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## COMMUNICATION

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, MOSCOW, IDAHO, February 8, 1915.

THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW:

*Dear Sir,*

ON reading, in your January issue, the review of my book on *The Renaissance, the Protestant Revolution, and the Catholic Reformation in Continental Europe*, I recognize the justice of your reviewer's suggestion that there should have been in my volume a more explicit statement of the nature and extent of my debt to my old teacher, Professor Burr, to whom the work is dedicated. It is quite true, as the reviewer points out, that the framework of my book is substantially drawn (though not without omissions, additions, and other changes) from the *Outlines* printed by him for the use of his classes. These outlines, with his consent, I have long used in my own classes, and my lectures, which were the nucleus of my book, naturally grew up about them. But to the doubt of your reviewer as to "how much farther the debt extends, in what degree the treatment of the topics and the interpretation of the larger movements rest upon the ripe instruction of the Cornell master", I owe it both to Professor Burr and to myself to reply that it was never my good fortune to attend his course on this period. The course in the Renaissance and Reformation was not given in 1901-1902, the one year of my study at Cornell. Direct instruction from him I had only in the earlier history of the Middle Ages and in a "seminary" which that year, for a part of the time, studied the history of persecution and tolerance, though I have since owed to his *Outlines* guidance in my reading, and in our long correspondence historical questions have sometimes been discussed.

Let me add that when I wrote to Professor Burr six years ago about plans I had for two or three books he was kind enough to tell me that he thought I could succeed with a book on the Renaissance and Reformation, that I began work on the book as the result of his suggestion, that its limits were those he named, and that the finished manuscript was sent, chapter by chapter, for his approval. It was through his aid, moreover, that it found a publisher. That the vague phrase of my dedication inadequately defined my debt to him I now see; but he at least will not suspect me of any wish to ignore it or even to obscure it.

That my book had no preface as a place for such an explanation was in part because prefaces have become associated in my mind (perhaps without warrant) with the paraphernalia of learning, and I wished

my book to be learned without making a parade of learning—its text self-explanatory and self-sufficient, embodying the explanations sometimes found in foot-notes and including all necessary references to the sources of information. But it was also in part because it was my chief hope, throughout my six years of unceasing work, to write a book that Professor Burr might find acceptable as a text for his classes at Cornell. For Cornell students, with his *Outlines* in their hands, no other acknowledgment was needed than in my dedication; and other readers, as I see plainly now, entered too slightly into my thought.

Sincerely yours,

EDWARD MASLIN HULME.