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BATON ROUGE

December 29, 1960

Dr. James Silver
Department of History
The University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

When you are not so busy I need your advice on a manuscript. A young man named Wilbon Harrison Daniel has done a study of THE PROTESTANT CHURCH IN THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA. I have had the manuscript read by two authorities; one endorsed it enthusiastically; the other reaction was equally negative.

Both readers suggested you as the best qualified expert. I don't want to interrupt your proofreading of MISSISSIPPI IN THE CONFEDERACY, but would appreciate your having a look at this manuscript when you can. I enclose a description of it (by the author) and a copy of the Table of Contents which will give you some idea of the scope and character of the manuscript. May I send it on to you?

Most cordially,

Don

Donald R. Ellegood
Director

DRE:mb
Enclosure

3 copies

VERY IMPORTANT

YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE MANUSCRIPT (Describing its content, emphasizing its usefulness and value to reader, and pointing out its new and original contribution to information in its field. For use in preparing promotional materials and news releases).

(Append additional sheets as needed)

Perhaps no institution in American life has suffered more from the lack of critical study than the Church. The author hopes that this work will help to fill a void not only in Civil War studies but also in the field of American Church History.

This study indicates how the message of the Church was adapted to ~~be~~ justify the social and political realities of the time; and, how the Church, rather than being a creative and dynamic force in the formation of public thinking, was content to reflect the attitudes of the more conservative element in the South.

This essay does not attempt to examine the organization and doctrine of any specific denomination. However, it is concerned with all of the larger evangelical denominations and the Protestant Episcopal Church. In the introduction an attempt has been made to relate the Church to its environment and to indicate its harmonious relationship with the social order of the ante-bellum South.

The general theme of this study is the reaction of organized religion when it is faced with one of society's greatest evils, war; and, it has been the author's purpose to investigate certain aspects of this problem, which for the most part have been neglected by students of the Confederacy. An attempt has been made to present the official attitude of the major Protestant groups in the South toward secession and the war. The aim has also been to describe the role played by the religious newspapers during war time. The writer has sought to understand various problems which the war created for the Church and to explain how these problems were met. Paramount among these problems were the spiritual care of the soldiers and the providing of Christian reading materials for the Confederacy. More time, energy, and money were devoted to these than to any other. However, other problems are noted and discussed. Among them being benevolent projects of various kinds, providing for the support of the clergy, keeping denominational organizations intact, the role of the clergy in war time, and living with the invader. An effort has also been made to describe the attitude of Protestantism toward the Negro during the course of the war, and to discuss some of the effects of the war upon the different denominations.

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