

# THE PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL REVIEW

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## AUGUSTINE'S DOCTRINE OF KNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORITY.

In a former number of this REVIEW<sup>1</sup> we attempted to give a general exposition of Augustine's doctrine of knowledge and authority, which naturally ran up into some account of his doctrine of authority in religion. The more detailed study of this specific subject we were forced, however, to postpone to another occasion. We wish now to take up this topic and to make as clear as possible Augustine's teaching concerning it.

The cardinal facts to bear in mind are that, to speak broadly, with Augustine the idea of Authority coalesces with that of Revelation, the idea of Revelation with that of Apostolicity, and the idea of Apostolicity with that of Scripture. With him therefore the whole question of authority in religion is summed up in the questions whether there is a revelation from God in existence, where that revelation is to be found, and how it is validated to and made the possession of men: while the master-key to these problems lies in the one word apostolicity. Whatever is apostolic is authoritative, because behind the apostles lies the authority of Christ, who chose, appointed and endowed the apostles to be the founders of His Church; and Christ's authority is the authority of God, whose Son and Revelation

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<sup>1</sup> THE PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL REVIEW, July, 1907, pp. 353-397.

Reformed Churches". The latter half of this statement forms the text of this account. Bullinger was by nature a pastor, and he is so presented in these pages. "There was no practical proof of his untiringly active nature which he would not have adapted to the religious and moral aims of his calling" (p. 90). His character leaves the impression of resoluteness, steadfastness, firmness. The blows of Luther and the sarcasm of Calvin were beneath him (p. 96). "Bullinger's greatness lies in the moral realm. He stands in his day as a power of earnestness, of truth, of love, and as an example of the most loyal devotion to an ideal task. He is one of the noblest characters of his century. The Swiss people honor him as one of their best men" (p. 97).

As we lay aside this study two impressions abide: the cosmopolitan character of the man and his almost anachronous zeal for union and tolerance. Surely, in the latter possession, Bullinger was somewhat in advance of his age. We could have wished for a more thorough treatment of Bullinger's position on the Supper question as related to Calvin and Zwingli than is given on page 80; or of his Federalism and Predestinarianism than we glean from pages 15 and 23. But we remind ourselves that this is, perhaps, asking too much in view of the evidently comprehensive aim of the booklet. It is not so much a theologian that Professor von Schulthess-Rechberg has given us, as a man of affairs; a man who does not even claim to be abreast with the theological literature of his day (p. 93), but whose sympathetic brotherliness is ever open to the needs of his fellow-men (pp. 96-97). To the student of Bullinger who does not care to wade through the *Lives* by Pestalozzi and Christoffel, this admirable summary will come as a most welcome substitute.

*Langhorne, Pa.*

BENJAMIN F. PAIST, JR.

REMINISCENCES OF BISHOPS AND ARCHBISHOPS. By HENRY CODMAN POTTER, Bishop of New York. Illustrated. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1906. 8vo.; pp. vii. 225.

In a thoroughly informal manner, making no attempt to employ the critical spirit or the graver materials of serious biography, but contenting himself with the modest aim of furnishing "some of those sidelights by means of which individuality in human portraiture may be detected", Dr. Potter here gives us a series of charming sketches, in the form of reminiscences,—beautifully illuminated miniatures we may call them—of a number of distinguished American bishops and English primates. The list includes Bishops Smith of Kentucky, Whittingham of Maryland, Williams of Connecticut, Eastburn of Massachusetts, Clark of Rhode Island, Coxe of Western New York, Wilmer of Louisiana, Clarkson of Nebraska, Brooks of Massachusetts, Dudley of Kentucky, and Archbishops Tait, Benson, and Temple, of England; a group of ecclesiastics presenting a marked variety of interests, aims, and achievements, as well as of personal peculiarities. With a characteristic breadth of sympathy and an abundance of humorous incident and com-

ment, the author introduces us, in the racy manner of a glib cicerone in a picture gallery, to the distinctive features in the personalities and the accomplishments of these altogether worthy and thoroughly interesting prelates. The sketches are too broadly and freely drawn to permit their having much historical value, although in some cases, notably that of Bishop Brooks, the author expresses judgments which, because of the specially intimate relation that existed between these two men, will be scanned with more eager interest than many of the less studied utterances may merit. Many a reader will doubtless find the chief attraction of the book in the modestly restrained yet everywhere present autobiographical element. The really good stories so freely interspersed in these pages would suffice, apart from the more serious aims of the author, to secure a generous recognition of his attempt to say a fitting word of praise for a number of very dear friends.

*Philadelphia.*

FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

YOUNG MEN WHO OVERCAME. By ROBERT E. SPEER. Fleming H. Revell Company. 12mo., pp. 229. \$1.00 net.

This inspiring book is made up of brief "sketches of the lives of fifteen real men, men who loved the highest and who made duty the first thing in their lives". Most of them were college-bred men, five being graduates of Princeton, namely, Walter Lowrie, Theodorick B. Pryor, William Earl Dodge, Cortlandt Van Rensselaer Hodge, and Isaac Parker Cooler. No one can read the story of these fifteen virile and beautiful Christian characters without having a deeper sense of the sanctifying power of divine grace and a more ardent desire to attain a higher level in daily living. Like other works by Mr. Speer, this breathes the spirit of an intelligent, manly, sympathetic, optimistic, and inspiring Christian faith. It is a book which anybody may read with profit, but it is emphatically a good book for a young man to read and re-read.

*Philadelphia.*

FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

Verzeichnis der von Adolf Hilgenfeld verfassten Schriften zusammengestellt von den Mitgliedern der neutestamentlichen Abtheilung des theologischen Seminars der Universität Jena v. S. S. 1902 durchgesehen, ergänzt und herausgegeben von Dr. Heinrich Hilgenfeld a. o. Prof. a. d. Universität. Leipzig Verlag von O. R. Reisland 1906.

This is a unique testimonial offered on a unique occasion to a man of eminent position and ability. On the 2d of June, 1903, Adolf Hilgenfeld, the well-known editor of the *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Theologie* celebrated his eightieth birthday. The members of the Theological Seminar prepared a list of all his publications from the year 1846 up to date and offered it to the venerable theologian as a birthday remembrance. This list was republished in a supplemented form and offered by the son, Dr. Heinrich Hilgenfeld, likewise Professor in the same University of Jena, to his father on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the latter's promotion to the doctorate of philosophy at