

BLACKFRIARS

The party however, was soon dissolved, and the charge still continues to be made. It has been effectively dealt with by the Holy Father.

The struggle for Youth plays the chief part in the conflict, for education is of vital importance to both Church and State. The Nazi state tolerates no rival to itself in the schools or youth organisations, and the campaign against the confessional schools is waged relentlessly. The Catholic training colleges have been mostly suppressed. The pressure against all Catholic educational establishments is steadily increasing. Labour camps and youth organisations are used to destroy all Catholic influence, in spite of the fact that the Concordat explicitly protects Catholic associations. The Church is excluded from all spheres of influence. Its activities are restricted, when not entirely suppressed, its finances are crippled, and an organised campaign of defamation against the clergy is carried on, in order to destroy their influence.

A long series of prosecutions for currency smuggling, mainly directed against the religious Orders, followed by another series of immorality trials, were intended to bring the clergy into disrepute, and to destroy their prestige. The true state of affairs was concealed by the efforts of propaganda and control of the press.

In place of Christianity, which is thus attacked and besmirched, every encouragement is given to a grotesque revival of paganism, a religion of Blood and Race, which is expounded in Rosenberg's *Myth of the Twentieth Century*. No effort is spared in dechristianising the German people. Opposition demands heroic qualities in face of the brutal repression by means of concentration camps, or prison, with or without trial, or other deterrents.

The Dean has traced this tragic story of increasing oppression and terrorism with intimate knowledge and scrupulous fairness. It should have a wide circle of readers among all who care for Christianity.

MARGRIETA BEER.

HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF THE POPES, from the close of the Middle Ages.

From the German of Ludwig, Freiherr von Pastor. Translated by Dom Ernest Graf, O.S.B. Vols. 27, 28, 29. (Kegan Paul, 1938; 15s. per vol.)

The publication in English dress of three more volumes of Pastor's great work is a real event and a decided boon to students of history. In this instalment the book quite lives up to its long-established reputation. The treatment is thorough, every fact

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documented (mostly from fresh sources), and the narrative and style are graphic and arresting. The particular period covered is a brilliant and critical one, the pontificates of the Ludovisi and Barberini Popes, Gregory the Fifteenth and Urban the Eighth.

Vol. XXVII deals with the two years' reign of the former, one brief enough in time, but in which so many important events occurred, that contemporaries remark that every month of it was equal to a lustrum, while later writers averred that never did so short a pontificate leave such deep marks in history. After an Introduction giving the setting and background of the picture, and a detailed account of the Conclave of Gregory's election, Pastor deals successively with that Pope's activities all over the world as Common Father of the faithful; his foundation of Propaganda, which organized and brought unity to Catholic missionary work; and the great impetus he gave to the counter-Reformation in France, Switzerland, and the German Empire. His successes as a temporal Prince, his zeal for art, learning and science, and his numerous charities are not overlooked; but it is his concentration on Church interests at large, the magnificent triumphs of his policy, and his astonishing energy and power of action that are chiefly stressed.

Vols. XXVIII, XXIX are devoted to the Pontificate of Urban VIII, which lasted some twenty years, and was marked alike by failures and successes, and over which throughout hung the dark shadow of the Thirty-Years' War convulsing and ravaging Europe and ending in a sort of stalemate between Catholicism and her foes. The election of Urban, his antecedents and love of letters, his cautious self-reliant, autocratic personality, his marked nepotism (hardly a blot, since the Barberini were splendid servants of the Church, and well worthy of all that came to them), and his blameless private life form the subject matter of Pastor's first chapter. In the immediately succeeding ones, Urban's attitude towards the deadly rivalry of France and Spain, his work of Catholic restoration in Germany, his difficulties with Venice and with Cardinal Richelieu (of whose statecraft a black and almost revolting picture is painted), his incessant efforts to bring about a general European peace, and his fostering of the new religious Orders and institutions of charity which were springing up everywhere, are all fully set out. Then, in the later sections, the author passes on to the reform of the Breviary, the affairs of Galileo, the whole subject of Jansenism and Port Royal, Urban's world-wide missionary effort, his government of the States of the Church, and the transformation of Rome into a Baroque city full of artists, scholars and poets.

The translation reads easily, although it is not altogether be-

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yond criticism. We should have welcomed some short prefatory note, telling us how far Baron von Pastor had progressed in his task before his lamented death, and how many volumes may still be looked for by English readers. But we are left in the dark as to this.

ROBERT BRACEY, O.P.

VITORIA AND THE CONQUEST OF AMERICA. By Honorio Muñoz, O.P. (University of Santo Tomas Press, Manila. Pp. 220; P. 2.00.)

A scholarly analysis of Vitoria's treatise *De Indis Prior*, which discusses the legitimacy of the colonization and conquest of America. What of the famous bull of Alexander VI, which seems fairly unambiguously to grant the newly discovered realms to Spain, and what of the numerous arguments current at the time which seek to justify Spanish arms by reference to Scripture, ethics and law? Vitoria shows both fearlessness and sound commonsense; arguing that the most the Pope can do is to give these lands to exclusively Spanish evangelization, without reference to dominion and temporal power; and refuting the bulk of the somewhat specious arguments of his contemporaries. His destructive work done, he goes on to advance some positive arguments for the possibility of just and licit conquest; he is measured, and, as Fr. Munoz is at pains to point out, admirably free of nationalist bias. But we have travelled far to-day from the temper of mind which could view the world primarily in terms of the spiritual, and argue to temporal standards only in the light of the spiritual; and for this reason the positive side of Vitoria's argument may seem less compelling than the negative; Fr. Munoz was wise to devote some of his space to delineating this difference of background, and might perhaps with profit have devoted yet more. It is interesting, too, to speculate how far, not Vitoria's principles perhaps, but the mood of his treatment might have been changed by the experience of later times: we have learnt, bitterly, to suspect any association between the preaching of Christ and political penetration or in general the blessings of Western civilization. And our experience has no doubt purified our approach to the whole question of missionary activity. It is a pity that Fr. Munoz does not touch on these ideas.

A number of typographical errors might with advantage be eliminated in any future edition; and there are places where the style, fluent and idiomatic as for the most part it is, might be revised.

GERALD VANN, O.P.