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A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF REV. HENRY ELIAS DOSKER, D. D., LL. D., L. H. D.

*(Professor of Church History, Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary, 1903-1926).*

BY REV. JOHN M. VANDER MEULEN, D. D., LL. D.,
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For those not well acquainted with Dr. Dosker, it may be well, before my expression of appreciation of him, to give, in a few words, the data of his life.

He was born in the Netherlands in February, 1855, at Bunschoten. His father was the Rev. Nicholas Herman Dosker, pastor of the Christian Reformed Church at Bunschoten, and his mother was Wilhelmina De Ronden. Henry Elias, for that was the name given him, was educated in the Dutch Gymnasium, a school of secondary education that corresponds roughly to our academy or high school. The family came to this country in 1870, the Rev. Nicholas Dosker having accepted a call to take the ministry of the Second (Dutch) Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Henry E. was sent to Hope College, Holland, Michigan, from which he graduated and of which he was one of the most distinguished alumni. He then entered McCormick Seminary without, of course, leaving the membership of the Dutch Reformed Church in America. His first church was a country pastorate in Ebenezer, near the city of Holland, Michigan. His second church was the First Reformed Church of Grand Haven, Michigan,

there is no ethics in business. This idea is both untrue and unfortunate. The average American merchant today of the better class is probably more ethical than his patrons. The past quarter-century has seen a notable advance (in ethics) in all lines of trade." Those are the opening words of the author's preface. The longer you ponder them the more significant they become.

There are something like 3,000 industries and professions in the United States. Each of these is building up its own concrete code of ethics to be practiced by the members of that particular group. The author has studied the code of a multitude of these groups, and has given us in this book the results of his studies. He does not undertake to study the ethics of any individual business firm, but the ethics of the whole group. In this way he has studied the ethical code of bankers, lawyers, doctors, merchants, engineers, funeral directors, teachers, motion pictures, realtors, insurance men, journalists, and so forth.

It is surprising to see how all these associations have definitely written codes of ethics for the guidance of the members of the associations. It is also heartening to see the high standards and ideals that are set forth in these codes.

The author takes the ground that it is well and good for the business world to take the Golden Rule as its guide, but the difficulty comes in translating the Golden Rule into the kind of situations the merchant is meeting every day in business. Therefore the merchant needs a very specific and definite interpretation and application of the Golden Rule for every day life.

I have found the book interesting and very helpful.

WALTER L. LINGLE.

Assembly's Training School.

HISTORY.

THE SPIRITUAL ELEMENT IN HISTORY. *By Robert W. McLaughlin.* The Abingdon Press. Pp. 312. \$2.50. Dr. McLaughlin calls our attention to the fact that a change is taking place in philosophic and scientific thought as regards the spiritual meaning of the universe that is much more pronounced than any change taking place in historic thought. Science and philosophy are becoming increasingly favorable to a spiritual interpretation of the universe. Just the reverse seems to be the case with history. The majority of our recent historians and our popular writers on historical themes, such as J. Harvey Robinson, H. G. Wells, Hendrick Van Loon and Oswald Spengler, do not recognize a spiritual element in history, and write in a way unfavorable to Christianity. In this book Dr. McLaughlin sets out to prove, from the scientific standpoint, that history does

have meaning, that it does move toward a goal. The argument is clearly and carefully developed, objections are fairly considered, the conclusion is strong and compelling. Dr. McLaughlin finds positive indications of God in history in the adaptability of the earth to the needs of man; the evidence of law in history, no less than in nature; the presence of a mysterious timeless element in history that suggests unity as well as law; the person in history as a religious being; and the value of the catastrophic as evidence of progress. He grants that these facts do not conclusively prove his thesis, but argues that until further proof is forthcoming it is reasonable to assume the fact of God in history because of Jesus Christ. This is a strong book; it is written for and commended to all historical students, ministers, teachers and thoughtful laymen.

ERNEST TRICE THOMPSON.

Union Theological Seminary.

THE EARLY DAYS OF CHRISTIANITY. *By Frederick C. Grant.* The Abingdon Press. Pp. 319. This is one of the Abingdon religious text books in the week-day school series. The author has the happy faculty of covering in an interesting manner the high spots of early Christianity. He brings out well the historic background of that early struggle with Paganism. There are a number of apt quotations from the writings of the Church Fathers.

CECIL V. CRABB.

Clarksdale, Miss.

JOHN WYCLIF: A STUDY OF THE ENGLISH MEDIEVAL CHURCH. *By Herbert B. Workman.* Oxford University Press, New York City. 2 vols. Pp. 342 and 436. \$12.50. Dr. Workman, who is the principal of Westminster College, England, has given us a thorough and exhaustive study of the man who is often spoken of as the "Morning Star of the Reformation". It is now, and we presume it will be for a long time, the authoritative life of the great Reformer. It is an unfortunate fact that much of Wyclif's life is lost in obscurity; we can never know him as intimately as we know Luther or Calvin; but what can be recovered has been recovered by Dr. Workman. As a result of his scholarly research, we have not only a biography, but as the sub-title would indicate, a study of the English Medieval Church.

Most of us think of Wyclif as the first Englishman to translate the Bible into the vernacular. Dr. Workman thinks that Wyclif inspired the translation, but did none of the actual work. At any rate, he was the first to declare that the Bible alone was sufficient for the government of the church, that the Bible alone was sufficient for the ground of a saving faith, that "the New Testament is of full authority and open to the understanding of simple men, as to the