

of Erasmus. His work was not something that would have had a wide influence in the church. Once other people began to try to work out these ideas presented they would be in great danger of being burned and an end brought to any effort which they made to carry out these ideas. The popes did not particularly mind these criticisms. There was no reason why they would have any effect. Criticisms had been made like this for a century before although without quite exact literary ability ~~that~~. There had been many people who had been trying to reform the church but nothing had come of it all. In addition to that Erasmus was not a man who was interested in doctrine and was not presenting a dynamic Christian life. He was laying an emphasis on the heart of Christianity which effects and relates human lives and human actions, and was opposing the great emphasis on forms and ceremonies and all that but he didn't present in any possible strong way the heart of the Gospel. There is nothing in Erasmus' writing to move people's hearts and to stir them up to really do something in a Christian way. There was plenty in his writings to stir the people up to laugh at the monks and ridicule them and to ~~wonder~~ have serious doubts as to whether the papal system was right. ~~But~~ It takes more than that to really accomplish anything great. Erasmus was not a reformer. He was a critic. He was a critic and a thinker and a writer, but in no sense a reformer. He did not want to be a reformer. He was anxious to keep out of ~~and~~ anything in a practical thing where he might have to lose anything or suffer anything for the things that he thought, and quite ready to change his attitude on questions when there was ~~danger~~ danger of his losing anything on account of it. His influence was great and he could prepare the way for Luther but he didn't do it intentionally. He without Luther would have accomplished no more than any man before him had accomplished. So to conclude this present section preceding the Reformation, we go on to "g" the situation at 1517. That is the end. Our present section is *the century* from 1417 to 1517.