

unacquainted with many of the original documents which throw light upon the age of which he wrote.

It was only quite lately that an attempt was made to rewrite the history of Savonarola and his times on the basis of contemporary documents and the testimony of contemporary writers. Rudelbach was the first who seriously undertook this work, and he accomplished his task with German industry and thoroughness. Although he has considerably detracted from the value of his book by his persistent attempt to prove that Savonarola was a Protestant, all subsequent writers are greatly indebted to his researches.

Rudelbach's work was published in 1835, and was succeeded in 1836 by that of his countryman, Meier, who also brought to light documents and facts which had been previously unknown. This writer also marred his work by endeavoring to prove that Savonarola held the doctrines of Luther. In spite of this, I have been greatly indebted to him and his predecessor.

The next important life of Savonarola was written by M. Perrens, an eminent authority on Florentine history, and published in 1853. This writer had the advantage of using the materials collected by the Padre Marchese, who had taken a deep interest in the life of Savonarola, and belonged to his own order.<sup>1</sup> It cannot be denied that Perrens made diligent use of these materials and of other documents which he found at Florence. He made himself thoroughly acquainted with his subject, and he produced a well-written and readable book; still, there is a want of consistency in his views of Savonarola's character and history which renders his work in many respects unsatisfactory.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> He edited some of the unpublished letters of Savonarola, and published a history of the convent of St. Mark's, and other works bearing on the same subject.

<sup>2</sup> It is the more necessary to note this, since Dean Milman's article in the *Quarterly Review*, subsequently republished among his miscellaneous works, has given currency, among readers of English, to the view of M. Perrens.

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