

## THE CANADA LUTHERAN

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### EDITORIAL.

**Reformation.**—The whole Christian world will be forever indebted to the work of Dr. Martin Luther. It matters not how men may differ in denominational allegiance every fair minded person must admit that not only do we Protestant Churches spring directly or indirectly from the movement sent on its world course from Wittenberg, but the Roman Catholic Church itself is in many respects, as a result of the great protest, purer and better than Luther found it.

It is true that Protestant history records many things of which Protestants must feel ashamed. It is true that even those who claim to be followers of Luther come short in greater or less degree of the ideals recognized to be Christ's. But where shall a perfect man be found? Luther himself was a man among men wrestling with many temptations. He sought perfection with all the devotion of an ardent spirit, but he learned that men can attain only unto that perfection which is Another's. "The just shall live by faith." Jesus Christ's

was the only perfect life. Because that life was vicarious it has become true that, "As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" and God will say of all true believers, "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased," not because He finds them perfected by efforts of their own but because He is pleased to see them through His Only Begotten, Who fulfilled all His requirements. This great truth had been covered up by the rubbish of mediaeval error. Men sought salvation, not by faith in the Lord Jesus, but by painful self-denial, payments of money, separation from the world, pilgrimages and other works assigned by a corrupted Church. There was no peace. Luther discovered that the way to peace is through Christ alone and he gave to the world his discovery. It has been handed down to us and is not out-of-date. There is great confusion in the world to-day. Because some would ascribe it to Luther's work and race many timid souls would remove all Lutheran labels, suspend their confession and seek refuge in some more popular modern circles. It is true Luther did not want his name applied to the Church. He would have it called "Evangelical." It is true we are not baptized into the name of Luther nor can we be saved by him but are we not baptized into the Christ Whom Luther owned as Lord? Do we not have the same Word of God which Luther preached? Do we not hope for salvation through Christ by faith as Luther did? Do we not reject the man-made traditions that Luther found so misleading? Are we not willing still to trust God's promises and believe that God means what He says, as Luther did? If we still believe that God created us; that Jesus Christ, true God and Man, alone can redeem us; that the Holy Ghost alone can effect our sanctification; that the Word of God and the Holy Sacrament of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are true means of Grace employed by God's Spirit on our behalf—if we still believe these things, we still believe as Luther did and we are in his group.

Let us then have the courage of a Luther and let the world know where we stand. As good Lutherans we will then uphold truth and reject error under all circumstances and we will not condone wrong doing in any circles be they named by race or creed.