

MARTIN LUTHER

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Martin Luther by Gustav Freytag & Henry E. O. Heinemann

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GUSTAV FREYTAG & HENRY E. O. HEINEMANN

MARTIN LUTHER



Martinus Luther

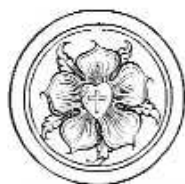
MARTIN LUTHER

BY

GUSTAV FREYTAG

TRANSLATED BY

HENRY E. O. HEINEMANN



DES CHRISTEN HERZ AUF ROSEN GEBIL,
WERS'S MITTEN UNTERM KREUZE STEHET,
—LUTHER'S WORT.

CHICAGO

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THE REFORMER.

MANY well-meaning men still cherish regret that certain great evils of their old church led to the great schism of the Reformation. Even the enlightened Catholic still looks upon Luther and Zwingli simply as zealous heretics whose wrath caused ecclesiastical dissensions. Such a view should be abandoned. All Christian denominations have good reason to be grateful to Luther, for to him they owe a purified faith which satisfies the heart and soul and enriches their lives. The heretic of Wittenberg is a reformer for the Catholic quite as much as for the Protestant. Not only because in the struggle with him the teachers of the Catholic Church outgrew their ancient scholasticism and fought for their sacraments with new weapons taken from his language, culture, and moral worth; nor only for the reason that he had shattered into fragments the church of the middle ages, and compelled his enemies in the Council of Trent to erect an apparently new and more solid structure within the old forms and dimensions; but still more because he gave such powerful expression to the common foundation of all Christian creeds, to human bravery, piety, sincerity and heartiness, that in religion and language, in civil order and morality, in the bent of