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to be "fundamental truths," *essential* to the existence of a Church; and not only union and communion, but recognitions as visible Churches of Christ, are denied to all who do not accept these doctrines; just as union with Rome is also impossible so long as the Reformed Churches hold Scripture as the rule of faith.

ROBERT R. WARREN.

Notes and Queries.

A RENDERING OF 1 CORINTHIANS XV. 23-28.

"BUT each one in his own rank. The firstfruits is Christ. Next are those who are Christ's at His coming. Then will be the end, as soon as He shall have resigned the kingly office to God, even the Father; as soon as the latter shall have made impotent all rule, both authority and power alike.

"For He must be King until God shall have set beneath His feet all enemies. Death is the last enemy to be made impotent. For God did place beneath His feet all things in subordination. Yet it is clear that whenever He shall say that all things are placed in that subordination, the all things are exclusive of Him Who made them subordinate.

"And as soon as ever all things shall be subordinate to Him, then the Son too shall become subordinate to Him Who made all things to Him subordinate, that God might be all in all."

H. J. N. MARSTON.

Review.

Degeneration. Translated from the German of Dr. MAX NORDAU.
London: Heinemann, 1895.

NEW books, at once so bulky and so prolix, have attracted more attention in recent years than the remarkable volume lying before us. No doubt the very title of the work is responsible, in some measure, for the widespread interest it has excited; and the subject, which that title indicates, is of itself a stimulating one, for the public is very curious to learn new facts and indulge in various speculations upon its own diseases, whether physical or mental and moral, and to gossip glibly thereon. But the main interest of Max Nordau's work is something more than this. It is a sincere and honest attempt to lay bare, not in any spirit of pruriency, but decidedly and vigorously, some of those "streams of tendency *not* making for righteousness" which are flowing so foully and so unrestrained through the strata of contemporary thought. The book is often unjust, and the writer's opinions are often curiously wrong-headed and inconsequent (not seldom exasperatingly inconsistent); but of its real sanity and cleanness there can be no shadow of doubt.

It is written throughout with admirable vigour and directness, and

displays frequently a keen scientific spirit. Its bias, indeed, is over-scientific at times, for if the truth be told, Max Nordau seems to have got into his head the notion that nothing is true but what is scientifically true—a fallacy which need not be refuted here. Scientific truth is good; but there is something higher and nobler even than this, and that is moral and religious truth. It is not for one moment contended here that this iron-handed castigator of our modern “morality” is blind to the supreme value of moral truth—even though his appreciation of what is termed religious and spiritual truth is uncomfortably vague and inadequate—but it is difficult not to discern in every paragraph too one-sided a leaning to science, as though it were the be-all and end-all of life, unmindful of the issue to which such leanings, if pushed to their logical consequence, are apt to tend.

“I have undertaken,” says the author in his prefatory dedication to the distinguished Turin Professor, Cæsar Lombroso, “the work of investigating the tendencies of the fashions in art and literature; of proving that they have their source in the degeneracy of their authors, and that the enthusiasm of their admirers is for manifestations of more or less pronounced moral insanity, imbecility, and dementia.” Max Nordau’s contention is that modern degenerates are not always criminals, prostitutes, anarchists, and pronounced lunatics, but are often authors, musicians, and artists. With characteristic force of purpose, he pens chapter after chapter to demonstrate this; and, within certain limits, I think he has abundantly proved his main contention. There is an unceasing output of literary and scientific energy at the present time, which, if duly scrutinized, appears to contain within itself the seeds of mental decay and moral contamination throughout the entire body politic. The *fin-de-siècle* writers of the present day, with their arrogant and futile assumptions, and their total disregard of moral rectitude, as well as of that purity and sanity of thought without which no true work can be effected, are flooding the minds of the rising generation with pestilential theories and foolish fancies; and their devotees strive both to popularize these theories and fancies, as well as to exaggerate them. The disciples of Verlaine, of Baudelaire, of Ibsen, and of Maeterlinck (to name these alone) have raised the interest created by their productions, both in England and on the Continent, into the form of a cult. What this means, a careful examination of Max Nordau’s exhaustive criticisms will only too clearly show. We are thankful, then, despite all the defects of Max Nordau’s book (*e.g.*, his ridiculously unfair tirades against Ruskin) to find in his pages so stalwart a championing of what is manly, of what is sane, of what is lovely and of good report; and we may not unfairly follow his lead in characterizing the “decadents” and “degenerates” of our time as—far from being heralds of a new and better order—little else save mental paralytics, with diseased imaginations. Max Nordau hardly goes too far (as some recent disclosures in our midst have given us sad cause to know) when he stigmatizes their imitators as enemies to society, and when he bluntly cautions the public against the lies of such parasites.

It only remains to add that the present translation of the German original of Max Nordau’s work has been admirably made, and must have cost the (nameless) translator much time and trouble. How is it that an index has been omitted? Surely, in a work of such magnitude, so necessary an aid as this ought not to have been overlooked.

E. H. BLAKENEY.

July, 1895.