Luther's works in English dress.

Probably Martin Luther comes nearer than any of his countrymen to being the typical German. It was his ambition and his pride to be and to speak "deutsch." He seems to have had a keen sense of the primitive meaning of this word, which is, "of the people," "vernacular." That he was so thoroughly German does not make it more difficult to interpret him to the English world, since the two stocks and languages are so closely kin. Considering the persistent vitality of so much of Luther's message to the world,— even to the modern world, —it is a cause of congratulation that a group of Lutheran scholars have undertaken to present a large portion of the reformer's work to the English public. There are to be ten volumes, of approximately four hundred pages each; and it would seem that this is none too little space for the well informed general reader to give on his shelves to so significant a force in the world's development. The two volumes already issued extend only to the year 1522, and include, therefore, theological essays chiefly; although not a few of these, such as the famous Address to the German Nobility, touch problems of life and society that are still vital. Luther was a splendid heretic socially as well as religiously, and his utterances on profit-taking *(Wucher)* and commerce, on the duties of rulers, on the rights of citizens, though often biased by a peculiar clerical myopia, will give the upholders of the established order little satisfaction. Rather let it be said that advocates of some of the most promising reforms of our day in the direction of true Christianity will find his writings a rich armory of offence and defence. The translators have done work worthy of their subject, as have also the publishers — Messrs. A. J. Holman & Co. of Philadelphia.
