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SCRIPTURE

THE QUARTERLY OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. I. NO. 4

OCTOBER 1946

EDITORIAL

Cardinal Gilroy's Blessing. Shortly after his elevation to the Sacred Purple we were privileged at St. Edmund's College to receive a visit from His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney, Australia. His Eminence pleased us greatly by the interest which he took in everyone and everything, and we felt that a bond of friendship had been forged. Later on his return to Australia he was pleased to write as follows :

"I am extremely grateful to you for your kindness in sending me a copy of the periodical which you have started at St. Edmund's. You certainly have the talent to produce a work that will be extremely useful not only in England but wherever the English language is spoken. The more you can do to inculcate a love for the Scriptures, so much the more will you do for the Church itself.

I recall with profound satisfaction the very delightful but all too brief visit to your venerable college.

Praying that God will bless St. Edmund's, the Catholic Biblical Association and yourself."

I remain,

Yours sincerely in our Lord,

(signed) A. T. CARDINAL GILROY,

Archbishop of Sydney.

12th. June, 1946.

The September Meeting. A very pleasant day was spent at St. Benedict's School, Ealing, on 1st September, thanks largely to the truly Benedictine hospitality of Fr. Prior and the Headmaster.

The lectures were attended by a very appreciative gathering. At 11.45 a.m., Fr. Sutcliffe, S.J., lectured on "The Future Life in the Old Testament," and at 3 p.m. Fr. Fuller spoke on "Bishop Challoner and the Douay Bible." An interesting discussion followed both papers. In response to some requests these lectures will be printed later in SCRIPTURE. It is intended to organize "Scripture Days" of this kind regularly, and the next will be in January in the London area. Details will be announced in the *Catholic Herald* some weeks in advance, and also in the January SCRIPTURE, which we shall endeavour to publish promptly. Disappointment was expressed at the September meeting that the next would not be till January. We certainly expect to hold

them more and more frequently, but may we say that this depends largely on the support received from the public. The greater the number attending the more often the meetings will be organized. We have not done much advertising hitherto and should be glad of assistance in making our meetings better known. There is clearly a large potential public for such lectures, but as the venture is somewhat new, no doubt some time must elapse before full contact is made. Much therefore depends on the efforts of members as well as the committee.

Study plans. We are pleased to announce that a group study course on the Gospel of St. Luke has now been prepared. It contains suggestions on how to organize a parish group and gives outlines of twelve meetings covering the whole Gospel. It may thus take three or six months according as the meetings are held weekly or fortnightly. The aim is to get the ordinary Catholic to become familiar with the text of the Gospel. Group study of this kind has more than one advantage. In the first place it keeps one up to a regular reading of the text and in the second place the knowledge derived from it is likely to be more vivid and lasting than that acquired by private reading. Thirdly, all may gain useful information from discussion with others equally interested in the subject. The study course on St. Luke has not yet been printed. It would be a help if those interested sent in orders for copies in advance. The cost will not be more than sixpence each. It is not, of course, necessary to send money in advance, but we should be glad to have some idea of the number to print. Later, other books of the New Testament and Old Testament will be prepared in the same way.

January Number. This reprint is still available at 1s. 6d. a copy. We are obliged to charge more than the normal, owing to the heavy cost of reprinting a number after the type has been "distributed" or dispersed. Those who wish to purchase copies should write to the Hon. Treasurer, St. Edmund's College.

The Foreign Missions. In our last number we said that some of the members might welcome the opportunity of helping missionaries by paying their subscriptions to this Association. Already we are able to offer the first chance of this. The Prefect Apostolic of Northern Nigeria has sent us £5, which he can ill afford, as a Life Subscription to this Association. He writes: "Protestant missionaries very greatly outnumber Catholic missionaries in the West Coast of Africa, and up here in Northern Nigeria they outnumber us twenty or thirty times. The atmosphere of the missions is by consequence quite Protestant, but the Catholic Church has a weight and a respectability all its own." He observes that Protestant treatment of the Bible either becomes rationalist or else concentrates too exclusively on the Old Testament.

The Church alone preserves the Bible intact. The Catechism is a short cut to all the Bible contains, but it needs to be followed up and completed by reading and studying the Holy Scriptures. "The Bible must seem no monopoly of Protestant Christians. Our Catholics need to be familiar with the Bibletext also and to be able to point out in it all they have learned in its résumé, the Catechism. We need Bible classes and study and your Association is something that may well help to direct and assist us . . . The fruit of your efforts will not only show itself at home but spread to every part of the Empire and English-speaking world. From the spiritual point of view, this great Empire of ours is indeed a grand responsibility before God, and what a glory it would be if we responded as we should . . . We are in a terrible way for necessary funds but, however, attached is a cheque for £5 life membership to help and encourage your work, and may the loving Father of all send it back to us another way with interest."

Catholic Bookshops. In spreading the sale of the QUARTERLY we are handicapped by the lack of a list of Catholic bookshops. Would members be kind enough to send in names and addresses of their localities? We have, of course, details of the larger firms of publishers, such as Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Sheed & Ward, &c.

Lending Library. Gifts of books continue to come in and we thank all those who have presented them. It will please them to know that good and ever-increasing use is being made of the library. Copies of the list of regulations may be had on application to the Secretary.

The Society for Old Testament Study. An International Meeting was held at Cardiff from Monday, September 9th to Friday, September 13th, at which representatives from many continental countries were present in this country for the first time since the outbreak of war. It was thus no ordinary meeting and it was a great pleasure to meet again men from foreign lands with interests in common. Professors from the occupied countries expressed in sincere and moving terms their gratitude to Great Britain for her resistance to Nazi Germany which led to the final victory. Catholics were well represented; we welcomed Professors Coppens and de Langhe of Louvain University, Belgium; Professors Alfrinc and van der Ploeg of Nijmegen University, Holland; Professor Dyson, S.J., of the Biblical Institute, Rome; and, for some of the sessions, Father Ulecia of Spain. Mgr. Barton, Father Lattey, S.J. and Father Fuller were also present from this country.

The meeting opened with a dinner at the Park Hotel at which, among other speeches, the Lord Mayor and representatives of the University welcomed us to Cardiff. The occasion was also marked by the presentation to Dr. T. H. Robinson, President of the Society, of a volume of essays specially written for this purpose by distinguished

professors in recognition of his long and devoted services to the Society. Dr. Robinson retired from the office of President and Father Lattey, S.J. was elected in his place for the coming year. The election was noteworthy in that it is the first time that a Catholic priest has been elected to that position. We offer him our congratulations and wish him all success. A very crowded programme filled the days of the meeting—no less than four papers a day being read. But the interest and the discussions never flagged. Finally, grateful thanks must be offered to the Warden and Students of Aberdare Hall who looked after us so well during our stay.

R.C.F.

A CALL TO WORSHIP

(PSALM 94)

by DOM ROMANUS RIOS, O.S.B.

THE new edition of the Psalter, newly translated into Latin from the original Hebrew by the Jesuit Fathers of the Biblical Institute in Rome, and declared by Pope Pius XII an official text for the recitation of the Divine Office, provides us with a welcome excuse for turning once more to that most commented of all the books of the Bible. At the request of the Rev. Editor of this Review, I propose to put together a few notes on those psalms which are most frequently used either at the Mass or at the Divine Office.

Psalm 94 is one of these. From time immemorial it has been employed to usher in the official prayer of the Church at Matins. We append here the new translation with the corresponding English version :

PSALM 94

THE SUMMONS TO DIVINE PRAISE

VENITE, EXULTEMUS DOMINO !

First Part

- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| Venite, exultemus Domino : | 1. | O come, let us sing unto the Lord : |
| acclamemus Petrae salutis nostrae. | | let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. |
| Accedamus in conspectum ejus | 2. | Let us come before His presence |
| cum laudibus, cum canticis exultemus ei. | | with songs, let us shout for joy with psalms unto Him. |
| Nam Deus magnus est Dominus | 3. | For the Lord is a great God, and |
| et Rex magnus super omnes deos ; | | a great king above all gods ; |
| in manu ejus sunt profunda terrae, | 4. | in His hands are the depths of the |
| et altitudines montium ipsius sunt. | | earth, the heights of the mountains are also His. |