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# Church History



Vol. VI

MARCH, 1937

No. 1

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*Published by*  
**THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHURCH HISTORY**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE NATURE OF PROTESTANTISM <i>Wilhelm Pauck</i>	3
THE BAPTIST VIEW OF THE STATE <i>Conrad Henry Mochlman</i>	24
THE CONDEMNATION OF ORIGEN <i>Cyril C. Richardson</i>	50
MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY AND OF THE COUNCIL, DECEMBER, 1936.	65
BOOK REVIEWS:	75
CASE, S. J.: <i>The Highways of Christian Doctrine</i> , Andrew C. Zenos	
JORDAN, W. K.: <i>The Development of Religious Toleration in England from the Accession of James I to the Con- vention of the Long Parliament (1603-1640)</i> M. M. Knappen	
MAXWELL, W. D.: <i>An Outline of Christian Worship: Its Development and Forms</i> ..... John T. McNeill	
LEE, UMPHREY: <i>John Wesley and Modern Religion</i> .. A. W. Nagler	
MARY AUGUSTINA, SISTER (RAY): <i>American Opinion of Roman Catholics in the Eighteenth Century</i> , William W. Sweet	
SCOTT, W.: <i>A History of the Early Christian Church</i> ..... Robert Hastings Nichols	

## CONTENTS

HELM, MACKINLEY: <i>After Pentecost</i> .....	E. F. Scott
BALDWIN, M. W.: <i>Raymond III of Tripolis and the Fall of Jerusalem</i> .....	Matthew Spinka
LA MONTE, J. L. AND HUBERT, M. J., tr.: <i>The Wars of Frederick II Against the Ibelins in Syria and Cyprus, by Philip de Novare</i> .....	Matthew Spinka
DAVIDSON, E. H.: <i>The Establishment of the English Church in Continental American Colonies</i> .....	Alfred W. Newcombe
DOMBROWSKI, J.: <i>The Early Days of Christian Socialism in America</i> .....	Maurice C. Latta
MATHEWS, S.: <i>New Faith for Old</i> .....	Charles S. Macfarland
MATTINGLY, MARY RAMONA, SISTER: <i>The Catholic Church on the Kentucky Frontier: 1785-1812</i> .....	Walter C. Gibbs
LARSEN, K.: <i>Laur. Larsen, Pioneer College President</i> .....	Carl M. Weswig
HULL, W. I.: <i>Eight First Biographies of William Penn in Seven Languages and Seven Lands</i> .....	R. E. E. Harkness
HARVEY, R.: <i>Ignatius Loyola</i> .....	Frederick D. Kershner
ALLEN, E. J.: <i>The Second United Order among the Mormons</i> .....	Daryl Chase
EVANS, J. H.: <i>Charles Coulson Rich</i> .....	Clifford M. Drury
HULBERT, A. B., AND HULBERT, D. P., eds.: <i>Marcus Whitman, Crusader</i> .....	Clifford M. Drury
MARX, W. J.: <i>The Development of Charity in Medieval Louvain</i> .....	J. M. Lenhart, O. M. Cap.
MACFARLAND, C. S.: <i>Across the Years</i> .....	Shailer Mathews
WELLS, J. M.: <i>Southern Presbyterian Worthies</i> .....	Wm. Childs Robinson
QUALBEN, L. P.: <i>A History of the Christian Church</i> .....	Robert Hastings Nichols
BENDER, H. S., AND HORSCH, J.: <i>Menno Simons, Life and Writings</i> .....	C. Henry Smith
PAGE, I. M.: <i>Old Buckingham by the Sea</i> ....	Ernest Trice Thompson
BERDYAEV, N.: <i>The Meaning of History</i> .....	Matthew Spinka
WADDELL, H., tr.: <i>The Desert Fathers</i> .....	Matthew Spinka

joint work of two authors, both well known authorities on Mennonite affairs: Dr. Bender, editor of the scholarly *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, and Mr. Horsch, author of an earlier and more comprehensive life of Menno, and one of the foremost authorities on early Anabaptist and Mennonite lore.

Dr. Bender's story of the life of Menno is briefly and concisely told, and scholarly in its presentation, including Menno's renunciation of the priesthood in 1536, his later outlawry by Emperor Charles V, his wandering throughout the rest of his life across northern Germany, establishing churches and writing in defence of his faith.

Mr. Horsch's selections from the writings of Menno are carefully made and accurately translated from the Dutch, and give a comprehensive view of the great leader's principal doctrines. But Menno was not a great theologian or a philosopher. His writings were well buttressed with Scriptural quotations and references. His strongest language was used against the corrupt practices and loose living of both the laity and the state church clergy of his day. He spent little time in the discussion of the hair-splitting differences which made up so much of the theological quarrels of that day. A few more extracts from this part of Menno's writing might have given the reader a more balanced view of his religious principles.

Bluffton College.

C. Henry Smith.

#### OLD BUCKINGHAM BY THE SEA ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND

By I. MARSHALL PAGE. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1936. 252 pages. \$2.50.

Buckingham Presbyterian Church, located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland at Berlin, is one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in America. Its present pastor, the author of this book, asserts on the basis of a claim made by a former historical-minded pastor, who had access to the original records (since lost), that it was founded by Francis Makemie (generally regarded as the founder of the Presbyterian Church in America), and cites court records to prove that it was in existence by 1697. The church has had a continuous existence since that time. In this book Mr. Page calls the roll of its pastors, and gives a detailed record of their activities up to the present time. Containing a host of personal references, the book as a whole will interest only those who live on the Eastern Shore. There is some material of wider historical value bearing on the early churches founded by Makemie in Eastern Maryland. The book lacks footnotes, or other exact references, but is based for the most part upon original records, or other authentic sources of information. It is, however, no cold historical sketch, but rather a labor of love, written with zest and enthusiasm, and colored somewhat by the author's own generous imagination.

Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va. Ernest Trice Thompson.