

dox in the baptismal registers have had their children baptized according to the Lutheran rite, and their names inscribed in the Lutheran register. The consequences to which such persons are liable are indicated by the Governor as follows:

1. Orthodox persons, confirmed by Lutheran pastors cannot occupy any official position in the orthodox community, since the law declares vows, according to Lutheran rites, null and void. Besides the law of the land makes them liable to be deprived of their children, which can be taken from them and committed to others for training, and they themselves may be imprisoned.

2. Still more severe are the enactments respecting peasants baptized in the orthodox but married in the Lutheran Church. The marriage is pronounced illegal, and the children of such parents are declared illegitimate. If one of the parents dies, neither the other nor the children are entitled to the full privileges of the laws of inheritance. Such children are also deprived of many alleviations respecting military service and of various other advantages granted to orthodox subjects.

3. Orthodox parents who train their children in the Lutheran faith are liable to be imprisoned from eight to sixteen months.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Among the most scholarly of recent theological works is that on *The Apostolic Age of the Christian Church*, 698 p., by Dr. Carl Weizsaecker, for twenty-five years professor in Tuebingen. The standpoint of the author is thoroughly critical, and in its negative results suggests Baur and the older Tuebingen school generally. The work embodies the results of the author's learned researches during his whole life, he having made a specialty of this department. The rich contents of the volume pertain almost exclusively to the literature of the New Testament, that of the second century being but little considered. The book is divided into five sections. The first, on *The Oldest Jewish Church*, discusses the beginning of the Church and its development till the death of Agrippa. The four chapters of this part consider the Origin, the Spread, the Character, and the Retardation and Progress of the Church. The second section treats of the Apostle Paul, in three chapters, giving an account of his Call and first Missionary Journey, his Theology, and his Relation to the Original Church. The third, five chapters, discusses the Pauline Church. The Great Mission, and the Winning of Galatia, Macedonia, Achaia, and Asia for the Gospel. The fourth, three chapters, considers the further Development, and treats of Jerusalem, with accounts of James and the Sources

of Evangelical Literature; Rome, with accounts of the Epistles to the Romans, Philippians and Hebrews; Ephesus, with accounts of the Johannine writings and of the Epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians. The fifth section is headed: *The Congregation*. Its three chapters are devoted to the Assemblies, the Constitution, and the Practices (*die Sitte*). The author pronounces pseudepigraphous the Apocalypse, the Gospel of John (which he thinks, had its origin in the school of John), 2 Thessalonians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and the Epistle of James.

During 1886, 16,253 books were published in Germany, 52 less than the previous year, but 1,451 more than in 1884. The number of theological books was 1,517; in 1885 it was 1,391. Theology has advanced from the third to the second place, pedagogies taking the lead with 1,916 books.

At a recent religious meeting in Berlin, it was stated that within a short time nine new papers have been started by the social democrats. The whole number of journals published by them in Germany is fifty, besides twenty-three organs of various labor unions. Of the "*Zuricher Social Demokrat*," 10,000 copies are sent to Germany. From time to time 100,000 copies of extra papers are circulated. The Catholics at Donauwerth employ ninety laborers, three priests, and ten teachers, in publishing and circulating twelve journals and numerous other documents. The Evangelical Society of Berlin for the circulation of religious literature, is also very active, sending out, weekly, 300,000 copies of various kinds of religious papers. They are sent to prisons, hospitals, factories, to the army, and to churches without pastors. This work is independent of the circulation of sermons, of which some 100,000 copies are distributed and mailed every week.

A literary perversion such as seems hardly possible in our day, is reported from Vannes, in the Bretagne, France. A priest has published a "Life of Jesus" in the language of the country, in which Mark x: 33, where it is said that Jesus shall be delivered to the Gentiles, is rendered: "And they shall deliver him into the hands of the Huguenots."

Religious faith is by no means common among German scientists. Dr. Schmick, of Cologne, professor of Natural Science, has, however, written a book in which he attempts to prove on scientific and philosophical grounds, the immortality of the soul. His confidence in the firm establishment of this doctrine by this method surpasses that of many believers, for he says: "A time is coming when the doctrine of faith, that there is a life beyond this earth, will be changed into a result of natural science."