

AN ANABAPTIST LITURGY OF THE LORD'S
SUPPER.

BY W. J. MCGLOTHLIN, PH. D.

Dr. Balthasar Hubmaier, the author of the following document, was a native of Southern Germany. He was educated in the schools of Augsburg and in the universities of Freiburg and Ingolstadt, where he made a brilliant record as the pupil of John Eck who was afterwards famous as the ablest opponent of Luther. After the conclusion of his studies he became pastor and professor of theology, and for a time pro-rector of the university at Ingolstadt. Thence he was called to be cathedral preacher in the ancient town of Regensburg, and in this prominent position won great applause and influence as an eloquent and effective preacher. After some five years at Regensburg he became pastor at Waldshut and was soon in active correspondence with the leading spirits of south Germany and Switzerland. Careful study of the writings of Luther and of the Scriptures led him to accept the doctrines of the Reformation and to break with the Catholic Church in which such a bright future was opening before him. He was able to carry most of the city with him into the camp of the reformers and it seemed that the reform would be able to plant its feet firmly in the Austrian lands. But towards the end of 1524 he began to cherish Anabaptist views and early the next year openly joined the party. He was now driven from Waldshut. He fled to Zurich where he was arrested and mistreated, but finally allowed to depart. He fled by Constance, Augsburg and Regensburg to Nikolsburg in Moravia where he arrived in July, 1526. Here under the protection of Leonard von Lichtenstein the Anabaptist found peace for a short while, and fugitives from Switzerland

and elsewhere assembled in great numbers. Hubmaier was a trained theologian and writer and soon became the chief literary exponent of the more moderate Anabaptist views. From the peace of this quiet nook he sent out many pamphlets during the remaining brief period of his life, and from them we gain the most pleasing view of Anabaptist doctrines and life.

The following booklet was published in 1527 in order to set forth the doctrines and practices of the Anabaptists at Nikolsburg with regard to the Lord's Supper. It is of importance because it is a full presentation of the practices and belief of the largest, most moderate and intelligent body of Anabaptists that ever gathered in one place.

The text translated is that published by Calvary & Co., of Berlin, in 1869, and it claims to reproduce exactly the original. The German is that of South Germany in the early sixteenth century and in a few places is not without ambiguity, but it is believed that the following translation everywhere reproduces the sense with substantial accuracy.

“A FORM FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

BY D. BALTHASAR, HUBMÖR VON FRIDBERG.

THE TRUTH IS IMMORTAL, 1527.

A FORM OF THE SUPPER OF CHRIST.

“First—The brethren and sisters who wish to celebrate the table of God according to the institution of Christ should assemble at an appropriate place at a convenient hour in order that there be no division, nor one come early and another late and so miss the evangelical teaching. So the apostles wished when they asked Christ, ‘Master where wilt thou that we make ready the paschal lamb?’ Thereupon he indicated to them a certain definite place. And Paul writes. ‘when ye come together, etc.,’ 1 Cor. XI. Then you should provide the table with common