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J. H. Fritz

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

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Ludwig Ernest Fuerbringer, 1864—1947

In the early morning of Tuesday, May 6, the Lord called Dr. Ludwig Ernest Fuerbringer to his eternal rest. More than fourscore years he was permitted to live and labor on this earth. His ministerial training he received at Concordia College, Fort Wayne, and at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. After a pastorate at Frankenmuth, Mich., from 1885 to 1893, he served on the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, for a period of fifty years. The theological faculty of our sister synod in Australia honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and Valparaiso with the degree of Doctor of Letters. Besides his work in the classroom at the Seminary, he for more than forty-five years (1896—1912; 1917—1947), until a few weeks before his departure, edited *Der Lutheraner*. Most conscientiously and diligently he devoted himself to these two tasks as his life's chief work. For many years he was Synod's Corresponding Secretary for Foreign Relations; President of the Synodical Conference; he also served on synodical boards, such as the Board of Foreign Missions, the Committee on Constitutional Matters, the Committee on Higher Education, and the Committee of Hymnology and Liturgics. For many years he edited Synod's *Statistical Yearbook*. He also edited *Dr. Walthers Briefe*, *Men and Missions Series*, *Die evangelischen Perikopen des Kirchenjahrs*, two editions of M. Guenther, *Populaere Symbolik*. Among his own writings may be mentioned: *Theologische Hermeneutik*, *Liturgik*, *Einleitung in das Alte Testament*, *Einleitung in das Neue Testament*, a brief commentary on the Book of Job, and *Eighty Eventful Years* (his autobiography). Dr. Fuerbringer was a frequent contributor to *Lehre und Wehre* and to its successor, the CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY, to which he contributed the following articles:

Paulus in Athen. I, 735 ff.; 804 ff.

Dr. F. Bente als Theolog. II, 416 ff.

A Page from Dr. Fuerbringer's Commonplace Book

Though Dr. Fuerbringer was blessed with a phenomenal memory, he carefully noted choice morsels in his commonplace book. We found a bookmark at the page which is herewith reproduced as a memorial to a Christian scholar

„Jedermann hat die Pflicht, seinem Leben so viel Befahrung und Sachkenntnis zu geben, als möglich ist.“

Ernst Carlinus' Werk, Das er auf d. Titelblatt S. 104
 sagt: Cat. A. S. L. K. 51 (1725) No. 49, p. 1159.

„Denn kein Gott existierte, müßte man ihn erfinden; doch er existiert!
 Die ganze Natur ruft es uns zu!“
 So Voltaire, einer d. Apostel der Aufklärung, im Hinblick
 auf d. Natur. S. d. p. 1162.

„Wenn nur meine arme Seele gerettet und befreit
 wird!“

A. v. Harless in Begegn. Sonntagspredigten, C. T. M.
 Apert. Mai 1933,
 p. 317.

„Ich weiß, was eigentlich sterben heißt, ich weiß, wie ich sterben
 möchte, nicht spekulierend, sondern die Augen schließend,
 unbedingtes vertrauensvoll, die Seele hingebend in die Hände
 dessen, in dem Gott gewisse quaderartige Wirklichkeit
 geworfen ist.“

Jesus, du, mein Heiland, laß sie.
 Th. Kaplan. A. S. L. K. 65 (1932) No. 52, p. 1233

Verstehst du, was dich bewegt, in deinem kranken Schreie,
 Doch kündige dem Gott den kleineren Schlüssel ein!
 Besonnt dich stets mit ihm, wie es auch immer geht:
 Er ist dein bester Freund, der allzeit dich versteht!

Die Hand, die aus der Nacht den Kelch mir reicht,
 Die meine Lippen haben zu berühren,
 Die Hand, die mir den Weg ins Dunkel zeigt,
 Ist meines Vaters Hand. Sie soll mich führen!

„Geburt und Grab ein ewiges Meer.“

C. A. Wilkens. A. S. L. K. 66 (1933)
 No. 12, p. 275

„Niemand sollte dummiger sein als die Galakten, die doch
 besser als andere Leute wissen, daß sie nichts wissen.
 Haben sie also paar Menschenlein aus Meeresufer auf-
 gefahren, so dünkt sich jeder ein Kolonius zu sein.“

Über Karl v. Haas, der über 50 Jahre lang Vorlesungen hielt,
 aber zuletzt von seinen Hörern: „Das gewöhnliche Los aller
 Professoren wird auch einem in so vielen Hinsichten be-
 wundernswürdig nicht erspart. Man soll nicht erwarten
 aus zunehmender Liebe zu sterben, sondern man werde
 vorher aus. Jubiläen sind selten Feiertage für
 die Fakultäten, wie für die Kurgäste und Gemeinderäte.
 Ist der noch immer da?“

SB. d. No. 15, p. 350.

- Dr. F. Pieper als Theolog. II, 721 ff.; 801 ff.
 Gedächtnisrede auf Dr. Geo. Mezger. III, 81 ff.
 Die Klaglieder Jeremias IV, 161 ff.
 Praesidialrede. IV, 11 ff.
 Die persönliche Weisheit Gottes. IV, 241 ff.; 321 ff.; 401 ff.
 Die rechte Mitte in der Liturgie und Ordnung des Gottesdienstes. V, 257 ff.; 337 ff.; 417 ff.; 520 ff.
 "May God Preserve unto Us a Pious Ministry!" VI, 12 ff.
 Kleine Studien aus dem Galaterbrief. VI, 501 ff.; 580 ff.; 650 ff.
 Ueber Buecherbesprechungen. VII, 581 ff.
 Pastoralkonferenzen. VII, 644 ff.
 Walther als Kirchenmann. VII, 721 ff.
 Kleine Hesekielstudien. VIII, 18 ff.; 88 ff.; 177 ff.; 252 ff.; 331 ff.; 414 ff.
 Kleine Danielstudien. IX, 268 ff.; 337 ff.; 420 ff.; 495 ff.; 579 ff.; 648 ff.
 Kleine Prophetenstudien. X, 595 ff.; 742 ff.; 816 ff.
 Kleine Prophetenstudien. XI, 426 ff.; 498 ff.; 581 ff.
 Leading Thoughts on Eschatology in the Epistles to the Thessalonians. XIII, 183 ff.; 265 ff.; 321 ff.; 401 ff.; 511 ff.; 591 ff.; 641 ff.

Dr. Fuerbringer took his Christianity very seriously and sincerely devoted his life to his Lord and Savior. He was a scholar. He had a good knowledge of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew; was well versed in theology; was a diligent student of Luther's writings and, above all, of the Holy Scriptures. He was a peace-loving man, so much so that he dreaded to become involved in any strife. He was a very agreeable colleague on the faculty, always respecting the opinions of others and not showing any personal feelings when others did not agree with him. He loved his students and was highly respected by them. He had a remarkable memory, being able to recall names and family histories of his students of many years ago. And, finally, he was always a gentleman, polite, never overbearing, always having a friendly word and pleasant smile for everyone. If he knew this was written about him, he would say: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy and for Thy truth's sake," Ps. 115:1; or with Paul the Apostle: "By the grace of God I am what I am," 1 Cor. 15:10.

Dr. Fuerbringer told the writer years ago: "When I am seventy years old, I ought to retire; if I have not enough sense at that time to do so, please remind me of what I have said." And he did hand in his resignation to the Board of Control, but it was not accepted until four years ago, when he had served fifty years on the Seminary faculty. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

J. H. C. FRITZ