

who live by the sword die by the sword. The Swiss reformation came to a virtual impasse at that point and the character of Switzerland as a protestant/catholic country has followed almost the same position in territorial division ever since.

We have previously discussed the Luther/Zwingli relationship and can add nothing to it now. Neither man had a concessionary attitude or nature and the issue of the Eucharist could not be resolved. It was, perhaps, only typical of the sort of doctrinal and emotional problems that were to mark increasingly the church of the reformation.

Zwingli, we might note, was a great man but working in a small place. His greatest influence would come in the manner whereby the Swiss cantons would allow room for Calvin and a more international movement. He was perhaps too quick with the sword but he certainly did not lack for decision. For the independent feeling Swiss he was just what was needed. From a human point of view, if there had been no Luther the work of Zwingli would most likely have been quickly put down. But with the great attention on the Germanic problem, the activities in a few villages in Switzerland did not shake the foundations of the Roman system.

II.5.b

Other Swiss ActivitiesOther Swiss moves

During the 1520's the Anabaptist movement came to life in Switzerland. At first the Anabaptists supported Zwingli but when he did not accord with their theology they left him and he persecuted them. The Swiss Anabaptists were, on the whole, not radicals and much more the sort of Bible students and holy living community that we would want them to be. Led by Grebel and Hubmeier, et al, they emphasized a right justification and a godly practice in life. They resisted the Catholic thrust and the uniformitarian ideals of most of the reformed. They were uniformly persecuted by just about everybody. A fuller discussion of them is coming in the syllabus.

This was also the age of Thomas Erastus and the Erastian view of church and state...a view that saw the state supreme and the church in a mere subservient role. Do not confuse Erastus with Erasmus!