

The Early English Dissenters in the Light of Recent Research (1550-1641). By Champlin Burrage, Hon. M.A. (Brown University), B Litt. (Oxon.) Volume I., History and Criticism, pp. xx+380; Volume II., Illustrative Documents, pp. xvi+354. With ten facsimiles. Cambridge University Press, England. Agents for the United States, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Price, \$6.50, net.

This is the best piece of work in this direction for many years, and more than repays the debt which Baptists owed to Dr. Henry Martyn Dexter's *Congregationalism*. It is based wholly on study of original documents, both printed and written; many of these have been recovered from oblivion by Mr. Burrage, and he gives chapter and verse for most statements, besides providing a whole volume of the more inaccessible material. What Prothers has done for constitutional history, what Gee and Hardy have done for the Church of England, is now done for the origins of dissent. More than that; the chief English and American libraries containing relevant treasures are briefly indicated, so that future students are directed straight to the right quarters. There is also a rapid summary of earlier work, with due credit to Friends and Baptists as pioneers; perhaps a mention of Toulmin's edition of Neal would have been a good illustration.

Mr. Burrage has not written up to the limits of his knowledge, even for this period: he has had the courage to omit much where other workers have independently covered the ground well, as in the case of Pierce and the Marpedate Tracts, or the Familists or even Robert Browne, for whom he has done as much by separate publications. Specially useful is it to have sixty-four important points singled out for special attention and set in the forefront; for when engrossed by a long and painstaking exposition, the reader may fail to discern amid details the real landmark. Perhaps here and there a fellow-student may be surprised that Mr. Burrage feels it needful to insist on some of these, till he remembers how vast is the ignorance on such questions outside Baptist and Congregational readers. Mr. Burrage might have added that many of these points are made for the first time by himself.

These volumes are only a first instalment of a work planned to cover much more ground, so that prompt appreciation of them

will encourage further publication. The period now described starts with the Edwardine Acts of Uniformity, which created nonconformity at once, and ends on the eve of the Elizabethan Act becoming a dead letter. There is careful discrimination of two main classes; the Nonconformists or Puritans who attempted to remodel the official Church of England from within; the Separatists who considered that the official Church was a mongrel Beast foretold in Scripture, and that true believers must separate from it in loyalty to Christ. Even such an elementary point as this may seem in our circle, is beyond many English Episcopal circles today. Then the Nonconformists within the Church are shown to differentiate into two groups; the older adopting a Presbyterian ideal as realized in France, Holland and Scotland; the younger repudiating all Assemblies, Synods and Classes, and claiming Home Rule for each parish, or each congregation, for Henry Jacob is a good specimen of these Independents, though he was not a parish clergyman in 1616. The Separatists come in between these two groups, the latter of which had manifestly learned from them, albeit unwillingly; and may themselves be distinguished as Barrowists (preceded momentarily by Brownists, who indeed persisted as a variety) and Anabaptists—to tolerate the nicknames persistently applied by outsiders and persistently objected to. The Seekers in this period were not important, but form the seed plot whence sprang the Friends of the next period.

Church Covenants have a great interest for Mr. Burrage; his generalizations are that every regular English Independent church organized by covenant till 1700 A. D., at least; that the idea was not borrowed from the Continental Anabaptists, though they did covenant; that the earliest Anabaptist congregations in England replaced the covenant by baptism. In various places he points out the typical staffs of officers. Nonconformists within the Church pinned their faith to the selection recommended in the notes to the Genevan Bible, Pastor and Teacher, Elders, Deacons; Johnson also exemplified this, but Jacob discarded the Teacher. Continental Anabaptists held to Bishop and three Deacons, according to Dr. Rembert. Here for once

Mr. Burrage seems to have overlooked Lindsay's account in English, History of the Reformation, II. 435, which decidedly disagrees with Rembert. And though Mr. Burrage calls attention to Smyth's discarding the Teacher, he does not seem to have noted his adopting the dual scheme, a coincidence with the Waterlanders by whose side he found himself.

Another important reversal of judgment is that whereas John Robinson has often been depicted as converting Henry Jacob to his position, the evidence is marshalled to prove that the change was the other way. Robinson had been an out and out Separatist; he ended by defending the lawfulness of hearing ministers in the Church. Connected with this is a re-statement of the relations of Plymouth with the Bay Puritans, showing that the Pilgrim Church exerted very little influence on the newcomers, and was easily absorbed into their system.

Space cannot be claimed for an appreciation of these volumes commensurate with their merits, even in a Review which has already profited by Mr. Burrage's work. May America continue to send over Research Students who will form such worthy ideals, and pursue them so industriously and successfully.

W. T. WHITLEY.

Martin Luther, the Man and His Work. By Arthur Cushman McGiffert. New York: The Century Co. 1911. Pp. 397.

The life and work of a man like Martin Luther is a subject of inexhaustible interest; hence there is a place for the present volume in the midst of the great profusion of Luther literature. Strictly speaking it is not a life of Luther, but, as the title indicates, a study of the man and his work. Little space is given to his work after 1525 when his best constructive work was practically finished. Effort is made to bring *the man* vitally and vividly before the reader; likewise his work in so far as it was vital and constructive. The chapters originally appeared in the *Century Magazine*, and are therefore written in popular form with the purpose of interesting the intelligent magazine reader. In writing this there is no thought of minimizing the scholarly character and the value of the work. The distinguished author