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Theological Observer. - Rirdlid-Beitgefdichtliches.

I. Amerika.

Die humanistische Borbilbung ber Prediger. Unsere Synode erörtert seit Jahren diesen Gegenstand. Sie erkennt, daß auch auf diesem Gebiet ber theologischen Borbildung sich ein Mangel bemerkbar macht. herige Survey Committee hat sid barüber also ausgesprochen: "The place of languages in ministerial training. If in our ministerial training, both pretheological and theological, we lose sight of the objectives accepted by Synod in the meeting at St. Louis in 1926, we shall lower the standards which our Church in America has upheld since the founding of the first Concordia at Altenburg, in 1839, and which the Lutheran Church of Germany and the Scandinavian countries established and maintained with consistent endeavor these four hundred years. The training that we have hitherto offered is in keeping with the humanistic ideals of the age of the This means, briefly stated, that the social sciences, the natural sciences, and mathematical learning were made secondary and subservient to linguistic training in our pretheological schools. What is to be said at the present time with regard to this policy? Shall we lower the standards of our language requirements in keeping with certain modern demands? . . . 'In the same measure that the Gospel is dear to us should we zealously cherish the languages. Let this be kept in mind, that we shall not preserve the Gospel without the languages.' (Luther.)" Shnobe hat diefe Sadje und die damit gufammenhängende Frage betreffs der Berlängerung des Ghmnafialfurfus einem Romitee zur weiteren Brus fung übergeben. Much in Deutschland beschäftigt man fich mit biefer Cache. Auch in der lutherischen Kirche Deutschlands steht nicht alles fo, wie es sollte. Die "Allg. Ev.-Luth. Kirchenzeitung" vom 15. Juli berichtet folgendes, toobon nicht alles, aber boch vieles auf unfern Kall feine Anwens dung findet.

"Der Mangel humanistischer Bilbung bei ben jungen Theologen bedroht immer mehr die geiftige Sobe bes fünftigen Baftorenftandes. Mus biefer Corge wenden fich die brei älteften Professoren der Theologie in Salle, Feine, Fider und Rattenbuid, an ben ebangelischen Oberfirdenrat mit einem Antrag, unbergüglich eine Anderung der für Rirche und theologische Biffenichaft gleichermaßen bedrohlichen Lage herbeizuführen. Die Eingabe foll auch dem deutschen ebangelischen Rirchenbundesrat und fämtlichen deutschen ebans gelisch-theologischen Fakultäten überreicht werden. Sie lautet: "Die Bors bildung der evangelischen Theologen erfüllt uns mit immer wachsender Der Rudgang in ber Renntnis ber alten Sprachen, ichon lange eine fcwere Schädigung bes afabemifchen Unterrichts, hat fich in ben letten Jahren in erfchredenbem Maße gesteigert. Die Folgen zeigen sich beutlich: Unwissenheit und Unsicherheit in dem, was unumgängliche Boraussehung bes atademischen wie bes burch bas gange Leben fortzusetenben theologis fchen Studiums ift, berbindet fich mit Geringichabung boberer fprachlicher Bilbung und das Zurückleiben sprachlicher und damit auch geistiger Durchbilbung mit bem Burudfteben ebangelijdstheologifder Arbeit auf berichies benen wiffenschaftlichen Gebieten. Diefe Folgen werben fich alsbald in

allgemeinem Umfange austvirken: in bem Sinken ber theologischen Durchfdnittsbilbung, in bem wiffenschaftlichen Burudtreten bes Protestantismus, im Nachlaffen ber Mitarbeit ber ebangelischen Theologie an bem geiftigen Leben bes Chriftentums. Die jest geschaffenen Sprachenkonvitte find nur Rotbehelfe. Sie find fein ausreichender Erfat für die Mängel ber Borbildung. Es ift gang unmöglich, bak in ber für ihren Lehrblan gur Berfügung ftehenden turgen Beit die fichere Beherrichung ber brei Sprachen gewonnen wird, die allein wiffenschaftliche Gelbitanbialeit gewährleiftet. Das übel muß vielmehr an der Burgel angefaßt werben. Bahrend die tatho-Lifdje Kirche baran festgehalten hat, daß nur Abiturienten mit der Reife bes humanistischen Chunasiums für bas Studium ber Theologie angenommen werden, haben die ebangelischen Kirchen verschiedenen Konzessionen zugestimmt und sogar den von der Realschule Kommenden das theologische Studium geöffnet. Der Theologenmangel hat ber evangelischen Rirche seinerzeit dazu die Veranlassung und damit eine gewisse Entschuldigung Er besteht gegenwärtig nicht mehr, und damit entfällt jedwebe Entschuldigung. Damit fällt auf die evangelische Rirche die Berantwortung für die genügende Durchbildung ihrer Theologen jest aufs neue in der gangen Schwere. Uns erscheint es als bas bringende Gebot ber Stunde, daß alle Ermäßigungen in der sprachlichen Borbildung der ebangelischen Theologen aufgehoben und daß zum Studium der Theologie nur die auf einem humanistischen Chunasium Borgebildeten zugelaffen werden. evangelische Kirche hat hüterin zu sein des geistigen Erbes der Kirche aller Beiten, zumal des koltbaren, das ihr von der Reformation als unentbehrlidjes Lebensgut und als unerlägliche Pflicht überantwortet worden ift. Es geht jest um ben wiffenschaftlichen Beruf bes Broteftantismus, es geht um die geiftige Butunft ber ebangelifden Rirde. D. Dr. Feine. D. Dr. Fider. D. Dr. Rattenbuich."

Das Ergebnis bes firchlichen Benfus in Amerita. Unter Diefer überidrift berichtet ber "Luth, Berold" aus bem "Friedensboten", bem Blatt der Unierten hierzulande: "Die Kirchen haben zwar unter bem Drud der Dot fcwer gu fampfen, fofern die Mittel in Betracht fommen, ihre Berte weiterguführen; aber es ift für fie eine Erntegeit gefommen, wo fie mit neuer Freude ihre gottgegebene Aufgabe erfüllen tonnen, ben Armen au helfen, die Traurigen gu troften, die Bergagten gu ermuntern und die bon Gott Gefegneten gu großerem Gifer im Dienft ber Liebe angufeuern. Das ift bas Ergebnis ber Bablforidung D. Linn Rieffers, ber als Rachfolger Dr. Carrolls jährlich im Christian Herald über bie Bahl ber Rirchenmitglieder unfers Landes berichtet. Es find nur Bahlen, gum Teil leere Bablen, die feine Gewähr für die Starte ber Glaubenstraft geben; aber fie zeigen boch, daß die Gegner bes Chriftentums im Irrtum waren, als fie voraussaaten, daß die Rirchen ihren Ginfluft berlieren und aussterben würden. Statt bes von ihnen erhofften Rudgangs weift nämlich bas bergangene Sahr eine Bunahme von 433,656 Gemeinbegliebern auf. In einer besonderen Bahlentafel weift der Forscher nach, wie die Bahl der Rirchenmitglieder im Bergleich zur Bevölferungszahl bes Landes feit 1800 bon Sahrzehnt au Sahrzehnt ftetig zugenommen bat. Wir greifen bie folgenben Bahlen heraus. Im Jahre 1800 waren von je 100 Bewohnern bes Landes je 6.8 Kirchenmitglieber, 1850: 15.2, 1900: 32.7, 1930: 40.1.

944 Theological Observer. — Rirchlich=Beitgeschichtliches.

"D. Rieffer hat fehr fleißig gearbeitet. Er hat in diesem Jahr eine Reihe bon Religionsgemeinschaften und Bereinigungen mit religiöfen Beftrebungen mitgezählt, von denen früher keine Angaben zu erhalten waren. Ein Bergleich mit bem lettjährigen Bericht zeigt, baf bie Rahlen in bielen Fällen niedriger find. Das hat barin feinen Grund, daß er die Bahlmethode einheitlich gestaltet hat, indem er fie in Ginklang gebracht hat mit den Benfusmethoden der Regierung. Danach werden nur folche, die dreis zehn Jahre alt und darüber find, als Kirchenmitglieder gezählt. Manche Rirchen berichteten früher die Zahl ber Getauften, gahlten also die Kinder D. Rieffer hat fich bie Dube gemacht, ben lettjährigen Bericht auf biefer Grundlage umzuarbeiten, um ein treues Bild ber wirklichen Zunahme geben zu konnen. Wir laffen eine furge Bufammenfaffung feiner Bahls tafeln folgen. Unfern Lefern wird es auffallen, daß bier ber Rame unferer Rirche fehlt. Der Bahlforscher hat offenbar angenommen, bag bie brei Rirchen, die die Bezeichnung ,ebangelisch' führen, zu einer firchlichen Familie gehören. Soffentlich wird er im nächsten Jahr diesen Irrtum berichtigen. Seine Bahlen für die Ebangelifche (unierte) Synode von Rords amerifa find: Mitglieder: 255,141; Abnahme: 2,583."

Rirchengemeinschaften.	Mitglieber.	Bunahme.
Ratholifen (weftliche), 3 Rörperichaften	14,528,176	15,243
Babtiften, 18 Rörberichaften	9.067.152	139,526
Methodiften, 19 Rörpericaften	8,135,627	46,225
Sübifche Bemeinben	4,081,242	
Lutheraner, 17 Rorperichaften	3,032,350	49,126
Bresbyterianer, 9 Rörperichaften	2,557,541	16,676
Sunger Chrifti, 2 Rorpericaften	1,865,979	-4,477
Epistopale	1,261,158	6,931
Rongregational=Chriftianer	1,010,341	— 736
Reformierte, 4 Rörperichaften	563,580	2,981
Mormonen, 2 Rörberichaften	557,541	11,473
Ratholiten (öftliche), 8 Rorperichaften	535,503	1,300
Ebangelijde, 3 Rörperichaften	479,967	-2,288
Bereinigte Bruber in Chrifto, 3 Rorperichaften	377,214	3,073
Chriftliche Biffenichaft	202,098	
Abbentiften, 5 Rorperichaften	169,189	6,854
Bruber (Dunfards), 4 Rorpericaften	167,317	11,319
Assemblies of God	109,045	12,491
Mennoniten, 16 Rörperichaften	102,180	2,125
Bufammen	48.803.200	317,842
		02.,022
Rirchen, bie meniger als 100,000 Mitglieder	010010	
haben, zufammen	949,243	115,814
Gefamtzahl	49.752.443	433,656
	J. T. M.	

Lutheran Statistics. — From the Kirchliche Zeitschrift we take over the following paragraphs: —

"Seventeen general bodies of Lutherans in the United States totaled 4,228,268 in baptized membership at the close of the last calendar year, as far as reports were ready by April 1, and 2,853,267 in communicant membership, a gain of 46,470, or 1.65 per cent. over the figures of the preceding year, according to figures released by the Rev. Dr. L. Kieffer, statistician of the National Lutheran Council.

945

"Of these 1,384,975 were members of the United Lutheran Church in America; 1,368,830 were members of the American Lutheran Conference, comprising the American Lutheran Church, the Augustana Synod, the Norwegian Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Free Church, and the United Danish Synod; and 1,332,421 were members of the Synodical Conference, comprising the Missouri Synod, the Joint Wisconsin Synod, the Slovak Synod, the Norwegian Synod, and the Negro Missions.

"The greatest gains in membership were in the United Lutheran Church, with an increase of 16,505; the Missouri Synod, with an increase of 16,153; the Norwegian Lutheran Church, with an increase of 7,676 and the Augustana Synod, with an increase of 4,225.

"Bodies which decreased in membership were the Eielsen Synod, with 100 decrease; the Danish Lutheran Church, with 716; the Norwegian Synod, with 321, and the Icelandic Synod, with a decrease of 3.

"Comparing the United States Census figures of 1926 for 'members thirteen years and older,' with the estimated like figures for 1931, Dr. Kieffer reports a five-year gain of 194,630, to which the United Lutheran Church contributed a gain of 125,764, the Missouri Synod a gain of 40,256, the Finnish Apostolic Church a gain of 17,799, the American Lutheran Church a gain of 10,941, the Augustana Synod a gain of 5,653, the Negro Missions a gain of 3,756, the United Danish Church a gain of 2,568, and the Finnish Suomi Synod a gain of 2,047, while the Joint Wisconsin Synod registered a loss of 12,236 and the Norwegian Lutheran Church a loss of 11,463. Communicant membership for the seventeen bodies totaled 2,853,267 in 1931 as compared with 2,806,797 in 1930. The total number of ministers increased from 11,336 in 1930 to 11,735 in 1931, while churches increased from 15,238 to 15,501.

"The communicant membership of nearly 3,000,000 is allocated to the general bodies as follows: United Lutheran Church, 962,461; American Lutheran Church, 328,602; Augustana Synod, 236,617; Norwegian Lutheran Church, 319,484; Lutheran Free Church, 30,504; United Danish Church, 21,419; Eielsen Synod, 900; Church of the Lutheran Brethren, 1,200; Danish Lutheran Church, 13,816; Icelandic Synod, 1,607; Finnish Suomi Synod, 22,711; Finnish National Church, 6,061; Finnish Apostolic Church, 25,300; Missouri Synod, 697,270; Joint Synod of Wisconsin, 153,506; Slovak Synod, 8,675; Norwegian Synod, 5,351; Negro Missions, 3,756; independent Lutheran congregations, 14,027."

Note. — The above statement that "the United Lutheran Church contributed a gain of 125,764, the Missouri Synod a gain of 40,256 communicant members" is not fully consistent with the fact since the United States Census for 1926 is not quite correct. According to our own statistics we had 645,345 communicant members in the United States in 1926 and 716,091 in 1931, a gain of 70,746. Mention should be made also of the fact that we changed from "souls" to "baptized members," thus excluding thousands of our non-Lutheran unbaptized Sunday-school children. There are enrolled in our Sunday-schools and day-schools more than 40,000 children of non-Lutherans. So our 1931 figures are too low in comparison with the figures of 1926.

The United States Census for 1926 gave us 686,688 members of thir-

Theological Observer. — Rirchlich=Beitgeschichtliches.

946

teen years and over, while the children in our churches are confirmed at the age from thirteen to fourteen years. The result is a difference of a few thousands of communicant members; that is to say, the census gives us a few thousands of communicant members more than we really have. Our 1931 figures cannot be compared with the United States Census of 1926.

The method used in arriving at the above statement is an application of the percentage of thirteen years and over, which in 1926 in our Synod was 69.4 per cent. The Missouri Synod has now 1,120,156 baptized members in the United States only. 69.4 per cent. of this is 777,388 communicant members, or since 1926 (686,688) a gain of 90,700. However, as we have already said, a correct comparison of our statistics with the United States Census, or a comparison of "souls" with "baptized members" is almost impossible.

E. E.

The Church in Politics. - History informs us what is liable to happen when the Church enters the political arena. There was a time when President Andrew Johnson was considered by many a failure and a fit subject for impeachment. In the light of history he now bears a different character. But what happened in the days of his incumbency of the The Tragic Era, by Claude G. Bowers, published by the Presidency? Literary Guild of America, 1929, relates this, naming its sources: "Then five days of utter madness. . . . One of the persecuted Senators wrote years later in cold blood that the conspirators were ready for assassination. . . . But intimidation - that was the thing! The Grand Army of the Republic, then a political machine, was making flourishing demands. The Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference in Chicago, was prevented from adopting a resolution for an hour of prayer for conviction only by the sanity and moral sense of an aged member, who reminded ministers of the sanctity of an oath. But Bishop Simpson . . . rose to the occasion with an amendment for an hour of prayer 'to save our Senators from error." And that was unanimously agreed upon. (P. 193.) General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at Washington acted along the same lines. (P. 195.) A prayer there offered need not be reproduced here. When the Church stands on the clear Word of God, she stands on safe ground. But in matters not decided in Scripture the churchmen are as liable to err as the politicians, and when they presume to clothe their political views and judgments with the authority of God, they disgrace the Church and the Gospel. The unthinking will blame the Church and the Gospel for the mistakes of the theological politicians. Bishop Simpson was certainly convinced of the justice and wisdom of his position, but he had no right to back it with the authority of God. churchman is not infallible on political questions and may lose his balance in the turmoil of political warfare as well as others. For good and sufficient reasons God has commanded the Church to keep out of politics. History shows why. But the lesson of history is falling on deaf ears. Says the Lutheran Herald of July 19: "Is the Church in possession of all facts regarding state, national, and international questions to such an extent that it can determine in every case what is right and wrong and with dictatorial authority demand in the name of God what must be done? The Pope claims this authority, but not the Protestant Church. We notice that the Methodists in their convention at Atlantic City decided that

Article 231 of the Versailles Treaty should be altered to remove the German war guilt clause. It passed resolutions favoring our ratification of the World Court protocol and our entry into the League of Nations. They demanded that Orientals should be included in the quota of immigration laws; that pacifists should not be barred from citizenship; that exemption clauses should be allowed Methodists as well as Quakers; that military training in all civilian educational institutions should be abolished. . . . We object to Congress's settling our religious questions, and we believe Congress and the Supreme Court should refuse to take dictation from a church convention." In an article on "Resubmission or Repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment" it said on July 26: "Furthermore, we do not believe it advisable" (make it stronger!) "for churches to open their doors to political or semipolitical organizations who for the 'good of the cause' are anxious to get into the churches and collect money for the support of political candidates and thus drag the Church into the intrigue, chicanery, trickery, and underhanded work of political schemers. Let them have a hall and discuss their political matters there. It is not the duty of the pastor to tell his Democrats, Republicans, Farmer Laborites, Prohibitionists, or Socialists what ticket to vote."

Die Treibkraft ber römischen Presse. Während protestantische Redakteure über Berluste an Lesern ihrer Zeitschriften zu klagen haben, gewinnt die katholische Presse hierzulande stetig an Macht. Kürzlich hat Dr. James E. Clarke, der Redakteur des Presbyterian Advance, den in Wassington, D. C., versammelten protestantischen Redakteuren kirchlicher Blätter nachssolgenden Brief geschrieben, den das baptistische Blatt Watchman-Examiner weitergibt. Wir lutherischen Pastoren haben alle Ursache, über das Gessagte nachzudenken und um so mehr um Leser unserre Blätter zu werben. Das Papsitum macht sich wahrlich die Presse, die Luther als ein gesegnetes Mittel zur Verbreitung des Evangeliums so hoch anpries, zunutze. Wir lesen in dem genannten Brief:

"As you know, there has been a steady decline in the circulation of Protestant religious periodicals during the past fifteen years. I undertook this spring an investigation of the situation in the Catholic Church, and I discover that in the ten-year period from 1920 to 1930 Catholic newspapers as a whole practically doubled their circulation. They have sustained a loss during the last year or two, but not nearly so serious a loss as in the case of Protestant papers, which indicates that there is more general interest in church periodicals among Catholics than among Protestants.

"That is rather a surprising statement to make, but it seems to be an indisputable fact. It is unquestionably due to a church-wide determination on the part of Catholic leaders to create, from the church point of view, a more intelligent and better-informed constituency. I requested specific information on this point from Humphrey E. Desmond, who has succeeded his father as editor of the Catholic Citizen in Milwaukee, and he confirms my conclusion, stating that the circulation gains have been 'largely due to an intensive promotional campaign for the Catholic press during this period,' the past fifteen years.

"As you probably know, the elder Desmond, long editor of the Catholic Citizen, died this spring, and it was he who was largely responsible for

the movement in the Catholic Church. His son and successor writes: 'About 1911 my father suggested a Catholic Press Sunday, with the idea that that particular Sunday in the year would be used for sermons on the Catholic press in all Catholic churches. From this beginning has come the present Catholic Press Month; and in February of each year many sermons are delivered on the subject of the support of the Catholic press, and many programs are arranged for Catholic parochial schools, academies, and colleges. This has been very successful propaganda.'

"It seems to me that the contrast between the situation in the Protestant churches and that of the Catholic Church is a matter of intense interest. It is a rare exception that a Protestant minister or Protestant church official makes any effort to push the circulation of church-papers. Indeed, it is a very common thing in our Church for pastors and sessions to refuse to permit their congregations to be canvassed for any church periodicals. But our Catholic brethren give a whole month to arousing interest in their church periodicals. The priests preach on the subject, and their young people are faithfully taught the value of a church-paper. That is a tremendously significant fact.

"I might add that the latest copy of the Catholic Press Directory lists 310 Catholic publications. Of the total 267 report their circulation, giving an aggregate of more than 7,100,000. It occurs to me that it might be of much interest to present these facts to the editors assembled in Washington."

J. T. M.

A Shock to Darwinists. — Chrliche Gelehrte haben schon so oft dars auf hingewiesen, wie unhaltbar vom wissenschaftlichen Standpunkt aus die Entwicklungslehre ist, daß man kaum mehr auf die Widerlegungen wissenschaftlicher Apologeten hinweisen mag. Und doch ist dies nötig. Die Unswahrheit der Evolutionisten wird immer wieder vorgetragen, und zwar so, daß alle Zeugnisse wirklicher Gelehrter ignoriert werden. So dürsen denn auch wir nicht schweigen. Im Moody Bible Institute Monthly lesen wir unter der obigen überschrift über dies Thema:

"When it was learned that a salamander or a newt can reproduce a lost limb or an eye with a brand-new one, it came as a great shock to the Darwinists. But when Hans Driesch showed how to separate the developing embryo in the four-celled or eight-celled stage in such a way that each of these separated cells would develop into a perfect individual, the entire mechanistic theory of heredity seemed to tumble in ruins. Even the venerable theory of the three germ-layers of the embryo failed utterly; for organs made of mesoderm cells are shown to be sometimes regenerated from ectoderm cells, or vice versa.

"In short, all the mechanical theories of heredity have broken down, and with them the last refuges of mechanical explanations of life in other departments of biology. In all living things we seem to be face to face with the direct working of the Creator. And the persistent failures of mechanistic scientists to obscure this great truth have served only to focus the attention of the present generation on it in a way that makes it live before us as never before.

"Scientists declare that their work is to push back the boundaries between the known and the unknown. Too often it seems as if they are trying to 'explain' the more mysterious phenomena of nature in terms of

949

other processes which we think we already understand, but which in reality are as unknown as ever in respect to a real cause other than the direct act of the God of nature. It is thus that most of the phenomena of nature have been 'explained.' As a matter of fact they have been explained away, and in no other department is this so true as in biology.

"This brings us to another great fact which is impressing the scientific world more and more. I refer to the truth of life only from life. Time and again since Pasteur demonstrated this truth nearly seventy years ago, have we seen men come forward with the claim that at last they have discovered how to make life where there was no life before. But without a single exception have we seen these men acknowledge their complete failure. And as long as scientists are not willing to draw the obvious conclusion from this perpetual failure, just so long will men fool away their own time and that of others in trying to rule God out of this one very significant point in the works of His creation.

"A last fact in this series, and the only other one I have space to give here, is the gradually dawning fact that organic evolution is breaking down as a logical and scientific system.

"A work like that of Dr. Austin H. Clark's *The New Evolution*, issued about two years ago, shows the almost innumerable gaps in the system as revealed by modern biological research. The figure of a genealogical tree has often been used to illustrate the alleged common origin (stem and root) of all the twigs and branches, the latter representing the modern kinds of living things. As Clark candidly remarks: "The twigs of the tree do not actually join the branches, and the branches do not join the main trunk; and besides, the main trunk itself is not continuous. . . . All lines are broken by gaps which may be small and insignificant or broad and striking." (Pp. 181. 183.)

"Additional evidence of this breakdown of evolutionary theory comes to us from the address before the London meeting of the British Association last autumn. One of the speakers, an ardent evolutionist, admitted: "There is no reptile alive to-day which can give rise to a mammal, no fish that can become a reptile, and no animal that can become a man."

"The standard alibi of the evolutionist that much of his important evidence has been destroyed by the vicissitudes of the fossils in the rocks did not seem to satisfy Professor D'Arcy Thompson, who was reported to the following effect:—

"'We have been told that rents have been torn in the veil which surrounds the mystery of evolution and that this has irretrievably destroyed chapters in the old book. That explanation does not suffice for me, and I honestly believe that we are as ignorant as we were seventy years ago.

"'In the great gaps between vertebrates and invertebrates there is no possibility of one passing into the other. I am not defying the evidence of evolution, but I believe that any attempt to find an invertebrate which has passed into a vertebrate type is doomed to failure.'

"Christian workers ought to know that the tide is turning among the leaders in the scientific world. The outstanding truths of revealed religion are being vindicated by modern research; and all Christians ought to be apprehended of this situation."

J. T. M.

950 Theological Observer. — Rirchlich Zeitgeschichtliches.

Foreign Missions of Lutherans in America. — A general summary of the Lutheran Foreign Mission statistics of the Lutheran churches having headquarters in the United States and Canada, according to Rev. George Linn Kieffer, D. D., Litt. D., Statistical Secretary of the United Lutheran Church in America and Statistician and Reference Librarian of the National Lutheran Council, states that there are 719 missionaries at work in the fields in India, Africa, Argentina, British Guiana, China, New Guinea, Madagascar, South Africa, Japan, Santal, India, and Persia, aided by 5,446 native workers in 2,804 congregations, which have a baptized membership of 247,762 and a confirmed membership of 103,698. The accessions, according to the latest reports, were 14,721, and there were 16,305 inquirers. The Sunday-schools have 55,761 pupils; other mission-schools number 1,772, with 60,690 pupils. The natives contributed toward the work of missions \$168,484. — From the News Bulletin of N. L. C.

Death of an Old Testament Scholar. - The Christian Century reports: "Dr. J. M. Powis Smith, Professor of Old Testament Language at the University of Chicago, died September 26 aboard the Laconia in New York harbor as he was returning from a summer in England. His death was caused by cerebral hemorrhage. He was sixty-five years old. Dr. Smith was closely identified with the late Dr. William Rainey Harper, first president of the university, as student, literary secretary, and later as colleague. At the time of his death he was vice-chairman of the Department of Oriental Languages in the University. While Dr. Smith's reputation for scholarship was widely recognized by all specialists in his field and by his many former students, his wider fame is due largely to the translation of the Old Testament, which he edited and a considerable part of which he himself made. He had reached the retiring age last December, but by special request of the administrative authorities of the university had continued his work till June, when his retirement became effective." In theology Professor Smith was an outspoken liberal, denying many of the fundamental truths which Bible Christians hold dear.

II. Ausland.

Bringing Back Fond Memories. - A description of the divine services held in St. Thomas's Church at Leipzig, Germany, attended by Dr. I. N. Nothstein on July 3 of this year, contains this interesting item: "After the Communion service was concluded, the organ began playing an interlude, during which the adults went out and little children began coming into the church. At 11.30 the children's service began, and a very impressive service it was. The pastor conducted a liturgy, clad in the Luther robe and ruff. The children took part in the responses in a very reverent way. One part of the liturgy consisted of a repetition of a part of the Catechism. There was a fifteen-minute intermission, during which classes were conducted like in a Sunday-school. There followed a sermon on the Gospel-lesson for the day from the pulpit. It was made attractive to the children by being conducted in a conversational tone, questions being asked by the pastor and answered by the audience. After a closing service and a hymn the children's congregation was dismissed with the benediction." (Lutheran, July 28, 1932.) The good old Christenlehre! Somewhat modified, but still the good old Christenlehre. E.

Die übertrittsbewegung in Deutsch-österreich. Wie das "Ev. Deutschland" berichtet, geht die übertrittsbewegung in Deutsch-österreich immer weiter. Wir lesen darüber: "In Deutsch-österreich sind im vergangenen Jahr insgesamt 3,724 Personen zur ebangelischen Kirche übergetreten. In Deutsch-österreich, in den deutschen Gemeinden von Böhmen, Mähren und halb Schlesien und in den tschechischen Gemeinden desselben Gebietes sind im Jahre 1931 zusammen 9,249 Personen zur ebangelischen Kirche übergetreten. Bor dem Krieg betrug in dem ganzen damaligen österreich (zu dem ja außer den genannten Gebieten auch noch der versorengegangene Süden von Meran dis Marburg und Triest, ferner halb Schlesien, ganz Galizien und Bukowina gehörten) die Höchstzahl der übertritte nicht ganz 6,700."

Rev. E. S. Jones Visiting China. - A news item in one of our exchanges tells us that next month Rev. E. Stanley Jones, the well-known Methodist missionary in India, will leave India and go to China to spend several months with the students of that country. He is quoted as writing: "In July I go to China. The different bodies of China have sent an urgent appeal to me to come to China this autumn. There is a race on between Communism and Christianity for the soul of China, with Communism leading. The students are the key to the situation. This invitation was so pressing that I could not refuse." The same communication reports Rev. Jones as saying about the work of the last months in India: "The last three months have been a period of intense national crisis. Gandhi returned from the Round-table Conference, negotiations for a settlement broke down, and he was swiftly sent to jail along with thousands of others. With constant jailings and the lathi charges, my work seemed impossible. But it has been the best three months I have ever had." Seeing the zeal of this man, who has but a very imperfect conception of Christ as our Substitute, what should we say who through the grace of God have been shown the full glory and significance of Calvary?

Der Koran versagt. Aus dem "Brüder-Botschafter" gibt der "Luth. Herold" die folgende für die christliche Mission in mohammedanischen Länsbern äußerst wichtige Mitteilung weiter:

"Eine wichtigere Nachricht ist wohl seit langem nicht durch die Blätter gegangen als der Bericht eines Zeitungskorrespondenten in Borderasien, daß sich die türkische und die persische Regierung darauf geeinigt haben, das Studium des Evangeliums St. Johannis in den Schulen einzusühren! Der Koran, das heilige Buch der Mohammedaner, das disher dort ausschliehlich herrschte, habe versagt und sei für die Rücktändigkeit dieser beiden Bölker verantwortlich; ohne religiöse Beeinflussung aber dürse die Jugend nicht auswahsen, und so habe man sich auf das Studium des Evangeliums St. Joshannis geeinigt.

"Benn sich die Nachricht bewahrheitet, die am 4. Juni in den Großstadtzeitungen erschien, so bedeutet das einen Bandel von fast unberechendarer Tragweite. Und selbst wenn das Evangelium nicht an die Stelle des Koran gesetzt, sondern ihm nur eine Stellung neben diesem in den Schulen dieser Bölker angewiesen sein sollte, so ist auch damit schon eine Bahn für das Christentum freigegeben, wie man sie in absehbarer Zeit nicht zu erhossen gewagt hätte in diesen Ländern, wo bisher ein übertritt zum Christentum

Theological Observer. - Rirdlich : Beitgeschichtliches.

952

nur mit Lebensgefahr gewagt werden durfte; denn der mohammedanische Fanatismus beherrschte Bolls- und Staatsleben vollständig. Wir leben in der Tat in Beiten gewaltiger Umwälzungen auf allen Gebieten, wie sie dem Eintreten ganz großer Ereignisse voranzugehen pslegen!"

"Benn sich die Nachricht bewahrheitet!" Davon hängt allerdings viel ab. Der Bericht jedoch stimmt im allgemeinen mit dem, was sonst Wissionsnachrichten über Kemel Paschas Stellung zum Koran sagen. Reuslich soll dieser sogar den Koran im Beisein vieler Männer mit dem Fuß durch das Zimmer gestoßen haben.

Bormarid bes 38lam in Oftafrita. Rady ben neueften Radyrichten aus Oftafrifa nimmt die Berbearbeit ber Mohammebaner im Baregebirge mit unverminderter Kraft ihren Fortgang. Bon den 58,000 Bewohnern bes Gebirges find bereits 30,000 Mohammebaner geworben, und bas in ben wenigen Jahren feit ber Befetsung Oftafrifas burch bie Englander. Bie ift biefer außergewöhnliche Erfolg zu erflären? - Mis bie fleine Schar Lettow-Borbeds vor der übermacht der Englander gurudweichen mußte, da marfdierten viele Regimenter mohammedanifdsindifder Goldaten am Fuße bes Baregebirges entlang, um die Berfolgung ber Deutschen aufzunehmen. Sofort lief das Berücht durch die Paretaler: "Die mohammedanischen Soldaten da drunten werden euch alle umbringen, wenn ihr nicht ihren Glaus ben annehmt!" Bu diefem erften Gerücht gefellte fich bald ein zweites: "Es ift ber Bunfch ber neuen, englischen Regierung, daß ihr feine Chengi, das heißt, Menichen ohne Bivilifation, mehr bleibt. Gebilbete Leute follt ihr werden." Auger bem Europäer ift für den Bareneger aber nur der Mohammebaner ein gebilbeter Menich. Der Sohepuntt ber Angft wurde jedoch erreicht, als die Engländer gleich nach ihrem Einzug fämtliche deutfchen Miffionare und felbit die eingebornen Chriftenlehrer gwangsweife aus bem Gebirge fortführen ließen. Runmehr galt es als eine ausgemachte Tatfache, daß die Engländer felbit Mohammedaner fein müßten. — Aber nicht nur die Macht wilder Gerüchte, auch die eigentumliche Arbeitsweise ber mohammedanifden Berber begünftigte das fdnelle Borwartsbringen. Bunadit trieb jeder Mohammedaner, wes Standes und Berufes er auch fein mochte, mit großem Gifer Miffionsarbeit. Die Sauptfache aber, Die gum Erfolg führte, bestand barin, daß die mohammedanischen Berbearbeiter auf jeden Unterricht verzichteten und feine innere Umwandlung irgendwelcher Urt berlangten. Die bloge Billenserflärung, fein berenbetes Tier und fein Schweinefleisch zu effen, fondern nur noch geschlachtetes Fleisch zu genießen, genügte, und die Taufe wurde bollzogen. - Go find benn Taufende bes Parevolfes aus Furcht, aus Gitelfeit, aus fluger Berechnung, aus Bequems lichfeit Mohammedaner geworden. Dag ein aus berartigen Gründen vollzogener Maffenübertritt auf die Dauer feine wirklichen Lebensfrafte in fich birgt, liegt auf ber Sand. Schon find viele Sunderte wieder abgefallen. Die Gefamtlage ift für die Leibziger Miffion, Die im Baregebirge fünf Sauptstationen und vierundbreißig Augenpläte unterhalt, schon beshalb alles andere als hoffnungslos, weil ihre Christengemeinden fest entschlossen find, bem Unfturm ber Dohammebaner entschiedener als je bie Stirn gu bieten. (Alla. Wiffionsnacht.)