

book is an attempt to work out systematically the moral basis of non-violence and its application to mass movements, so that it can become a method of organized resistance to tyranny. The purpose of the book is to show that non-violence can by psychological and moral training become an effective method of resistance in the event of war or any serious conflict. The general principles and methods are admirable, but the weakness of the book is that it nowhere faces the problem of non-violent resistance to Communism. This is the real problem of the present day and it is a great pity that in bringing the book up to date, the author did not take this into consideration. Yet it remains true that the principle of non-violence as the basis of a moral life and of civilized society is of universal validity. The author does not write as a professed Christian, but many of his suggestions, such as the use of meditation in common, of manual work and works of mercy, will commend themselves to Catholics. Non-violence as a principle has yet to find its proper place in Catholic life and particularly in the monastic life.

BEDE GRIFFITHS, O.S.B.

THE CATHEDRAL BUILDERS, by Jean Gimpel; Evergreen Books; 6s.

If Saint Bernard had not been so disagreeable to Abbot Suger, the creator of Saint-Denis might not have bothered to expound his views on art in the service of worship. Their conflict of convictions is the perfect starting point for Jean Gimpel's delightful little book, which tells us also about Villard de Honne-court's famous sketchbook, the canons who built Chartres, and all those obscure but vital people like Richard the mortarman and Ysabel the plasterer. He gives an interesting account of early freemasonry, when it was quite innocent and even necessary, and some fascinating sidelights on medieval engineering. The book is splendidly illustrated, covers a very wide ground, and gives a real insight into the creative energy being expended in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

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