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854 Theological Observer. — Riráliás-გetterjájájíláss. Mueller: Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches

Theological Observer. — Rirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches.

I. Amerika.

Wie bie Muthe machft. "Daraufhin übergaben benn bie Jowa-Serren nachstehende ,Erklärung über die Lehre bom Antichrift: Bir, die Rollos quenten der Jowaspnode, bekennen uns bon gangem Bergen au allen Muss jagen ber Symbole über ben antidriftifden Charafter bes Bapfttums. Mber . . . wir fonnen feinen Biderfpruch mit unferm Befenntnis barin finden, wenn jemand noch eine Steigerung bes antidriftifchen Befens, wie es im Papfttum fich barftellt, für möglich und eine Konzentrierung desfelben in einer bestimmten Berfonlichkeit in Dan. 11, 2 Theff. 2 und andern Stellen geweisfagt findet. Daß unfere miffourifden Gegner um folder Erflärung willen uns ben Borwurf feelengefährlichen Irrtums maden, uns nicht für Lutheraner halten und die Rirchengemeinschaft berfagen, muffen wir erschredlich und in der lutherischen Rirche unerhort nennen. . . . Bur Erwiderung auf die lette Erffarung der Berren Rollos quenten bon Jowa erflären die Rolloquenten bon Miffouri folieglich fols gendes: "Solange die Jowaspnode nicht bestimmt und rund wiberruft, was fie in ihrem Bericht von 1858 öffentlich und feierlich befannt hat: "daß bas Papfitum antidriftifch ift ober bag man viele Babfte Untidriften nennen fonne in eben bem Ginne, in welchem 1 3oh. 2, 18 bon bielen Antidriften die Rebe ift. Aber ber 2 Theff. 2 erwähnte Menfc ber Gunde ift eine beftimmte menfcliche Berfonlichteit, ebendeshalb aber auch gutiinftia. . . Diefen Abfall im Antidriftentum muffen auch wir als erft noch gufünftig erwarten, weil wir unter bem Menfchen der Gunde nicht ein Bapfttum, fondern nur eine beftimmte inbividuelle menfchliche Berfonlichfeit berfteben": fo lange tonnen wir ihr nicht zugestehen, bag fie in biefem Buntte bekenntnistren fei. Dies allein ift jedoch feinestwegs, wie unfere Berren Opponenten nach ihrer Schlugerklärung angeben, ber Grund, warum wir mit ihr nicht firchlich zusammens fteben, bekennen, arbeiten und fampfen tonnen, fondern andere in unfern Borlagen namhaft gemachte Differenzen, die teils weber burch einen runden Biderruf noch durch ein rundes Bekenntnis ausgeglichen worden find, teils aus Mangel an Zeit noch nicht haben biskutiert werben können. Jedoch geben wir nach ber bereits geschehenen Annaherung bie Soffnung einer fünftigen, Gott gebe, balbigen, firchlichen Ginigung hiermit teineswegs auf. Unterzeichnet bon ben beiberseitigen Rolloquenten." (Offentliches Rollos quium, 13 .- 19. Robember 1867, Milwaufee, Bis., E. 31 f) "Theologische Monatshefte (herausgegeben von P. S. R. Brobit)" drudte im Dezemberheft bes Jahres 1868 aus Münkels Zeitblatt "D. Münkels Beurteilung bes Rolloquiums zu Milwautee ufw." ab. Darin heißt es unter anderm: "Die Miffourier bestanden darauf, daß allein und ausschlieglich ber Bapft für ben Biberdrift gu halten fei. Bir erfahren nicht, wie die Diffourier fich diesmal ausgesprochen haben. Zu eigentlichen Verhandlungen tam es diess mal nicht, weil die beiberseitige Stellung zu biefer Lehre völlig flar war. Ein fleines Rind in unfern Schulen', hatten die Miffourier erflart, Jann aus bem erften Gebot fcon beweifen, bag ber Papft ber Antidrift ift." ,Wem die Kennzeichen [bes Antichrifts aus der Schrift] vor Augen gemalt werben und er weigert sich beharrlich und allezeit ber überzeugung in seis

nem Gewiffen [bag ber Bapft ber Antidrift ift], auch unter bem Borgeben, es gehöre nicht zum Grunde ber Seligfeit, ihn tonnten wir nicht für einen Chriften, geschweige für einen Lutheraner, halten.' . . . An eine Ginigung mit ben Joivaern war also nicht zu benten. . . Die Jowaer glaubten baber, einfach und ernft ein Zeugnis bagegen ablegen zu muffen." Es folgt bann die oben mitgeteilte Erklärung ber Jowaer, und D. Münkel bemerkt bagu: "Merbings! Das ift ber gerade Weg gur Sette." Bas man mittlerweile ben Miffouriern in ben Mund legte, fieht man aus einer Ausfage, die P. Diebrich in ber "Lutherischen Dorf-Kirchenzeitung" vom Auguft 1868 machte: "Die Miffourier haben fürglich gefagt: Wer ben Papft nicht als ben Untidrift erkennt, ben wollten fie für feinen Lutheraner, ja für feinen Chriften halten, und Münkel hat ihnen barüber öffentlich jede Gemeinschaft verweigert." Es half nichts, daß der Einsender, der dies berichtete, in "Lehre und Behre" bom Jahre 1869, G. 198, erklärte: "Ich will mich nicht weiter babei aufhalten, daß P. D. ben "Miffouriern" in ben Mund legt, was fie nie fo gefagt haben, fondern nur bemerken, daß die Diffourier ben Sat: Ber ben Papft nicht als ben Untidriften erlennt, ben halten wir für feinen Chriften - ebenfo entidieben berwerfen, als P. D. felbit ihn berwirft." Es half nichts, daß D. Balther fchrieb: "Bas wir behaupten, ift vielmehr biefes: Much ber nicht fundamentale Irrtum ift, wenn er wider Gottes Mares Wort streitet, allerdings nicht wie eine Reberei zu behandeln, fondern nur mit aller Gebuld und Lehre in feiner Grundlofigfeit zu zeigen, zu widerlegen, zu befämpfen und zu ftrafen; wenn aber die Rirche alle Mittel, einen in biefer Begiehung Frrenden gur Anertennung ber göttlichen Wahrheit zu bringen, erschöpft hat, bas Festhalten bes Irriums offenbar nicht in Schwäche bes Berftanbes ober in Mangel an Einficht ihren Grund hat und also an einem auch nichtfundamentalen Fretum offenbar wirb, daß der Frrende dem Worte Gottes bewußt, hartnädig und halsstarrig widerspricht, daß er also mit seinem Frrtum das organische Glaubensfundament umftögt, dann ift auch ein folder Frrender, wie alle in Tobfunden Berharrenden, nicht zu tragen, fondern ihm die brüderliche Gemeinschaft allerdings zu berfagen." (Lehre und Behre 1868, G. 107.) Es half nichts. Die Mythe hatte gu ftarte Lebensfraft. Biele Jahre gingen ins Land, und die Mythe stellt fich uns in ihrer ausgewachsenen Gestalt alfo bor: "Um ftrengften halten bie Miffourier bafür, bag ber Papft ber Antidrift fei; wem bas nicht mit jum Grund ber Seligfeit gebort, ben halten wir nicht für einen Chriften, geschweige benn einen Lutheraner'." Dr. M. Slotth: "Stellen die fogenannten Miffourier die rechte lutherifche Kirche dar?" (1927, S. 19.) So steht zu lesen in Prälat D. Th. Traubs Buch "Bon ben letten Dingen", S. 178, vom Jahre 1928. Bralat Traub glaubt es und verfichert feine Lefer, daß die Miffourier lehren, dies Stud bilbe einen Fundamentalartifel erften Ranges. Er hat bas von Dr. Slotth gehört. Und Dr. Slotty - ober fein Getvährsmann - meint, D. Münkel habe ihm das gesagt. Aber er hat D. Münkels Bericht gründlich migberstanden. Die Worte: "... und er weigert sich beharrlich und allezeit der Aberzeugung in feinem Getviffen, auch unter bem Borgeben, es gebore nicht gum Grunde ber Seligfeit" ufm. bebeuten burchaus nicht: "Bem bas nicht mit gum Grund ber Geligs feit gehört, ben halten wir nicht für einen Chriften." — Und nun beachte man den Abstand zwischen Birklichkeit und Mythe! Die wirklichen Mueller: Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches Wissourier hatten gesagt: "Wir können ihr nicht zugestehen, daß sie in dies sem Punkte bekenntnistreu sei. Dies allein ist jedoch keis neswegs der Erund, warum wir mit ihr nicht kirchlich zusammensstehen, bekennen, arbeiten und kämpfen können, sondern andere in unsern Borlagen namhaft gemachte Differenzen" usw. Die mythischen Wissourier hatten gesagt: "Wem das nicht mit zum Erunde der Seligkeit gehört" usw.

Is This Lutheran Doctrine? - The editor of the Lutheran, in the issue of July 30, makes some remarks on the meaning of the Third Commandment which must not remain unchallenged. The caption of the editorial is "At Best Borrowed, at Worst Stolen," the meaning being that "Sunday is the Lord's day; we either give it to Him, or we steal it for an unhallowed purpose." In the course of his remarks the editor says, among other things, "Remembering the Sabbath Day to keep it holy is a part of the Law of God. It has no more been abrogated than has the enactment 'Thou shalt not kill' or 'Thou shalt not steal' or 'Thou shalt not covet.' Artificial restrictions and substitutes for constructive regard for it were condemned by Jesus. Legalism as to its observance, but not its place in the Christian's code of conduct, was denounced by Him. The practises of the apostles and of the early Church afford ample evidence that God's will for the nurture and admonition of believers in Christ requires the setting apart of one day in each week for rest and for public worship. The Church among the Gentiles was guided by the Holy Spirit in discontinuing heathen holidays and celebrating the first day of the week as the Lord's Day. The purposes of the Mosaic third law were continued as an essential part of the revelation of God to man concerning doing His will on earth. What one might call the letter of them was modified in the new dispensation, but not their spirit of profitableness. . . . Christians of to-day are called upon to set Sunday apart from the remainder of the week and use it for rest and for worship with their brethren. God has a prior lien on the first day of the week. Concerning this there is no more room for argument than concerning profaning His name, committing adultery, or bearing false witness."

Beside the statement quoted above, denying that the Sabbath law has been abrogated and insisting that God's will requires the setting apart of one day in each week for rest and for public worship, place these statements of St. Paul: "Ye observe days and months and times and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain," Gal. 4, 10. 11. And: "Let no man judge you in meat or in drink or in respect of an holy day or of the new moon or of the Sabbath days, which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ," Col. 2, 16. 17. And: "One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord, and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it," Rom. 14, 5. 6. Beside these inspired utterances place these words of Art. XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession: "Those who judge that by the authority of the Church the observance of the Lord's Day instead of the Sabbath Day was ordained as a thing necessary, do greatly err. Scripture has abrogated the Sabbath Day; for it teaches that, since the Gospel has been revealed, all the ceremonies of Moses can be omitted. And

yet, because it was necessary to appoint a certain day, that the people might know when they ought to come together, it appears that the Church designated the Lord's Day for this purpose; and thus it seems to have been chosen all the more for this additional reason, that men might have an example of Christian liberty and might know that the keeping neither of the Sabbath nor of any other day is necessary." These statements are so clear that all comments intended to bring out their meaning are an opus supererogationis. We are aware that there were prominent Lutheran theologians in the past who championed the view that the Sabbath law in a way is still binding for the children of God in the New Testament, the Lord indicating to us that one day out of seven is to be set apart as a day of rest and worship. But it certainly is not difficult to see that this view is contrary to the teaching of St. Paul and the declaration of our Confessions. Let us not make the mistake of thinking that the contempt for divine services, which is so prevalent to-day, can and should be counteracted by our insisting, in violation of Lutheran doctrine, that the old law of the Sabbath is still binding upon us.

The "Lutheran Standard" on Pulpit-Fellowship. — The American Lutheran Conference declares: "These synods agree that the rule 'Lutheran pulpits for Lutheran pastors only and Lutheran altars for Lutheran communicants only' is not only in full accord with, but necessarily implied in, the teachings of the divine Word and the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This rule, implying the rejection of all unionism and syncretism, must be observed as setting forth a principle elementary to sound and conservative Lutheranism." (Article 2, § 3, Minneapolis Agreement.) What does this declaration mean? The American Lutheran Church is a member of the American Lutheran Conference, and a member of the American Lutheran Church has asked the Lutheran Standard for an interpretation of this rule. Occurrences such as those mentioned in the Cox-CORDIA THEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE of August, 1931, p. 579 f., participation by American Lutheran Church pastors in an open-air service, community services, and a Sabbath-school association meeting, attended by sectarian pastors, may have prompted the question. It reads as published in the Question Box of the Standard of September 12, 1931: "Is coofficiation on any occasion whatsoever included in the prohibition of pulpit-fellowship with any churches outside of the American Lutheran Conference?" The Standard answers: "The American Lutheran Church is an advisory and not a legislative body. If you keep this in mind, it will help you to answer this and like questions. Pulpit-fellowship with errorists is wrong because it compromises the truth and encourages error. Now, just how far can one of our pastors go in appearing on the same platform at a high-school baccalaureate service, at a community memorial service in a hall, on the cemetery, or even in a church before he is guilty of compromising his Lutheran faith and encouraging what we believe to be error? Can we expect all to be absolutely agreed on each individual case? Some will doubtless be inclined to be too liberal and others too conservative. And all that we can expect of the American Lutheran Church is that it will exercise a brotherly supervision over its pastors and congregations also in respect to this matter." Under this interpretation of the rule the prohibition of pulpit-fellowship with errorists no longer prohibits.

Wrong View Held in the U. L. C. on the Relation between Church and State. - Of late several pronouncements have appeared in the Lutheran, the official organ of the U. L. C., on the relation between Church and State which cannot pass unchallenged. The first one to which we shall refer was incorporated in an editorial of the issue of August 20, the caption being, "'Blue-laws' and a Lutheran Attitude toward Them." The editor takes issue with the Lutheran Standard's criticism of resolutions passed by a U. L. C. Sunday-school meeting. In this editorial we find statements like these: "We approve the conduct of the Sunday-school convention by which they conveyed to members of the State Legislature their views concerning the proposed commercialization of Sunday. These delegates were mostly teachers, voluntary instructors of the youth of the land. They believe in the efficacy of Lord's Day observance for human happiness and divine worship. Shall a baseball league, intent upon larger dividends for its stockholders, have access to the legislative authorities and a group of Sunday-school or church people be debarred from an expression of their views? They were not the State in action; but they were an important element of the citizens of their State engaged in a great service to the State and most certainly entitled to make their wishes and convictions known."

The second was written by Dr. John A. W. Haas and was printed on the title-page of the Lutheran of September 3. Speaking of Lutherans who mistake Lutheranism, Dr. Haas says: "The third group is exactly opposite. It knows the history and the confessions of our Church, but it applies them mechanically. It does not understand where in our day the accent is to be laid. This appears among some of our Western Lutherans on the Sunday question. They are so afraid of having the Church exert any influence upon the State, and they so fear the commingling of Church and State that they will not even protest when the Lord's Day is attacked by modern commercialism. In the interest of the young the Church must ask that the right of Sunday shall be protected. There should be no encroachment upon the liberty and quietness of worship. The Church has a right to be protected in its liberty of faith and worship. In our day it must fight against the open and subtle attack of materialistic commercialism. This fight is not contrary to the Lutheran spirit. Those who are silent and allow the increasing secularization of Sunday are helping those liberals and radicals who are putting forth every effort to destroy all Christian institutions. To be non-committal in this contest is to be against the Church. Law cannot make us holy, but we have a right to support such laws as will preserve the opportunities for Christian worship against all encroachments of this materialistic age."

Finally we refer to a letter printed on the "Open Letters" page of the Lutheran for September 17. The writer, signing himself J.C.K., says: "The Lutheran for August 20 is fine, especially or chiefly for your editorial on 'Blue-laws.' The Joint Synod of Ohio and the Missouri Synod, the most legalistic bodies of our Church, are continually declaiming against the enforcement of beneficial principles through legislation by our nation and condemning Christians for resisting the effort on the part of moneygrabbers to demoralize our nation. They, like the Roman Catholic legalists, oppose the reading of the Bible in the public schools and deny all efforts

to promote a higher morality in our nation. They declaim against dissenting Modernists as the instruments of Satan in the Church and then do the work of the devil in resisting proper legislation by the State in trying to keep one day in the week from the money-grasping spirit which has brought upon us our present disaster."

Number three can be dismissed with a few words. The writer evidently does not understand the position he undertakes to criticize. The Ohio and the Missouri synods are not "continually declaiming against the enforcement of beneficial principles through legislation" and are not "condemning Christians for resisting the effort on the part of money-grabbers to demoralize our nation." On the contrary, their pastors very earnestly admonish the Christians entrusted to their guidance to take their civic duties seriously and tirelessly to work for the best interests of the State. From the fact that Missouri and Ohio hold the principle that the Church, as a corporate entity, has no business to engage in politics, J. C. K. draws the conclusion that these synods forbid their members and other Christians to work for the enforcement of beneficial principles through legislation. It is clear that here there is a case of non sequitur. If we are unwilling as a Church to enter the field of politics, that surely does not mean that we refuse our Christians, who are citizens, the right of engaging in political activities.

The editorial in the Lutheran (which, by the way, does not really discuss the view to which the Lutheran Standard had objected, namely, the position that Old Testament ceremonial laws are still binding for us) touches a point which must be examined very carefully. A convention of church-members convened as such has one big business which it should give its attention to - the preaching of the Gospel. It has certain means with which it can operate to attain its ends, the Word and the Sacraments. Whenever it busies itself with political questions, it is doing something which lies altogether beyond its legitimate sphere of activity. The mere conviction that a certain measure would benefit our nation economically, financially, or morally, certainly does not justify a church convention to give its time to the discussion of this measure and to resolve on a propaganda for its success. Think of the situation that would arise if a churchbody should make itself a sponsor of the single tax or the immediate granting of independence to the Filipinos. There may be many Christian people who consider the matters referred to beneficial for our country and the world. Does that justify the Church in putting them into its platform and on its banners? That the Church's duty and function are to preach the Word was recognized by a colonel who, according to the daily press, told the Episcopal convention recently assembled in Denver that, if the Church teaches the Ten Commandments, it will do more for the cause of peace than if it insists on the throwing away of arms. The Church certainly has the right to ask for the protection of the State as it carries on its work. But if the Church asks the State to help it in doing its work, it is making a declaration of bankruptcy, stating that its own means are not sufficient for attaining its objectives.

The remarks of Dr. Haas seem to be directed chiefly against a position which we at any rate have never held, namely, that the Church is not to ask for the protection of the State "in its liberty of faith and worship."

He furthermore seems to believe that a quiet Sunday is equivalent to a religious Sunday, a position which is open to doubt. But we do not wish to be understood as refusing Christians the right to vote for a very quiet Sunday if the question should come before them at the polls. What we have to hold to is that the Church has no right to attempt using the strong arm of the State in bringing people to Christ. You cannot at the same time have and destroy religious liberty. If we value religious freedom, then let us stand for it whole-heartedly and not merely to the extent that it suits our own purposes.

A.

The Last Hours of Archbishop Soederblom.—Having declared in our notice of the passing of Archbishop Soederblom that in his theology he showed the influence of Modernism, we feel we ought not to withhold from our readers the following account taken from the Lutheran Companion:—

"Archbishop Soederblom's last hours were beautifully described in a memorial address in Uppsala Cathedral, July 15, by Pastor Anderberg. When the bells were ringing for the evening service last Sunday, we were gathered at his sick-bed. It was evident that he was suffering, but we heard never a word of complaint. What we saw was a soul's unconquerable strength and a spirit's absolute dominion over suffering and pain.

"'He began to talk about the greatness of the privilege of being the Lord's servant and thanked God that it had been granted to him to be a minister in the Church of Sweden. He reminded us of a passage which he has often used as a greeting to his fellow-servants and which we may now take as his last greeting: "Not as though we were lords over your faith, but rather fellow-servants in your joy."

"'After that he prayed with earnest faith in the words of the old hymn: "Teach me, Lord, to end my days, So that to Thee be all the praise." Then he bade us farewell, and as he pressed our hands, he directed to each one of us words of heartfelt gratitude. We saw how an expression of peace gradually stole over his face—eternity was near us. He asked us to pray the Lord's Prayer with him. Afterwards he spoke gracious words about immortality and everlasting life. He certified for us anew the wonderful character and reality of eternal life. When pain came over him, he directed his gaze upon the suffering Christ, and we heard him pray the hymn which we are using to-night: "My whole heart thanks Thee, Jesus, For Thine almighty grace."

"The conflict came to a close. We heard a few words that came from his lips. We thought we saw a transfiguration pass over the tired face, and we thought we heard the words, "Now it is eternity."

"'When he had said that, he fell asleep."

Archbishop Soederblom may have belonged to that numerous class of people whose heart is more Scriptural than their head. That he was inconsistent if he, on the one hand, sought to establish fraternal relations with people who denied important Bible truths and even set at naught the glorious Gospel-message of the atonement, looking upon Jesus merely as an exemplar to be followed by us, and if he, on the other hand, clung to Luther's explanation of the Second Article in the Small Catechism, is very

evident to us; but we hope that in spite of the intellectual tolerance which he exhibited toward faith-destroying errors, his heart's trust was based on the substitutionary work of the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.

A.

"The Schmuckers." — On account of the important rôle which the Schmucker family played in the American Lutheran Church, our readers will be glad to read the item bearing the above caption which appeared in the issue of the Lutheran for August 6, featuring the founding of the Lutheran Observer one hundred years ago.

"Samuel Simon Schmucker, whose name is mentioned in this issue, was the most distinguished, but not the first nor the last of a line of

clergymen of great influence in the nineteenth century.

"In 1781 John Christopher Schmucker immigrated from Germany to America, settling finally on a farm near Woodstock. Of five of his sons who grew to manhood three became Lutheran ministers. Their names were John George, John Nicholas, and Peter. Samuel Simon was the son of John George.

"Owing to the absence of seminaries at the time of this first group of Schmuckers, theological education was acquired, as was preparation to practise medicine, by reading with an older man. But the Presbyterians already had Princeton. Thither S. S. Schmucker went for study after he had been a student in York Academy and at the University of Pennsylvania. He was graduated in 1820, licensed to preach by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, and given a call by the Lutheran Church at New Market, Va.

"In 1825 he was elected the first professor of the new seminary projected by the General Synod and opened the following year. His professional services extended over almost forty years. During this time about

500 young men were prepared for the ministry.

"In the third generation of clergymen of the Schmucker family, we have the son of S. S., Beale Melanchthon. He was born at Gettysburg in 1827 and ordained in 1850. Having the circumstances of Lutheranism in 1850 rather than of 1825 on which to rest his attitude toward the Definite Platform controversy, he disagreed with the position taken by his distinguished father. He was a member of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania when the division resulting in the formation of the General Council occurred and he remained a member of it. He was a trustee of the Philadelphia Seminary and Muhlenberg College. His death occurred in 1888." A.

A Brave Word against Unionism. — From the Latheran we take over the following item: "The Farmer's Wife, a monthly published in St. Paul, offered, it seems, an opportunity to its readers to express themselves on church union. One issue was open to those who favored unionism to give their reasons. The next issue was open to the contrary side. A number of women availed themselves of the opportunity. On the negative side the letters of three women were published. For the sake of brevity we shall give only an extract of one, which gives the sentiment of the other two in possibly the strongest form.

"Lutheran Christians have every reason to be courageous. Because their faith is grounded on God's Word, which rules their hearts, they are not tossed to and fro by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness. When Mueller: Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches they are criticized in these "unionistic" days by their Protestant friends for their strict adherence to God's Word and are asked to join in forming one big united Church including all denominations, they show these friends how impossible and wrong that would be for them, for they would have to sacrifice clearly revealed truths of God's saving Word and thus prove faithless stewards of His sacred trust. They show these misguided friends that the union among His disciples for which Christ prays His heavenly Father in John 17, 21 consists not in an outward, visible organization, but in unity of Spirit.

"Lutherans challenge any one to point out one single article of faith their Church holds that is not clearly taught in the Bible. The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible is our rule and guide in matters of

faith, and our Lord Jesus Christ is our only hope of salvation.

"It seems to me, if we would all get back to Holy Scriptures and take the Catechism Luther has so plainly explained and proved by Scripture, there would be no cause for churches' clashing.' Mrs. A. E. K."

The Lament of a Unionist. - The following, taken from the Christian Century, is typical, and that is the reason why we reprint it. Says the writer, a clergyman of Buffalo, N.Y.: "Brocton, N.Y., is to have another church. To me this is not good news, but bad news. For I know Brocton. It is a lovely little town of a few hundred population, situated in the heart of the prosperous vineyard country, midway between Buffalo and Erie. Brocton has a thriving Methodist church, with an excellent, more-than-adequate building; also a Baptist church, housing a congregation of earnest, devoted folk. These two congregations with their pastors are abundantly able to care for the spiritual needs of the Protestant people of the town and the surrounding country. But now a tiny handful of disciples known as the Wesleyan Methodists, unable to worship with their fellow-followers of Christ, have decided to arise and build. We all know what they will build—a little chapel of wood, whose chief message to the community will be: 'Here we are; look on us, the true disciples! We can live in the same town, buy, sell, and trade with our fellow-Protestants, but we cannot worship with them.' So it goes. And it is tragic." That there is what the writer regards as an idle expenditure of money is considered tragic, but that people outrage their own consciences by belonging to churches whose teachings they cannot endorse is not considered tragic. This blindness we consider the tragedy of the age.

Concerning the Salvation Army. — The Australian Lutheran, published by our brethren in Australia, in its issue of May 29, 1931, contains an article in which the question is answered, Why do we Lutherans refuse to support the religious work of the Salvation Army? Our readers will welcome brief mention of the arguments adduced. The writer of the article draws attention to the following false doctrines of the Salvation Army: 1. The Salvation Army despises the Lord's Supper and Holy Baptism. 2. It is disobedient to the Scriptures because it permits women to preach and teach in public. 3. It teaches the false doctrine of complete sanctification. 4. It denies the grand truth that Christ finished His work and paid the debts which the sinner owed to divine justice. The writer concludes: "Since these and other false doctrines are taught by the Salva-

tion Army, it is a sin against God's Word to support the religious work of that denomination." Since the fourth false teaching probably will come as a surprise to many, we append the proof which the writer submits. He says: "In The Doctrines of the Salvation Army, p. 29, we read: 1. 'You will sometimes hear people talk about the finished work of Christ. What is meant by it? That Christ, when He died on the cross, put Himself in the place of the sinner and bore the exact amount of punishment which he deserved, thus actually paying the debt that the sinner owed to divine justice, and that, if the sinner will only believe this, he is forever free from the claims of the Law and can never be brought into condemnation either here or hereafter.' 2. 'Is this so? We think not.'"

Union of Congregationalists and Christians.—On this topic the Christian Century writes: "Dr. Charles Emerson Burton, general secretary of the national council of the Congregational churches, and Dr. Warren H. Denison, executive secretary of the general convention of the Christian Church, announce that the consummation of the union of the Congregational and Christian denominations is scheduled to take place June 25, at the opening session of the united convention of the churches which is dated for June 25 to July 3, at Plymouth Church, Seattle, Wash. The proposed constitution for the general council of the union will be presented for adoption the opening forenoon; following the ratification of the constitution, officers will be elected.

"The union was approved by both denominations at separate conventions in 1929, and a provisional executive committee was authorized to function in the name of the new general council until a constitution was adopted. The union of the Foreign Mission boards and the merger of state and district conferences have been largely accomplished. The united communicant membership of the two fellowships is 1,052,924, and the number of churches is 6,670."

We may add that on June 25 the union was consummated, according to schedule.

Dr. J. A. Faulkner Deceased. — The press reports that on September 6 Dr. John A. Faulkner died at the age of seventy-five. Having studied at Drew and Andover, he, after an interval of twenty years, went to Europe and studied at the universities of Leipzig and Bonn. Having been ordained as pastor in the Methodist Church, he served for eleven years as a minister. During the last thirty-four years he was Professor of Church History in Drew Seminary. Among the books he wrote are lives of Cyprian and Erasmus and a work entitled The Methodists.

A.

Roman Catholic Polemics. — What measures Roman Catholic editors resort to in their attempts to put Protestants in a dark light before the public is evident from the following paragraphs which the *Lutheran* quotes from the well-known Roman Catholic journal *America*:—

"The sole defender of the family in this supposedly Christian country is the Catholic Church. Protestantism, the bond-slave of States in whose legislation there is no trace of Christianity, grovels at the feet of its master. Against schemes devised in the States and at Washington to build up a brisk commercial trade in contraceptives by legislation, permitting them to be imported, carried in the mails openly, advertised in the news-

papers, and as openly displayed in shop windows, one group alone protests, and it is made up of Catholics. So patent is this fact that it is cited by enemies of the Church as another proof that Catholics are out of harmony with the temper of the day and unfit for citizenship.

"The apostasy of Protestantism as a religious and moral force is complete. Here and there, it is true, a voice is raised against this revival of the degrading excesses of paganism; but while the Methodist Bishop Candler of Georgia can denounce the report of the Federated Churches, his protest calls forth no chorus of Methodist disapproval. To have a still in one's cellar is a frightful crime, as Bishop Hafey of Raleigh recently said, but to have a contraceptive in one's closet is a practise which the Federal Council readily countenances."

Commenting on this audacious misrepresentation of facts, the Lutheran says: "We hesitate to accuse a religious journal of that misdemeanor for which the polite, but un-Rooseveltian term is mendacity, but the editor of America certainly knows the 'release' of the Federal Council's commission on birth control was immediately protested by President Knubel; his statement was in the same issue of the New York papers that carried the commission's report. The editor should also know that the Federal Council is not in fact, and does not claim to be in fact, the voice of the Protestant communions in this country. Its editorialist seems also to have lost sight of the fact that of 30,000,000 families in the United States less than 4,200,000 have any connection with the Roman Church. It takes considerable recklessness to declare that 25,000,000 American homes have outlawed regard for their marriage vows and declared themselves in a state of rebellion against religion. The only excuse we can find for so outrageous an exaggeration is the sort of partisanship that depends on the ignorance of the true facts on the part of its readers."

Roman Catholic Theological Seminaries in the United States. Writing in the Commonweal, Rev. M. J. Ahern, a Jesuit, submits this information on the theological seminaries of his Church in the United States: "There are in the United States 145 seminaries for the education of the secular and regular clergy, with a total, in 1930, of 17,616 students. As far as I can gather, approximately 8,000 of these are in the major seminaries. For entrance into a major seminary the completion of the sophomore class in either a college or in a preparatory seminary is required, and the major seminary course lasts six years. So that for ordination an amount of study lasting four years beyond the time when the young seminarian would have graduated from college is exacted. Four years beyond the bachelor's degree is the time ordinarily consumed in gaining the doctor's degree in a graduate school. I admit that the seminary course in theology is not research in the sense of Professor Defarrari's paper. But it is a course of intensive study in a difficult field, and the output of Catholic devotional, theological, and philosophical literature would seem to indicate that our priests, who are graduates of these seminaries, have caught a goodly share of the enthusiasm of the true scholar. Besides, the caliber of those who enter our seminaries is not below the average of the caliber of those who enter upon research in our universities. I am wondering how many graduate students would flock to our secular universities if a proportionate number of non-Catholic college graduates entered the ministry? I have

been moved to make this observation on seminaries by the fact that, in at least one case which came under my observation, the work done in Catholic seminaries after graduation from a Catholic college was accepted by the Association of American Universities as graduate work."

A.

"Barthian Theology not Calvinistic." — Karl Barth, with his Crisis Theology, is becoming more and more persona ingrata. The Liberalists did not want him to lay his egg in their nest; for from the start their chief representative, A. von Harnack, repudiated his doctrines. Since then conservative Lutherans in Germany have taken a decided stand against Barthianism and have proved that it is not Lutheran in any point, but the very opposite of Lutheranism. In Christianity To-day Dr. Cornelius Van Til, professor of Dogmatics at Westminster Seminary, pleads with his fellow-Calvinists not to acknowledge Barthianism as Calvinistic. In a very lengthy and able review on the recent book of Dr. A. S. Zerbe, professor emeritus at Central Theological Seminary, The Karl Barth Theology or the New Transcendentalism, one of the most readable expositions of Barthianism that have appeared in America, he writes: "Barth knows no absolute God. His theology is a 'sport' and will soon revert to type. Professor McGiffert of Chicago predicted last summer that Barthianism would not last because it was really a recrudescence of Calvinism. If we might venture a prediction, it would be that Barthianism may last a long time because it is really Modernism, but that neither Barthianism nor Modernism will last in the end because they are not Calvinism, that is, consistent Christianity. . . . We believe that the author's book will be conducive to the highly desirable end that every branch of the Reformed churches will resolutely disown Barthianism as an offshoot of Reformed theology."

J. T. M.

The Neglect of the Old Testament. - The Pastor's Monthly has published a series of articles on this subject by Prof. H. C. Leupold. From the article appearing in the August issue we clip the following: "He therefore that would busy himself with the Old Testament must first of all believe it to be God's blessed and precious Word and expect to find divine treasures in it and must secondly, to secure this valuable treasure, be ready to venture out into a field that is hotly contested. He must expect to be listed in the category of benighted souls and must rest content to be classed as a man of retarded intellectual development and be made to feel the lofty sneers of the so-called scholars of our day. Not a very alluring prospect, to be sure. Many shrink back, for such a step requires both moral courage and firm and well-grounded convictions. . . . It was said above that one of the reasons that contributed to the neglect of the Old Testament was the neglect of the thorough study of the language in which the Old Testament was written. In explaining only that which bears upon our present purpose, we shall not treat of the necessity of such study exhaustively. There is much more to be said than we shall say. Let us point out three pertinent facts. It should be evident to all who approach the problem fairly that exhaustive investigation of difficult and essential passages of this portion of Holy Writ is utterly impossible without a knowledge of the original language. It will not do to argue: There are adequate literal translations and explanations that can bring the issues involved clearly before our mind. So claims the theorist. They who see clearly on this

point realize that in spite of all explanations and exact translations the man who lacks the knowledge of the original language often misses the very essence of the point involved and, at best, repeats what others say without being able to form an independent judgment. Secondly, it is perfectly clear that a good part of the reaction against the study of the original languages is the outgrowth of the spirit of our age in the field of higher education. A goodly number of educators have scrapped the theory of the essential value of the classic languages for a well-balanced classic education. Quite apart from the pros and cons of that question and quite apart from whatever conclusions universities may ultimately arrive at, their conclusions have settled nothing about the knowledge of the original languages of the Bible for a theologian. For, first of all, theirs is not the theological approach to the question, and, besides, whatever is or is not essential to a well-balanced education is not normative for what is essential for a theological student, no more than proof for the fact that an astronomer can do without such knowledge. Lastly, when will men begin to observe that they who argue particularly against the study of Hebrew are never the men who thoroughly know Hebrew and have used it? The man who does not thoroughly know a thing is the last man who is to be called competent to pronounce final judgment upon its merits. . . . These two factors mutually condition one another: Lack of knowledge of the language discourages exegetical study, while lack of interest in exegetical studies discourages the study of Hebrew." That is a heart-to-heart talk. Let us all take it to heart!

Can an Atheist be Believed? — This question recently had to be answered by a court in Alabama. A colored man, Mr. Knight, when dying, accused his wife of having murdered him. The lower court held that this accusation was devoid of credibility because the person who had made it had been an atheist. The Court of Appeals, however, ruled differently, stating that the a-priori rejection of the word of an atheist is unjustified. The issues involved are indeed grave. The view has often been expressed that a government is within its rights if it refuses to grant citizenship to atheists, that is, to people who do not believe in the existence of God, for whom therefore an oath has no meaning. Such a position would not be due to religious intolerance, but merely to the wish of the state to protect itself. On the other hand, it must not be overlooked that abuses would be likely to creep in if the government, and the courts in particular, endeavored to rule out the testimony of atheists as unreliable, not to mention the sad fact that many oaths which are sworn by professed believers in the existence of a Supreme Being are false and that hence the giving of testimony under oath is not a guarantee that the truth is told. We are living in an imperfect world, where the application of a remedy, while healing a certain class of diseases, often produces another class of them just as virulent.

Bernachläfsigung bes Hebräischen. Wem das Evangelium lieb ist, dem sind auch die Sprachen lieb, in denen Gott das Evangelium von den heisligen Schreibern hat aufzeichnen lassen. Umgekehrt aber sind den heutigen Liberalisten die ursprünglichen Bibelsprachen unwichtig. Wenigstens dem Hebräischen mißt man wenig Wert mehr dei. Im "Christlichen Apologeten" lesen wir über dies Kapitel: "Die hebräische Sprache und Literatur wurde

als Gegenstand des Studiums schon vor einigen Jahren aus dem Studiens plan des Drew Theological Seminary fallen gelassen, das heißt, das Heißt wurde nicht mehr als ein obligatorisches Fach von den Studenten gesordert. Auch mehrere andere theologische Schulen haben dieses Fach ganz aufgegeben. In einigen amerikanischen Großstädten, wie St. Louis, Vittsburgh und andern, ist unlängst das Studium des Hebräschen auf gleiche Stufe mit Latein und Griechisch in den Studium des Hebräschen auf gleiche Stufe mit Latein und Griechisch in den Studienplan ihrer Hodschulen ausgenommen worden. Das ist geschehen auf das unablässige Drängen des jüdischen Elements in diesen Städten." Wie uns berichtet wird, hat es mit dem Studium des Hebräschen in den St. Louiser Hodschulen wenig auf sich gehabt. Wem nicht viel an der Bibel gelegen ist, der studiert heutzutage wenig Hebräsch.

Die Biffenschaft und ihre Bahlen. Dem "Apologeten" entnehmen wir bie folgenden Baragraphen mit ber Bemerkung, daß ber hier ausgeteilte

Spott reichlich verdient ift:

"Benn bie herren Naturwiffenschaftler nur bie Runft berftanben, bie Rullen, welche fie an von ihnen aufgestellte Bahlen, 3. B. über bas Alter ber Erbe und ihrer Bewohner, hangen, in tonfrete Goldwerte gu berhanbeln, dann ware ber Rot ber Beit mit einem Schlage abgeholfen. . . . Unten in Mabama fanden fie Fußiburen von Riefentieren, benen fie ein Miter bon 250,000,000 Jahren gufdrieben. In Megifo entbedten fie ein berfteinertes Arofodil, das vor 60,000,000 Jahren aufgehört haben foll gu freffen, ebenfalls Dinofaurustnochen, benen fie 80,000,000 Jahre gudichten. Und in Florida fanden fie bas Stelett eines Mannes, ber fich bor 20,000 Jahren in jenem Gubland niedergelaffen haben foll. Alfo berichtet uns bas ,Amerifanifche Mufeum ber Naturgefchichte'. Ber weiß, jenes Krofodil ift am Ende gu Stein geworben bor Erftaunen ob ber Bahlen, mit denen ein Naturhistorifer, dem es vielleicht begegnet war, um sich warf. Ob der obenerwähnte Befiger jenes menfchlichen Stelettes (?). wohl ber älteste Ansiedler Floridas war? Bielleicht erhalt er mit bem Fortschritt der Forschungen einen Nivalen, der ihm mit ein paar weiteren Rullen hinter dem Alter feines Stelettes ober eines Anochens besfelben ben Rang abläuft. Man muß ben Tag nicht bor bem Abend loben.

"Doch — Spaß apart. Der Editor ist der letzte Mann, der die Wissensichaft verachtet oder verspotten möchte. Sein Respekt vor ihrer Arbeit ist viel zu groß. Aber hie und da kommt ihm doch ein Lächeln ob der Zusmutungen, die sie an den Glauben der Menschen stellt, sie, die selber vom Glauben doch so gar nichts wissen will und oft genug und besonders den biblischen Glauben verspottet. Zahlen können sehr unbequem werden — in Zeitrechnungen wie in Kohlens, Doktors und Hospitalrechnungen. Man sollte sein vorsichtig mit ihnen umgehen. Das ist vielleicht etwas, was die Archäologen der Menschheitss und Erdgeschichte noch lernen müssen, und zwar sowohl im Interesse der Wahrheit überhaupt als auch im Interesse des Ansehnes ihrer Wissenschaft im besonderen."

Information on the Russian Orthodox Church. — In a review of a book written by Russian church dignitaries in exile the Commonweal presents some valuable information on this Church. The following facts are gleaned from the review. After the revolution in 1917 the patriarchate, which had been abolished by Peter the Great, was restored in Soviet Russia, and Patriarch Tyhon was acknowledged by the entire Russian Orthodox

Mueller: Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches Church as the legitimate head. Later on this patriarch was compelled to issue a declaration, stating that he was not an enemy of the Soviet government. He was recognized as the head of the Russian Church by emigrant Russian bishops, by the ecumenical patriarchate of Constantinople, and by the sister orthodox churches. In 1925 he died. After his death dissensions arose in the Russian Church. At the present time "there are outside Russia two main groups of orthodox Russians," one following the Metropolitan Anthony, head of the Russian Synod at Carlovtsi, Jugoslavia, the other adhering to Metropolitan Eulogius, who resides in Paris and is the head of Russian orthodoxy in Western Europe. In Russia the patriarch, Peter Krutitsky, is imprisoned: the vicegerent, Metropolitan Sergius, seems to have submitted to the Bolsheviks. Eulogius, in Paris, has been deposed by Sergius because he prayed for the persecuted Christians in Russia. As a result he has refused to acknowledge Sergius any longer as a superior. The same position is taken by the Metropolitan Anthony in Jugoslavia. The Patriarch of Constantinople, Photius II, has acknowledged the deposed Eulogius as being in good standing. A third group of exiles is still under the jurisdiction of Sergius in Soviet Russia. Anthony and Eulogius are united in fighting Sergius; but they are likewise fighting each other. Thus the Russian Orthodox Church presents a pitiful spectacle to the outsider. May God have mercy on it! A.

II. Ausland.

Die göttliche Gingebung ber Beiligen Schrift festgehalten. "Allgemeinen Et. Duth. Rirchenzeitung" bom 4. September 1931 findet fic folgende interessante Notia, die da zeigt, daß der moderne Unglaube noch

nicht alles verschlungen hat:

"Die Synobe ber Nieberländisch-Reformierten Rirche im Freiftaat Gubafrifa (Dutch Reformed Church) hält fich ftreng an die Inspiration ber Bibel. Gie hat eine Erklärung angenommen, die jeder Brediger bei feiner Ordination unterzeichnen muß: 3ch erkläre und bekenne aufrichtig und mit gutem Getriffen: 1. daß die Bibel Gottes Wort ift; 2. daß die Bibel in allen ihren Teilen von Gott eingegeben und baber in allen ihren Teilen unfehlbar ift; 3. daß die Bunder ber Bibel burch menschliche Bernunft nicht zu erklären und mit findlichem Glauben anzunehmen find; 4. bag bie Erzählung ber Genefis bon ber Schöpfung und bom Gundenfall unfehlbar und inspiriert ift; 5. daß die im Alten Testament gebotene Geschichtsbarftellung gegenüber ber Entwidlungstheorie ber Bibelfritit festguhalten ift; 6. bag Chriftus nicht nur im ethifden Ginne beilig und fündlos ift, fondern ebenfo in feinem Denken ohne Frrium und Täufdjung; 7. daß die Lehre JEsu über Moses als Berfasser des Bentateuchs, über Jonas und ben Balfifd, über David als Berfaffer bes 110. Bfalms und über die gange Schrift unfehlbar und bag JEjus immer bie Wahrheit ift."

Das Buhlen ber Freibenfer in Deutschland. Ginem Bechselblatt ents nehmen wir die folgenden Angaben, die auf ein beutliches Beichen ber letten

Beit hintveifen:

"Durch die Bestimmungen der Notverordnung des Reichspräsidenten, die sich auf die antireligiöse Propaganda besiehen und die unsagdar roben und berletenden Formen diefer Propaganda — feineswegs aber fie felbft unterbinden follen, ift der Deutsche Freibenkerverband wie aus dem Sauschen geraten. In einem flammenden Aufruf an seine Witglieder ruft er zum Abwehrlampf gegen den "kulturpolitischen Belagerungszustand" auf, durch den die Freidenkerorganisationen ihrer verfassungsmäßigen Rechte beraudt würden. Er gelobt, die antikirchliche Propaganda weder aufgeben noch einschren zu wollen. "Für uns ist die Kirche der Todseind, dessen Beskämpfung alle unsere Kräfte jeht und in der Zukunft gewidmet sein wers den." Zugleich wird ein dringender Hilferuf an die Sozialdemokratische Bartei gerichtet.

"Bir erbliden in biefem Aufruf eine neue Beftätigung bafur, bag ber Deutsche Freibenkerverband in feinen Bielen — Bernichtung bes "Todfeindes' Rirche - mit ben fommuniftischen Gottlofen burchaus einig geht, auch wenn er von beren ,äußerst plumper und ungeschickter Agitation' in letter Zeit mehrfach abgerückt ist. Im übrigen ist auch er in der Bahl feiner Rampfmittel nicht angitlich. Die neuefte Rummer bes Freibenters' enthält einen Schmabartitel gegen die Betheler Unftalten und die angeblich bort getriebene ,moberne Stlaverei', beffen Schlugfat lautet: ,Aber einträglich ift bas Geschäft . . . , und einträglich wird es bleiben, solange nicht die geiftige Spidemie, die man Chriftentum nennt, abläuft, woran gludlicherweise nicht mehr zu gweifeln ift. In einer Ergablung im "Linberland' ber gleichen Beitschrift fagt ein freibenkerisches Rind gu einem anbern: Bir find auch in die driftliche Schule gegangen; benn wo wir bisher wohnten, war feine weltliche. Was hat uns ba ber Lehrer alles vorgelogen! Und das Tollite - felbit in den Schulbuchern ftanden diefe Lugen brin!" In ber Mitte Diefer Rinderfeite prangt in Ginrahmung ber Spruch: Be frommer der Menich, desto mehr glaubt er; je mehr er glaubt, besto weniger weiß er; je weniger er weiß, besto bummer ift er; je bummer er ift, um fo leichter wird er regiert von Rirche und Rapital."

Jubilaum bes Sprifden Baifenhaufes. Bie ber "Lutherifde Berold" mitteilt, hat das Sprifche Waifenhaus in Jerufalem fein fiebzigjähriges Jubilaum feiern tonnen. Bir lefen: "Dr. Schneller fchreibt barüber im Boten aus Bion' (April 1931): ,Sieben Jahrzehnte find berfloffen, feit im Jahre 1860 auf bem Libanon jene furchtbaren Debeleien unter ben bortigen Chriften durch die Drufen angerichtet wurden. über 20,000 Bitwen und Baifen irrten in äußerster Not über die Berge und durch die schönen Taler bes Libanons. Ludtvig Schneller, ber Grofbater bes jehigen Direftors, reifte, als er biefe erschütternden Rachrichten bernommen hatte, bon Jerus falem nach Jaffa, bestieg bort ein gebrechliches Boot und fuhr bei fturmis fdem Better gur Gee nach Beirut, um nach Gräften gu helfen. Rach acht bis vierzehn Tagen fehrte er mit ber erften Schar von Baifen aus Sprien nach Jerufalem gurud. Mit ihnen, die fich im erften Jahre auf breißig Boglinge erhöhten, eröffnete er in feinem eigenen Saus am Ramenstage Martin Luthers, am 11. November 1860, ein Baifenhäuslein, in bem es gunadift eng genug berging. Da jene erften Baifen aus Sprien ftammten, behielt das Haus auch später, als die meisten Böglinge aus bem füdlicheren Palaftina tamen, ben Ramen Sprifches Baifenhaus. Wie wunderbar hat seitbem Gottes Sand über biefem Saufe gewaltet! Große Sturme und Better, die ihm ben sicheren Untergang zu bereiten schienen, find barüber hingegangen; einmal eine Gelbnot, welche ihm das Lebenslicht auszublasen brohte, einmal eine Feuersbrunft, welche alles, was in fünfzig Jahren aufgebaut war, in Rauch und Alammen aufgeben ließ; einmal ein Beltfrieg, infolgebessen uns das Syrische Waisenhaus ganz genommen und über drei Jahre lang in fremde Hände gelegt wurde. Aber aus allen Köten hat uns der Herr errettet und wie auf Adlers Flügeln bis jeht ins achte Jahrzehnt unsers Daseins hindurchgeführt." J. X. W.

Kampf um die "39 Artifel". In England kämpfen die dortigen Kirchen um die sogenannten "39 Artifel" der anglikanischen Staatskirche. Worum es sich handelt, beschreibt das "Evangelische Deutschland", wie solgt: "Bei der Revision des Prayer-Book war bekanntlich der Streit um die anglikanische Bekenntnisschrift, die "39 Artikel", gestissentlich aus dem Spiel geslassen. Die "39 Artikel" sind zwar nicht ein eigentlich sestendbeil des Prayer-Book, sind aber doch in der Regel im Anhang mit abgedruckt. Man hatte die "39 Artikel" nicht mit in den Streit um das Prayer-Book hineinsgezogen, um die Gemüter nicht noch mehr zu erhihen. Jeht aber hat in der englischen Tagespresse solvie in den kirchlichen Vättern eine lebhaste Aussprache eingeseht. Die Gegensähe der berschiedenen kirchlichen Richtungen, die im Prayer-Book-Streit auseinanderprallten, treten jeht wieder hervor.

"Die "39 Artikel' weisen bekanntlich starke lutherische und reformierte Einschiffe auf (Luthers Lehre von der Rechtsertigung aus Clauben allein). Berschiedene katholische Riten werden schark kritisiert. So erklärt es sich, daß die katholischende Richtung innerhalb der englischen Staatskirche die Bedeutung der "39 Artikel" verkleinern möchte. Es bestehen Bestrebungen, die darauf hinauslausen, die "39 Artikel" ganz außer Kraft zu sehen oder wenigstens dafür zu sorgen, daß die Geistlichen sich nicht mehr zu ihnen seierlich bekennen müssen. Andere Gruppen (übrigens nicht nur in England, sondern auch in anglikanischen Kreisen anderer Länder) sehen sich dems gegenüber sür die "39 Artikel" ein, da diese eine gewisse Gebenähr dafür böten, daß der reformatorische Charakter der englischen Staatskirche erhalten bliebe. Bei den Unionsverhandlungen mit den Orthodogen und den Altskatholiken spielen die "39 Artikel" begreislicherweise eine nicht unwichtige Rolle."

Die nationaliftifde Bewegung in Indien und bie driftliche Diffion. Die Schwierigkeiten, die fich aus ber nationalistischen Bewegung in Indien ergeben, werben in ben "Allg. Miff.-Nachr." vom Mai biefes Jahres gebuhrend berudfichtigt. Wir lesen da: "Die nationalistische Bewegung in Indien bringt auch für die Diffionsarbeit Schwierigkeiten mit fich. Ein ameritanifder Diffionar, Reithahn, hatte feiner Sympathie für die nationas Liftifche Bewegung offen Ausbrud gegeben; baraufbin wurde er bon ber Behörde in Madura aufgefordert, Indien zu verlaffen, und von der Miffion gefordert, daß fie mit ihm nichts mehr zu tun haben follte. Richt genug damit, forderte der betreffende Beamte, daß die Mission einstimmig Er-Märungen abgeben follte, was den Miffionaren als ein Bruch der Reutralität erschien, wie fie ein Missionar üben sollte. Aber noch barüber hinaus forberte bann ber Beamte, daß die Diffion ihre indischen Brediger und Lehrer zwingen follte, fich gegen die nationalistische Agitation zu erklären und sich für die Politit der englischen Regierung einzuseben, und teilte der Mission mit, daß andernfalls die Schulzuschüffe, die die Regierung bisher gezahlt hatte, wegfallen würden. — Auf der andern Seite treten die Rationalisten gegen die Miffionsarbeit auf. So hat fich Gandhi, ber trot all feiner anertennenben Borte für Chriftum ftets bollfommen ein Sindu geblieben

ift und bas auch immer wieber ausspricht, gegen alle Betehrungsversuche erklärt, und Natarajan fdrieb im Indian Social Reformer: "Die Auffaffung bon Herrschaft in einer Monarchie ist nicht nur eine völlig äußere; etwas barin muß auch einen geiftigen Bufammenhang zwifden bem Berrider und feinem Untertanen zeigen. Es ift gegen bie feit unbenklichen Beiten in Indien herrichende überlieferung, irgendeine Religion für geringer als andere zu erklären. Wir können ben Ronig bes indischen Dominiums nicht aufforbern, fich nicht gum driftlichen Glauben gu bekennen. benten, daß Indien fordern follte und mußte, daß in dem Krönungseib bon feiten bes herrichers ein feierliches Berfprechen enthalten fei, ber Beschützer der alten religiösen Glauben bes Landes fein zu wollen. Der gegenwärtige Grundsatz religiöser Neutralität müßte durch ben Grundsatz aktiver und anerkennender Beschützung abgelöst werden. Die wichtigste Folge dieses Bechfels würde fein, daß organifiertes religiöfes Profelhtenmachen, das barauf abzielt, Untertanen feiner Majeftat von ihrem alten Glauben wegzuziehen, verhindert würde, da der König als Beschützer aller Religionen nicht eine bie andere befampfen laffen barf." 3. T. M.

Deutsche Minberheit in Litauen ohne Recht. Der "Friedensbote" teilt aus einer Melbung in "Epb." das Folgende mit: "Nach den jüngften Nachrichten bericharft fich die Bedrückung ber beutschsebangelischen Gemeinden Beiftliche, Die bas Bertrauen aller Gemeindeglieder befigen, werden über Racht aus ihren Amtern entfernt und durch litauische Hetzer Sett fich, wie es erft jungft in Birballen gefchehen ift, bie Gemeinde gegen diefes Berfahren einmutig gur Behr, dann berfchreibt man fich die hilfe der Polizei. Ebenfo wie der Prafident des Konfiftoriums gegen die deutschgesinnten Kirchengemeinden geht die Litauische Regierung gegen die deutschen evangelischen Minderheitsschulen bor. Jahren bestanden noch fiebenundbreifig berartige Schulen; beute find es nur noch fünf. Der junge litauische Staat gablt außer etwa zwei Willionen Katholifen rund 70,000 Evangelische, darunter 60,000 Lutheraner, die etwa gur Balfte aus Deutschen, zu je einem Biertel aus Litauern und Letten bestehen und in der ebangelisch-lutherischen Kirche Litauens zusammengefaßt find. Die im Jahre 1921 von den Gemeinden beschloffene Kirchenberfaffung, die sich auf der völligen Gleichberechtigung der drei Rationalitäten aufbaute, ift bon der litauischen Regierung bis heute noch nicht anerkannt. Statt beffen hat die Regierung gegen alles Recht einen litauischen Rationalisten, Dr. Gaigalat, an die Spitze des Konfistoriums berufen. Er fieht fein Ziel darin, den beutschen Charatter ber Gemeinden, die bas bon ben Batern übernommene Erbe ber beutschen Reformation in die Butunft binüberretten wollen, zu bernichten. Bill er auf Diefem Bege weitergeben? Den Schaben trüge nicht gulett ber junge litauifde Staat felbft."

3. X. M.

Gegen die Missionsschulen. Der "Christl. Apologete" schreibt: "Das neue Schulgesetz in Portugiesisch-Ostafrika kann als ein schwerer Schlag gegen die Mission angesehen werden. Danach darf kein Eingeborner Resligion lehren, der nicht ein Zeugnis über den Besuch einer Erundschule vorweisen kann. Außerdem sollen die Eingebornensprachen schriftlich nicht verwendet werden dürfen. In Mozambique ist jede Berwendung von Literatur in den Sprachen der Eingebornen verdoten. Da die Bibel dort in Ronga, Tswa und Tonga überseht und gedruckt ist, werden alle diese übers

schueller: Theological Observer - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches ein seine Einse Einstellen, da viele Eins geborne die portugiesische Sprache nicht berfteben. Wenn auch die Forberung ber Bildung der Eingebornen bon ben Miffionaren begrüßt werben muß, fo ift boch 3. B. die Bestimmung, bag nur aus Stein aufgeführte Gebäude zu Schulzweden berivendet werden burfen, bagu angetan, bag eine große Zahl von Schulen im Lande geschlossen werden muß. Berbot der geschriebenen oder gedruckten Eingebornensprachen erscheint den dort arbeitenden evangelischen Missionsgesellschaften als ein Bruch der Berträge, nach denen völlige Religionsfreiheit gewährt worden war." diefer Magregel folgen die Portugiefen dem Beispiel Frankreichs und Belgiens, die mit ähnlichen Gesehen die ebangelische Mission in ihren Gebieten erschivert haben. Es wird dies den genannten Ländern nicht gum Gegen gereichen. 3. T. M.

Die archäologischen Ausgrabungen in Balästing sind nicht unwichtig. über die neueften Funde fdpreibt ber "Bafeler Chriftliche Bolfsbote", wie folgt: "Die Ausgrabungen letter Zeit haben die Erzählung bom Fall Jerichos, wie er Jos. 6, 20—24 berichtet ist, in auffallender Beise bestätigt. Durch ben Erdhügel, auf welchem die Stadt lag, wurde ein breiter Graben gezogen, und dabei wurden einige von den alten Stadtmauern flachliegend gefunden, die nach außen gefallen waren ohne irgendein Zeichen bon Bruch oder Berfall. Töpferwaren, welche unter der Mauer gefunden wurden, gehören dem Zeitalter von ungefähr 1400 v. Chr. an, was genau mit der Beitrechnung der Bibel ftimmt. Die äußere Mauer hat eine Breite bon 6, die innere eine folche von 12 Fuß. Beweise vom Brand der Stadt (Jos.

6, 24) wurden ebenfalls festgestellt.

"In der letten Zeit wurde auch die Feste Zion ausgegraben. Auf dem Berg Ophel, two schon seit sechzig Jahren gegraben wird, ist die Felsenfestung des Königs David (?) bloggelegt worden. Was jest entdedt worden ift, ift eine Mauer der Festung, die David ungefähr im Jahre 1000 b. Chr. er-Dieje Ausgrabung fest die Gelehrten in die Lage, die Gingels heiten bon Rehemias Beschreibung zu kontrollieren. Zwischen zwei Bafteien ift ein uralter Turm entbedt worden; nach der Maurerarbeit muß er ents weber aus Davids oder Salomos Zeiten stammen. Die Bibel erzählt, daß König Salomo Steuer ausgeworfen habe, zu bauen ein Saus bem Ramen bes Berrn und ein Saus feines Ronigreiches'; ferner mußte gesteuert werben, um Millo und die Stadtmauer von Jerusalem aufzubauen. Er soll auch die Bresche ausgefüllt haben, die David bei der Belagerung in die alte Jebusitermauer geschlagen hatte. Die Ausgrabungen brachten nun nicht nur diese Bresche zutage, sondern auch die starte Füllung aus Salomos Zeiten, ba die Steine aus der alten Zebusitermauer wieder eingefügt worden waren. Ferner wurden Spuren der Arbeit König Sistias gefunden, der die Davidstadt auf die Schredenskunde, daß der Affprerkönig Sanberib (701 b. Chr.) gegen Berufalem aufbrechen wolle, in großer Saft hatte ausbeffern laffen." 3. T. M.

Ruslands Gegenwehr gegen bie Bibel. Bir lefen barüber im "Chriftlichen Apologeten", wie folgt: "Depeschen aus Europa berichten, daß die Sowjetregierung, die zuerst das Druden der Vibel in Rufland verboten, nun auch die Importation der Bibel strengstens untersagt hat. Die Beamten der Zollämter find angetviesen, alle Bibeln, die fie in den Grenzstationen finden, zu konfiszieren als Konterbande." A. T. M.