

promote the ideal "sola gratia, sola fidei, sola scriptura."

#### Some early allies

Luther, with his influence in the Augustinian order, quickly began to pull a group of followers. We cannot mention all of these but two of the most important are Karlstadt (Andreas Bodenstein) and Nicholas von Amsdorf. These men were university minds won to Luther by his presentation on justification. In later years they will be in other camps and Luther will be perplexed by both but they were quickly early vocal champions of the Luther-teaching at this time. To them one must add Melancthon and Bucer...leaders who held to the Lutheran ideal throughout long life spans. Bucer was a maker of peace among the brethren and Melancthon was a distinguished academician. Many others will emerge as we go along.

### THE BREAK WITH ROME

II.4.b

The  
Indulgence  
Question

#### The Indulgence Question

##### Background

Indulgences had been around for some time. This particular phase of it probably had its foundation in the days of Pope Sixtus IV who had granted a plenary indulgence for the departed...for a price. A lot of money was raised that way and...in each succeeding generation you could raise more on the same basis. Who knows if the former payers had paid enough?

The whole nature of the indulgence trial was fundamental to the ultimate break. The indulgence, you will recall, was a payment in money resulting in some privilege for the payee. It could be used in a future setting, it could be applied to the past account of self or of other. The doctrine had developed in Rome to the extent that one could pay a sum and secure spiritual favor for himself in spite of a sin that he might be contemplating. He could purchase spiritual favor for a departed person (if same