BLACKFRIARS

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EDITORIAL

THE ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER will by this time have received a most sincere and even enthusiastic welcome from the rest of the Catholic press in England. If BLACKFRIARS has been compelled by its condition as a monthly periodical to delay the humble expression of its welcome and fealty to the new leader, it is at least no less sincere and no less enthusiastic. For the last eighty-five years English Catholics have looked for leadership to Westminster, but there has never been a greater need for strong, sure leadership than at the present time. We can look for this with serene confidence from Archbishop Hinsley. Thus simple do we sum up our profound satisfaction at the evidence of paternal care for his English children shown by the Holy Father in his splendid choice of this worthy successor to our late revered and beloved Cardinal.

The problems that we Catholics have to face are as old as Catholicism itself, for they are corollary to Catholic life in a non-Catholic society; but they have seldom been more acute. Perhaps the most vital of them all is that of education, and that is a problem with which Archbishop Hinsley has been concerned for a great part of his life. While it

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would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of maintaining the freedom of Catholic elementary education, it would be a grave mistake to concentrate upon that alone. Since the War there has been a great development of Stateaided secondary schools and, if we are to hold our own in the next generation, it is vital that we should develop a Catholic system of secondary education that will be able to compete with non-Catholic schools on the same ground of efficiency. (And it may be remarked in passing that this is a matter which affects secondary schools for girls even more than those for boys, since the growth of non-Catholic or secular system of education in the former has been the more marked and the more rapid of the two.) Our new Archbishop's work for secondary education at Bradford as early as 1800, the magnificent fruit of which can be seen there to-day, seems to show how early he realised both its urgency and its implications.

Moreover, the question of secondary education is a prelude to that of higher studies. It is perhaps unavoidable that our Catholic youth should be compelled to seek the scholarship they desire in a non-Catholic atmosphere and under non-Catholic teachers. They can be safeguarded only if their increase in secular learning is paralled by a fuller knowledge and deeper realization of Catholic truth, and to impart this is obviously the duty of the priesthood. It is significant, therefore, that Archbishop Hinsley has been concerned for so long, also, with studies for the priesthood, has acted as Professor in two of our seminaries and has been for thirteen years the Rector of the most famous of the English Colleges.

Again, we have already suggested that the problem of education is one aspect of a much wider problem, the position of a Catholic in a non-Catholic state, and it is as wide as the Empire. It is not without value, therefore, that our new leader should have imperial as well as national experience and should have spent six years as Apostolic Visitor and Apostolic Delegate in various parts of our dominions overseas, to the complete satisfaction not only of the Holy See but also of the Government officials with whom he made contact.

If these problems are old, so too are their solutions, and we can find all the latter in the great tradition of English

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Catholicism. That is a tradition of which the new Archbishop of Westminster is already a part, for he is by birth a Yorkshire Catholic and was educated at Ushaw and the Venerabile. To have clear-cut ideas and principles, to act resolutely in accordance with them, to live deliberately and consistently, to be direct and where necessary dogged—these are the qualities that are part and parcel of that tradition and these are the qualities that should mark, and by the favour of God do mark, the leader of English Catholicism. It is surely not without significance that Archbishop Hinsley should come to his new appointment at the moment when these very qualities are being held up to us for our encouragement and our imitation by the approaching Canonization of the Blessed English Martyrs, John Fisher and Thomas More.

THE SILVER JUBILEE of His Majesty King George V will provide the Catholics of his realm with an opportunity of showing their appreciation of and loyalty to a Sovereign who, though the official head of the Protestant Church, has ever shown himself considerate of their religious sentiments and interests and has not failed to take part, by proxy, in those Catholic functions where it could have been expected His Majesty and Queen Mary have offered us, in public and private life, a noble example of Christian ideals, have shown themselves whole-heartedly and singly concerned for the welfare of their people, and have served faithfully, through sunshine and shadow, in the high office to which they have been called. Both as Catholics and as loyal subjects we have much to thank God for in this Jubilee. and it is with profound satisfaction that we welcome the permission of the Hierarchy to have a Solemn Mass of thanksgiving, with Te Deum, in our churches.

EDITOR.