

Notes, History of the Reformation, D'aubigne
Book 1: Ch. 8,9
Book 2: Ch. 2,3,6,7,8
Book 3: Ch. 1-5

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Chapter 8.

I ERASMUS

- A. Erasmus never was and never could have been a reformer, but he prepared the way for others.
- B. Invited to Eng 1510 (Henry VIII crowned 1509) and lectured at Cambridge along with Warm, John Colet and Sir Thos. More. In 1520 he took up his abode at Basle.
 - 1. his cutting satires famous (e.g. In Praise of Folly)
 - 2x -- ag. school men & ignorant monks. His character Moria, daughter of the Fortunate Isles tells the scathing truth about the abuses and foibles in church practice.
 - 2. This book printed in 27 editions in Erasmus' lifetime and was transl. into every European lang. "and contributed more than any other to confirm the antisacerdotal tendency of the age.."
- C. Erasmus did for the New T. what Reuchlin did for the Old. He urged that ppl. study theol. by reading writings of the Fathers of the Church, not be content with Vulgate wch. swarmed with errors; Published a critical edition of the Greek text of the New T. (Basle 1516, one yr before Reformation). Henceforward devines were able to read the Word of God in original languages.
- D. Reuchlin & Erasmus gave the Bible to the learned; Luther to the ppl. Erasmus restored what the revelation taught---clear, clear statements on p. 124-125 of the skinny edition (no date that I could find)
- E. Luther's comment on Erasmus: "Erasmus is very capable of exposing error but he knows not how to teach the truth."
Erasmus was too timid to stand for the truth, --and too vain: "a disadvantageous peace is better than a righteous war." "...it is better to put up with ungodly princes than to increase the evil by any change." He thought a reformation that might shake the Church might overthrow it.
- F. Erasmus ~~quailed~~ quailed when the chips were down and lost favor with everybody.

Chapter 9

- I Same symptoms of regeneration that we have seen in bishops, princes, and learned men were also found in men of the world---nobles, knights, warriors
- A. Ulrich of Hutten (the German Demosthenes)--monk, then student, then soldier saw Rome in 1513 and later wrote "the Roman Trinity". Thereafter forced to leave court of Archbishop of Mentz.
- B. Reuchlin- (Dominican)
"The army of Reuchlinists"--these leaders brought out "The Letters of Obscure Men" (Hutten was a chief author); the had prodigious effect--a satire on monks, but Eng. Dom. & Franciscans received it with great approbation!
- C. Luther boldly condemned these satires, and in so doing he showed his disposition to be much superior to that of his contemporaries.
- D. Ebsenburg Castle, opened by Francis of Sickingen, was asylum to many.
 - 1. Hutten took refuge there and wrote remarkable letters to Charles V, Elector Frederick of Saxony, Albert, Archbishop of Mentz, princes, nobles etc. Hutten was a "formidable antagonist of error."
 - 2. Sickingen took up arms for the cause of the gospel. He failed. Luther was glad because he didn't approve such means of reform--- which is better done by the Word of God.
- E. Hans Sachs, son of tailor, became famous for his songs in praise of God; these too helped prepare the way for the Reformation.

Hutten: "What an age!--studies flourish, minds are awakening, it is a joy merely to be alive!"