JOHN H. A. BOMBERGER

Centenary Volume
JOHN H. A. BOMBERGER
Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
THE REVEREND
JOHN H. A. BOMBERGER
DOCTOR OF DIVINITY; DOCTOR OF LAWS
1817—1890

CENTENARY VOLUME
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TO THE CAUSE OF
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CHRISTIANITY
PREFACE

As time passes the figure of John H. A. Bomberger, when viewed against the sky-line of nineteenth century history, especially in the field of educational and religious activities, becomes more and more imposing. His place of permanence in the Reformed Church was recognized during his lifetime, and definitely proclaimed even by those not sympathetic with his position, on the occasion of his death. That a biographical volume should be written has long been urged. The Centenary Celebration in observance of the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, planned by Ursinus College for the year 1917, proved to be the occasion which crystallized definite effort in this direction, and the book now makes its appearance as a feature of this celebration.

As a work of composite authorship, it presents with more variety and color than would the work of a single writer, the busy life and versatile personality which it is designed to portray, this especially in view of the fact that the several writers were chosen with special reference to their competence for their peculiar tasks, due to personal knowledge, experience and access to sources of information.

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The comprehensive plan of the book and the careful adherence of each writer exclusively to his own part, has secured less repetition and overlapping of treatment than would ordinarily be expected in such a work. On the other hand, the sympathetic co-operation of the collaborators and the dominating influence of the distinctive personality engaging their attention, has resulted in producing a work of remarkable unity and coherence for one of its kind. While each chapter constitutes a complete story in itself and may thus be read without reference to the others, there is a continuity and sequence in the chapters as arranged, which makes it still more satisfactory to read the book from beginning to end in order.

It may be stated that the portrayal in so far as it presents Dr. Bomberger as theologian and churchman is that of sympathetic adherents to his position, but from the standpoint of a quarter century later when the theological period in which he labored has yielded to an era of constructive co-operation in practical affairs, in which the positions for which he contended are widely accepted throughout the church, and there is cordial recognition of the motives, abilities and services of the men on both sides of the controversy in which he was so conspicuous a participant.

Of shortcomings in the book, the authors are aware, yet it is offered in the hope and belief that it gives a faithful portrayal of the life and character of the subject, and that it will be welcomed by
a host of readers who will review with satisfaction and pleasure the events of other days as they center round the commanding figure whose benign personality and magnetic influence may still be felt in the perusal of these pages.

GEORGE LESLIE OMWAKE,
JAMES I. GOOD,
CALVIN D. YOST,
Editorial Committee.

May 15, 1917.
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