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# Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches

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Seldom was I able to present the sweetest story ever told in such richness and fulness as at the home of this one-time active member of my church. When I left, I felt assured that now the Gospel of Jesus Christ had been victorious, for the patient had quietly listened and seemingly acquiesced. The ceterum censeo "My sins, my sins!" did this time not conclude our conversation. Commending him into the gracious hands of our Master, I left him.

And what happened? Two days later he hanged himself. A terrible blow for all concerned! For thus came to an end a life of one who for many years had been a devout member and an active officerof the church. The verdict of the coroner's jury ruled that he died by his own hand, being irresponsible.

Chicago, Ill.

(To be continued.) F. C. STREUFERT.

## Theological Observer. — Rirdlid Beitgeschichtliches.

### I. Amerika.

Ans ber Synobe. Anläglich bes vierhundertjährigen Jubilaums ber Augsburgifden Ronfession hat bas Concordia-College in Abelaide, Auftras lien, die Professoren Arndt, Frit und Grabner von unserer St. Louiser Concordia zu Doftoren der Theologie honoris causa ernannt. — Bei der Eröffnung bes neuen Studienjahres in unferer St. Louifer Concordia wurs ben gwei neue Professoren, Brof. Th. Soner (bisher in Binfield, Kanf.) und P. E. J. Friedrich (bisher in Cleveland, O.), öffentlich in ihr Lehramt eingeführt. - Die Bahl ber eingeschriebenen Studenten in unserer St. Louiser Concordia beträgt biefes Jahr 534. Davon find etwa 80 als Bifare tätig und etwa 10 aus andern Grunden abwefend, fo bag die Bahl ber in biefem Jahre antvefenden Studenten etwa 446 beträgt. Die Zahlen unterliegen innerhalb bes Studienjahres fleinen Schwanfungen, weil ber eine ober andere Student der Kandidatenklaffe fich noch für ein Bikariat entschließt oder aus einem andern Grunde aus der Kandibatenklaffe ausscheibet. — über bie Birfung bes Arieges auf unfere Gemeinden in London, England, berichtet P. B. Bod, ber fruher felbit eine Reihe von Jahren in London Baftor war und diefes Jahr bort einen Befuch machte: "Leiber haben die Gemeinden burch ben Arieg febr gelitten. Finanziell fteben fie fich allerdings jeht beffer als früher. P. Battenberg arbeitet bort in fichtlichem Gegen. Die Gemeinde in Kentishtown muß sich allerdings früher oder später mit der Frage eines neuen Rircheneigentums beschäftigen, ba bie lease bes jegigen Eigentums in etlichen Jahren abläuft. Sehr leib tut es mir, bag unfere beiben Diffionsfoulen in ber Ariegszeit eingegangen find." In ber Ariegszeit hat ja auch unfer Gemeinbeschulwesen in den Bereinigten Staaten und anderswo Berlufte erlitten, die noch nicht gang wieder erseht find, wie unsere synodale Schulbehörde bei ber Delegatenspnode 1929 berichtete. Aber burch Gottes Gnade find wir dabei, über die Berlufte hinwegzukommen, weil in manchen Gemeinden neuer Gifer für Gemeindeschulen gewedt worden ift. Das fann burch Gottes Gnabe auch in London geschehen. — über ben "Hochpunkt" bes-

Mangels an Arbeitsfraften im Argentinischen Diftritt und über bie Abhilfe berichtet ber Brafes bes Difiritts im "Rirchenboten", wie folgt: "Im borigen Jahre fah fich P. Wolf aus Santa Rofa, Bamba, feiner Frau wegen, die Gott mit einem schweren Kreuz belegt hatte, genötigt, auf Urlaub nach Nordamerita zu geben. Die Bebienung feiner ausgebehnten Barochie gestaltete fich bann fo, bag P. Bab erft einen Teil bes Relbes gang übernahm und der Barodie Billa Fris angliederte. P. Bat bediente bann noch einen weiteren Teil ber Barochie Santa Roja valangweise, und P. G. D. Kramer übernahm vafanzweise die Bedienung von Cordoba und San Quis. bann im April bes vorigen Sabres P. A. T. Aramer von Buenos Aires ben Beruf zum zweiten Professor an unserm "Colegio" in Crespo annahm, wurde Buenos Aires vafant. Die Bafangbedienung wurde bann von bem Paftor in Crespo übernommen. Im Juni wurde Die Barodije Chanar vafant, indem ihr früherer Baftor feine Berbindung mit unferer Synode löfte. P. Bedmann übernahm bie Batanzbebienung; fpater tat bies P. Dilleh. Ms P. Jaud von Darregueira ben Beruf nach Buenos Aires annahm, wurde die Parodie Darregueira valant. Da dann aber P. Jaud seiner Frau wegen auf Urlaub nach Nordamerika ging, war ber Notlage in Buenos Nires bennoch nicht abgeholfen. Weil P. Saud bisber noch nicht zurudgefehrt ift. halt die Bafansbedienung der Gemeinde in Buenos Aires von Crespo aus an. Im September reifte P. Harre, ber fein Amt eines Halsleibens wegen niedergelegt hatte, nach ben Bereinigten Staaten gurud. P. Berndt folgte fobann bem Rufe der Parodie Darregueira; somit wurde die Parodie Coronel Suarez vafant. Die Bafangbedienung übernahmen die Baftoren Berndt und Aröger. Obwohl schon seit geraumer Zeit das Chacogebiet zu einer eigenen Parodie abgegrenzt ist, jo tonnte es tropbem bisher aus Mangel an Arbeitern nicht besetzt werden. P. Trunow von Lucas Gonzales bedient biefes Gebiet schon seit geraumer Zeit neben seiner Barochie La Llave. Somit hatten wir zu Anfang des Jahres fieben Paftoren, die neben ihrer regelmäßigen Arbeit in Rirche und Schule auch bafangweife aushalfen. Diefer Buftand der überlaftung tonnte nicht ohne fcwere Folgen für unfere Arbeit und unsere Arbeiter so fortgeben. Alls bann ber uns bon Nordamerika in Aussicht gestellte Kandidat zur Aushilfe im "Colegio" sich nicht einstellte, hatte unsere bedrängte Rotlage den Höchstpunkt erreicht. Die Gemeinde in Crespo verschaffte auf sechs Wochen Aushilfe im "Colegio", bis Kandidat Lange bon unferer "Freifirche" in Deutschland hier eintraf und Ende April ben Boften eines Silfsprofesfors auf zwei Nahre übernahm. Lehrer Groth war ingwischen bon Crespo nach Coronel Suarez berset worden und eröffnete die bort burch die Bafang fo fehr bedrohte Gemeindeschule. letter Beit hat nun P. Dillet ben Beruf an die Parodie Chanar übernommen. Daburch ift wiederum eine Balang in Biale eingetreten. Doch wird, fo Gott will, Randibat Gifmeier von Deutschland, ber in biefen Tagen in unserer Mitte eintreffen wird, Die Bedienung bon Biale übernehmen. Somit wären zwei Luden ausgefüllt. Ein neulich angetommenes Rabelgramm bon Nordamerifa melbet nun, bag P. Bolf feiner Frau wegen nicht gurudfehren wird, daß aber fünf Randidaten uns zugefandt werben. durch hoffen wir imftande zu fein, alle Lüden zu füllen und alle Bafangbedienungen aufzuheben. Gott gebe es! Gott fei herzlich gedankt für diefe Ihr Chriften, bergegt hierbei gwei Dinge nicht! schähen, was Gott euch und euren Kindern durch die Mutterfirche tut, und Pieper: Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches Ienkt in wahrer Dankbarkeit euer Interesse immer mehr auf unsere Anstalt in Crespo und unterstüht sie nach allem Bermögen mit begabten Söhnen und mit eurem Gelde. Helft an eurem Teile, daß nie wieder ein solcher Arbeitermangel hier in Argentinien entstehe! Ihr könnt mithelsen. Und daß zweite, was ihr nicht vergessen sollt, ist: Wenn wiederum Kot in der Nachbargemeinde durch Pastorenmangel entstehen sollte, dann helft an eurem Teile gerne aus, helft, wo ihr nur helsen könnt; denn wenn ein Glied Ieidet, dann seiben alle Glieder mit. Dankt Gott, daß ihr helsen könnt!"

Liberals and Conservatives in the Augustana Synod. — A communication published in the "Open Forum" of the Lutheran Companion of August 2, signed C. J. Segerhammar, contains this paragraph: "We read with much interest the recent review in the Lutheran Companion, by Prof. George Stephenson, of the book What Is Lutheranism? by Prof. Vergilius Ferm. But we read with sadness his statement that the 'Augustana men represented in the articles of that book are the most "liberal" of all.' Now, we haven't read the book in question; but if this is so, then we all have reason to feel more than sad." In a letter published in the issue of July 19 E. J. Peterson says: "When reading the 'Review' you cannot help get the impression that our Synod's men are not very loyal to their own Lutheran Church, i. c., if loyalty means to cherish and love 'one's own' and what differentiates that from other 'ownerships.' And I take for granted that that's what loyalty means. Who would ever call an American loyal who would put such a low value upon what is distinctly American that he would be willing to give it all up even to the extent of giving up its name for something else? It is intimated that this is what our 'synod men' have declared themselves willing to do in regard to their own Lutheran Church, under certain conditions, I presume. It is to be hoped that they do not represent the bulk of the Augustana Synod ministry."

Have these men quoted Prof. G. M. Stephenson (of the University of Minnesota) correctly? His review appeared in the Lutheran Companion of June 21. We read there: "The Augustana Synod men Wendell and Ferm are the freest of all; they let themselves go. More cautious and yet daring are the former General Synod men Wentz and Hefelbower. These four men have done graduate work at American universities. . . . Ferm presents the great Reformer as fallible, impulsive, and self-contradictory. Both he and Wendell reject the 'Back to Luther' movement and ask, 'Which Luther?' They hurl his uncomplimentary words about certain portions of Scripture to batter down the walls of Biblical and confessional complacency. . . . They [the Lutheran symbols] have no intrinsic value. The General Synod and the Augustana Synod men are even willing to admit that their value fluctuates, just as the greenbacks did during and after the Civil War. . . . This is Ferm speaking: "The doctrine of the complete inerrancy of the Bible upon which Lutheranism has built up a system of orthodoxy can hardly, without a loss of intellectual integrity and vitality, be to-day maintained in the light of the historical method of understanding the Scriptures.' He cites specific official declarations of Lutheranism that are no longer tenable. He even admits that Luther's position on the Eucharist may be fairly challenged as a necessarily true Biblical exegesis. . . . In the opinion of the reviewer the logical argument

of Ferm is the most convincing and satisfying. He reveals a more profound ecumenical spirit and is untrammeled by symbols and ecclesiasticism. Perhaps his present detached position partly accounts for this.... His position and Wendell's are essentially the same. Both men accept the logic of the situation and accept the challenge of those who protest the name 'Lutheran' by a willingness to surrender the name and organization, if necessary, to promote the unity of scattered groups of Christians."

Has the reviewer presented the position of the Augustana men correctly? Vergilius Ferm, professor of philosophy at the College of Wooster, O., will not charge Professor Stephenson with slander. He does indeed say on page 294 of the book he edited: "Certain other dogmas which have passed as Lutheran may have to undergo serious modifications. Luther's insistence, for example, upon man's total depravity is hardly tenable either on Christian, moral, or reasonably considered grounds." "Salvation, according to essential Lutheranism, is a vital and personal adjustment, individual, social, divine, broad in character and not in the narrower sense merely a mechanical or artificial arrangement" (p. 288). "We might well question whether or not the Christological doctrines of the ubiquity of Christ's body (a quasimaterialistic and pan-Christic doctrine borrowed from Duns Scotus) and communicatio idiomatum are satisfactory even from the Biblical point of view" (p. 280). "A literally infallible Bible, verbally inspired, is a view that has passed by the board for good" (p. 279). "The official declaration of historic Lutheranism [in the Introduction to the Formula of Concord] plainly declares that with new light and more adequate interpretation of the Biblical writings, changes in doctrine are not only anticipated, but necessary" (p. 279).

What about C. A. Wendell, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, student-pastor at the university? "We cannot pause here to consider the meaning of Modernism, whether it be a veritable 'blast from hell,' as the Pope and the Fundamentalists claim, or only a strong wind sent forth to winnow the chaff from the wheat, as others believe" (p. 229). He himself believes, at least with regard to the inspiration of the Scriptures, that Modernism is right. He says (p. 235): "Our very veneration for the Scriptures may lead us to excess. Bibliolatry is perhaps the finest and most exalted form of idolatry, but idolatry it is nevertheless. It is not the Bible, but God Himself, who says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.' A stilted veneration for the Word betrays an inward weakness rather than a virile faith, and out of it proceeds a nervous anxiety to prove the 'complete inerrancy' of the Bible 'from cover to cover.' This may be good Fundamentalism, but hardly good Lutheranism, for Luther was not of that type."

We are glad to see that men in the Augustana Synod are strongly protesting against these un-Lutheran views. Rev. J. H. Nelson is adding his protest to that of Pastors Segerhammar and Peterson. In an article referring to "What Is Lutheranism?" published in the Lutheran Companion of September 13, he protests in these ringing words: "We are living in a day when Biblical truth is shamefully assailed, not alone from without, but from within the Church as well and no doubt more effectively from within than from without. And now, what shall we do? Shall we stand aloof and wink at the whole thing? . . . It is evident that

the liberalism and apostasy of our day is now raising its bold head in our dear Augustana Synod, too. Have we the spiritual sight to see and the keen spiritual feeling wherewith to discern it? Then let us speak and act ere it is too late."

Did Luther Believe in the Inerrancy of the Bible? - Luther said that he did, the modern liberal Lutherans like Dr. V. Ferm and Pastor C. A. Wendell say he did not. Luther declares: "Scripture cannot err." (19, 1073.) "For this is certain that Scripture does not lie." (1, 714.) "This is certain, that Scripture cannot contradict itself." (20, 798.) "You must know in dealing with Scripture that the words of Scripture are God's own words." (3, 21.) "The Creed [Nicene] thus speaks of the Holy Ghost: 'who spake by the prophets.' The Holy Ghost is thus recognized as the Author of Scripture, of the entire Scriptures." (3, 1890.) "A prophet is one . . . into whose mouth the Holy Ghost puts the word." (3, 785.) There are many other statements to the same effect. Luther believed that Scripture is absolutely inerrant, in every detail, because it is the very Word of God, who cannot err. The liberal Lutherans say that Luther's attitude towards the Bible was the modern liberal attitude, that Luther, like the modern theologians, found errors in the Bible. They are circulating lists of quotations from Luther's writings as proofs for Luther's liberalism. Some of these quotations have been utilized by Dr. Ferm and Pastor Wendell in What is Lutheranism? It will be interesting to examine this matter, not in the interest of establishing the doctrine of verbal inspiration, but for the purpose of gaging the scholarship evinced in this sort of research work. We quote from Pastor Wendell's article, p. 235: "Luther's acquaintance with the Bible was so intimate and his admiration so profound that he was not at all worried over finding an occasional flaw on the human side of it. [!?] He treasured it above all other possessions, but he did not fall down and worship it. To him it was a means of grace, not a goal or a God. [!?] Nor did he fret and fuss to prove its alleged 'inerrancy from cover to cover.' He did not claim inerrancy for it." And now for the proof of the astounding assertion that Luther, who declared that "Scripture cannot err." did not claim inerrancy for it. First proof: "'Johannes macht hie eine Verwirrung' ('John is confused here'; in other words, makes a mistake), he says in one of his sermons (Weimar Ed., 28, 269)." If Luther said this (in 1529), he stamped his assertion of 1521 that "Scripture cannot err" as false and should have retracted. And when he said in 1543 that the Holy Ghost is the Author of the entire Scriptures, he should have added: "with a few exceptions." But Luther never stated that St. John made a mistake. The passage in question (see also St. L. Ed., 2, 884) reads: "The scholars may decide the historical question in this text [John 18, 15-18] whether the three denials of Peter occurred in the house of the High Priest Annas or whether they occurred in the house of the High Priest Caiaphas. For here the text states that Jesus was first led to Annas; it is at once added that Peter denied the Lord for the first time; then the text goes on to state that Annas sent Jesus bound to the High Priest Caiaphas. From this it would appear that Peter denied Christ once in the house of Annas and then denied him twice in the house of Caiaphas. All the other evangelists are in accord in saying that all three denials took place in the house of Caiaphas.

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Johannes aber allein macht hie eine Verwirrung by saying that Jesus was first led to Annas," etc. The words cannot be translated: "John is confused here." Luther does not say: "Johannes ist hier verwirrt." Luther is pointing out that this is one of the many instances where the parallel accounts in the gospels are seemingly contradictory. The "scholars" have much difficulty in harmonizing them. Many remain an insolvable puzzle. If John had not written his account, there would be nothing to puzzle us. But he seems to be contradicting the other evangelists and thus creates a difficulty—"John is the one who tangles up the matter." So the charge that Luther is accusing John of having made a mistake is based on a gross mistranslation. Men "who have done graduate work at American universities" (Professor Stephenson's words) should not have sponsored this "proof."

Second proof: "Speaking of the Old Testament prophets, he says: When they told of kings and worldly events, as they also did, they often made mistakes.' (Erl. Ed., 8, 23.)" The original (see also St. L. Ed., 12, 335) has: "und oft auch fehlten"; so the translation is here correct. But the implication that there are mistakes in the writings of the prophets is false. Luther is not viewing the prophets in their capacity as the inspired writers. The passage reads: "But to interpret the Scriptures, that is the noblest, highest, and greatest gift of prophecy; for so also all the prophets of the Old Testament bear the name and title of prophets chiefly on this account, that they prophesied concerning Christ, as Peter says Acts 3, 18 and 1 Pet. 1, 10; then also for this reason, that through their exposition and explanation of the Word of God they directed the people of their age in the true faith; much more for this reason than for the reason that they sometimes spoke regarding the kings and worldly affairs; which they also did and often made mistakes. But that other thing they did daily and made no mistakes; for that faith, according to the proportion of which they prophesied, does not err." We confess that we do not know what Luther exactly meant in stating that the prophets often erred when speaking concerning worldly affairs. But we do know that the contrast is not between what the prophets wrote concerning Christ and what they wrote concerning kings and temporal events. The contrast is between what they taught concerning faith on the basis of Scripture and what they held concerning political and other worldly matters. - Luther probably means that the prophets, like the rest of us, were liable to err in their judgment on political matters. But as long as a man follows Scripture, where the matters of faith are clearly set forth, he will not err. At all events, Luther does not say that some of the prophecies of Scripture went wrong.

Third proof: "As to the veracity of the books of Chronicles, he declares that 'the books of Kings are a hundred thousand times more trustworthy than the Chronicles' (*Tischreden*, Erl. Ed., 62, 132)." Once again we must ask to have the entire paragraph read into the indictment. (See also St. L. Ed., 22, 1414.) "The books of Kings are a hundred thousand paces ahead of the writer of Chronicles, who gave only the sum and the principal parts of the history, passing over what was of minor importance; therefore the books of Kings are more trustworthy (*ihnen ist mehr su glauben*) than the books of Chronicles." The reason why Kings is "more

trustworthy" than Chronicles is not that Chronicles is less inspired, but that it does not give the full history. A compendium is not less trustworthy than the full exposition, but when you look for detailed information, you take up the larger work; and where anything is in doubt, you give the preference to the more comprehensive history. Dr. W. Walther, an authority in these matters, years ago disposed of this "proof." He wrote in the Allg. Ev.-Luth. Kirchenztg., 1917, No. 14: "The passage itself explains the meaning of the 'more trustworthy,' 'mehr glauben': when these two histories seem to contradict each other in certain statements, you must rely on the books of Kings to solve the difficulty, because the detached statements given in Chronicles are more liable to be misconstrued. -As to the strange phrase 'more trustworthy,' 'mehr zu glauben,' one must bear in mind that we have a table-talk before us, where Luther, as is well known, was wont to be rather free and easy. He could feel assured that his friends, who very well knew what he thought of the Bible, would not get the notion to construe a theory regarding errors in the Bible out of this semijocular expression."

Pastor Wendell then goes on to note what Luther said on the difficulty brought up by the quotation given in Matt. 27, 9, on the Book of Esther, on James, and on Revelation. But all of these matters and some others of a more weighty nature have long ago been disposed of. See, for instance, Christliche Dogmatik, I, 334 ff., Lehre und Wehre, 71, 162 ff., on "Esther," by Dr. L. Fuerbringer. A scholarly investigation of Luther's attitude cannot afford to ignore these and similar treatises.—We are surprised that the following has not been added to the list: "The Gospel of St. John is the one gospel, the fine, the true, the chief gospel, much, much to be preferred to, and far to be exalted over, the other three." (St. L. 14, 91.) It deserves to be placed there with the rest.

### II. Ausland.

Orbination und Ginführung neuer Arbeiter in ber Glfaffifden Freifirthe. Der "Elfaffifche Lutheraner" berichtet: "Um 9. Conntag nach Trinitatis (17. August) wurde durch den Brafes unferer Rirche, Bfarrer Miller aus Beiligenftein, ber neuerwählte Bfarrer ber Strafburger Areusgemeinbe, Wilhelm Wolff, in sein Amt eingeführt. Zugleich wurde Kandidat Fritz Kreiß abgeordnet für die Wissionsarbeit unserer Kirche in Paris. Die Sande legten beiben mit auf bie Bruder Rramer und Bente. Durch Gottes Enabe ift also bie Lude, verursacht burch bas Ausscheiben unsers lieben Brubers Strafen aus bem Dienfte unferer Rirde, völlig wieber ausgefüllt. Die Strafburger Gemeinde hat wieder einen Seelforger in ihrer Mitte, und auch ber jungen Parifer Gemeinde burfen wir einen eigenen Geels forger und Miffionar fenden. Gin rechtes Freudenfest war es baber, bas an bem Sonntag ber Ginführung und Orbination fo viele Besucher besfelben nach Strafburg gufammenftromen ließ, jo bag bas Gotteshaus ber Rreuzgemeinde bis auf den letten Blat gefüllt war. Im Bormittags. gottesbienft predigte Brafes Müller über 2 Ror. 3, 4-11. Er ftellte ben beiben jungen Dienern am Wort die Serrlichkeit ber beiben Amter bor die Seele, die fie fortan in ber driftlichen Gemeinde führen follen, indem er ihnen zunächft bas furchtbar ernfte Umt bes totenben Gefegesbuchftabens

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ans herz legte als unerläßlich notwendige Vorbereitung für die rechte Ausrichtung des andern Amtes, das den heiligen Geist gibt und lebendig macht, des seligen Evangeliums."

"The Australasian Theological Review." - This is the name of the new theological quarterly which the "Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Australia, Inc." is now publishing (Vol. 1, January-March, 1930) for "the presentation and discussion of divine truth, revealed in Holy Scripture and affirmed by the Lutheran Confessions, together with a review of general church news." In the "Foreword" Dr. C. F. Graebner, president of Concordia College, Adelaide, writes among other things: "The lack of a theological periodical that would particularly meet our Australian requirements has been felt for many years by the pastors of our Synod; for although there are probably not many members of the Lutheran ministry in the Commonwealth who do not read one or more of the excellent publications issued by the sister synods in America and in Germany, the conditions which obtain in the Australian Church at large, and in the Australian Lutheran Church in particular, called for special theological treatises, which naturally would not be supplied through publications written overseas by men unacquainted with our conditions and needs."

"The purpose of this periodical is a twofold one. In the first place, it is to offer doctrinal articles on matters of faith and of life, including also treatises on the practical part of a pastor's work. The writers will be guided by the declaration laid down in our Lutheran Confessions. . . . (Formula of Concord, § 1.) The Bible, as the verbally inspired Word of God and as 'the pure, clear fountain of Israel,' will be regarded as the only principle, the norma normans, of theology, while the Symbolical Books of the Lutheran Church will be upheld as the correct exposition, the norma normata, of Biblical truth."

"Our periodical is to report and to review past and present events in the religious world, especially in the Christian Church, above all in the Lutheran Church of Australia and of other countries. This will, of course, give occasion to publish apologetic and polemical articles, mainly in view of the deplorable fact that the divine truths are assailed in our day, perhaps more than ever before, not only by such as are outside the pale of the Church, but also by many who claim to be adherents of the Christian religion. We shall endeavor to adhere to the motto adopted by our Concordia College and Seminary: Fortiter in re, suaviter in modo. Our policy will be to uphold the truth with firmness, but to avoid undue harshness in dealing with persons who are erring, while the error itself will be exposed in no uncertain terms."

"Being fully convinced that the publication of this theological periodical is justified, we have the hope that it will find favorable reception and that it will achieve its object." In this prayer also the Concorda Theological Monthly joins as it extends to the new theological periodical its most cordial felicitations.

J. T. M.

Augustanafeier ber kleinen freikirchlichen Gemeinde in Augsburg. Darüber berichtet ebenfalls Pfarrer Walther-Erlangen in der "Freikirche": "Daß in Augsburg auch eine kleine lutherische Freikirche besteht, ist der öffentlichfeit verborgen geblieben. Sie feierte bas Jubilaum ber Augsburgifden Ronfession in bescheibener Beife in ber Bohnung eines ihrer Glieber, bes Fabritanten August Beffel in Lechhaufen, Schadftrage 40 b, mit einem Gottesbienft, ben diesmal Pfarrer Berbermann von Pforzheim hielt. In Memmingen, two ebenfalls eine fleine lutherifche freitirchliche Gemeinde fich findet, wurde am eigentlichen Aubilaumstage ein folichter Bredigtgottesbienft von Pfarrer Walther-Erlangen gehalten und am Sonntag darauf die eigentliche Restfeier mit einem weiteren Bredigtgottesbienst, mit einer Lehrbesprechung über Artifel 9 und 10 ber Augsburgischen Konfession und abends mit einem Bortrag über Die Augsburgische Konfession und die Rirden ber Gegenwart'. Die Beranftaltungen waren auch bon einigen Fremben besucht, wenngleich beren Teilnahme infolge ber gleichzeitig in ben landesfirchlichen Gemeinden der Stadt ftattfindenden Reiern geringer war, als man unter andern Umftanden hatte erwarten burfen. Gott lente den Lauf feines Evangelimms auch bei und in Babern zum Seile bieler Seelen!" R. B.

Ratholifen beteiligen fich an ber Angustangfeier in Angsburg. Darüber berichtet Bfarrer Balther-Erlangen in ber "Freifirche": "Bei ber Feier in Augsburg begrüßte ber fatholische babrische Kultusminister namens ber baprifden Staatsregierung ben Rirdentag, ebenfo ber fatholifde Burgers meifter bon Augsburg namens ber Stadt. Diefe Begrüßungen wurden erwidert mit dem Sinweis auf die Freude über die Anteilnahme bes tathos lifden Teils ber Bebolferung an ber Reier und mit einer Erinnerung an ben furz borber berftorbenen fatholischen Bischof von Augsburg. Einweihung der neuen Konfessionsfirche in der Augsburger Wertachvorstadt am Pfingstmontag, die als Einleitung zu ben Jubilaumsfeierlichkeiten gedacht war, wurde von dem amtierenden Areisdefan ausbrücklich die Eintracht mit den fatholischen Mitbürgern hervorgehoben, wie auch einige Monate borber bei ber Einweihung bes neuen Amtsgebäubes in Münden für den Landesfirchenrat der Kirchenpräsident der babrischen Landesfirche bei oder vielleicht auch wegen der Anwesenheit des babrischen Ministerpräsidenten unter Sinweis auf eine in der Nähe befindliche katholische Kirche die Pflege bes Friedens unter ben Konfessionen besonders betonte. Benn folder Sinweis lediglich die Bflege guter burgerlicher Begiehungen meint, fo ift er eigentlich für Chriften felbstverständlich, die mit allen Menschen Frieden halten follen, foweit es möglich ift. . . . Wenn bie und ba Friedensstimmen aus ber römischen Kirche erklingen, so soll bas zwar mit Freuden anerkannt werben, aber fie wiegen nicht fower angesichts ber Kampfesstellung, die Rom heute noch gegen bas Evangelium einnimmt. Um so mehr bätte man erwarten follen, daß bei ber Aubelfeier ber Augsburgifden Konfession bie Freude über bie Befreiung aus ber papftlichen Finfternis und Gewiffensknechtung ber Grundton gewesen ware. Anstatt bessen war immer wieber die Rebe von ber Gemeinschaft ber beiben Konfessionen. Wie foll bas nun auf die Maffen wirken, die ohnehin in den Bolfstirchen von der Bedeutung ber Rechtfertigung aus Unaben burch ben Glauben nichts ober fo gut wie nichts wiffen und lediglich in einzelnen Formen und Gebräuchen ben Unterichied beiber Rirchen feben? Man macht gegenüber ben Freifirchen oft geltend, daß fie die Stokkraft des Brotestantismus burch ihre Absblitterung fcmächen. Bo ift die Stoffraft bes Protestantismus bei biefer Jubilaumsfeier geblieben, die boch wirklich genügend Anlak zu ihrer Entfaltung geboten hätte?" F. B.