

BLACKFRIARS

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EDITORIAL

COMMUNISM, like a slimy octopus, is steadily spreading its creeping tentacles over the whole of the civilized world. Its evil eyes and capacious maw seek and devour its prey from Moscow. The more and more clear-cut Right and Left divisions in various countries of Europe and South America mark its underground progress. *Et nondum est finis*. The Holy Father has not tired of issuing to Catholics, and indeed to the Christian world at large, his solemn warning of the grave peril that is even now at the doors. We fear that his is, alas, like the voice of one crying in the wilderness. At the recent opening of the International Exhibition of the Catholic Press, His Holiness seized the occasion to denounce Communism as the "first, greatest and most general peril . . . which many, too many, appear to ignore, or of which they seem not to recognize the gravity or imminence." He spoke of Russia, a country "where a voice of hatred against God has destroyed, and seeks to destroy, everything appertaining to religion, and especially the Catholic Religion." The publicity given to certain phrases of the Pope's speech in the secular press was not permitted to extend itself to his earnest and vigorous appeal for the safeguarding of religion and civilization. But surely the Catholics of the world, at

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least, might be expected to hear the voice of the Vicar of Christ and present a solid front, irrespective of national differences, to this diabolical assault of a professedly anti-God organization.

The Catholic Press in England has not failed to compel the attention of its readers to the Holy Father's pronouncements, as well as to the strengthening of the Left, and therefore of Moscow's hold, in various countries. We owe an especial debt of gratitude to the *Catholic Herald* for publishing (May 15th) the secret and confidential Communist circular, outlining the technique of revolution in other countries, which was discovered by *De Maasbode*, the Dutch Catholic paper. Those ostrich-like Catholics, who prefer to think that the Holy Father exaggerates the reality or imminence of the Red Peril, will have difficulty in explaining away the blatant significance of this authoritative Communist plan of campaign which, as the *Catholic Herald* points out, was not only used in Brazil last year but "is certainly being applied in Spain to-day—and perhaps in France." We may add that, according to information recently received from Ireland, it would appear to have been initiated there, too. One of our Brethren in that country, Fr. Ambrose Coleman, O.P., has concerned himself to discover the real truth about Communism and Russia; he has published a number of articles on the subject in various Irish papers, but he finds it difficult, as others have found it, to persuade some at least that Communism, as seen in actuality in Russia, is the foul evil those better informed know it to be.

What is it in Communism that attracts even Catholics and blinds them to the real truth about it? We can only presume that they are profoundly dissatisfied with the bureaucratic and capitalist abuses in the Right Wing and allow themselves to be misled by the facile reforms offered in a purely mythical Communist ideal thinly veiled under the vapourings of the Left Wing. But what we cannot understand is why Catholics have paid so little attention in practice to the only true reform of just these abuses so magnificently developed in the Encyclicals of Leo XIII and the present Holy Father, the *Rerum Novarum* and the *Quadragesimo Anno*. If there is anything that has the appearance of good in the Communist Utopia, it is contained in very truth and surpassed in

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these immortal charters of the working man. But it is not merely natural welfare that is at stake; it is religion and the soul's life that is in imminent danger. Communism, says His Holiness, "either threatens and fights openly, or sets secret snares, against everything good—against the dignity of the individual, the holiness of the family, the order and security of the civilized community, and above all against religion, even to the open and organized denial of God. . . . The proof is to be found in the movements already accomplished or attempted in various countries, in Russia, Mexico, Spain, Uruguay, and Brazil. It is a great danger, a total and universal danger." There should be no need to attempt to add anything to these solemn words of the Father of Christendom and Vicar of Christ.

EDITOR.

We record, with deep sorrow and with a sense of grievous loss, the death of Father Luke Walker, O.P., S.T.M., Regent of Studies of the English Dominican Province. After a lingering illness, which he bore with exemplary patience, Fr. Luke died at Oxford on May 3rd and was buried at Hawkesyard in Staffordshire. His close association with this Review since its first days has laid upon it a debt of gratitude it can never repay.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE