

mission and his heraldship. He shall discern the applicability of divine truth to every human condition, and realize and proclaim it everywhere, that religion and all the humanities have close alliance, and in their final essence are indeed one. In accord with the very latest and most important deduction of modern science that the seventy odd elements of matters are finally resolvable into two, and possibly one; it shall be his province to show that all the virtues that make homes beautiful, and patriotism sacred, and bravery renowned, and fidelity in manhood and womanhood an eternal honor, all the fruitings of the Spirit, are but various manifestations of the one primary and eternal substance of the divine love; between them all he shall see no disputatious rivalries, but a universal drawing and cohesion; their various compoundings in different souls shall only make the world more glorious and benignant; diversities of operations, but the same God working all in all.

II.—LUTHER'S TABLE TALK.

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THE title of this book is suggestive of the worth of its contents: "Dris. Martini Lutheri Colloquia Mensalia; or, Dr. Martin Luther's Divine Discourses at his Table," etc., "which in his life time he held with divers learned men (such as were Philip Melancthon, Casparus Cruciger, Justus Jonas, Paulus Eberus, Vitus Dietericus, Joannes Bugenhagen, Joannes Fosterus and others) containing questions and answers touching Religion, and other main points of Doctrine, as also many notable Histories and all sorts of Learning, Comforts, Advises, Prophetesies, Directions and Instructions. Collected first together by Dr. Antonius Lauterbach, and afterwards disposed into certain commonplaces by John Aurifaber, Dr. in Divinitie."

In its English version this book has had a remarkable history. From the translator's preface we learn that Rudolphus II., instigated by the Pope, made an "Edict thorow the whole Empire that all the aforesaid printed books (Luther's Divine Discourses, etc.) shall be burned; and also, That it shall be death for any person to have or keep a copy thereof; . . . which Edict was speedily put in Execution accordingly, in-so-much that not one of all the said printed books, nor so much as any one copy of the same, could be found out, nor heard of in any place." In the year 1626 a German gentleman, Casparus Van Sparr, wishing to build a new house upon the foundations of the old one in which at the time of the edict his grandfather lived, and, making some necessary excavations for the purpose, discovered hidden there a copy of the *Colloquia Mensalia*. It "was wrapped in a strong linen cloth, waxed all over with beeswax within and without." At the time of this discovery Ferdinand II. was Emperor of Germany. His known hostility to the cause of Protestantism led Mr. Van Sparr to measures of extreme caution in