

Reviews

Edited by Edward Geary

THE RESTORATION CHURCHES: TWO REVIEWS

The Mormon Churches, A Comparison from Within. By Francis W. Holm, Sr. Kansas City, Missouri: Midwest Press, 1970. 238 pp. \$4.95.

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THE POSSIBILITY OF RECONCILIATION

Paul A. Wellington

This book has developed out of the author's lifetime experiences in association with the two major Restoration Churches. Although he has spent most of his adult life as a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, he spent the first twenty years in the environs of Mormonism and continued early friendships and made new ones over the years. Therefore, he expresses himself as conversant with the current thought and practice of both groups.

The author organizes his manuscript into twenty-nine chapters, with each generally concentrating on a single subject. In each chapter he attempts to present the two churches' viewpoints, then he usually gives his personal evaluation of the two stands. The first one-third of the book and occasional chapters at the end deal with the "mechanical functions" of the two churches — organizational setup and policy. The rest of the book evaluates doctrinal stands of the two churches.

It soon becomes obvious (and the author finally says it in his "conclusions" chapter) that the author admires the organizational abilities of the Mormons. He gives them credit for following the lead of Joseph Smith, Jr., in this area. In contrast he expresses the opinion that the Reorganized Church