

BLACKFRIARS

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EDITORIAL

THE divorce of religion from the activities of normal human life provides an urgent warning of deep-seated decay in the national life of any Christian country. The pharisaical stage immediately preceding this, when religion is retained as a convention and morality is largely superficial, is perhaps the last remaining tenuous link with sanity. It is through this stage that the English nation, amongst others, is passing and already the deadly blight has appeared in every department. Abortive efforts are being made to stay the evil, but it is futile to engage in pretentious attempts of external and local cure when the internal canker that is poisoning the life-blood from the root is unnoticed or despised. Men seek for international peace, for national prosperity, for social agreement, for personal happiness and well-being, but they overlook almost entirely the one norm and guarantee of success offered them by God in the Incarnation. The simple fact is that there cannot be peace without charity, prosperity without generosity, agreement without unselfishness, or happiness and wellbeing without sacrifice, and none of these without an understanding of the purpose of life. Let men once begin to accept in reality the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, the precepts of Charity, the example of the God-man, and in general seek first the Kingdom of God, then all these other desirable things will be given them. This is not to offer a fantastic

and impractical panacea; it is a plain statement of elementary truth which any Christian ought to be able to accept.

God's divine interest in the affairs of men is manifested with striking clearness in the mode as well as the fact of the Incarnation. The Wise Men of old found Wisdom, when, entering the stable, they found the Child with Mary His Mother. They found God, made man for man's sake through the instrumentality of a human mother; it was, and is, the divine declaration that the human may not be separated from the divine, that even the purely human has an essential part to play in the purposeful life of man who is made for God, that there is no side of human life that must not be used in the service of God, that there can be no divorce between the natural and the supernatural in human affairs wherein man must work out his own salvation and find his own happiness by following close in the footsteps of the God-man. Let those who seek the amelioration of present evils reflect deeply upon the pregnant significance of the Child with His Mother. It will provide a new view of life, a new orientation of effort, and a sure guarantee of success.

The occasion of these reflections will be especially clear to Catholics, who regard October as the Month of the Rosary. The institution of the Feast of the Holy Rosary is, itself, not without significance, for it signalized a great triumph of a Christian army over the invading infidels brought about by the power of this great prayer, even as Dominic and his preaching friars triumphed over as dangerous a foe when they destroyed the Albigensian heresy through the same powerful means. It has this superlative value that it turns the minds of men to the practical consideration of the Incarnation, keeps before their eyes the divine prototype of all men, helps to fashion intellect and will to a divine model, gives a new and real purpose to the whole range of human activities, and shows the urgent need of an inseparable union between God and man as the essential element of success in any human endeavour. In short, the Rosary gives to a disease-stricken world the one true panacea of its many ills, the only assurance of happiness and peace, and the vital element of purpose that is lacking, for it gives anew to men the Divine Child with His Mother.

EDITOR.