

the earlier work is a slim volume compared to the later editions. But the INSTITUTES clearly marked Calvin's differences with Rome and announced to the academic world where he had positioned himself. In this work Calvin displays a genius for organization and systematization. He does not show a great deal of what we would call "original thought" but he has a propensity to put things together that is very superior for his and any time. His essential position is thoroughly Augustinian and his personal applications of theology very like those of Luther.

The Ministry at Geneva

II.6.c Ministry at Geneva

Historically Geneva was one of the more cultured cantons and had been ruled by the house of Savoy. A bishop had been appointed from that family and he had the benefices and public accountings of Geneva. In 1520's there was a popular upswing against this overlordship and a "town council" was given the rule of the community. Other Swiss cantons were feeling the weight of the work of Zwingli and in some cases the influence of Luther, and Geneva became an "open place" for all parties. A letter from an evangelical source in or about 1530 does not present a very encouraging picture when the writer tells Zwingli that he will do his utmost to preach the Gospel in Geneva although there are 700 clergymen standing against him. But this fellow would soon receive help.

The Ministry of William Farel

II.6.d Farel

Guilliaume Farel (1489-1565) was a firebrand reformer about whom it is hard to be dispassionate. He was a convert to the reformatory position about 1521 and with real zeal was active in Switzerland, France being too uncomfortable for him after 1525. Farel was disputatious, authoritative, bold, and gifted with giant courage and imagination. We are not always in agreement with his methods but his audacity makes us wonder. It was not beyond him to attend a cathedral service and, at the time the host was elevated, to attack the priest and deliver a reformatory message. Moreover in these circumstances he gained a great number of converts. He was red-haired, hot-tempered (the two do not always go together), and quick. Farel won a large following among the Waldensians, made a vicious enemy of Erasmus (chiefly by telling the world that his wife --Farel's--knew more theology than did Erasmus) and led in protestantizing western Switzerland. He was not, however, a builder, for reasons you can likely