

## COMMENTARY

FOR months the formidable resources of publicity and popular emotion have been concentrated on the religious rite which marks a monarch's dedication to her task. It is not the least of our national paradoxes that a ceremony which is rooted in an ancient allegiance should so completely satisfy a people that is largely ignorant of its deepest meaning. The vestigial remains of other days and other loyalties are the matter of general joy, and it would be ungracious to pause at the irony, to echo the query of Exodus, 'What is the meaning of this service?'

Beyond the pageant lies the purpose, still discernible and still true. And those to whom the evidence of so much that is lost must bring some sadness, a reminder yet again of Christian faith divided, should yet be foremost in their prayers that the symbolic offering of earthly power to the Author of all sovereignty may indeed achieve what it signifies. 'God save the Queen' is more than a shout of patriotic affection; and orb and sceptre are the symbols of the divine authority which earthly rulers are dedicated to serve.

'Look upon those who rule over us with power, and through the ineffable gift of thy goodness and mercy, guide their thoughts towards justice and peace; that, when their toil on earth is over, they, and all thy people, may come at last to their heavenly home.' (from the *Exsultet*.)

## NOTICE

The next issue of BLACKFRIARS will be a double number (July-August) and will include the 'The Beginnings of BLACKFRIARS' by Bernard Delany, o.p., 'Savonarola and the Classical Tradition' by Professor Roberto Weiss, 'Guilt in Bernanos' by Ernest Beaumont, 'Charity and the Novel' by Elizabeth Sewell and 'The Impact of Eastern Wisdom on the West' by Victor White, o.p.