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***The Renaissance, the Protestant Revolution, and the Catholic Reformation in Continental Europe.* Edward Maslin Hulme. The Century Co. 1915. Pp. 629.**

Ephraim Emerton

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has many interesting remarks, and will be found useful by all students of religions.

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THE RENAISSANCE, THE PROTESTANT REVOLUTION, AND THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE. EDWARD MASLIN HULME. The Century Co. 1915. Pp. 629.

This book has certain rather striking qualities. It is built upon a well-conceived ground-plan, for which the author expresses his obligations to Professor George L. Burr of Cornell. Its selection of topics to be treated with greater or less fulness shows care and judgment, though such selection is a matter about which no two scholars could ever entirely agree. The point of view is liberal and fair toward all varieties of human effort. On all the numerous subjects passed in review—politics, religion, economic problems, science, literature, art—the author shows a comprehension adequate for his purpose. His style is uncommonly good, clear, and concise, but at the same time enlivened by a prevailing sense of form. Only rarely is he betrayed into fine writing, and such betrayal only hints at the restraint he has elsewhere put upon himself. The general accuracy of statement is shown by frequent but not burdensome reference to authorities and by brief discussion of controverted points.

With all these virtues must be mentioned one or two equally pronounced faults. The plan, excellent as it is, is too complete. A book of this size built upon such a plan must be too inclusive to make an incisive impression. It is seldom worth while to try to say something about everything; but if one must do that, the only safe way is to limit the field. Here the field is very large, and for that reason the treatment, to be effective, should be by careful exposition of leading ideas and typical personalities rather than by any balancing of quantities. One feels that the author is better than his work, and would be glad to have him try his hand at a more specific task. Meanwhile, the volume fills a unique place in the current literature of the Reformation period, and cannot fail to be of service to readers who wish to gain a general view of causes and consequences in that momentous struggle.

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