

should be read by all who 'teach religion.' *L'Action catholique à la Bourse* by J.-M. Laureys, S.J.: account of the aims and methods of the 'Association des Agents de Change catholiques' which, following Jocist methods, seeks to make saints and apostles of stockbrokers under the patronage of St. Matthew.

**POLSKI PRZEGLĄD TOMISTYCZNY:** First number of a Thomistic review from the Warsaw Dominicans: expository articles in Substance, Act and Potency, Essence and Existence, and the Aristotelian ontology of *societas* and its relationship to the individual.

**SCHILDGENOSSEN (Mar.):** Another valuable 'Eastern Christianity' number. Includes theological articles on the *Holy Sophia* by Vladimir Iljin and on the *Honouring of the Mother of God in Orthodoxy* by Fr. Bulgakov.

**SOWER (Apr.):** 'Education for the City of God': Fr. Gerald Vann, O.P., on inculcating a Christian outlook on Foreign Affairs in Catholic schools.

**VIE INTELLECTUELLE (Mar. 10):** *État actuel de la doctrine dans l'Eglise anglicane* in the light of the Doctrinal Report, by Henry St. John, O.P. *Perfide Albion?*: Olivier Leroy tries hard to get our side of La Manche into focus.

**VYHLEDY, the Czech *Vie Intellectuelle*, together with NA HLUBINU, their *Vie Spirituelle*, continues to come from the Olomouc Dominicans.**

PENGUIN.

## CORRESPONDENCE

*To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS.*

SIR,—We have read your reviewer's short notice of Roy Campbell's *Flowering Rifle* and find it lacking in elementary justice. We know Roy Campbell personally and have had him read parts of his poem to us. Your reviewer classifies the poem as 'warlike poetry.' The poem is not warlike: it glorifies not war, but the cause for which a war was fought. He remarks: 'It has no real backbone to it.' This is a gratuitous statement unsupported by any literary evidence. He plunges further into 'the bravado and chivalry seem to be little more than skin deep.' We can assure your reviewer that Mr. Campbell's bravery and chivalry are beyond suspicion. Whether he has failed to communicate these qualities through his poetry is to be

determined by literary canons. It would be interesting to discover what canons your reviewer would apply. As apparently he would exclude dogma, war and victory from the legitimate field of poetry, it is possible that his canons of criticism would contribute to the interest of abstract discussion. By a curious trick, known in other contexts as *suppressio veri*, he has conveyed the impression that Roy Campbell is a Marxist poet who lauds some war or other in some century or other for some cause or other. That the poet reveals the grounds of credibility for a very remarkable conversion to the Catholic Faith would, we are sure, have interested many of the readers of *BLACKFRIARS*. Mr. Campbell does not limit himself to what happened in Spain. He has many observations to make about ideas and personalities. It would be improper for us to interfere in all his quarrels with his contemporaries. We do not think, however, that they would seem as superficial to all your readers as they appear to have done to your reviewer. Mr. Campbell wrote his poem because:

‘I can distinguish Right from Crying Wrong.’

His assurance may be startling: it is not spineless.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM R. BARRON, O.P., SEBASTIAN BULLOUGH, O.P.,  
E. SEBASTIAN CARLSON, O.P., ROGER D. CLARKE, O.P.,  
WALTER M. CONLON, O.P., JOHN W. CURRAN, O.P.,  
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[The above letter arrived too late for us to obtain in time for publication a comment from our reviewer, who, it may be mentioned, is the Literary Editor of a Catholic weekly and whose objectivity of judgment is unhandicapped by considerations of personal acquaintance with Mr. Campbell. Meanwhile, it would be only fair to him to point out that the brevity of his notice, and the fact that he was consequently unable to adduce arguments or examples (with which *Flowering Rifle* abounds) in support of his conclusions, was imposed on him by ourselves owing to the heavy pressure on our space. We are quite confident that he had no intention to place Mr. Campbell among the Marxist poets, nor can it be readily understood how this interpretation can be put on his words, but it is a fact that *Flowering Rifle* has provided Marxist propagandists with much ammunition which has been fired back with considerable effect.—THE REVIEW EDITOR.]