# **Concordia Theological Monthly**

Volume 1 Issue 1 Januaru

Article 49

5-1-1930

# Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches

J T. Mueller Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm



Part of the Practical Theology Commons

### **Recommended Citation**

Mueller, J T. (1930) "Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches," Concordia Theological

Monthly: Vol. 1: Iss. 1, Article 49.

Available at: https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol1/iss1/49

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Print Publications at Scholarly Resources from Concordia Seminary. It has been accepted for inclusion in Concordia Theological Monthly by an authorized editor of Scholarly Resources from Concordia Seminary. For more information, please contact seitzw@csl.edu.

374 Theological Observer. — Rirchlich Reitgeschichtliches.

lute and flute, Luther also composed original tunes, some of which, such as the vigorous, fervid melody of "A Mighty Fortress," have become immortal.

The new, yet old faith which Luther preached, salvation through the mediation of Christ, the only Savior, was the source, the fountainhead, of the new hymnody. Luther's hymns are objective. They proclaim the free, unmerited grace of God. They are a spontaneous outpouring of praise for the newly found truths of Holy Writ, a joyous testimony of the restored favor of God. (Cf. Hymn 150, stanza 14: "My heart for very joy doth leap.") They are not couched in dry, didactic terms, but in choice words of childlike simplicity and dignified devotional earnestness. They possess a universal appeal. Luther was exceptionally felicitous in voicing the religious emotions of a people recently freed from the bondage of fear. As mouthpiece of the Church his hymns express the joyous certainty, the power of faith, the confidence of triumphant victory. (Cf. Hymn 162, stanza 4: "Let hell and Satan rage and chafe, God is our Brother.") They are lyrical supplications for succor, for strength, for perseverance.

Truly, a priceless treasure of Christian song! How fortunate for our Church that it had as its founder not only a great reformer, a mighty preacher of righteousness, an unexcelled translator of Holy Writ, but also a supreme writer of classic hymns, who by his own example and by inspiring hundreds to follow in his footsteps (47 Lutheran hymnals before Luther's death, thousands of hymns since Luther), has made our Lutheran Church in truth "the singing Church."

Member of Synodical Committee on Hymnology and Liturgies.

# Theological Observer. — Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches.

## I. Amerika.

Aus der Synode. Unser Lutheran School Journal teilt mit: "Schon lange war es Bunsch und Wille unserer Wissionare in China, Luthers Aleinen Katechismus in chinesischer Sprache zu drucken, da er dis jeht nur teilweise und auch nur in sogenanntem Wimeographdruck vorhanden war. Aber wegen der politischen Unruhen im Jahre 1927 wurde das Drucken dersschoen. Jedoch, nun ist das Drucken der ersten 5,000 Exemplare am 25. Rosdember vorigen Jahres, Gott sei Dank, vollendet worden. "Das war für uns alle eine große Freude", schreibt einer der Wissionare, "und darum wurde hier in Hansow auch ein rechtes Freudensest; geseiert. Sämtliche Christen aus allen unsern Kapellen waren eingeladen worden, zu der größten Kapelle zu kommen. Zwei unserer Evangelisten hielten die Festreden, Herr Wei Tien En und herr Sen Sao. Kai."

Ift bas nicht zu viel? Eine St. Louiser beutsche Zeitung melbet auf Grund eines Berichts ber "Associateren Presse", batiert Koburg, ben 29. März: "Die im elften Jahrhundert erbaute Burg Koburg bürfte in ber

#### Theological Observer. - Rirchlich=Zeitgeschichtliches.

Beit von April bis Oftober Besucher und Reisende aus vielen Ländern, besonders aus folden, wo die Lutheraner einen großen Prozentsat ber Beböllerung bilben, in größerer Zahl anloden, als Koburg jemals in einem gangen Jahrzehnt gesehen hat. Bierhundert Jahre find feit jener Beit berflossen, ba Luther, ber bom Papft mit bem Bann belegt und bon bem allgewaltigen Raiser Rarl V. in die Acht erklärt worden war, in jener Burg wohnte und bon bort aus die große protestantische Zusammenkunft leitete, welche die Augsburgische Konfession hervorbrachte. Um nun ein vierhundertjähriges Erinnerungsfest an jene Zeiten zu begehen, in denen Luther damals auf jener Burg seinen Bohnplat hatte, wird von jener Stadt Roburg eine große Ausstellung geplant, mit ber Aufführungen und Konzerte verbunden sein werden. Die Eröffnung findet am 15. April statt, an welchem Tage eine Luther-Ausstellung in ber großen Festhalle auf der Feste Roburg ihren Anfang nehmen wird. In der Luther-Bibliothek werden gegen 200 erste Ausgaben von Luthers Werken ausgestellt sein sowie persönliche Ramensunterzeichnungen bes großen Reformators und eine Bilberfchauftellung ber übergabe ber Mugsburgischen Konfession, bie bekanntlich eine geordnete fdriftliche Darftellung des gangen Shitems ber Glaubenslehren ber lutherifden Reformation in erschöpfenber Form enthält. Am Abend bes 15. April wird eine Aufführung des von Sans Johit gedichteten historischen Dramas Die Propheten' im Landestheater veranstaltet, und brei Tage später wird die Aufführung von Wagners "Parzifal" stattfinden. [1] Beide Aufführungen werben während ber gangen Dauer ber viele Monate mabrenben Festlichfeiten in bestimmten Bwischenräumen wieberholt werben. Giner ber Sohevunkte biefer Festlichseiten wird ber am 18. Mai gefeierte Ruther-Tag' bilben, an deffen Borabend ein Fadelzug stattfinden wird." - Ift ba nicht eine große Gefahr vorhanden, daß durch die fo gestaltete Restfeier der uns geheure Ernft, ber die Befenner bon Mugsburg befeelte, in ben Sintergrund gedrängt wird? Auf die, die das Reden bei ber Feier zu besorgen haben, fällt eine große Berantwortlichkeit. F. P.

The American Lutheran Conference. — The church-papers during the last weeks have been reporting the formation of a confederation of Lutheran synods which appears to be of momentous significance for the future of the Lutheran Church of America. The bodies involved are the Joint Synod of Ohio, the Iowa Synod, the Buffalo Synod, the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, the Augustana Synod, the United Danish Church, and the Lutheran Free Church (a Norwegian body). According to the Lutheran Standard of March 1 these seven bodies "participated in the meetings out of which has come a definite plan, crystallized in a constitution for the organization and operation of the American Lutheran Conference"; for this is the name which has been proposed for the contemplated federation. Of the strength of the new organization the Lutheran Standard says: "We can give only approximate statistics covering these bodies, because the latest Lutheran World Almanac is not yet in our hands. In round numbers the seven bodies include 4,000 pastors, upwards of 7,000 congregations, well over 900,000 confirmed members, and about 1,400,000 baptized members. The American Lutheran Church (Ohio, Iowa, and Buffalo) will constitute about one-third of the American Lutheran Conference." The Standard next points out that it cannot be said as yet that the founding of the proposed American Lutheran Conference is assured.

## 376 Theological Observer. — Rirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches.

The seven synods mentioned will have to approve the plans that have been drawn up. It is hoped by the committee that their synods will take favorable action and that in October of this year, when the four-hundredth anniversary of the Augsburg Confession will be observed with special festivities, the American Lutheran Conference will become a reality. To inform our readers on the origin of the contemplated federation, it will be best if we reprint that part of the article in the Lutheran Standard in which the various steps taken are briefly narrated. The article says:—

"After the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America and the Joint Synod of Ohio had established pulpit- and altar-fellowship on the basis of what are now known as the Minneapolis Theses, the Joint Synod, at its convention in 1928, passed the following resolution: "That a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of conferring with a similar committee of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America to discuss ways and means by which this church-fellowship may find expression.' (Joint Synod Minutes, 1928, p. 223, B. 2. c.) The General President, Dr. C. C. Hein, appointed as this committee the Rev. L. H. Schuh, D. D., Toledo, O.; the Rev. F. B. Hax, D. D., Massillon, O.; and the Rev. H. W. Krull, Platteville, Wis.

"Our committee met with the committee of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Chicago, February 28, 1929. Representatives of the Buffalo Synod and the Iowa Synod had also been invited to this meeting. It was evident that there was such harmony in faith and practise among us that cooperation in certain lines of endeavor was both feasible and practicable. As the discussion progressed, it became evident that this movement should be carried further and that other Lutheran groups should be invited to participate. This invitation was to be extended to certain groups by President J. A. Aasgaard of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and to others by President C. C. Hein of the Joint Synod.

"October 7, 1929, the Joint Synod Committee held a colloquy with a committee of the Augustana Synod. Again the Minneapolis Theses formed the basis. The two committees found themselves in harmony and passed a resolution to recommend to their respective synods the establishment of pulpit- and altar-fellowship.

"The following day representatives of the Augustana Synod, the Lutheran Free Church, the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, the Iowa Synod, and a committee of the Joint Synod conferred. In the course of the discussion it became apparent that the Lord was pointing the way for a closer relation of all these groups. After a two-day discussion a committee, consisting of the General Presidents of the participating synods, was appointed to draft a constitution and submit their work to a future meeting of the delegates.

"At a meeting held in Chicago, December 18 and 19, 1929, representatives of the Augustana Synod, the Buffalo Synod, the United Danish Church, the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, the Lutheran Free Church, and the Joint Synod of Ohio were present. Interest was evidently growing. There were providential leadings apparent. The presidents of the participating synods made a report to their delegates, submitting for their discussion the draft of a constitution for a federation of these Lutheran bodies. The discussion was fraternal and earnest. When the

Theological Observer. — Rirdslich Beitgeschichtliches.

377

work was ended, the committee resolved that this constitution be submitted to all the participating synods for adoption at their next regular meeting. If favorable action is taken by the respective synods, they are requested to appoint delegates to meet in October, 1930, for the purpose of organizing "The American Lutheran Conference" under the constitution as adopted by the committee and published in this issue of the Lutheran Standard.

"Thus, in the providence of God, a mustard-seed has been cast into the earth. May it grow to become a blessing to the whole Lutheran Church of America!

"This report is made to the constituents of Joint Synod by the delegates who represented them in this work. The Committee: L. H. Schuh, F. B. Hax, H. W. Krull, C. C. Hein."

Very little is to be added. The Minneapolis Theses referred to were the outcome of a conference held in Minneapolis in 1925, at which the Ohio Synod, the Iowa Synod, the Buffalo Synod, and the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America were represented. These theses, with some strictures of ours, were reprinted in the Theological Monthly, April, 1927 (Vol. VII, p. 112). The Lutheran Standard of March 1 presents the draft of the constitution and by-laws of the new organization. We reprint Article II, containing the confession of faith, Article III, mentioning the object of the federation, and Article IV, defining its power. Article II reads: "The American Lutheran Conference accepts the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament as the inspired Word of God and the only infallible authority in all matters of faith and life and the symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as the true presentation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith." Article III reads: "This organization is founded for the purpose of giving testimony to the unity in the faith of the participating church-bodies and to this end has as its objects: 1) mutual counsel concerning the faith, life, and work of the Church; 2) cooperation in matters of common interest and responsibility, such as: A. allocation of work in Home Mission fields; B. elementary and higher Christian education; C. Inner Mission work (Christian social service); D. student service in state schools and universities; E. special missionary activities; F. joint publication of Christian literature; G. periodic exchange of theological professors at the theological seminaries, etc." Article IV reads: "This organization shall have such powers only as may be specifically delegated to it by the constituent bodies. Otherwise its province shall be limited to counsel and advice in matters of common interest and those in which its advice may be sought." A further discussion of the projected church-body we reserve for a future issue.

"American Lutheran Church." About the name which the new Lutheran body, established by the merger of the Synods of Ohio, Iowa, and Buffalo, will bear, the Lutheran Herald of the Iowa Synod writes editorially: "We like three features about this name. In the first place, it delivers us from the word 'synod,' which is so rarely 'understood,' and, instead, gives us the beautiful appellation 'Church.' It, secondly, has no geographical limitation, such as Iowa, Ohio, Buffalo, Missouri, and the like. It compels us, thirdly, to be mindful of the fact that we are in America,

### 378 Theological Observer. — Rirchlich-Reitgeschichtliches.

that as a Church we have our primary duty to perform in this country, that we must do our part in ennobling and enriching the religious life of America. But the name, even if the definite article 'the' is absent, will be an absurdity, an empty boast, unless we are, every one of us, filled with the urgent desire to do our very best to bring about what properly may be called 'The American Lutheran Church.' Considered from this viewpoint, the name becomes a prophecy. May God speed the day of its fulfilment!"

The membership of the new body is rated by the Lutheran Herald at about one half million, or, to be exact, 496,365 souls (official figures of 1926). Almost exactly 25 per cent. of the churches are located in urban territory (cities having more than 2,500 inhabitants), and 75 per cent. are rural. The States showing the largest membership in the A. L. C. are: Ohio, 98,897; Wisconsin, 58,527; Iowa, 49,168; Texas, 44,495; Illinois, 31,606; Minnesota, 31,259; Michigan, 30,676; North Dakota, 19,819; Pennsylvania, 18,067; Nebraska, 17,836; South Dakota, 13,385; Indiana, 11,754.

The Lutheran Church Herald comments on the name of the new body as follows: "The new Church will be known as the American Lutheran Church. We see no particular reason why the definite article cannot be included in the name. We like this name, which happened to be our choice for our own Church at the time when a new name was being discussed. We have names like The Lutheran, Der Lutheraner, Lutheraneren, which does not necessarily mean that any one of them claims to be the only and outstanding Lutheran paper in the country. The United Church is a union of churches, but does not include all."

The Lutheran Standard of the Ohio Synod remarks among other things: "The year 1930 is one of outstanding anniversaries. America will recall the coming of the Puritans to our shores three hundred years ago. Christendom will commemorate the nineteen-hundredth anniversary of Pentecost. The Lutheran Church, all over the world, will take special note of the quadricentennial of the Augsburg Confession. Our own Joint Synod of Ohio will observe the centennial of the founding of our theological seminary. Then, for the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa, the Lutheran Synod of Buffalo, and the Joint Synod of Ohio and Other States this year 1930 will mark, under God, the consummation of the merger and the launching of the American Lutheran Church."

With regard to the merger the Lutheran Church Herald adds: "It is true that the Lutheran Church is not ready and willing to join anything that happens to come along. It did not join the Interchurch Movement, which cost some of the Protestant churches several million and brought some of them on the verge of bankruptcy. Nor has it joined the Federal Council of Churches, which inherited the residue of the Interchurch Movement, with its laxity of confession and disregard for all creedal statements. The Lutheran Church has followed the principle that church union must be preceded by confessional agreement. It is easy to understand how even this correct principle may be overemphasized by insisting on subscription to scholastic intricacies and definitions carried to the extremes of subtile analysis, which even Einstein himself would not be able to unravel. But

## Theological Observer. - Rirchlich=Beitgeschichtliches.

the principle is nevertheless correct when given a reasonable application by being confined to the plain, uninterpreted, or Bible-interpreted, statements of the Scriptures. It is because of this insistence on doctrinal unity, which by a great portion of the Reformed churches has been discarded as futile and unnecessary, that the Lutheran Church is looked upon as hopelessly non-cooperative and isolated from the rest of the Protestant Church."

The Breaking Down of Christian Consciousness. - Signs are multiplying which indicate that the laxer church-bodies in the United States are not merely losing the last remnant of confessional consciousness, but that the very boundaries of Christianity are being removed by feats of syncretism which would have been considered shocking but two short decades ago. In a clipping which has just reached our desk we are told that a Congregational church in a small city of the Middle West recently opened its pulpit to - a Jewish Rabbi. Of course, the Rabbi chose a theme which would be general enough not to touch upon even the most faintly controverted points. His topic was "Divine Revelation for To-day," which might have meant something if presented according to Scriptures. the report of the service indicates that nothing of this kind was attempted. We are told: "In a preliminary remark he said that the meeting in itself, one of Jews and Christians sitting together in concord, with a common aim and purpose [?], may well be regarded as a divine revelation of to-day. Those who heard him felt that, carrying his thought one step farther, his address in its beauty and simplicity may be considered in the same light as a divine revelation of to-day. Dr. Cronbach stressed the thought that God reveals Himself to the lovers of truth to-day and always. In the beauty abounding all about us, in the ambition for helpfulness to others, in the sympathy for those who suffer, and in constant eagerness to relieve suffering, God is revealed to the world to-day. At the conclusion of the address the people who heard it went to the speaker and thanked him for it, assuring him that they were deeply moved by the charming spirituality of his message." - The Congregational pastor and his congregation may have been ignorant of the transgression of God's clear words in the matter of such flagrant syncretism; but this is no excuse in view of the clear command of God. The Bible tells us that there is no salvation in any other, neither is there any other name under heaven given among men whereby they must be saved except the one name Jesus Christ. Unless the Jews, orthodox and reformed, withdraw their blasphemous denial of the one Savior of mankind, all specious prating about new revelations and universal love will avail them nothing.

How Does the Church Get Its Ministry? — An editorial reprinted in the Living Church of January 4 from the London Church Times attempts to prove the Apostolic Succession "by showing the consequences which follow if the Apostolic Succession is not true." (The positive way of proving it, "by producing the evidence in its behalf, the grounds in Scripture on which the doctrine is based, etc.," is not employed in this article, but only the negative way.) "The doctrine of Apostolic Succession is that the authority to minister, which was conferred upon the apostles by Christ Himself, is transmitted down the centuries through episcopal ordination... What, then, if this Apostolic Succession is a dream? In that case the

380 Theological Observer. — Rirchlich Zeitgeschichtliches.

apostolic ministry became extinct. It died with the death of St. John. Then the ministry which derived its authority direct from Christ came to an end. In that case it was left to the Church to decide what should happen. The Church had to determine whether there should be any official ministry at all and if that problem was decided in the affirmative, what form the new ministry should take. There could be no divine obligation to reproduce the same ministerial constitution everywhere. It was a case for local option. No church could bind its successors. Each generation was free to revise or reverse the methods of its predecessors. There was no compelling reason why any particular form of ministry should be permanent, since God fulfils Himself in many ways, lest one good custom should corrupt the world. It has been argued by an eminent Non-conformist, and, quite logically, on the assumption that the Apostolic Succession is false, that the very fact that one particular form of ministry has continued for centuries is in itself abundant reason why we ought to have a change. Ultraconservatism can have no place in a progressive community. A chief duty of a Church is to adapt itself to the requirements of the age."

The Living Church ought to know that there is a Church which rejects the doctrine of the Apostolic Succession and still escapes the dangers depicted as consequent upon the absence of episcopal ordination. Before proposing the dilemma: either Apostolic Succession or chaos and change, it would do well to glance at the system of the Lutheran Church (which, we insist, is the Scriptural system). How does the Church get its ministry? Augsburg Confession, Art. XIV: "Of ecclesiastical order they teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called." And it is the individual congregation that is divinely authorized to call the proper persons into the ministry. Smalcald Articles: "The churches are in duty bound before God, according to divine law, to ordain for themselves pastors and ministers." "Wherever there is a true church, the right to elect and ordain ministers necessarily exists." "Christ indicates to whom He has given the keys, namely, to the Church: Where two or three are gathered together in My name. Likewise Christ gives supreme and final jurisdiction to the Church, when he says: Tell it unto the Church." (Trigl., 525, § 72; 523, § 67; 511, § 24.) And this method of calling the ministers through the congregations is not an ecclesiastical ordinance, subject to revision and change through Christian liberty or by the variable whims of the successive ages, but it is a divine institution. Apology: "The Church has the command to appoint ministers." (Trigl., 311, § 12.) Smalcald Articles: "The Gospel assigns to those who preside over churches the command to teach the Gospel," etc. In fact, the ministry of to-day is the continuation of the divinely instituted apostolic ministry. Augsburg Confession: "For with this commandment Christ sends forth His apostles: Preach the Gospel to every creature." (85, § 5.) Smalcald Articles: "The office of the ministry proceeds from the general call of the apostles." (507, § 10.) There is no apostolic succession by episcopal ordination, and still there is no room "for local option." There is no telling what might happen if any group of Christians at any place were at liberty to devise new forms according to its unwisdom. "Episcopal ordination" would be a safeguard. But God has not

381

chosen to institute it. He has ordered the churches to set apart, call, fit men for the purpose of shepherding the flocks, and no Christian body has the right to discuss the question whether "we ought to have a change."

The article then proceeds to tell why a ministry procured through the call of the congregation is not acceptable. "Moreover, if all spiritual authority is vested in the congregation, it follows that the congregation has the power to ordain." (Change "ordain" into "call," and we shall accept this as a correct presentation of the Lutheran position.) then, does ordination mean? Opinion is here divided. Some say it means that the Church is authorizing a man to be its minister." (Taking ordination for the confirmation of the call, we have here again the Lutheran position.) "Others lay all the stress on the man's assurance that he has received a call from heaven. This call from heaven is restricted to no one form of organization. That does not sound exactly conducive to unity. But if the call has come from heaven, it is not within the right of officials to forbid it. Congregational leaders insist that this call from heaven disregards all official lines and comes to some Christian men as it came to Amos. Amos was no prophet nor the Son of a prophet. He belonged to no priestly or clerical family. But although he belonged to no privileged caste and was not qualified by any official initiation, yet he was divinely commissioned to deliver the message of the Eternal. What was true of the ancient prophet, it is suggested, is also true of the prophet in Christian times." The Lutheran Church refuses to get its ministry in this way, by way of the immediate call evidenced to the subject of the call by what he terms the inner call, because the Lord has chosen to issue His call through the congregation. But why does the Living Church refuse to accept not only the ministry originating in the "inner call," but also the ministry given to the Church through the call of the congregation? This is the argument: "That is to say, the Christian ministry is prophetic, not priestly. . . . If the minister is a preacher and nothing else, it is perfectly consistent to maintain that ordination is simply recognition by the congregation that a man possesses the religious qualities and prophetic gifts suited for a minister and that as such he is set apart for the service of the Church. . . . But if the minister is not a priest, there is no consecration of the eucharistic elements, and his ordination is to a prophetic function and not to a priestly." The argument based on the priestly character of the minister will carry weight with the Catholics, Roman and Episcopalian Catholics, but none at all with the Lutherans and other Protestants. There is no priestly character to base anything on. - Besides, the whole line of argument is obscure. If ministers were priests, we cannot see why the congregational call could not invest them with the priestly character as well as the episcopal ordination.

Why the Local Church Fails in Mission-Support.—In an address delivered by Dr. F. A. Agar at the Foreign Missions Conference held at Atlantic City some of the reasons were pointed out why the local church fails in support of missions. He holds that the "one great first cause is an undisciplined, untaught, easy-going, compromising church-membership." Other causes worth considering are: "1) expensive new edifices, which entail increased overhead; 2) disintegration of the unity of the local church, since segments of the local church tend to become self-sufficient

382 Theological Observer. — Ritchlich: Beitgeschichtliches.

and unbalanced in their collection and distribution of moneys; 3) disloyalty of local members to the denominational program; 4) cowardice in dealing with incoming members; 5) fear of present members; 6) untrained, unenlisted lay leadership, due often to an unprepared, self-seeking clergy; 7) failure to realize a relationship between the center and the extremity of the body of Christ (a man may die at the center simply from an injury to an extremity); 8) easy-going rather than a cross-bearing discipleship; 9) a divisive educational program, much of which is harmful because directly related to money production; 10) men are too often charged with the sole care of the local church finances, and consequently the local church gets its money at the expense of missions; 11) a fair amount of mission-money is constantly misappropriated by church officers for local church expenses; 12) the individual of more than ordinary possibilities has often been neglected and "protected" against personal solicitation. Many well-to-do people will not give all they have to distribute through local church channels; here then lies a large field for personal cultivation. 13) Too often high-pressure methods are used, which ultimately tend to lose both the person and his money. 14) The present beggar is more obvious than the far-away unsaved. 15) We have gone after money instead of after the person. 16) A plea based on needs and vision alone is unsound and defeats itself in the end, since obedience and love are basic and essential to Christianity. 17) Emotional production or the sob story, which often leads to regret and anger, while it does not basically build character."

Other causes are mentioned which in the opinion of the writer do not concern our own circles. Those mentioned above may help to point out to us some of the "weak spots" in our system of mission-support, accounting for our failure to meet the demands of a mission-budget which is by no means extravagant.

The Watchman-Examiner, from which we have quoted this item, remarks: "The seat of most of our difficulties lies in the life of our local churches and in the places whence comes their leadership." Is that true also of our Church?

J. T. M.

The Sad Situation in the Methodist Church. - Some time ago the Christian Advocate had raised the question, What is wrong with Methodism? Replying to this question, Dr. Harold Paul Sloan, editor of the Essentialist, in this paper draws a picture of conditions in the Methodist Church which is simply appalling. We quote some of his sentences (and it must be remembered that Dr. Sloan himself is a Methodist): "Bishop Berry said some years ago in the Christian Advocate that the Modernist group in Methodism were placing representatives of their point of view in every conspicuous pulpit, college presidency, and General Conference office that became vacant. This statement of the bishop is substantially correct and has been correct over a period of more than a decade and a half. . . . The deity of Christ in the sense of His eternal personal preexistence, His incarnation by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, His bodily resurrection in the sense that His sepulcher was left open and empty on Easter morning, are all being denied and their evidences undermined in the outstanding colleges, universities, and seminaries of the Church. . . . At one of our recent annual conferences a local Hebrew Rabbi was brought

## Theological Observer. — Rirchlich=Zeitgeschichtliches.

in for a paid lecture. He repudiated historic Christianity in no uncertain terms. He scouted everything miraculous in connection with Jesus. . . . Notwithstanding Dr. Fosdick's negative views and his pantheistic tendencies he is invited to write in the young people's journals of the Methodist Church and is allowed to characterize the very central affirmations of Christian faith as mythological. When criticized, he is defended by the church press almost unanimously, and those who criticized him are denied the opportunity of stating their position. . . . The Sabbath-school literature and other religious educational literature of the Methodist Church is honeycombed with antichristian teaching, and has been for more than a decade. . . . With this condition, so strongly developed in the Church, the chief leaders of the Church seem to be wholly unconcerned. Year after year they give recognition to unbelieving or to theologically colorless men and seem to have no more definite policy than to suppress freedom of discussion and avoid the joining of a doctrinal issue within the Church." The Methodists sowed the wind through laxity in doctrine, and now they are reaping the whirlwind. May the Lutheran Church here learn a lesson! A.

### II. Ausland.

Ihmels und die Augsburgifche Konfession. über die Bierhundertjahrfeier der Augsburgischen Konfession äußert sich auch D. Ihmels in der "A. E. L. R." Und intereffiert vor allem ber lette Baragraph, in bem fich ber jächfische Landesbischof über ben Bekenntniswert ber Augsburgischen Ronfeffion ausspricht. Er fcreibt: "Der Tag von Augsburg ift ber Geburtstag unserer Rirche. Indem sich aber die evangelischen Stände um bas gemeinsame Bekenntnis sammelten, bedeutete das zugleich Absage gegen die andern Lehrweisen. In bem Sinn bürfen auch wir nicht an bem Berwerfungsurteil vorüber, daß das Bekenntnis gegenüber der "Gegenlehre" ausspricht. An der Beife, wie das Bekenntnis das Berwerfungsurteil ausspricht, erheben sich dann freilich Fragen, die hier nicht erörtert werden können. Aweierlei aber Einmal die Unmöglichkeit, Thefis und Antithefis zugleich zu ift deutlich. bejahen. Das Bekenntnis fordert bis ins einzelne hinein ein Ja ober Rein. Dieje im Grund triviale Erfenntnis will aber um fo ernfter betont fein, als wir — bas ist bas andere — im höchsten Ernst bafür verantwortlich sind, daß von dem neuen Berftändnis des Evangeliums, das Gott in der Reformation der Kirche schenkte, nichts verlorengeht. Wir find bafür dem SErrn ber Kirche verantwortlich, aber auch seiner Gemeinde — und auch benen, die heute uns widersprechen. Gewiß, wieder nicht in dem Sinne, als glaubten wir, daß mit dem Bekenntnis unserer Rirche die Entwidlung abgeschlossen fei. Bielmehr warten wir in großem Ernft barauf, daß ber SErr auch für unfere Zeit seine Berheißung einlose, daß Gottes Geift die Seinen in alle Bahrheit leiten solle. Rur daß aller Fortschritt innerhalb der Kirche der Reformation aus der Erkenntnis erwachse, die Gott seiner Kirche neu schenkte." — Diesen letten Gebanken von einer noch kommenden "Lehrbertiefung" wird der lutherische Chrift gang entschieden ablehnen muffen, will er wirklich zu bem Augsburgischen Bekenninis voll und gang ja fagen; benn solange er "mit großem Ernst barauf wartet", daß noch einmal etwas "Tieferes" tommt, als was die Augsburgifche Konfession auf Grund bes Evangeliums bekennt, muß feine Stellung zu diefem Bekenntnis fcmantenb Die irrige Meinung bon einer noch bevorftebenben "Lehrentwid-Tung" oder "Lehrfortbilbung" ift ein höchft gefährliches wevdos. J. T. M.

#### 384 Theological Observer. — Rirchlich Reitgeschichtliches.

Theologiestubierenbe in Deutschland. "Das Ev. Deutschland" beklagt ben großen Andrang ber beutschen Jugend zum akademischen Studium und bemerkt: "Obwohl bie meiften akademischen Berufe icon jest überfüllt find, haben doch faft alle Fatultäten boppelt fo viel Stubierenbe als bor bem Krieg. Bie follen biefe vielen jungen Atabemiter in bem verarmten Deutschland zu Amt und Brot tommen?" Im Commerhalbjahr 1929 betrug die Gesamtzahl der Studierenden in Deutschland gegen 123,000. Das Erfreulich ift Blatt fcpreibt ferner: "Diefer Anbrang ift beangftigenb. baran nur die Tatfache, bag auch bas theologische Studium an ber Steis gerung Anteil hat. 1911 gab es an den evangelischetheologischen Fatultäten Deutschlands 2,723 Studierende; 1925 waren es nur 1,800, 1928 aber bereits 3,828 und 1929 fogar 4,811. Die Bahl ber jungen Theologen hat sich also im Deutschen Reich seit 1925 mehr als verdoppelt. Im vorigen Jahr ist die Borkriegszahl der Theologen überschritten worden. Man darf erwarten, daß in vier bis fechs Sahren ben meiften evangelischen Landess firden wieder genügend Bredigtamtstandibaten zur Berfügung fteben werben, um bie borhandenen Luden auszufüllen. Die Bertichabung ber eingelnen theologischen Fakultäten hat fich gegen früher nicht unwesentlich gewandelt. Die Führung hat im Commer Tübingen, im Winter Berlin. Tübingen zeigt eine Blüte, wie fie noch nie eine theologische Fafultat erlebt Bei ben meiften Fafultäten bat fich gegenüber ber Borfriegszeit bie Befucherzahl ftart bermehrt, bei bielen fogar berboppelt (Tübingen, Berlin, Marburg, Erlangen, Göttingen, Greifstvald, Rönigsberg, Roftod). hat feinen früheren Stand wieber erreicht. Leipzig aber bleibt hinter bem Stand bon 1911 noch um ein bolles Drittel gurud." A. T. M.

Der Dobernismus in Samburg. Wie in ber Samburger Bollsfirche in ber Abventszeit gepredigt wird, zeigt bie "Ev. - Luth. Freifirche", bie barüber berichtet (nur teilweise zitiert): "Am zweiten Abventssonntag wohnte ich einem Abendgottesbienst in einer der Hauptkirchen Hanburgs bei. Ich wollte mich perfonlich bavon überzeugen, was hier in der Abventszeit dem Der Baftor predigte über bas Evangelium bes Conn-Bolt verfündet wird. tags, bas bom Ende ber Belt handelt; bas heißt, er las bas Evangelium bor, gepredigt hat er bas gerade Gegenteil. Er redete bon ber ichonen Abbentszeit, die von alters ber bas Berlangen nach bem Simmelreich in ben Bergen ber Gläubigen getvedt habe. Jefaias habe von bem Abvent gerebet und gesagt: "Uns ift ein Rind geboren, ein Cohn ift uns gegeben' ufw. Und als Chriftus gekommen fei, da habe ihm bas Bolt zugejauchzt und erwartet, daß das Simmelreich nun fame. Chriftus fei bon ihnen gegangen, und heute noch schauten die Leute aus nach ihm und erwarteten, daß er tomme wie ein Dieb in der Nacht, daß durch eine große Katastrophe himmel und Erbe werbe untergeben und daß da werbe fein ein neuer himmel und eine neue Erde. Die Abventsgeschichte sei aber eine fehr tragische Gefcichte; fie fei ein Gericht über alle, die auf eine Biebertunft Chrifti und ein Endgericht warteten. Seit Nahrhunderten hätten bie Ehriften barauf gewartet, daß das Himmelreich anbreche, daß der Herr wiederkomme und die Erde mit großem Krachen vergehe. Aber auf dies alles antworte die Geschichte mit einem großen Rein. Die Chrlichfeit forbere, bag man bie Bahrheit bekenne. Gine folde Rataftrophe werbe nicht hereinbrechen, Die Geschichte habe biefen Traum gerftort. Auch Chriftus falle unter bies Gericht. Der Tag fei nicht getommen wie ein Dieb in ber Racht. Er habe

## Theological Observer. - Rirchlich : Beitgeschichtliches.

gesagt: "Dies Geschlecht wird nicht vergehen, bis daß dies alles geschehe", und bas Geschlecht sei boch bergangen. Auch Christus habe geträumt. Darum fei es notwendig, daß wir aus dem Traum in die Wirklichkeit berfest würden. Der BErr habe gefagt, er fei gefommen, ein Feuer angugunben auf Erben. Das fei bas Feuer ber Liebe, bas fei etwas gang Reues, wovon man bisher nichts gewußt habe. Das fei bie Aufgabe ber Christen, Liebe in die Häuser der Menschen zu bringen, das fordere Abbent bon ihnen." Die "Freifirche" bemerkt hierzu: "Armes, betrogenes Bolt, bas folden Unglauben anhören muß, bem Christus, die etvige Bahrheit, als Träumer hingestellt wird, den das Urteil treffe, er habe sich getäuscht, er habe geträumt! Armes Bolt, bem alle Chriftenhoffnung geraubt wird und das in äußeren Liebeswerfen das Wesen des Christentums suchen soll!" Aber warum gebraucht biefer moderniftische Samburger Baftor überhaupt noch Christi Wort, wenn Christus nichts anderes als ein Träumer und fein Wort nichts anderes als die reinste Unwahrheit gewesen ift? Gin ftarfer Beweis für die Bahrheit und Göttlichfeit ber Schrift liegt gerade barin, bağ bie Moberniften nicht ohne fie fertig werben tonnen. 3. T. M.

"Der Reicheverband beutider evangelifder Schulgemeinben" fagte eine Berfammlung für ben 5. bis 7. April 1930 an. In ber Einladung heißt es in ber "Deutschen Lehrerzeitung" u. a.: "Soll unfer beutsches Bolt in biefer Beit innerer und augerer Rot nicht zugrunde geben, fo muß es zurudkehren zu ben Quellen feiner alten Rraft: Gottesfurcht und Baterlandeliebe. reine Quelle wahrer Gottesfurcht ift aber die Offenbarung Gottes in feinem eingebornen Sohne, unferm hochgelobten BErrn und Beiland JEfus Chriftus, dem Anfänger und Bollender unfers Glaubens, in dem allein das Seil für jede Menschenseele und auch für die Bolfer ber Erbe zu finden ift. An bem gottmenschlichen Erlöser, dem gegeben ift alle Gewalt im himmel und auf Erben, entideibet fich auch bas enbliche Schidfal unfers armen, geplagten, tief gebemütigten beutschen Bolfes. Goll aber driftlicher Glaube und driftliche Gitte unferm beutschen Bolte erhalten bleiben, fo muß bor allen Dingen nach Möglichkeit für wahrhaft driftliche Jugenbergiehung in Saus und Schule Sorge getragen werben. Das ift Biel und Aufgabe aller, bie ihren Berrn und Beiland und unfer Bolf liebhaben. Das betrachten wir als die vornehmite Miffion unferer evangelischen Schulgemeindebewegung. . . . Ungeheures Elend, Rot und Gunde ift über Bolf und Baterland hereingebroden. Der Unglaube erhebt ichamlos fein Saupt. Der Rampf zwifchen Licht und Finfternis, bem Evangelium von Jefus Chriftus und ber wiberdriftlichen mobernen Beltanschauung, wird gang besonders auf dem Schuls gebiet durchgefämpft werden müffen. Getreu dem Erbe unferer Bater hat ber Reichsberband beutscher ebangelischer Schulgemeinden bas Banner bes Rreuges aufgepflangt und tampft im Geifte bes biblifch-reformatorifchen Chriftentums nach Maggabe feiner Araft und Ertenntnis um bie Schule mit ber Bibel' für unfer Bolt. In feiner jetigen Geftaltung begeht er in diefem Jahre fein gehntes Jahresfest. In ben Stürmen ber Revolution mit all ihren tiefgreifenben Umtvälzungen beffand bie allergrößte Gefahr, bag unferm Bolle die driftliche Schule genommen wurde; fie zu bannen, wurden in faft allen Teilen unfers Baterlandes, gunadift in Rheinland und Beitfalen, ebangelifche Schulgemeinben bon ber Elternschaft im Bunbe mit ber gleichs gefinnten Lehrericaft ins Leben gerufen. Diefe Schulgemeinben foloffen fich am 4. Februar 1920 jum Berbande ebangelifder Schulgemeinden und Elterns

25

## 386 Theological Observer. — Rirchlich : Beitgeschichtliches.

bereinigungen zusammen. Aus diesem Berbande ift bann in ber furgen Beit bon gehn Jahren im Rahmen bes alten Sauptverbandes beutscher ebangelifder Schulgemeinden und Elternbereinigungen, Lehrers und Lehrerinnens bereine unfer großer Reichsberband ebangelifder Schulgemeinben mit vielen Sunderten bon Ortsgruppen und Unterverbanden entstanden, ber nun in ben Tagen bom 5. bis zum 7. April eine machivolle Kundgebung für die Schule mit ber Bibel an bem Ort feiner Gründung zu beranftalten gebentt. . . . gelifche Chriften, evangelifche Lehrer, evangelifche Bater und Mutter, bezeugt eure Liebe gur Jugend und gu bem Erbe ber Bater im Rampf für die mahrhaft driftlide Schule, indem ihr euch an ber Jubilaumstagung bes Reichsberbandes beutscher ebangelischer Schulgemeinden gahlreich beteiligt! Es foll alles geschehen, euch ben Aufenthalt in ber neuen Stadt Buppertal burch Gaftfreundschaft zu erleichtern und lehrreich und angenehm zu gestalten. Der Berr, unfer Gott, aber gebe auch zu biefer Tagung feinen Segen, gur Chre feines großen Ramens, zum Beile unferer Augend, unferer Schule und Rirche, unfers Bolfes und Baterlandes!" — Borftehendes ift ficherlich gut gemeint und wird auch manchen Eltern zu einer Mahnung werben, ihre Rinder nicht ohne Unterricht in Gottes Wort und driftliche Bucht aufwachsen gu laffen. Aber bas angeftrebte Biel, "bie mahrhaft driftliche Schule", wird erft bann erreicht werben, wenn bie driftlichen "Schulgemeinden" fich gu driftlichen Orisgemeinden entwideln, Die bereit find, in freitirchlicher Berbindung, wie für die Ausbildung von wahrhaft driftlichen Paftoren, so auch für die Ausbildung von ebenso beschaffenen Lehrern zu forgen. Auch bei wohlmeinenden driftlichen Lehrern find die Begriffe über die Geftaltung des driftlichen Schulunterrichts vielfach noch ungeflärt. Bu berfelben Rummer ber "Deutschen Lehrerzeitung" schreibt jemand: "Das Deutschtum wird im Mittelpunkt der Ergiehung au fteben haben, beutsche Rulturguter wird fie ben Schülern in erfter Linie zu geben haben, bamit beutsche Jünglinge und beutsche Madden herangebildet werden." Das liege fich recht berfteben. Eine Jugenbergiebung, die nicht auch die nationale Gefinnung pflegt, ift ein Bergehen gegen göttliche und menfchliche Ordnung. Aber ber Redafteur ber "Deutschen Lehrerzeitung" fühlt fich boch mit Recht veranlagt, in einer Fugnote die Bemerkung hinzugufügen: "In unfern ebangelischen Bekenntnisfoulen muß felbftverftanblich bas Ebangelium bie Bentralfonne fein; baburch wird die wahrhaft beutsche Erziehung nur vertieft und gefordert werben." Das trifft auch in bezug auf unfere amerifanischen Schulverhalts Wir werben nur dann "wahrhaft ameritanische Jünglinge und Madden" erziehen, wenn wir bei ber Erziehung "das Evangelium die Bentralfonne" fein laffen. Wir behaubten baber mit Recht, bag unfere driftlichen Gemeinbeschulen nicht nur für die Rirche, fondern auch für ben Staat ein Segen finb. F. V.

Recent Calumny Against Luther. — In a copyrighted article the Protestant writes the following about a "new calumny against Luther": "The hatred of Martin Luther which has rankled four hundred years in the hearts of the Popes and their enthroned hierarchy has expressed itself not only in deeds of persecution and massacre of his followers, but in enough libels to load many freight-trains. The favorite defamatory invention peddled by the Church of Rome against the Reformer in recent years has been the assertion that he broke away from papal authority because he wished to marry. That a man would not be permitted, without

Theological Observer. - Rirchlich-Beitgeschichtliches.

387

leaving the Roman Church, to do that which the Papacy says Jesus Christ made a sacrament is certainly no credit to that Church.

"But now comes the Tablet, diocesan organ of the Roman archbishop enthroned in Brooklyn, with an explanation of Luther's incentive for washing his hands of popery which is entirely new. It abandons the libel that has recently been so overworked and substitutes the declaration that it was jealousy because the local archbishop of Rome had chosen Johann Tetzel instead of Luther to sell indulgences in Germany. The harshness of the language in which that averment is expressed contrasts strangely with the ceaseless Roman Catholic prating about toleration. Answering a question as to why Luther left the Church of Rome, the Brooklyn paper said on January 11: 'The reason commonly advanced by historians for his defection from the Church and his terrible tirade against her was the fact that Archbishop Albert of Brandenburg had selected Tetzel, a Dominican, rather than him, to spread the doctrine of indulgences in Germany on the occasion of the building of the great St. Peter's at Rome. His anger was so intense, his envy so fierce, that he immediately began to attack the nature and doctrine of indulgences and later on practically everything that was near and dear to the heart of every Catholic.'

"That members and agents of an institution which thus tramples on well-authenticated facts are permitted to occupy history chairs in many of our colleges and universities is tragic. . . . When the venality then gathering the wealth of the world into the papal coffers resorted to the device of selling indulgences to commit monstrous sins, Luther was appalled at the brazen performance. To say that he sought, or would have accepted, authority to engage in that ungodly traffic is impudently false. There is nowhere a shred of evidence in support of that wanton libel. On the other hand, in his capacity as a priest he received Roman Catholics in the confessional who boldly declined to express penitence for their sins. On his refusal to absolve them, they produced their indulgences, which they regarded as removing the necessity of absolution. . . . It was this nefarious traffic and his personal observations in Rome that shook the honest and heroic Luther and drove him to face in open revolt the ecclesiastical despotism that had burned John Huss and Jerome of Prague at the stake at the Council of Constance for such revolt. It does not lie in the mouth of Roman prelates and their diocesan organs now to malign the memory of Luther, who escaped their vengeance only by the quick and adroit action of friends who seized and hid him in Wartburg Castle. Unarmed and helpless except for the divine protection, he concluded his defense before the Diet of Worms in the words, 'Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise.

"He was there as the exponent of Christian liberty. The most powerful and brutal autocracy in the history of the world was thirsting for his blood. His achievement brought also civil liberty. He laid the foundation of the democratic institutions that now cover most of the earth. He is one of the foremost heroes and benefactors of all the centuries. No papal calumny, not all of them together, can sully his fame or dim the luster of his unique contribution to human welfare. Out of the Reformation have arisen the ethics and law, the liberty and justice, the schools and governments, the ideals and aspirations, of the modern world. It marks

#### Theological Observer. — Rirchlich=Beitgeschichtliches.

388

the parting of the ways. It terminated the dark centuries of papal and imperial oppression. It turned men from popery to God. Its effects were carried across the Atlantic and swept into the New World. They measure the contrast of the United States with Latin America. No man since the Apostolic Age has so stirred and blessed mankind as Martin Luther. Time has not diminished his stature. In character and intellect and courage he towers immeasurably above all the Popes of Rome. He is an outstanding figure in the landscape of history."

J. T. M.

Wo bie große Not Deutschlands liegt. Bir lesen in ber "Deutschen Lehrerzeitung": "Ohne Zweifel liegen in ber Industrialifierung ber Maffen fcwere fittliche Gefahren; die Arfachen unferer religiöfen Bolfonot aber feben wir in dem Ginfluffe bes bom modernen Menfchengeift beherrichten theologifden Liberalismus, ber bem Bolle Steine ftatt Brot reicht. Gottes Wort lauter und rein verfündet wird, ba beweift es fich auch heute noch als eine Gottesfraft, die da felig macht alle, die baran glauben." Das ift ein völlig zutreffendes Urteil. Den "theologischen Liberalismus" pflegen aber nicht nur die gewöhnlich fo genannten "liberalen Theologen", fondern auch die unter lutherischem Ramen gehenden Theologen, die die unfehlbare göttliche Autorität ber Schrift bestreiten und bes Menschen Belehrung und Seligfeit nicht allein auf Gottes Gnabe, fondern auch auf bas menschliche Bohlverhalten gründen. überhaupt hat sich in unserer Zeit ein irreführender theologischer Sprachgebrauch herausgebildet. Wir unterscheiben zwischen "liberalen" und "positiven" Theologen in dem Ginne, daß wir die "liberal" nennen, welche ausgesprochenermaken aus der christlichen Religion ein Bros duft ber menschlichen Bernunft machen wollen, während wir folden Theos logen, die noch Teile der chriftlichen Religion festhalten wollen, das Prädikat "pojitib" beilegen. Aber bies Brabifat tommt, genau gerebet, nur benen zu, die in allen Stüden bei dem bleiben, was ein für allemal in der Schrift Ber fich Abzüge babon erlaubt, treibt nicht mehr "positive", jondern negative Theologie. Dasfelbe gilt von dem Ausbrud "tonfeffionelle Theologie". Ronfeffionell-lutherifch find nur die Theologen, die in ihrer theologischen Erkenntnis fo weit geforbert find, daß fie die Lehre des lutherischen Bekenntnisses als schriftgemäß erkannt haben und tatfächlich gu lehren imftanbe finb. F. B.

In ber Bollen fein Mitleib und feine Unterftütung vom Ausland. "M. C. Q. R." lefen wir folgendes über ben "Beiligen Synod" ber ruffifche griechischen Rirche: "Der "Beilige Shnob' protestiert gegen bas Gintreten ausländischer Chriften für die berfolgten Chriften in Rufland. glieber bes Synob unter bem Borfit bes Stellvertreters bes Batriarden, bes Metropoliten Gergius, lehnen grundfablich und in außerorbentlich icharfer Form alle Berfuche ab, Schute ober Silfsattionen andersgläubiger Rirchenführer zu bulben, und werfen diefen - mit bem Papfte an ber Spipe - bor, bağ fie weniger ben Schut unterbrudter Chriften als politische Biele, nämlich die Aufreigung zu Intervention und Krieg gegen den Cowjetstaat, beabs Im übrigen ftellt die Rundgebung feft, ,daß die jettigen Führer ber ruffifden Rirche die einzige Möglichfeit zu weiterer firchlicher Arbeit in bollauf lohaler Einstellung zum jetigen Staate feben, daß in Rugland Priefter und Gläubige nicht wegen religiöfer überzeugungen verfolgt werben. Wo Repressalien bortamen, handle es sich um ftaatsfeindliche Saltung eingelner Priefter, die ja bei ber jahrelangen offenen Feindschaft ber Rirche gegen ben neuen Staat feineswegs felten fei. Innerhalb ber beftehenben

## Theological Observer. - Rirchlich: Beitgeschichtliches.

Geset lebe die Kirche ungehindert. Kirchenschließungen ersolgten nicht aus der Initiative der Regierung, sondern auf Bunsch der Bevölkerung. Der Priesternachtwuchs werde individuell ausgedildet, da Mittel für eine Alademie sehlen; aber im ganzen seinen die Mittel der Gemeinden ausreichend, die Kirche ohne ausländische Unterstützung zu unterhalten. Die Kirche sei natürlich durch das rasche Anwachsen des Atheismus beunruhigt, sei aber des sesten Glaubens, daß das göttliche Licht nicht verschwinden, sons dern sest in den Herzen wurzeln werde"." — Während wir dies schreiben, meldet eine Depesche aus Ruhland, daß der Metropolitan Sergius wegen seiner Stellungnahme für die Sowjetregierung in einer Kirche tätlich angesgriffen und beschimpft worden ist. Es dürsten neue Schredensszenen solgen, wenn die Rachricht auf Wahrheit beruht.

Biebereinführung bes Dutterredits. Im "Friebensboten" fcreibt Dr. Dennert: "Biebereinführung bes Mutterrechts empfehlen bie Franzofen R. Chodion, E. be Girardin, Abam fotvie ber Schweiger Forel. Leiber fteht es ja fo, bag heutzutage ,freie Liebe' und Chescheibungen immer mehr und mehr zur Auflösung ber Ramilie als ber Grundlage bes Staates führen. Da foll nun eine Reform ber Familie belfen, nämlich ein Burudgehen auf bas Mutterrecht ber Urzeit, bei bem bie Mutter bas Oberhaupt der Familie war. Dadurch wird ber Bater beseitigt, ebenso ber Unterfcied zwischen ehelichen und unehelichen Kindern, benn badurch wird bie uneheliche Mutterschaft ehrenwert. Es wird behauptet, daß jene Urgeit burch bas Mutterrecht eine Reit bes Friedens und Wohlstandes war [?]; und so erhoffen die genannten Männer dasselbe auch heute noch bon ber Biebereinführung des Mutterrechts. Natürlich find bies höchft gefährliche Belfen tann nur eine ethifch-religiofe Biebergeburt und bewußtes Chriftentum." Der letten, gang wichtigen Bemertung tonnte noch hingugefügt werben, daß es niemals ein "Mutterrecht ber Urzeit" gegeben hat. Rach bem mojaifchen Schöpfungsbericht wurde bas "Baterrecht" gleich am Anfang ber Menschengeschichte etabliert. Das "Mutterrecht" trat erft fpater als Folge ber Gunde auf und fand fich nur unter vereinzelten Boltsftammen, aber immer als Berberfion ber urfprünglichen göttlichen Ordnung. 3. T. M.

Bur Berbreitung ber Bibel. Sierüber berichtet bas "Kirchenblatt", zitiert in ber "Luth Kirchenzeitung", wie folgt: "Alle, die Gottes Reich in ber Seidenwelt und in der Heimat bauen möchten, interessiert gewiß die gunehmenbe Berbreitung ber Bibel. Bon ber Britifden und Muslanbifden Bibelgefellichaft ift im letten Jahre die Bibel wieder in fünfzehn neuen Neun biefer überfetungen fallen auf Spracen herausgegeben worden. Ufrita, zwei auf die Subfeeinseln und vier auf Europa. Unter den letteren ift auch die Bibel in plattbeutscher Sprache. Wie man oft gang wunderbar für bie übersette Bibel Berwendung findet, beweift bas Folgende: Bor bielen Jahren war bon einem Ruffen, ber in feiner Arbeit bon George Borrow unterftüht wurde, eine überfehung bes Reuen Teftaments in Manbidurifc angefertigt und von der Britischen Bibelgesellschaft gedrudt worden. George Borrow und feine Freunde hatten gehofft, daß die Manbidjus, falls fie Chriften würden, gang China für das Chriftentum gewinnen würden. Aber fein einziges Exemplar biefer überfetung wurde abgefett. Jett hat ein China-Inland-Miffionar in Bentralafien eine Rolonie von 40,000 Mandfcus gefunden und bittet um jedes Testament in dieser Sprache, bas bie Gefellichaft befitt. Go war bie Arbeit boch nicht vergebens." 3. T. M.

890

Bermifchtes und zeitgeschichtliche Rotigen.

Australian and New Zealand Lutheran Periodicals.—The Australian Lutheran calls attention to two Lutheran papers which, in spite of their humble and modest appearance, nevertheless proclaim and defend Luther's doctrine in important fields. It writes: "Our brethren in New Zealand have commenced the publication of a church-paper in the interest of their work. It bears the title Defender of the Faith. Pastor H. Bruhn is the editor. The paper is printed in pamphlet form and is artistically got up. Its contents are principally a defense of the Bible against Modernism."—Of the second paper it says: "Few of our readers will know that there is a newspaper bearing this name [Kristarinja Welanbarinjaka Pepa] published in South Australia, or, to be more exact, in the Northern Territory. It is the first Lutheran periodical to be published for the Australian aboriginals. Pastor Albrecht, of the Hermannsburg mission-station in Central Australia, is the editor and the printer, the 'printing' being done on a duplicator."

The Chinese Bible Society. - In spite of the turmoils of war and the confusion of political unrest, Christians in China found time to organize a Chinese Bible Society. The Sunday-school Times reports: "In the spring of 1927, during the dark days of the Communist uprising, when the land was racked from end to end, a number of Chinese met and organized a Chinese Bible Society. They had a good precedent, for it was in the dark times of the Napoleonic wars that the British and Foreign Bible Society was founded. Their immediate purpose was to direct and extend colportage of the Scriptures in the two Kwang provinces, Kwangtung and Kwangsi, and to stimulate Chinese Christians to more active support of the Bible work. This South China Bible Society has enrolled five hundred sustaining members and is stirring the churches to the observation of Bible Sunday. On October 20, 1928, the first annual Bible Society meeting was held in Canton. It is a little plantling from the point of view of finance, but it is planted, and that is the thing of first importance." J. T. M.

Kirchengemeinschaften in Sübafrika. Nach einer Mitteilung im "Eb.» Luth. Gemeinbeblatt" wurden, wie der letzte Zensus nachweist, in Südafrika aus einer Bebölkerung von 1,519,488 nur 3,203 Personen vorgefunden, welche erklärten, daß sie keiner Kirche angehörten. Unter den in Südafrika bertretenen Kirchengemeinschaften weisen die acht größten folgende Glieders zahl auf: holländische Kirchen: 883,982; Episkopale: 294,026; Methodisten: 102,771; Preschterianer: 74,999; Katholiken: 61,246; Lutheraner: 19,098; Baptisten: 15,414; Kongregationalisten: 10,598. Demnach stehen die Luthes theraner in Südafrika, nach numerischer Stärke gerechnet, an sechster Stelle.

# Bermifchtes und zeitgeschichtliche Rotigen.

Beendigung eines Streites ohne Unionismus. Hierüber berichtete Präses H. Preus von der Norwegischen Shnode in einem Jahresbericht, der im neunten Jahrgang von "Lehre und Wehre" (1863) in deutscher übersehung mitgeteilt ist. Da heißt es S. 276: "Nicht weniger groß ist die Barmherzigkeit, welche Gott unserer Gemeinschaft grade in diesen Streits