

Schriver, George H. *Philip Schaff: Christian Scholar and Ecumenical Prophet*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1987. xii + 138 pp. \$19.95.

Philip Schaff (1819-1893) was one of the giants of nineteenth-century religious scholarship in the United States. Primarily remembered as a church historian, Schaff also made major contributions in the areas of biblical studies and practical ecumenism. Among his many accomplishments as a biblical scholar was overseeing the translation and editing of the American edition of John Peter Lange's massive *Commentary on the Holy Scriptures* and the presidency of the American Committee of Bible Revision that, in conjunction with a British committee, produced the Revised Version of the Bible—the first major translation of the scriptures into English since the King James Version in 1611. Schaff, a firm proponent of "Evangelical Catholicism," viewed all of his work as ecumenical. Beyond being ecumenical in general, however, he also served as secretary for the American branch of the Evangelical Alliance for the better part of a decade.

Many of his works in church history have become classics. Some of the most important are his monumental seven-volume *History of the Christian Church*, his *Creeds of Christendom*, and the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*. Beyond these accomplishments, he served as general editor of the *Select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church* (28 volumes), and he gave impetus and shape to the American Church History series—a thirteen-volume set of denominational histories published in the 1890s that greatly influenced the writing of American church history in the early twentieth century.

In addition to all these achievements, Schaff was instrumental in the founding of what have become known as the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Society of Church History. It is the centennial of this last event in 1988 that stimulated Schriver's biography of Schaff, the Society's first president. Despite Schaff's prominence, the only biography of him, *The Life of Philip Schaff*, was published by his son David in 1897. J. H. Nichols' *Romanticism in American Theology: Nevin and Schaff at Mercersburg* (1961) is also helpful in understanding the man.

To remedy the lack of serious published studies on Schaff and to celebrate its own centennial, the American Society of Church History commissioned Schriver to write a biography. Schriver, a professor of history at Georgia Southern College, is well qualified for the task, having completed his dissertation—"Philip Schaff's Concept of Organic Historiography"—at Duke University in 1960.

Schriver, at the request of the centennial planning committee, sought to develop a scholarly biography that would appeal to a broad audience. The committee suggested that his notes be minimal and that he highlight the major aspects of Schaff's life and contributions.

These various requests are to some extent contradictory in the sense that the book could have been much more scholarly if the author had not been saddled with the committee's restrictions, including severe limitations on space. Time after time readers will wish for further treatment of topics as they move through the book.

Schrifer divided his text into three major sections: (1) Schaff's youth, education, and early professional life in Europe; (2) his years at Mercersburg Theological Seminary in south central Pennsylvania, where he and J. W. Nevin developed the "Mercersburg theology," a high church movement in the Reformed tradition; and (3) his years in New York City as chairman of the New York Sabbath Committee, secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, and professor at Union Theological Seminary.

Although this biography concentrates on two major aspects of Schaff's life—his Christian scholarship and his ecumenical vision—it also presents the human side of the man. It portrays him as a warm, personal individual who was not only a devoted husband and father, but also an international figure who made friends wherever he went and who managed to unite the leading religious scholars of two continents in common endeavors and understandings.

While the irenic Schaff was undoubtedly a pleasant person, it seems that Schrifer has probably painted him a little more perfect than reality might warrant. Perhaps more use of the writings of his detractors and enemies might have balanced the picture. One has to read between the lines to see what appears to be the other side of Schaff.

In spite of its limitations, *Philip Schaff: Christian Scholar and Ecumenical Prophet* is both well written and informative. Its helpful survey in the text, along with its notes and bibliography, provides a useful guide to students of Schaff and the institutions and movements with which he was connected. Beyond that, it is enjoyable reading about a scholar whose works are widely used, but who is not well known as a person.

Andrews University

GEORGE R. KNIGHT

Weiss, Herold. *Paul of Tarsus: His Gospel and Life*. Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 1986. xiv + 188 pp. Paperback, \$9.95.

In this work Herold Weiss, Professor of Religious Studies at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, offers an excellent and quite readable survey of Paul's life and thought. He does not claim to be original, but rather attempts to target the nonspecialist and convey what is central to Paul. In this he is very successful.

The first two chapters focus on the person of Paul under the categories "Paul the man" and "Paul the apostle." Weiss correctly emphasizes that Paul remained a Jew throughout his life and that on the Damascus road