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# The Princeton Theological Review

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to the needs of those who can use only English books of reference. The footnotes, too, give evidence of the thoroughness and the scholarly ability with which this manual has been prepared. The index is all that could be desired.

We shall be glad to welcome the companion volumes which the author promises—one on the Reformation and another on the Modern Church—and also the proposed source-book on Church history to supplement the texts.

*Princeton.*

FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

*A History of Creeds and Confessions of Faith in Christendom and Beyond.* With Historical Tables. By WILLIAM A. CURTIS, B.D., D.Litt. (Edin.), Professor of Systematic Theology in the University of Aberdeen. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. 1911. Demy 8vo; pp. xix, 502. \$4.00 net.

These "first-fruits", gratefully offered by the author to the memory of the late Prof. Robert Flint, and to the Faculties of Divinity in the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen, his teachers and colleagues, are a fine sample, and as we shall hope a sure pledge for the continuation by him, of work in historical theology.

Condensed and summary as is the treatment in every part, the style is never dry or dull, but always vigorous, giving in admirable combination the technical details of the history and the author's valuations of the finished credal formulas. The judgments expressed are those of a mind full of reverence for the best achievements of the past, hospitable to the truth whether new or old, skilled in critical analysis, and reasonably fair in its expression of results. True, the reader has occasion to regret the extreme brevity of some of the chapters, but when he regards the unusual breadth of the work he cannot but feel that the proportion is admirably maintained. The second chapter (consisting of twenty-three pages on "Creeds and Confessions outside Hebrew and Christian Religion" is the most fragmentary and least satisfactory part of the volume. It is one of a number of elements that may stimulate the interest of the general reader but will offer little of value to the student of historic religious thought. More widely useful will be the exhibition of the creeds of such ecclesiastical free lances as Tolstoi, such sects as the "First Church of Christ, Scientist", and such organizations as the Salvation Army. But the main value of the book lies in its being a comprehensive and yet concise book of reference on the creeds and confessions of Christendom.

Four Historical Tables, in the form of Appendices, illustrate the rise of the ancient creeds, the evolution of the Apostles' Creed, the Confessional Divisions of the Church, and the history of confessions of faith in modern Christendom.

The author's spirit and point of view are most fully revealed in the concluding chapters in which he indulges in a general retrospect of the history in its broader features, offers some reflections on the dogmatic movement as a whole, argues in favor of the need of

retaining creeds and of revising those of the past, and discusses the question of the ethics of creed-subscription.

Among ecclesiastical confessions the Westminster Shorter Catechism and the Brief Statement of the Reformed Faith, of our own Church, please Dr. Curtis best. Concerning the latter he says (p. 290): "More than any other Confession, perhaps, it speaks in modern language, such as the pulpit may utter frankly and without alteration or paraphrase. It is perhaps not an exaggeration to say that every Protestant Church might cheerfully and heartily accept it for use both at home and in the mission field." But the ideal creed, to the author's way of thinking, is one couched in Biblical terms and offered by our Lord Himself: "Thou art the Christ, Son of the Living God."

Princeton.

FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

*Life of Sir Henry Vane the Younger, Statesman and Mystic (1613-1662)*. By JOHN WILLCOCK, M.A., D.D., F.R. Hist. Soc. Published by the Saint Catherine Press, London. 1913. Crown 8vo; pp. xxiii, 405.

Dr. Willcock has already given us three biographies dealing with the central years of the seventeenth century. One of these is devoted to the romantic figure of the author of *The Exquisite Jewel*,—*Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromartie (1611-61)*. The two others trace the careers of those sharply contrasting figures, the eighth and ninth Earls of Argyll—*The Great Marquess: Life and Times of Archibald, 8th Earl and 1st (and only) Marquess of Argyll (1607-61)*, and *A Scots Earl in Covenanting Times: Being Life and Times of Archibald, 9th Earl of Argyll (1629-85)*. In the present volume he turns to the English side of the same great struggle for civil and religious liberty which was described on its Scotch side in *The Great Marquess*, and groups an account of its progress on English ground around the figure of Sir Henry Vane the Younger. Argyll was certainly the most commanding figure in the Scotch history of the times; and Dr. Willcock would place Vane by his side as occupying something like the same position of relative eminence in the English history of the day. There can be no good biography when there is no sympathy with the character and achievements of the person whose history is depicted; and we count it only gain for the general value of this volume that Dr. Willcock looks upon Vane with an admiring eye. "The purest patriot that England has ever seen" he calls him (p. 344) with genuine enthusiasm, if possibly with some exaggeration. To him more than to any other, he thinks, we are indebted for that vindication of our liberties which was the crowning service to us of the epoch of strife through which Vane lived. He does not hesitate to assign to him preëminence among all the statesmen of his time. "Three great names," he remarks, "are associated by us with the English Commonwealth which rose on the ruins of the Monarchy in the middle of the seventeenth century: Cromwell supreme in the field of war, Blake on the sea, and Vane in the cabinet" (p. 1). "Nothing, to a