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ACROSS THE YEARS

By CHARLES STEDMAN MACFARLAND. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1936. 367 pages, \$2.75.

Anyone who has undertaken to write an autobiography can appreciate the problem which such a purpose involves. One can write about one's self or the operations and causes with which one has been concerned. My friend, Dr. Macfarland, has already published important accounts of the federative movement in the churches and has therefore full justification in making the present volume one of more personal reminiscences. But it is really more than that, for it is a record not only of a personal development but of an exceptional range of contact with men of affairs. I had known something of his activities in Europe both during and after the war, but this volume is an illuminating account of interviews, travels, and meetings. I doubt if many persons have had such a multitude of personal contacts. It is easy to see why Dr. Macfarland should have come to have such a significant position in the effort to carry on Christianity in the grand manner. It is fitting, too, that he should have given the brief account of his wife's life. For the future historian of co-operative Christianity, there can be no better approach to the record of the last thirty years than this volume of personal reminiscences of a man to whom as much as to anyone this movement owes its success.

The University of Chicago.

Shailer Mathews.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN WORTHIES

By JOHN M. WELLS. Richmond: Presbyterian Committee, 1936. 240 pages. \$1.50.

This volume, containing the Sprunt Lectures delivered at Union Theological Seminary in 1936, presents in attractive and readable form the leading figures in the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States ("Southern"). The reader who wishes to become acquainted with the viewpoint of this church during the first fifty years of its history in a most enjoyable way can do no better than to read this volume. Dr. Wells passes in review the lives of James Henley Thornwell, the scholar, John Leighton Wilson, the mission leader, Daniel Baker, the evangelist, Moses Drury Hoge, the pulpit orator, Benjamin Morgan Palmer, the Christian statesman, Givens Brown Strickler, the pastor, and Walter William Moore, the educator. In these pages are set forth the dominant doctrinal positions of the Southern Presbyterian fathers: the infallible truth and divine authority of the Scriptures, the Old School Calvinism of the Westminster Assembly, the preaching of Christ crucified for the salvation of lost souls, world missions as the end of the church's organization. The author as well indicates their (and his own) views on the relation of church and state,

civil policies, and ecclesiastical programs. The author (p. 54) ascribes to Dr. Howe an influence on the life of J. Leighton Wilson which Wilson apparently ascribed to Dr. J. B. Adger. (*Semi-Centennial of Columbia Theol. Seminary*, pp. 165-166). The fact that Dr. Wells is a leading figure in the life of this church adds importance to his excellent volume. Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga. Wm. Childs Robinson.

A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By LARS P. QUALBEN. Second edition. New York: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1936. xiv, 644 pages. \$2.50.

Professor Qualben's general church history was first published in 1933 and was reviewed in *Church History* for June, 1934. This second edition is larger by over fifty pages. The somewhat fuller treatment given to medieval history is a desirable change, although this division is still disproportionately small, making only a little more than a tenth of the book. To the section on "The Church in the New World" have been added a welcome chapter on the Canadian churches, an outline of Christian missions and a general chapter on "Church Unity." The book is thus even more comprehensive than formerly. Except the additions the text has undergone little change. The general characteristics of the book are as they were. It is a compendium containing an amazing number of facts of church history, stated in general with impartiality and clearly arranged. Its value is in its facts rather than in interpretative generalizations. The section on the new world has no equal for some kinds of detailed information about the history of the American churches. It could not be so valuable were it not so long; yet its length, more than a third of the book, is questionable from other points of view. The influence of the Lutheran interpretation of Christianity governs the account of Christian origins and is felt elsewhere, though other parts of the church receive due appreciation. A considerable number of mistakes in detail which appeared in the first edition have unfortunately escaped correction in the revision.

Auburn Theological Seminary.

Robert Hastings Nichols.

MENNO SIMONS, LIFE AND WRITINGS

By HAROLD S. BENDER and JOHN HORSCH. Scottdale, Pa.: Mennonite Publishing House, 1936. 110 pages. 60 cents.

It is a fact, perhaps little known even among church historians, that Menno Simons, the early leader of the Dutch Anabaptists, and founder of the denomination today known as the Mennonites, was a contemporary of Martin Luther and John Calvin, and that he advocated principles of religious toleration and civil liberty, separation of church and state and the doctrine of universal peace later espoused and practised by such religious bodies as the Baptists, Quakers, and Congregationalists.

This book, which is a four hundredth anniversary publication, is the