalbericht des Minnesota-Distrikts.

63 pages. 30 cts.

Verhandlungen der siebenundzwanzigsten Jahresversammlung des Sued-Wisconsin-Distrikts. 32 pages. 15 cts.

Neunter Synodalbericht des Nord-Illinois-Distrikts. 71 pages. 33 cts.

Verhandlungen der achten Jahresversammlung des North Dakota- und Montana-Distrikts. 67 pages. 36 cts.

Zweihundfuenfzigster Synodalbericht des Michigan-Distrikts. 79 pp. 37 cts.

Fuenfzehnter Synodalbericht des Oregon- und Washington-Distrikts.

28 pages. 15 cts.

According to a new ruling the Synodical Proceedings are no longer published as a periodical sent to regular subscribers, but each District orders the publication of its Proceedings and disposes of the printed copies. Our Publishing House, however, prints a limited number of additional copies, which may be purchased by such as are interested. The price varies according to the size and number of copies issued. Our Publishing House will also be pleased to accept subscriptions for the whole series, but, of course, cannot in advance state the cost.

The various printed Proceedings contain the business transactions of the convention, including a register of the members of the District, the reports of Mission Boards, of the District treasurer, of committees, etc. Some of the Districts also include the paper which was read at the morning sessions. The printed Proceedings of the English District present a historical paper by Rev. Wm. Dallmann on "Miles Coverdale"; the Minnesota District: "Die seelenverderblichen Abwege unserer Zeit in der Lehre von Christo, unserm Heiland," written by Rev. A. H. Kuntz; the Southern Wisconsin District: "Die Stellung unserer Kirche zu den Logen," by Rev. W. Albrecht; the Northern Illinois District: "Das koenigliche Amt Christi," by Rev. H. Heise; the North Dakota and Montana District: "Was lernen wir von Luther zu Worms?" by Dr. F. Pieper; the Michigan

District: "Von der Kirche; wie sie beschaffen und woran sie zu erkennen ist," by Rev. C. Berner; the Oregon and Washington District: "Die erste Christengemeinde zu Jerusalem ein Vorbild fuer unsere heutigen Gemeinden," by Rev. L. Stuebe; "The Christian Home" (summary only), essayist: Rev. W. J. Janssen. The Proceedings of the Southern Wisconsin District also contain an English report of the business transactions and a summary of the essay.

FRTZ.

Teachers' Manual of Suggestions on Miller's "Modern Grammar."
55 pages, $3\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$. Paper cover. 50 cts., postpaid.

In this handy and well-printed *Manual*, a reprint from the *School Journal*, Professor Miller supplies welcome suggestions for the users of his *Modern Grammar*, which has been reviewed in these pages, and which has won the warmest endorsement of many professional teachers both in our circles and beyond.

GRAEBNER.

The Macmillan Company, New York: —

Ethics, General and Special. Owen A. Hill, S. J., Ph. D., Lecturer on Psychology, Natural Theology, Ethics, and Religion at Fordham University. 404 pages.

In this book the entire domain of ethics is treated from the Jesuit point of view. The principles inculcated are those of Jouin and Rickaby; its tone and tenor is that of Loyola. Of Probabilism the author says: "Probabilism is a safe and correct system in matters of conscience." Practical application: "Beyond doubt, the lay brother who drowned Chinese babies, after baptizing them, was rewarded for material and formal murder, and the ignorant fellow who lied, because invincibly persuaded that charity demanded it, was rewarded for a material and formal untruth. Their acts were wrong, but their conduct was right." (p. 104.) As regards mental reservation, he states: "To safeguard a proportionate right, the use of a broad mental reservation is allowed." Application: "Silence, evasions, equivocations, broad mental reservations are not lies, and can, therefore, be tolerated when some just cause, some good of more vital concern than the kindness of straightforward truth, is the motive that prompts the speaker." (p. 238.) These sentences may suffice to characterize the general trend and scope of the system of ethics advocated in Dr. Hill's book.

MUELLER.

Eden Publishing Company, St. Louis: —

Der Evangelische Pastor in Vorlesungen ueber praktische Theologie. Dargestellt von F. Mayer, D. D. 259 pages. Cloth.

This book contains eighteen lectures on Pastoral Theology originally delivered before the students of Eden Seminary, the prospective pastors of the Evangelical Synod. This explains its peculiar character as regards both form and contents. The author is writing for men who intend to serve in the Evangelical Church of our country. That is the meaning of the title *The Evangelical Pastor*. Accordingly, he everywhere presupposes such conditions as exist and are tolerated in his particular synod, and it is from this point of view that his pastoral instructions must be considered. A Lu-

theran professor of Pastoral Theology would hardly advise his students to illustrate the principles of connubial chastity by referring to Schiller's *Raeuber*; neither would he encourage pastors to officiate with lodges at the burial of lodge-members; nor would he expect them to bury "notorious sinners," and, suspending their own judgment, to follow meekly the customs of their respective congregations in cases of suicide and the like. However, the book is not written by a Lutheran professor, nor is it intended for Lutheran pastors, whose guiding principle in Pastoral Theology is not: *Habe caritatem et fac quidquid vis*, but the infallible rule of the divine Word. In spite of the many aberrations there is much that is useful in the book, and the lectures are, on the whole, clear and practical, though they must be read with care.

MUELLER.

Cambridge University Press:—

The Books of Haggai and Zechariah. *T. W. Crafer, D. D.* 119 pages, including index.

In the preface the general editor remarks: "The aim of this series of commentaries is to explain the Revised Version for young students, and at the same time to present, in a simple form, the main results of the best scholarship of the day." Of course, the main results of the best scholarship of the day are the conjectures of Higher Criticism, the spirit of which pervades the entire apparatus of critical and exegetical notes. The book offers many interesting historical data, but has little practical value in interpreting the message of the two prophets.

MUELLER.

Review and Herald Publishing Association, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.:—

Back to the Bible, or, The New Protestantism. *George McCready Price, M. A.* Revised Edition. 235 pp., 5×7½.

The old Protestantism was a declaration of independence directed against Roman Catholic tyranny. The New Protestantism, according to the author's idea, is the protest against a new tyranny, the tyranny of a pseudo-scientificism, already grown arrogant and dogmatic, the tyranny exercised by evolutionary philosophy over human thought, scientific and religious. His book is a call "Back to the Bible," as the inerrant Word of God also in all its scientific statements. The methods of the evolutionary school of thought are set forth with utmost precision by a writer who has been a teacher of science more than twenty years and who has, in his department, geology, been forced to meet the enemy on his own ground. The geological argument for Darwinism is treated in outline in chapter 3, "Geology and the Deluge." This argument has been fully developed in Prof. Price's larger work, *Fundamentals of Geology*, which ought to be read by every Christian student of natural science. Other chapters, all of them very readable, discuss "Modern Philosophy," "The Origin of Evil," "The New Pantheism," "Occidental Heathenism," "Creation and Its Memorial," "The Coming Slavery," — by which the author means the encroachment of the state on the liberty of the individual, under the influence of the evolutionistic conception of history and life, — and "The Federation of the World."

The Review and Herald Publishing Association which has brought out Prof. Price's book is a Seventh-day Adventist concern. If the author is a member of that denomination, one would not guess it from reading his book, unless the chapter on "Creation and Its Memorial" — this memorial is conceived to be the Sabbath — contains a hint of this connection.

GRAEBNER.

The following tracts have been received:

The Augsburg Confession. Reprint from the *Concordia Triglotta*. Concordia Publishing House, 1921. 52 pages, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$. 10 cts. This is a reprint on fine paper of the Triglot text of the Augsburg Confession. It has been issued in tract form as tract No. 83 in our series, at the request of pastors who felt that they should like to have a copy of our oldest Lutheran confession to hand parishioners and strangers. — **Why a Christian School for My Children?** *John H. C. Fritz*. Concordia Publishing House. Tract No. 84. 4 pages, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$. Doz., 10 cts.; 100, 50 cts.; 1,000, \$4.50 and postage. For all its brevity the statement in this tract of the case for the Christian day-school is so cogent that it has been very favorably received by the reviewers, all of whose good words we herewith endorse. — **Inalienable Rights.** A Brief Study in One Hundred Per Cent. Americanism. *W. H. T. Dau*. Published by the American Luther League, Fort Wayne, Indiana. 16 pages, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 6$. Copies of this tract will be sent to any applicant free of charge. We trust that many of us will address the publishers for their copy and will later order the tract in quantity for distribution especially among the thinking element of the great American public. Professor Dau's argument is based on constitutional history and renders very plain how necessary it is for us to exercise that vigilance which has often been, but never more so than to-day, the price of liberty. — **Warum sollen wir Gemeindeschulen gründen und erhalten?** Beantwortet von *C. H. Seltz*, Schulvisitator fuer Iowa. Herausgegeben von der Amerikanischen Lutherliga, Fort Wayne, Indiana. 14 pages, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ inches. This tract like Professor Dau's will be sent free of charge upon application to the American Luther League, cor. Barr and Madison Sts., Fort Wayne, Ind., and all who would "create sentiment for, or intensify interest in, Christian day-schools are invited to send for them." The League is willing to mail them out itself if a list of names and addresses is furnished. Rev. Seltz's tract states the well-known reasons for the establishment of Christian day-schools, — well known, but never too often repeated. The American Luther League is to be commended for its activity in getting out and spreading broadcast these fine tracts. — **Russell's Ventures in Adventism.** *Henry C. Sheldon*. The Methodist Book Concern, New York. 31 pages, $4\frac{1}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$. 25 cts., net. Professor Sheldon is the author of a number of works directed against such modern cults as Adventism, Mormonism, and Christian Science. In this little pamphlet he gives an account of Russellism, followed by a trenchant criticism of the chronological construction of millennial dawn, its teaching concerning the state of the dead, and its teaching regarding the millennial reign of Christ. While the author is not an orthodox scholar, his criticism of the Russellite scheme has merits which will commend it to those who must deal with this peril of modern Christianity.

GRAEBNER.