

Religious Bulletin.
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The Fundamentalist-Modernist Row.

I.

This controversy is as old as Christianity. In the first century the Ebionites attacked the Virgin birth, which is intimately connected with the Divinity of Christ, and St. John wrote his Gospel in refutation of their error. For nineteen centuries the Church has been excommunicating people for denying this doctrine.

II.

The system of Modernism (which is an attempt to weld rationalism with Christianity), was condemned by Pope Pius X in 1907. Its various phases were first formulated into a body of teachings by this Pope in his encyclical Lamentabili, which drew up and condemned sixty-six erroneous and heretical propositions. Pope Pius called Modernism the synthesis of all heresies.

III.

After the Lamentabili it became necessary for the Pope to excommunicate a few people, mostly priests, and nothing more was heard of Modernism in the Catholic Church. Tyrell in England, Loisy and Leroy in France, Schell and his disciples in Germany, and the Italian authors of the Programma dei Modernisti were the most prominent men who felt the axe.

IV.

In the Protestant churches nothing was done to clarify the atmosphere, and professors in Protestant seminaries went on teaching that Scripture is not the work of the Holy Ghost, that Christ is not Divine, that the Church has no authority, and that our belief in God has no external assurance of truthfulness -- teaching in other words, whatever the latest German rationalist evolved from his noodle.

V.

The people knew nothing of this because modernist preachers kept dogma out of their sermons. And when the people heard no more dogma they stayed away from Church.

VI.

Three years ago the Disciples of Christ stirred up a fuss about their seminaries, and two years ago the Baptists in their annual convention tried to draw up a creed that would determine what constitutes a Baptist. After three days' debate a lady stopped proceedings by declaring that any attempt at a creed would destroy the only real "fundamental tenet" of the Baptists -- private interpretation of the Scriptures.

VII.

With these preliminary considerations you can go ahead and read the dope -- always remembering that any objection brought against the Scriptures was refuted hundreds of years ago.