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JESUS' ALLEGED CONFESSION OF SIN

The pericope of "the rich young ruler" is found in all three of the Synoptic Gospels, and it is associated in all of them with narratives of a common type. In all three it immediately follows the account of Jesus' receiving and blessing little children; and it is clear from Mark's representation (as also indeed from Matthew's¹) that the incident actually occurred in immediate sequence to that scene. In Luke, these two narratives are immediately preceded by the parable of the Pharisee and Publican praying in the Temple; in Matthew they are immediately succeeded by the parable of the workmen in the vineyard who were surprised that their rewards were not nicely adjusted to what they deemed their relative services. It cannot be by accident that these four narratives, all of which teach a similar lesson, are brought thus into contiguity. It is the burden of them all that the Kingdom of God is a gratuity, not an acquisition; and the effect of bringing them together is to throw a great emphasis upon this, their common teaching.

Perhaps this teaching finds nowhere more pungent intimation than in the declaration of our Lord which forms the core of the account of His reception of the children: "For of such is the kingdom of heaven," (or "of God": Mt. xix. 14; Mk. x. 14; Lk. xviii. 16). These "little children" were, as we learn from Luke, mere babies (Lk. xiii. 15: τὰ βρέφη), which Jesus held in His arms (Mk. x. 16: ἐναγκα-

¹ Accordingly, Th. Zahn, *Das Evangelium des Matthaeus ausgelegt*, 1903, p. 589 says correctly (on Mt. xix. 16): "The close chronological connection is assured by the καὶ ἰδοὺ, verse 16, after ἐπορεύθη ἐκείθεν, verse 15."

The first and second editions of this standard biography of Vinet by Rambert appeared in 1875, the third, containing only a few minor changes, in 1876. Since that time a considerable number of volumes and magazine articles concerning Vinet's life and the wide and varied influence of his works have been published, among the most notable being Pressensé's *Vinet d'après sa correspondance inédite avec Luttheroth* (Paris, 1891), containing many valuable letters to which Rambert had not had access.

The present edition leaves the last revision by the original author unaltered, but offers in the form of additional footnotes and several appendices a wealth of valuable biographical details concerning the leading contemporaries of Vinet referred to in the body of the work, together with a number of important corrections to be made in the former texts.

In its new form this biography may justly be regarded as an adequate treatment of its distinguished subject. The copious use of Vinet's own diary gives us a vivid picture not only of his domestic life, so blessed yet so full of trials, but also of his intellectual struggles, his professional labors, his literary plans and achievements, and his engagingly sincere and humble piety. His letters, too, are skillfully introduced to disclose his slow but steady development into the mighty "initiateur religieux" that he became. His services as a teacher, critic and historian of the French language and literature are fully set forth, as is likewise his influence in securing the separation of church and state in his native land. Critical estimates are furnished of the most important of his varied writings—his lyric, patriotic and religious verses, his works in literary criticism, his philosophical, dogmatic and ethical dissertations, his articles on the nature and constitution of the church—but not of his numerous posthumous publications. Owing much, in the formative period of his religious development, to Thomas Erskine of Scotland, and in his later philosophical attainments to Kant, he felt himself most powerfully drawn to the Frenchman Pascal: and like Pascal he has exerted his characteristic and most potent influence not by means of a well wrought out system of ideas but rather through the suggestive treatment of a number of seed-thoughts which were bound to bear fruit in the soil in which he planted them.

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FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

Zwingli und Calvin. VON AUGUST LANG. Mit 161 Abbildungen, darunter zwei mehrfarbigen Einschaltbildern. 1913. Bielefeld und Leipzig: Verlag von Velhagen & Klasing. 8vo; pp. 152. 4 M.

This is the thirty-first volume in Heych's *Monographien zur Weltgeschichte*. In its external features this book, like the rest in the series, presents, in spite of its low cost, a high standard of artistic excellence. The beautiful illustrations, reproducing practically all the available contemporary pictures directly pertaining to the two reformers and their most intimate friends and fellow-laborers, add immensely to the reader's interest in the biographical sketches.

The author, the well known Professor Lang of Halle, has succeeded in giving within the compass of a hundred and fifty pages an admirable characterization of Zwingli and Calvin in their relations to the great movements of thought and life in the stirring period of the early Reformation. The treatment of both heroes is comprehensive in spite of its conciseness, and every page shows the firm touch, the broad strokes, and the delicate shading of a master hand. Special attention is devoted to the formative influences in the development of the two leaders. Important passages from the sources are cited, though commonly no mention is made of the places from which the extracts are taken. Here and there—as in statements of the extent of Zwingli's indebtedness to Luther and Calvin's to Bucer—one desires a fuller presentation of the evidence. The discussion of the doctrinal peculiarities of the reformers is necessarily rather limited, but readers who are specially interested in this phase of the subject will be grateful for a number of summary statements that will commend themselves by reason of their incisiveness and their fairness. The representation of Calvin's personality, and the estimate of his services to the church and the world reflect the more favorable judgments in these matters which the monumental work of Doumergue has secured.

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Triumphes de l'Évangile, ou l'histoire des souffrances, luttés et victoires de l'église évangélique de France. Par HENRI FLIEDNER, un descendant des Huguenots, Nouvelle édition. Genève: J. H. Jeheber, Libraire-Éditeur. 12mo; pp. 64.

This is a brief popular sketch, adorned with some thirty illustrations, of the external fortunes of the Reformed church in France from Calvin to the Revolution. The massacres of St. Bartholomew's, the cruelties perpetrated by the dragonades under Louis XIV, the devastations in the Cévennes, and the tortures inflicted upon the galley slaves and the prisoners in the dungeons are graphically portrayed as illustrations of the invincible power of the pure evangelical religion. Special sections are devoted to the labors of Antoine Court and Paul Rabaut. Neither Rousseau, nor Voltaire, nor the pope—concludes the author—but Christ alone can make France free.

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The Authoritative Life of General William Booth, Founder of the Salvation Army. By G. S. RAILTON, First Commissioner to General Booth. With a Preface by General Bramwell Booth. New York: George H. Doran Company. 1912. 12mo; pp. 331. \$1.00 net.

In a plain, straightforward style, quite devoid of excessive eulogy, the author sets forth the outstanding facts in the career of one of the most extraordinary and one of the best loved men of the last century. Doubtless the book will find eager and grateful readers in almost all