

# The Princeton Theological Review

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## KIKUYU, CLERICAL VERACITY AND MIRACLES

Kikuyu, clerical veracity and miracles: it might seem that no three topics could bear less intrinsic relation to one another. In point of fact they are connected by very natural bonds, and it was inevitable that the controversy aroused by the publication of the Bishop of Zanzibar's open letter at the end of last year<sup>1</sup> should run rapidly through stages which raised successively the three issues of intercommunion, the sincerity of clerical engagements, and the supernatural origin of Christianity. The bomb-shell which Dr. Weston cast into the Anglican camp was thus like one of those fire-work bombs of Chinese concoction, which explode first into a serpent, out of which is at once extruded a noisome reptile, while from that in turn proceeds a fiery dragon. Each successive stage of the controversy cuts more deeply and uncovers more clearly the canker which lies at the root of much of our modern Church-life. The question raised in its first stage concerns only the limits of proper Christian communion; the issue in the second stage is just common honesty; while what is at stake in the third stage is the very existence of Christianity. The three issues are necessarily implicated in one another because they are only varying phases and interacting manifestations of

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<sup>1</sup>*Ecclesia Anglicana*. For what does she stand? An Open Letter to the Right Reverend Father in God, Edgar, Lord Bishop of St. Albans. By Frank, Bishop of Zanzibar. 1914. Some curious details as to the publication of this letter may be read in the Christmas (1913) number of *The Christian Warfare* (Talbot & Co.), the organ of the Catholic Literature Association.

Doubtless, this has some compensations for the reader of a book on such a subject: it makes him feel that his guide is taking him the right way. But it is hardly just to the guide whose own knowledge of the way is quite sufficient to inspire the needed confidence in himself.

There is a good index and a two-page bibliography containing the more recent literature on Schleiermacher.

We note a few typographical and other errors: p. 39, "his" for "is"; p. 41, "whom" for "who"; p. 41, "them" for "they"; p. 44, "same" for "name"; p. 55, "try and" for "try to"; p. 144 "whom" for "who".

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*The Religious Life of the Anglo-Saxon Race.* By M. V. B. KNOX, Author of "A Summer's Saunterings", "A Legend of Schroom Lake", "A Winter in India and Malaysia", etc. Boston: Sherman, French and Company. 1913. Large 8vo; pp. 536. \$2.00 net.

Much interesting information has been gathered together in this volume—according to an advertising circular the author spent ten years in the task—but it is somewhat difficult to ascertain the principle upon which the materials have been selected. The title seems to be too broad and too narrow to suit the heterogeneous contents: too broad, for much that is ordinarily considered as belonging to religious life is altogether omitted or only casually referred to; and too narrow, for large portions of the work are devoted to things which are in no sense peculiar either to religious life as such or to the religious life of the Anglo-Saxon race in particular. The author states his purpose to be that of tracing "the forces of the religious life that have aided the English-speaking race to become so mighty and successful"—an aim, surely, that ought to make no historical investigator feel himself unduly restricted, especially when, as in this instance, he considers it his duty to follow this "English-speaking race" whithersoever it has gone over the face of the earth. It is but natural, therefore, that in trying to cover so vast an area within the compass of a single volume the author can give us only hasty glimpses of many things, no impressive views of anything. Nor is our bewilderment relieved by the presence of any table of contents or chapter-headings. The best part of the book is the first fifth of it, which presents, with concrete detail, the religious life of the early, the pure Anglo-Saxons. As for the rest of the work, it offers little that is distinctive in the treatment of the Norman conquest and all that came thereafter in the civil or ecclesiastical history of the British Isles and their colonies.

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*The Heidelberg Catechism: Historical and Doctrinal Studies.* By GEORGE W. RICHARDS, Professor of Church History in the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church at Lancaster, Pa. Philadelphia: Publication and Sunday School Board of the Reformed Church in the United States. 1913. 8vo; pp. xiii, 363.