

CALVIN AND HIS TIMES

By Rev. John Garth.

Robt. G. Ingersoll, in his famous lecture on Wm. Shakespeare, opened his address with these words: "In the year that William Shakespeare was born, John Calvin died; what a magnificent exchange for the universe."

This utterance, while pronouncing the names of two of the world's greatest men, nevertheless was a bold sarcasm, rather than a truthful assertion. The Bard of Avon was the world's greatest dramatist, and his contribution to literature will survive for ages. But in true greatness and benefaction to the world Shakespeare is not to be compared to John Calvin.

Shakespeare marked the end of the Elizabethan age of literature. Calvin was the rising sun of the Reformation, and his brilliant influence cast light and heat over Switzerland, France, Germany, England, and, as Rouke declares, "Calvin was the virtual founder of America." Compare the literature of these two geniuses. The tragedies, comedies and sonnets of Shakespeare, while imposing with wisdom and glowing with fancy, original and unparalleled, are nevertheless, in their autographs, unfit for the perusal of decent eyes.

Calvin's writings, though unappealing to the thoughtless, yet by their chaste, reverent, searching, vigorous, religious ideas, they revolutionized the world's theology, permeated the laws of many nations, and inspired countless mortals to lives of honor, integrity and sobriety and to the fear of God.

If we compare the personalities of these two men we can but be amused at the contrast. Shakespeare was lively, humorous, fun-loving, harum scarum. He fled from his native village to escape punishment for poaching on the estate of Sir Thomas Lucy. He lived in a theatre, wrote brilliant, but immoral, plays, was a member of a gay and boisterous group of players and writers.

John Calvin was sombre, decorous, religious, conscientious, powerful in the pulpit, mighty in council, driving immorality from his city and making it renowned for religion. Calvin was the adviser of kings and statesmen, the instructor of ministers, the inspirer of martyrs, the creator of industries, the champion of liberty and truth.

Such is the contrast between Shakespeare and Calvin—the bonfire beside the blazing sun.

John Calvin was born on July 10, 1509, in Noyon, France, 70 miles north-east of Paris. His father was a Catholic and secretary to the Bishop of Noyon. He was poor, but secured a fine education for his son through the help of the church. John Calvin was a student of three universities, Orleans, Bourges and Paris, and had a brilliant career in all. As a law student he frequently lectured to the classes in the absence of his professor. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Already in 1525, the light of the morning star of the Reformation, Martyn Luther, and of that bright constellation which arose with him, Melancthon, Ecolompadius, Twingle, Lefevre and Faill, was shining and heralded the Protestant Reformation. But while to these illustrious men in their several countries the world is indebted for the dawn of this great epoch, in John Calvin behold the rising sun that chased away the lurking shadows of the middle ages and from chaos and disruption brought order, truth, life, vigor to the Protestant church of Jesus Christ.

John Calvin grew up a Catholic, but in 1532, while a student at Paris, he was suddenly converted as Paul, on the way to Damascus. And to Paul, John Calvin forms a striking analogy in doctrine, character and zeal.

Calvin's introduction as leader of the Reformation came when he prepared for his friend, Nicolas Cop, an inaugural address, delivered by Cop on his entrance into the office of rector of the University of Paris, on All Saints' Day in 1533, before an immense audience. Calvin had made the address an appeal for the reform of the church on the basis of the pure gospel, rejecting Pope, council and tradition. When it became known that Calvin was the author he was compelled to flee for his life.

For three years Calvin's life was unsettled. He wandered over Germany, France and Switzerland, evading his persecutors and preaching the Gospel of Christ.

At the end of this period, at 27, he published his greatest work, "Calvin's Institutes," the real constitution of the Protestant faith, that did more to amalgamate the belief of the reformers than any document.

On Aug. 5, 1536, he arrived at Geneva. He intended to stay till the next day and then proceed to Basel or Stras-

burg to continue his studies, in which his intellectual soul delighted. Wm. Farel, then a refugee in Geneva and who had been preaching the reformed doctrines there with pronounced effect, begged Calvin to stay and help him in his work in that great and wicked city. Calvin refused and declared his purpose to leave next day, regardless of Farel's entreaties. At last Wm. Farel pointed his long bony finger at Calvin, and with solemn invocation threatened him with the curse of God if he preferred his studies to the work of the Lord in Geneva. Calvin was overpowered and yielded at this. Indeed he says: "Those words terrified and shook me as if God from on high had stretched out His hand to stop me, so that I renounced the journey I had undertaken."

Here begins the great life work of Calvin. It may be divided into three periods:

I. 1536-1538. Laboring with Wm. Farel at Geneva till, for their antagonism to wickedness in that city, the council and people drove them away.

II. 1538-1541. Calvin quietly pursued his studies at Strasburg and preached to the French church there. In 1540 he married Idelette Van Buren, with whom he lived happily for nine years.

III. 1541-1564. Invited back to

Geneva he became a dictator of the State and church for twenty-three years till his death at 55 years of age.

In discussing the man and his times no better way could be adopted than to observe the man in his great life work at Geneva. Let us look first at his task.

Geneva is situated in the southwest corner of Switzerland, on the western shore, or point of Lake Geneva. The Alps are on the east, France and Italy of the west and south. Geneva was the gateway, at the cross roads of the nations, and thus possessed a strategic importance. It was also a very prosperous city, and rich and luxurious.

This period of world history was marked by worldliness in the church and tyranny of kings. The pope claimed temporal, as well as spiritual, power. The Holy Roman Empire was a great monarchy that was organized by Charlemagne for the purpose of combining the great power of the church, with the sovereignty of the king, for their mutual assistance. The church had lost its spiritual character and had assumed tyranny over body, mind and soul. The pope was supreme; the priest used his weapons of subjugation upon lord and serf.

Salvation was the gift of the priests,

and bestowed only on those who were obedient to the church, confession, absolution, penance, the mass, baptism, the gifts of the priest, and none received their service who did not acknowledge the supremacy of the church.

The Bible was a closed book; ignorance, superstition, fear ruled both king and cotter. Moral obligation was nothing; to please the priest was all, and the priest usually was an immoral leprous sinner.

Now Geneva was a fair product of such conditions and forces. There morality was abandoned. The city was given over to frivolity, licentiousness, adultery. It was the most godless place in Europe. Politically its power was waning and it had become the plaything of kings and its citizens, destitute of patriotism, sold themselves as mercenary soldiers to any warlike duke or king.

(Continued next week.)

Rhode Island Red Birds For Sale.
I have some very fine Rhode Island Red cockerels and pullets and also some hens, all pure bred, that I will sell for 50 cents each to make room. Call phone No. 67 from Woodland Mills or address Mrs. J. P. Cox, Hickman, Ky., Route 1, Box No. 62. 30tf

Use Jersey Cream Flour. None better.

LEADERS IN QUALITY

It's Your Misfortune

if you buy an overcoat and don't buy the KUPPENHEIMER

Their superiority over other makes is recognized the world over by all particular dressers.

We have a complete line of these stylish coats, in all colors, lengths and makes. We have them in Worsteds, Beavers, Cheviots, Cravenettes and heavy Chinchilla.

Prices range from \$5.00 to \$25.00



Copyright The House of Kuppenheimer Chicago

There is style in them.

"KUPPENHEIMER."

There is comfort in them.

Children's Clothing and Overcoats.

We have given more time and thought to this department this season than usual, and are showing the most complete assortment of styles and designs ever shown before in any Union City store.

We have a full line in all sizes, from 3 to 17 years, at prices ranging from, per suit

\$2.50 TO \$10.00

OVERCOATS PRICED ALSO AT FROM \$2.50 TO \$10.00

Bring your boys along and let us fit them up for the winter.

Thanking you for your very liberal patronage in the past, we are

Respectfully,

Hardy, Malone & Jones

THE HOUSE OF QUALITY.

STRICTLY ONE PRICE

TO ALL ALIKE



SUFFERING ENDED

The Red Cross Drug Store Sells the Remedy that Cured Stomach Trouble of 14 Years.

And best of all the Red Cross Drug Store guarantees it to cure or money back. Read this:

"I have been a great sufferer for 14 years; everything I ate gave me heartburn. I have never been able to get anything that would give me any relief until a friend of mine insisted on my taking Mi-o-na. I took a 50-cent box and I believe I am entirely well." F. M. Bryant, Newman, Ga., June 5th.

Mi-o-na is not a nostrum; it is the prescription of a celebrated physician who is a specialist in stomach diseases.

One clever woman calls Mi-o-na the Sunshine Prescription because it changed her from a miserable, nervous dyspeptic into a bright, healthy, happy woman in a few weeks.

These little Mi-o-na tablets are surely wonder workers. They absolutely cure indigestion whether acute or chronic.

They stop belching, gas in stomach, and heaviness in a few minutes. Distress after eating vanishes as if by magic when one or two little Mi-o-na tablets are swallowed.

Only 50 cents a box at leading drug-

HORSE SHOWS AT THE FAIRS

Speaking of the attractiveness of the horse show as a feature of the fair, says the Buffalo Horse World, recalls what a veteran field man for one of the Western live stock papers recently wrote in this connection, an excerpt being: "If the live stock were to be left out of the show, people would consider that there was no fair. With the masses the success or failure of the fair depends on the number and quality of the live stock shown. It is safe to say that the real progress of civilization can in a great degree be measured by the advancement made in live stock, and the visitors at the fair unconsciously show it in their attitude toward the live stock departments. The great aggregation of live stock at the fairs make up an enlivening and inspiring spectacle that fills with genuine enthusiasm both exhibitors and visitors."

gists everywhere, and in Union City by the Red Cross Drug Store. Test sample free from Booth's Mi-o-na, Buffalo, N. Y.

Red Cross Drug Store.

HYOMEI
(Pronounced High-O-Mei)

Cures catarrh or money back. Just breathe it in. Complete outfit, including inhaler \$1. Extra bottles 50c. Druggists.