

upon the face of matter. It is the final triumph of Rodrigo in the *Satin Slipper*; and the fun of it is that he has only got one foot into heaven (which is the only way to preserve freedom) by losing it on earth. Rodrigo was smiling through his tears when he was spurned by all and cast aside as less than second rate.

Only great and serious men like Claudel can smile in a tragedy. This is not a conspicuously French virtue! Is it because Frenchmen take their own virtues too seriously and are too little aware of others? Many who love France find themselves ill at ease when reading French patriotic writing. It often seems narrow and asserts itself and at the expense of others. This is not only true of French writers for it is a vice of the age, but it is particularly regrettable in the writers of a country which has contributed in so conspicuous a way to the cultivation of the ideal of man as such.

We are too near to Claudel fully to appreciate his greatness, his catholicity, but it is already clear that he stands out as one who has preserved this ideal of man in a time of mean and narrow nationalism.

SIMON BLAKE, O.P.

NOUS AUTRES FRANÇAIS. PAR Georges Bernanos. (N.R.F. Gallimard; 1939).

This is a violent book written for Frenchmen, but others may find it stimulating. Those who are not scandalised by a Bloy or Péguy should be able to read it to the end, even though perhaps bored by the repeated attacks on Maurras. Even Maurras's corrupting influence must have its limits.

The book is a passionate plea for kingship through which, it is maintained, France would rediscover her real greatness. This is not proved, of course, but stated as a first principle. All Frenchmen who are moved by the "sentiment de l'honneur" rather than by base political motives, will accept this principle. This is, no doubt, a matter for Frenchmen to decide, but one does wonder what Péguy would have said.

There is, of course, plenty of incidental richness throughout the book, but the things which stand out are Bernanos's answering loyalty to Christ (or the Church, which is the same thing for a Catholic) and his generous testimony to the truth. One can love such a man with all his defects.

SIMON BLAKE, O.P.

PROSPECTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF GREAT BRITAIN. By M. P. Fogarty. (Methuen; 32s.).

This is the first considerable work to be published by the Nuffield College Social Reconstruction Survey under the general editorship of Professors Cole and Lindsay. It is based on some fifty regional reports submitted to the Government between 1941 and 1943, and deals with the economic conditions in thirteen areas which, between them, cover the whole of Great Britain. This is followed by an estimate of the economic outlook for the post-war period. Inevit-