# **Concordia Theological Monthly**

Volume 4 Article 66

6-1-1933

# Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches

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#### **Recommended Citation**

Mueller, J. T. (1933) "Theological Observer. - Kirchlich-Zeitgeschichtliches," Concordia Theological Monthly: Vol. 4, Article 66.

Available at: https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol4/iss1/66

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# Theological Observer. — Kirchlich-Beitgeschichtliches.

### I. Amerika.

The Lutheran Church and the Federal Council. — Or, what is the Lutheran attitude towards unionism? The two concepts are equivalent. So we take them, and so Charles S. Macfarland, General Secretary emeritus of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, takes them, the only difference being that what we call unionism he calls the practise of Christian unity. In his recent book Christian Unity in Practise and Prophecy he discusses, on pp. 188—191, the attitude of "The Lutheran Bodies. The several Lutheran bodies constitute striking exceptions to other Protestant churches in their attitudes. Here, however, we find an interesting exception to the exception. While in the United States the Lutheran bodies are but consultatively associated with the Federal Council, in Europe they are often among the leaders in the movement for unity.

"In earlier days, as we have recorded, Samuel Schmucker was a great American leader. The former General Synod of the Lutheran Church in the United States was a constituent body of the Federal Council until merged in the United Lutheran Church in America, which now sustains

the more limited 'consultative' relationship.

"Inasmuch as the Lutheran churches throughout the world, because of their size and their own unity, are an important factor in our problem, it is of value in our study to record the utterance of the United Lutheran Church in America as set forth in 1920 (Appendix V), which doubtless expresses present attitudes. This statement is characterized by the exactness which accords with the genius of Lutheranism. It is an interesting study in theology, polity, and practical affairs. It insists upon unity in 'confession' for any organic union. Desire is expressed 'to cooperate with other Christians in works of serving love in so far as this can be done without surrender of its interpretation of the Gospel, without denial of conviction, and without suppression of its testimony as to what it holds to be the truth.' Broadly interpreted, the utterance would seem to be consonant with many or most of the principles underlying federal unity, at least in possible implications.

"The Lutheran churches are concerned with the unification of their own bodies, both in the United States and in the world, and regard this as the most important contribution they can make to any larger unity. So far as the writer's observation and experience are concerned, any assumption that they become more effectively united among themselves by magnifying their separatism from others is faulty, both in theory and fact. The spirit of unity is, on the whole, a pervasive force, acting and reacting in such manner that unity tends to inspire unity. In any event, a loyalty that is thus created is not likely to endure. If the Lutheran churches in the United States should assume a more whole-hearted sympathy with other bodies, it may well be believed that this would bring about, not a decrease, but an enlarging measure of Christian service on their part. There is perhaps a lack of faith in the opinion expressed by the late and highly esteemed Dr. M. G. G. Scherer that Christian unity is ever to be something hoped for,

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but never to be attained; and it may be frankly stated that in the United States the present seemingly unsympathetic and at times critical attitude of some Lutheran leaders consitutes an obstacle to unity both among others and within their own house. We may well believe that this will disappear with more understanding and closer association.

"Reference has been made only to the United Lutheran Church, as it would be difficult to interpret the mind of the other Lutheran bodies, several of which are composed of the descendants of European Lutheranism, nationally constituted or connected, and one of which, the Missouri Synod, keeps separate from the other Lutheran bodies. The United Lutheran Church sent representatives to the Stockholm Conference on Life and Work, whose report was rather critical of the meeting. This Church was also represented at Lausanne. There are undoubtedly reasons for the conservative Lutheran attitude, not easily understood by other groups, which make it more difficult for these churches to express an innate sympathy with unity through formal organizations. While the relation of the United Lutheran Church is consultative, its president has served as chairman of one of the committees of the Federal Council. Very often in local fields Lutheran pastors and laymen participate in the leadership of local councils.

"Viewing Lutheranism as a world body, it should be observed that in its several parts there are wide differences in government, some being episcopal and others free; in liturgy and in other ways, all, however, holding to what is termed the confession. In several respects they are the least unified of all the larger bodies or families of churches. President Frederick H. Knubel, however, recently prophesied complete Lutheran reunion. It may well be hoped that this will be an influence in the direction of larger unity rather than toward exclusiveness, the latter having been the result when the General Synod in the United States united in the present United Lutheran Church, the General Synod having been previously a constituent body of the Federal Council. This latter course might do no more than to delay ultimate enlargement."

Those members of the United Lutheran Church who have been hoping that their Church would withdraw from the Federal Council altogether have again been disappointed. President Knubel announced in the Lutheran of March 2 that "the Executive Board at its last meeting took favorable action to the effect that our consultative relationship to the Federal Council is to continue." He also announced the names of those who are "to represent us in a consultative way" on the Executive Committee and other committees and in two departments of the Federal Council. From the "Recommendations" of the visitors to the Council, at its meeting in Indianapolis, December 6-19, 1932, we quote the following: "There is some sentiment in our Church for the severance of all relationship with the Federal Council. This, we believe, would be unwise because there is less reason for withdrawal and more reason for adherence now than there was in 1922, when our consultative relationship was established." Has, then, the Federal Council peradventure been approaching the Lutheran, the Scriptural, position since 1922? The "Recommendations" state further: "There is some sentiment in our Church also for full membership with the Federal Council. This, we believe, would be unwise at present because, in addition to the increased financial burden that would be involved and in addition to

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the uncertainty of the future, the reasons that in 1922 moved the Executive Board to establish consultative relationship in preference to full membership are for the most part still cogent." Those members of the U. L. C. who argue that, since nothing stands in the way of consultative relationship, which is a real relationship after all, nothing should prevent the establishment of full relationship, have a great advantage over those members who must show that the doctrinal reasons, the Lutheran consciousness, the Lutheran loyalty, which forbid the relationship of full membership do not forbid the membership of consultative relationship.

Dr. Macfarland is not disposed to draw a hard and fast line between the two relationships. He would rather have the full membership; but did not the president of the U. L. C. serve on one of our committees? Do not U. L. C. pastors participate in the leadership of local councils? Does not the consultative membership form a tie that binds us together? After all, ultimate enlargement is only, we hope, delayed. Dr. Macfarland, the champion of unionism, is much pleased with the relationship existing between the U. L. C. and the Federal Council, the exponent of unionism.

The visitors protest that the 'consultative' relationship of the U. L. C. with the Federal Council does not involve it in unionism. They say: "We conclude . . . 4) that, in general, our present relationship with the Federal Council does not encroach upon the independent position of our Church as a witness to the truth of the Gospel which we confess, because both our experience and the present situation and general trends prove that this relationship does not involve the surrender of our interpretation of the Gospel or the denial of our convictions or the suppression of our testimony to what we hold to be the truth." We may remark here, first, that all of this applies also to those bodies who hold full membership in the Federal Council. The Federal Council does not ask any of the constitutent bodies to surrender their "interpretation" of the Gospel and to deny their convictions. In this respect nothing is gained by sustaining only a "consultative" membership. Secondly, the fact that the U. L. C. is not asked to surrender its "interpretation" of the Gospel or to deny its convictions does not clear it from the guilt of unionism. Unionistic federations and organizations do not ask their members to yield up their convictions. That is the very essence of unionism: each party may retain its doctrinal position and believe in it to their hearts' content, permitting the other party to confess and maintain the contrary doctrine. The Reformed churches which joined the Prussian Union were not asked to deny their convictions. The Lutheran churches that entered the Union were not asked to surrender their "interpretation" of the Gospel. Surely the Federal Council has no objection to letting its Calvinistic bodies deny universal grace. And it has no objection to letting the U. L. C. confess universal grace. And that exactly is what constitutes the Federal Council a unionistic body. Thirdly, if it has been the experience of the visitors that this relationship does not involve "the suppression of our testimony to what we hold to be the truth," the visitors are asked to make the experiment of bearing Lutheran testimony against the offenses the Federal Council is guilty of. When the Federal Council in its official utterances, for instance, in its Lenten Meditations, disseminates gross Pelagianism; when it prays: "Free us from cherishing the memory of ancient quarrels and unite us in the love of Thy

eternal truth lest we be divided by the pride of various opinions and manners" (Prayer for Reformation Sunday); and when it confers honors upon outspoken Modernists,—let the visitors utter their protest, as they are bound to do by their Lutheran love of the truth and hatred of false teaching; let them bear their testimony, consultatively or otherwise, and they will promptly be called to order. Let the various bodies making up the Council refuse for but one session to suppress their testimony to what they hold to be the truth, and the Council will be split wide open. Fourthly, the phrase "our 'interpretation' of the Gospel" belongs to the native speech of unionism.

Roman Catholics Complaining about the Curtailment of Religious Liberty. — A Roman Catholic who sets himself up as a champion of religious liberty is rather an odd spectacle. Recently the Commonweal, a well-known Roman Catholic weekly, delivered itself of these sentiments: "With the right of religious liberty being completely denied in our country by such active workers and agitators among others as the Communist party - who have taken over the perennial struggle to abolish this right from the now happily defunct Ku Klux Klan - and with the right in fact being successfully suppressed by violence and forced indoctrination in numerous countries in the world to-day, the friends of this fundamental human right, this very arcanum of refuge for the harried human soul, must realize that they need to exert themselves to defend their heritage as free men and women. Fortunately we are not yet a beleaguered people in the United States, and while we are not, it is certainly appropriate to take decent and positive occasions to celebrate and to identify in the public mind the positive value of the great principle of religious liberty."

In the same issue the Commonweal states that, when the anti-Semitic outburst in Germany is spoken of, it must be remembered that "far greater and more destructive and even bloody outrages have been, and still are, directed against Catholics and their human rights of personal freedom and against the rights and liberties and property of their Church in such countries as Mexico and Spain and Russia."

We by no means wish to approve of religious persecution directed against Roman Catholics, but we ask, How will the *Commonweal* harmonize its glorification of religious liberty with the *ex-cathedra* pronouncements of Popes Pius IX and Leo XIII on this subject?

A.

The Catholic Press Month. — Under this heading the Lutheran Herald writes editorially: "We may learn many things from the Catholics. One thing is loyalty to the Church. They have their annual Press Month when all the priests stress the importance of keeping informed on the doings of the Church and urge every family to subscribe for at least one Catholic paper and magazine. In this way they will know what is going on, and there will be a well-informed and enthusiastic group opinion on the part of the Catholic laity to support what the Church stands for on religious, moral, social, and other questions continually discussed in the secular press. Speaking over a Catholic radio station Dr. Daly of New York referred to the Catholic Press Month as an event of great importance and declared "its success will be a barometer of the interest on the part of our people in the larger aspects of the Church's life." 'It is in perpetuating the good work done on the air and in the creation of a new and greater

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Catholic consciousness that a strong, virile, active Catholic press is an absolute necessity.' They quote Pope Pius X as saying: 'In vain will you found missions and build schools if you are not able to wield the offensive and defensive weapons of a loyal Catholic press.' Pope Benedict XV is quoted as saying: 'The work of the Catholic church-papers has been most praiseworthy. They have been an effective auxiliary to the pulpit in spreading the faith.'"

The lesson which the Lutheran Herald wishes to impress upon its readers by its timely and vital editorial is of course obvious. While the Herald has much to say in praise of the loyalty of its readers, it cannot be denied that only too many are inclined in this time of depression to discontinue their subscriptions. But just because of the prevailing depression, Christians, for obvious reasons, should be most diligent in studying their church-papers.

J. T. M.

Death of Dr. Doermann. — Dr. H. K. G. Doermann, dean of the Luther Seminary at St. Paul, Minnesota, died February 10 at his home there. He had been suffering from heart trouble, and the end was not unexpected.

Henry Karl Gotthilf Doermann was the eldest son of Pastor John Henry Doermann and Maria, néc Allwardt. He was born on New Year's Day of 1860 in Olean, New York. He received his first schooling in the parish-school of his father's congregation, then in Bremen, Randolph County, Illinois. There he was confirmed and after confirmation entered Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Upon being graduated, he received his theological training in Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

In the spring of 1882 he was ordained and became pastor of his first parish, Zion Church, South Chicago. In the fall of 1888 he accepted a call to the theological professorship of the practical Seminary at Hickory, North Carolina. For ten years he led the affairs of that institution.

When his father retired from the active ministry in Blue Island in 1898, he accepted the call to Blue Island, Illinois, and served the congregation of the First Lutheran Church until 1906. Then he was called to the theological professorship of Luther Seminary at St. Paul. There he served until the end as professor and dean of the institution.

Of his fifty years in the ministry thirty-six were spent as a theological professor. He also served his synod in various capacities. He was District President of the old Wisconsin District and later of the Minnesota District. Also, he was Vice-President of the Ohio Synod for some years.

Lutheran Standard.

Dr. Sayce Deceased. — On February 4 a well-known scholar died, Professor Archibald H. Sayce, known for his researches in the field of Egyptology and his learning in the sphere of Semitic languages. From 1891 to 1919 he taught at Oxford as professor of Assyriology. He reached the high age of eighty-eight years. Generally speaking, he was a conservative.

A.

#### II. Ausland.

"Is a Union of Churches Desirable?"—We are glad to reprint the following excellent editorial from the paper of our brethren in Australia, the Australian Lutheran: "It is sometimes claimed that it never was Christ's intention that all His followers should adopt the same form of worship and that, therefore, the division of Christians into various denominations is perfectly legitimate. Moreover, since the saying is true that competition is the life of trade, this must, it is said, apply also to the work of the Church, and, as a matter of fact, it has been found that a far greater interest in church-work is manifested where there are various denominations vying with each other than where there is one denomination embracing the whole of the Christian community. Whilst it must be admitted that just the competition among various denominations has contributed to church activity in many instances, it must be gainsaid that the division of the Church into various factions is quite in accord with the unity of the spirit. When Christ prays for those that will be believers in Him 'that they all may be one,' that certainly indicates unity also in external organization. Divisions should be foreign to the Church. St. Paul besought the Corinthians by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ 'that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.' But what is it that causes divisions in the Church to-day? Just the fact that Christians are not all of one mind and of one judgment, for what the one denomination proclaims as divine truth the other denounces as fallacy and heresy. And why this difference in mind and judgment? They do not all scrupulously continue in the Word of Jesus. Who, then, is responsible for the rift in the Church? Those who do not base their theology solely on the Bible, who teach otherwise than God's Word teaches, whom we are to mark and avoid. Not Luther is to be blamed for the schism caused in the Church by the Reformation, but the Pope, who deviated from the Bible and made Luther's continuance in his fold impossible. The blame for division in the Church always rests with those who proclaim, and tenaciously stick to, error. Attempts that are made to weld together into one denominations that differ in doctrine usually lead only to the establishment of one denomination more; for there will be those who miss in the united conglomeration something that was dear to them in their own communion, and they will ultimately seek to reestablish the form of faith they were accustomed to. At Belgrave in Victoria the Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, and others thought they were too deficient in numbers to carry on their respective churches individually, and they therefore established a united congregation, which was to be a spiritual home for them all. But very soon Methodists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans were establishing their own worship in opposition to the united congregation, which soon had a very precarious existence. The union had not been on the basis of unity of faith, but of expediency. And such a union is wrong. Let the various church-bodies first seek agreement on the article of faith, and external union will soon follow without much effort."

Hitler and the Lutheran Church in Germany. — On this subject the editor of the Christian Century, Dr. Morrison, wrote a lengthy article, from which we quote a few paragraphs. "German Protestantism has never been willing to make itself felt in politics and social life. This has been the most acute difficulty arising in such a conference as that at Stockholm on Christian Life and Work. The German and Scandinavian delegates

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could not share in the British and American feeling for the social gospel. At the Jerusalem Mission Conference the German delegates almost precipitated a division because of their fears lest world Protestantism commit itself too explicitly to a social conception of missionary responsibility. This same hesitation explains, as no other single factor explains, the aloofness in America of the great Lutheran bodies from other Protestant groups in united efforts and organizations. The Lutheran tradition has never become aware of the kingdom of God as a social and mundane reality. As a result it has never developed the kind of social conscience which would now powerfully resent the demands of Hitler. It should not surprise us therefore if it lends itself far more pliably to the Hitler program of Caesar-worship than Anglican or American Protestantism, if confronted with a similar crisis, might be expected to do.

"But we must not be too sure. Nationalism is not confined to those countries which have adopted dictatorship. On the contrary, the whole world is in the grip of it - from Russia and Germany to Japan. Dr. Fosdick calls nationalism Christianity's supreme rival. And Dr. Shillito has just written a book entitled Nationalism: Man's Other Religion, in which he contends that the doctrine of the supremacy of the State is the nullification of the Christian faith. How far post-war and depression psychology may carry the American people toward the apotheosis of the State does not yet appear, but it is clear that it has already carried us far. When the Supreme Court renders a decision in which it declares that Congress is the authoritative interpreter of the will of God for the American citizen, we have surely gone far toward the apotheosis of the State. And how far we have gone may be measured by the fact that no one of the leading Protestant denominations in the United States has regarded the Supreme Court's decision with sufficient seriousness to declare its defiance of it. Our churches are already nationalized far more than we recognize. The whole Protestant movement has, from its beginning, fallen in behind the chariot of the political State. What is happening in Germany is nothing at which the Protestantism of other nations may with consistency throw any stones. It only brings out to the light the forces that cripple and bind spiritual religion thoughout Christendom."

These statements arouse a number of sentiments in a confessional Lutheran. That the American press thoroughly misunderstands the status of Lutheranism in Germany became apparent in the discussions when it was announced that Hitler would attempt the nationalizing of the Church in Germany. Our brethren of the Lutheran Publicity Bureau through Pastor F. Lindemann, Long Island City, New York, issued a statement which, we hope, helped to remove many of the false impressions prevailing in American minds concerning Lutheranism in Germany. Pronouncements coming from prominent men in the U. L. C. emphasized the need of caution in giving credence to newspaper information on this topic. It is interesting to see how absolutely Dr. Morrison misjudges the Lutheran Church in its attitude toward political matters. He says: "The Lutheran tradition has never become aware of the kingdom of God as a social and mundane reality. As a result it has never developed the kind of social conscience which would now powerfully resent the demands of Hitler."

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He entirely fails to see that the unawareness which he complains of is the great rock on which the whole Hitler problem may suffer shipwreck. If the ideals which Dr. Morrison champions were governing the Lutheran Church in Germany, we should not be surprised if Hitler did accomplish the nationalization of the Protestant Church in Germany. Where Lutheranism has remained true to its fundamental teachings, it will not permit Hitler or anybody else to build up a national Church similar to structures which he formerly saw in Spain and other Roman Catholic countries.

Die Bolfsfprache im fatholischen Gottesbienft. "Ein Ereignis bon firchengeschichtlicher Bedeutung" nennt die "A. E. Q. A." "die Ginführung eines neuen Rituals in ber öfterreichifden Diogefe St. Bolten." Bir lefen darüber weiter: "In diesem neuen Ritual wird der Bolfssprache im Gottesbienft ein bebeutender Raum gewährt. Dies neue Ritual, bas in ber weitgehenden Anerkennung der Bolkssprache im deutschen Sprachgebiet bis jest allein bafteht, wurde auf bifcofliche Berordnung bei ben Gemeinden mit folgenden Worten eingeführt: "Es war schon lange Wunsch bes Merus und ber Gläubigen, daß bei Spendung ber heiligen Saframente und bei ben übrigen liturgifden Sandlungen die Bollsfprache in einem ausgedehnteren Mage gur Berwendung fomme, um ben beiligen Sandlungen leichter folgen zu können. In dem neuen Ritual, das von Rom approbiert wurde und von nun an in Geltung tritt, ift Diesem Berlangen hinlänglich Rechnung geiragen. Ein neues Diözesengesangbuch, das in Borbereitung ift, die Bredigt und die Christenlehre werden die wichtigften im Ritual enthaltenen Funktionen zur Kenntnis bringen. Möge bas Berftanbnis für unsere heilige Liturgie wachsen!" 3. T. M.

Schlechte Aussichten für die Zufunft. Bor ein paar Monaten ging durch die Tageszeitungen eine Notiz, daß der "Neichsverband deutscher Wahrsagerinnen" eindringlich vor dem Beruf wegen überfüllung und wirtsschaftlichen Rückganges warnt. Der "Hannoversche Kurier" schreibt dazu: "Daß es sogar einen "Neichsverband deutscher Wahrsagerinnen" gibt, haben wohl die meisten unserer Leser ebensowenig gewußt wie wir. Noch erstaunslicher ist, daß auch dieser distrete Beruf gänzlich überfüllt ist. Manchmal ist also die Zukunft dermaßen trostlos und dunkel, daß selbst Wahrsagerinnen sich nicht mehr zu helsen wissen und deshalb mit Necht vor ihrem Berufe warnen."

Die Stärfe ber Franzisfaner. Nach einer in der "A. E. Q. M." erschiesnenen Mitteilung besteht der Franziskanerorden, wie katholischerseits amtlich berichtet wird, aus 22,930 Mitgliedern, die sich aus 10,257 Priestern, 4,811 Klerikern, 1,156 Klerikernovizen, 4,868 Laienbrüdern, 354 Laienbrüdersnovizen und 1,973 Oblaten zusammensehen. In den Kollegien des Ordens werden 8,622 Schüler für den Beruf vordereitet. Hierzu darf aber eine Bemerkung gemacht werden. Bon diesen hier genannten Schülern wird kaum die Hälfte einmal den Beruf eines Ordensbruders ergreisen; die Ersahrung zeigt vielmehr, daß die Mehrzahl den Ansenthalt in den Semisnaren, wo sie monatlich für Wohnung und Berpstegung durchschnittlich zwanzig Reichsmart zahlen müssen, als eine gute Gelegenheit ansieht, durch das Chmmasium zu kommen, um sich dann weltslichen Berufen zuzuwenden. Auch handelt es sich bei diesem Schülermaterial durchaus nicht um eine

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geistige Elite. In den Wissionen sind 1,373 Patres und 449 Laienbrüder tätig; von diesen wurden 1932 im ganzen 80 Patres, 17 Alexiker und 27 Laienbrüder neu in die Wissionen gesandt. Dem Orden gehören 11 Erzs bischsse und 38 Bischsse au.

Bu viele Theologiestubierenbe. Rach einer Melbung in ber "A. E. L. A." hat fich die Bahl ber theologischen Studenten in Deutschland in den letten Jahren fo bedeutend vermehrt, daß man mit Beforgnis barüber erfüllt ift. Bir lefen: "Die Statiftit ber Theologieftubierenden fteht unter bem Beiden In das Bentil ber brobender überfüllung auch des theologischen Berufs. Leere vor einigen Jahren ftromt jest die Menge der für die andern übers vollen Berufsarten nicht mehr in Betracht fommenben Studenten neben den wirklich für die Theologie Berufenen'. Sprunghaft ift die Biffer über ben jährlich auf höchstens 3,600 gu schätzenben Bedarf geftiegen. . . . In bier bis fünf Jahren fpateftens muß überfüllung eintreten, und bie Rirchen muffen bem ins Muge feben. Alle Universitäten (außer Göttingen) find beteiligt, alfo auch alle Landesteile. Die ftartfte Frequeng haben Tubingen (810) und Berlin (808), darunter auch ben ftarfften Unteil weiblicher Stus bierender (39 und 49), der im gangen 330 beträgt. Die Lage ift besonders auch in der Zeit wirtschaftlicher Bedrangnis erschwert. Auch die Mögliche feit der Sauslehrerei ift fehr gering, die früher die Randidaten während ber Bartegeit über Baffer hielt. Much bie freien ebangelifchen Organis fationen brauchen nicht fo viele Silfstrafte wie früher und tonnen fie noch weniger befolben. Die befonbers in Sieblungsgegenben notwendig gu bermehrenden geiftlichen Stellen find bloger Bunfch, Pfarrftellen werden viels Die Ginführung ber mehr bermindert und Gemeinden gufammengelegt. Bilfsbienftpflicht berlängert die Musbildungszeit; für die Roften bes Lehrs Muslandsftellen fteben vifariats muffen die Randidaten felbit auftommen. auch nur fparfam offen, ba die Beltwirtichaftsfrije auch bort brudt. Rolos nien haben wir nicht. Ja, auch bie Diffion muß fich einschränken. Die Rirche hilft fich Lage verschlimmert fich auch bei normalem Bedarf. burch erichwerte Brufungen. Es mußte aber die Muslese früher beginnen tonnen; benn die endgultig durchgefallenen Kandidaten find in besonders bedauernswerter Lage der Zufunft gegenüber. Einzelne Landesfirchen feben hinter das Abitur eine Berufsberatung und Eignungsprüfung, die wenigs ftens die fernhalten fonnte, die in der Theologie nur ein Brotftudium feben." 3. T. M.

Die Vereinigte Ev.-Luth. Kirche in Auftralien hat den Anschluß an den D. E. Kirchenbund abgelehnt, und zwar endgültig, nachdem Pfarrkonferenzen und Synoden sich mit der Frage besaßt haben, und aus grundsählichen Besdenken. "Für uns hier", so schreibt der Generalpräses der B. E.-L. K. A. an den Vorsihenden des Auslandausschusses des D. E. K., "taugt nur klares, bestimmtes, natürlich aus innerem Erlebnis hervorgegangenes Festhalten am Bekenntnis der Läter." Sie wollen ihre Verbindung "mit der lutherisschen Gesamtkirche Deutschlands" (two ist die, und wer sind ihre Vertreter? M. B.) "direkt und ohne Vermittlung einer nicht ausgesprochen lutherischen Organisation" aufrechterhalten und zu dem Ende die Fäden zwischen Austras lien und dem lutherischen Hilfswerk möglichst seisten und bestimmten Festhaltens am Vekenntnis der Väter ist dies lutherische Hilfswerk nun freilich

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auch nicht. Aber man kann sich doch darüber freuen, daß die B. E.-L. K. A., die mit "Wissouri" in keinerkei Berbindung steht, sondern im Gegenteil gegen "Wissouri" und die mit Wissouri in Kirchengemeinschaft stehende Ev.-Luth. Spnode in Australien kämpft, den Lockungen zum Anschluß an den unierten D. E. K. widerstanden hat.

(Ev.-Luth. Freikirche.)

The Church in Russia. - Since the well-known decree of Stalin last year Bolshevism has adopted a standpoint farther and farther removed from strict Communism. Labor on contract, concessions in the question of the grain supply, etc., everything paves the way for a repetition of the moderate policy of Lenin in 1921/22. Notwithstanding all this, however, the condition of the churches and of Christianity in Russia has not improved. It is true that not so much is heard abroad of persecutions such as we read about some years ago, partly because the press, and not without reason, is somewhat skeptical with regard to such sensational reports, partly, however, also because the public loses interest in things that have assumed some degree of permanency. But the process of rooting out church-life in Russia steadily continues. The Bolshevist press reports that in the first six months of 1932 no fewer than 124 churches and prayer-houses in Russia were closed and that for the most part they are being devoted to other cultural aims - "red" clubs and picture-houses, storehouses for grain and garages. - Evangelical News Bureau in Holland.

The Isle of Bali. - Bali is one of the most beautiful islands in the Netherlands East Indian Archipelago and well known to American and British tourists. Because of the primitive simplicity of its inhabitants there was a tendency some time ago to isolate the island from the religious and cultural influences of the outside world, a tendency that found advocates among several editors of the Dutch press. Lately, however, this attitude has been condemned by several Indian newspapers. The Handelsblad of Soerabaja devotes two leading articles to this attitude. It is argued that the gods of Bali are "dying gods" and that Bali is waiting for what Netherland has to give in the sphere of religion and culture. The Nieuws van den Dag of Netherlands India expresses its opinion still more strongly. A leading article in the number of August 4, 1932, states that Hinduism in Bali has become quite "petrified," that the dewas are "dying gods," and that there is absolutely no reason why Christian missions should be admitted to the island only when the other religion evidences decay. "It seems to us," writes this paper, "to be a hyenalike conception to place Christianity in the position of only feeling itself at home in the churchyards of culture. This is not the history of Christianity. . . . In nature what is ancient and decayed retreats before pitiless youth. In spiritual life the position is the same. To isolate Bali from the cultural life outside is impossible. — Evangelical News Burcau in Holland.

Theobor Jahn gestorben. Wir druden hier vorläufig aus der "N. E. L. R." ben Nachruf Prof. Strathmanns (Erlangen) ab, den er dem am 15. März heimgegangenen großen neutestamentlichen Gelehrten widmete:

"Das schon längere Zeit Erwartete ist nun geschehen: Theodor Zahn hat die Augen geschlossen, fast in der Mitte seines fünfundneunzigsten Jahres. In sein zehntes Lebensjahr fiel die Revolution von 1848 und die sogenannte Nationalversammlung der Paulskirche. Als Bismard das

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Steuer Preuhens ergriff, war Jahn Hilfslehrer am Chmnasium in Neusstrelik. Die Naiserproklamation von Bersailles erlebte er als Privatdozent in Göttingen. Als der Berliner Kongreh tagte, war er eben ordenklicher Prosession in Erlangen geworden. Hier erlebte er den Weltkrieg, den Niedersbruch von 1918, aber auch das sich langsam vorbereitende Zusichsommen des deutschen Volkes. Welche Wandlungen!

"Beldse Bandlungen auch in der Theologie! Mit Hermann Cremer, dem nur vier Jahre Alteren, aber bereits vor dreihig Jahren Gestorbenen, stand er einmal auf einer Greifswalder Borschlagsliste. Während seiner Göttinger Ansangsjahre stand dort Ritschl auf der Höhe seiner Birksams keit. Dieser hat Bahn promoviert! Bellhausens Stern ging auf. Die kritische Schule der Tübinger beherrschte die neutestamentliche Wissenschlaft. In Erlangen wurde Zahn der Nachfolger Hofmanns, des Begründers der sogenannten Erlanger Theologenschule. Das sind lauter Namen, die wie aus ferner Bergangenheit zu uns herüberklingen.

"Zahn selbst hat jenen Namen und Schulen gegenüber eiwas burchaus Selbständiges sein und schaffen wollen und ist es auch gewesen und hat es geschaffen: ein auf umfassendes selbständiges Quellenstudium gegründetes geschichtliches Berständnis der Anfänge des Christentums im Gegensatz zu den dogmatissernden und konstruierenden Darstellungen, die damals das Feld beherrschten. Alle Hypothesendichtung, die von den Quellen sich löst, war ihm zuwider. Er ging seinen Weg in Richtung auf das gesteckte Ziel mehr als ein halbes Jahrhundert hindurch, unbeirrt, als ein undaruherzziger Aritiser der Aritis, der gegenüber er die Zuverlässisseit der alklirche lichen überlieserung zu erweisen nicht müde wurde. Und wenn nach und nach die Ansichten über die Entstehung der urchristlichen Schriften und des Reuen Testaments als eines Ganzen in ruhigere Bahnen gelangt sind, so hat Zahn mit seiner ebenso gelehrten wie scharssinnigen Forschung daran seinen erheblichen Anteil.

"Der Umfang der Werke, die Zahn mit seiner Zielbewußtheit und eisernen Energie dis in die letzten Jahre hinein geschaffen hat, ist ersstamplich. Es sind über 16,000 Druckseiten! Ob es sich um die sogenamsten Einleitungsfragen, die Kanonsgeschichte oder die Auslegung handelt, überall stögt der Forscher immer wieder auf den Ramen Theodor Zahns. Wer ihn befragt, wird gewiß den erteilten Antworten nicht überall zusstimmen; aber die Befragung wird nie ohne Gewinn sein.

"Natürlich ist die Forschung inzwischen zu neuen Fragestellungen und Betrachtungsweisen fortgeschritten. Der ganze große Problemkreis z. B., der mit dem Thema "Urchristentum und Religionsgeschichte" bezeichnet ist, liegt diesseits der eigentlichen Lebensarbeit des Entschlafenen. Aber der Fragenkreis, dem sein Forschen galt, wird, solange es eine christliche Kirche gibt, seine primäre Bedeutung behalten, und die Spuren dessen, was Zahn auf diesem Gebiet geschaffen hat, werden sich noch durch Generationen nicht verwischen.

"Zahn war Gelehrter und wollte nichts anderes sein. Aber in all dieser Arbeit hat er sich doch steis als Diener der Kirche gefühlt, an der er keiness wegs kritiklos, aber mit sester Treue hing. Während seiner Göttinger Zeit hat er ihr auch längere Zeit als Universitätsprediger gedient. In Erlangen bestieg er nur selten noch die Kanzel. Um so regelmähiger sah man ihn

Sonntags unter ihr sihen. Sein Standpunkt war fest, und akademische Lehrer, welche die für die kirchliche Wissenschaft wichtigken Fragen in der Schwebe lassen, betrachtete er als eine Gefahr für die Kirche, die ohne ein klares Bewuhtsein ihres Wesens und Grundes wie ihrer Aufgabe nicht bestehen kann.

"Zahn war ein großer Gelehrter, dem die theologische Wissenschaft viel berdankt; er war ein männlicher Theolog von fest umrissenem Charakter, der den Kampf nicht scheute; er war ein gläubiges Glied der evangelischen Kirche, der seine Vorfahren viele Generationen hindurch gedient hatten. So wird er fortleben in der Erinnerung derer, die ihn kannten." A.

† Pfarrer i. R. D. Heinrich Zacharias Stallmann. † Auch unsere Zeitsschrift sollte Notiz nehmen von dem hinscheben dieses Bertreters echten Luthertums in Deutschland. Wir können kaum einen besseren Beg einsschlagen, als den in der "Ev.-Luth. Freikirche" erschienenen Nachruf, den Rektor D. Willfomm seinem heimgegangenen Kollegen widmet, zum großen Teil hier abzudrucken. Wir lesen dort:

"In den frühen Morgenstunden des 26. Februar, des Sonntags vor den Fasten, an dem in unsern Kirchen das Evangelium verlesen wird, da Ussus zu seinen Jüngern spricht: "Sehet, wir gehen hinauf gen Jerussalem", hat Gott der Herr den ältesten unter den Pastoren unserer Freissiche heimgeholt in das himmlische Jerusalem, dessen geöffnet hat. Nur wenige Tage hat unser lieder Later Stallmann krank gelegen. Am Diensstag vor seinem Ende konnte er noch einer Sitzung der Südwestlichen Pastoralkonsernz beiwohnen, die in Allendorf tagte. In einer der letzten Rächte hat er dann mit schwerer Atennot zu kämpsen gehabt, ist aber zusleht ganz friedlich eingeschlafen, glücklich im Glauben an die sündenders gebende Enade seines Heilandes.

"Beinrich B. Stallmann wurde geboren zu Bremen am 15. Auguft 1847. Er felbit hat gelegentlich mit Dant gegen Gott ergahlt, daß feine Eltern fromme Leute gewesen seien, die auf Sausandacht und Tischgebet gehalten hatten. Er bejuchte bas Ghungfium feiner Baterftadt. Gegen Ende ber Chumafialzeit hatte er mit Zweifeln zu kämpfen und wollte erft nicht Theologie, fondern Philologie ftudieren. Mus äußeren Grunden wandte er fich bann boch bem Studium ber Theologie zu und besuchte die Universitäten Göttingen, Tübingen und Salle. Die Reologie, die er da hörte, namentlich die Ritichliche mit ihrer Umwertung ber Werte, befriedigte ihn nicht und half ihm nicht aus feinen Zweifeln heraus. Durch Gottes Unabe aber fand er bei anhaltendem Privatstudium der Beiligen Schrift wieder festen Grund. Die vorgeschriebenen Prüfungen bestand er innerhalb ber hans noveriden Landesfirde und besuchte auch beren Kandidatenstift im Moster Loccum. Als Kandidat unternahm er dann eine Reise nach Nordamerika, two zwei feiner Bruder lebten. Dort tam er auch mit ber Diffourifynobe in Berührung, und bas wurde für ihn ber Unlag, fich eingehender mit ber Lehre von Rirche und Amt zu beschäftigen. Die Schriften D. Balthers und anderer rechtgläubigen Theologen verhalfen ihm, wie er felbit befannt hat, zu rechter Marheit in diefer fo wichtigen und damals fo heiß umftrittenen Tropbem trat er nach feiner Rudfehr aus Rorbamerita gunachft in den Dienst der hannoverschen Landestirche, der er fich verpflichtet glaubte.

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Bald jedoch mußte er erfennen, daß er nicht im Dienfte diefer Rirche bleis ben fonne, ohne fein Gewiffen gu verleben, weil in ihr ber Irrium neben der Bahrheit geduldet wurde. Go trat er im Jahre 1875 aus Gewiffensgrunden gur lutherifden Freitirde über. Durch Bfarrer Brunn in Steeben und P. Ruhland in Planis, der ja auch aus Sannover frammte und zu Loccum Beziehungen hatte - feine Mutter hatte bort nach bem Tobe ihres Mannes ihren Bohnfit -, wurde Stallmann in ber Erfenntnis ber luthes rifden Lehre noch weiter geforbert; er half Ruhland bei ber Bedienung der jungen Gemeinden in Planis und Dresden aus und wurde 1876 von der Dresdener Trinitatisgemeinde gum Geelforger berufen. Bon da an stellte er feine reichen Gaben und feinen treuen Bleif in den Dienst unferer Kirche. Am längsten hat er der Zionsgemeinde in Allendorf an der Lumda als Pfarrer gedient. Sie berief ihn im Jahre 1878, und er hat fie mit einer furgen Unterbrechung von wenigen Jahren, während welcher er bie Gemeinde in Groß-Sfingen in Sannover bediente, fast vierzig Jahre lang als ein rechter hirte und Bater geweibet. Aber auch unferer Gefamtfirche hat er in Diefen Jahren wertvolle Dienfte geleiftet. Schon bei ber Borfynode in Dresben 1876 war er gugegen und biente als Schriftführer, welches Amt er fpater jahrelang geführt hat. In den ichweren Jahren 1914-1919 lag die Leitung unferer Synobe in feinen Sanden. Mugerbem hat er burch viele Artifel in unfern Blättern, namentlich in ben erften Jahrgangen ber Freifirche' und fpater in ,Schrift und Befenntnis', fleißig mitgeholfen bei ber Grundung unferer Chriften in ber rechten Erfenntnis und der Ausbreitung der reinen lutherifden Lehre. Roch bis in die letten Bochen feines Lebens hinein hat er Artifel gefdrieben, fo bag in ber Mappe der Schriftleitung noch mehrere Auffate aus feiner Feber liegen und auf Beröffentlichung warten. Besonders eifrig hat er auch die Synos dalversammlungen und Paftoralfonferengen besucht und ift uns Jungeren ein leuchtendes Borbild der Treue und ein väterlicher Freund und Berater gewesen. Mis er im Jahre 1919 in den Rubestand getreten war, hat er fich bann auf Bitten ber Synobe noch bereit finden laffen, die Leitung ber ,Theo: logifchen Silfs- und Beratungsftelle' gu übernehmen, die im Jahre 1920 in Leipzig eingerichtet wurde. Aus ihr ift unfer Geminar, unfere Theos logifche Sochichule, bervorgegangen, mit ber Bater Stallmann im Jahre 1922 nach Berlin-Behlendorf überfiedelte und ber er, auch nachdem jungere Grafte an feine Seite getreten waren, noch bis zu feinem Beggug aus Behlenborf im Jahre 1923 treu gedient und geholfen hat. Im Reformationsfest bes Jahres 1923 erhielt er von der Kafultat des Concordia-Seminars der Miffourifynode in St. Louis ben Chrentitel eines Doltors ber Theologie. Er bejag ein reiches Biffen, nicht nur auf theologischem Gebiet, und pflegte den Dingen auf den Grund zu geben. Bor allen Dingen aber hatte ihm Gott die Gnade gegeben, daß er Gefet und Evangelium recht teilen fonnte. Geine Lieblingsbeschäftigung war bis in bas fpate Alter binein, fich eins gehend in ben Grundtegt ber Beiligen Schrift, befonders auch bes Miten Tejtaments, gu berfenten."