

SCRIPTURE

THE QUARTERLY OF THE CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. III. No. 3

JULY 1948

EDITORIAL

In this number we publish articles of somewhat wider range than hitherto in an endeavour to cater for more tastes. Biblical literature for the beginner or the general reader is certainly the primary need and we shall keep this in mind in planning the Quarterly, but it seems best that this need should be chiefly met by means of pamphlets, booklets, and other publications. The selection of questions for answer in the Quarterly may also seem to some to be open to improvement. If more members would send in the questions they think need answers, the editor would then be able to make a better choice instead of being confined to the small number sent in at present.

It may be well to say here that the activity of the Association is being severely curtailed through lack of personnel. There are of course various activities going on regularly, such as the preparation of the Commentary, which is occupying a special committee of four and a large team of contributors fairly continually. Then there are the school text books which we have recently published, involving an immense amount of work, which has fallen chiefly on the shoulders of one man, Fr. Jones of Upholland. There is the Lending-library which continues to give service and to grow in size thanks to numerous gifts. There is a steady secretarial correspondence answering questions and difficulties of all kinds. Up till recently, too, there were lectures organized from time to time.

But if all these activities are to continue and grow and if others are to be added, it is essential to have a personnel with both time and ability to carry out the work. They must also be located where they can find the means to hand. We have had several offers of secretarial help such as typing. Some of these have been gratefully accepted. But at present we most need organizers, and, as it seems, organizers in London, who can see to our publications, arrange lectures, and so on.

We cannot continue indefinitely to be dependent on the few spare moments which busy men are able to allow from time to time to the work of the Association. Many attempts have been made to remedy this state of affairs but so far unsuccessfully. It looks as if we shall have to wait until more people are available. There is certainly an immense field of really fruitful activity waiting for our Association if only the labourers could be marshalled and set to work.

Rome. We have received the following items of news. During the summer the publication is expected of the third volume of *La Sacra Bibbia*, the new Italian translation of the Bible from the original languages, under the editorship of Rev. Fr. Vaccari, S.J. of the Biblical Institute. The second volume containing the books of Josue, Judges, Samuel and Kings was issued last year, and this third volume will conclude the historical books. Also recently published is the volume *Daniele* by Fr. Rinaldi CRS, similarly translated from the original texts and with a commentary. It is part of a series appearing under the editorship of Monsignor Salvatore Garofalo.

Fr. O'Rourke, S.J. whom some will remember as Rector of the Institute from 1924 to 1930 is at present Superior of the Biblical Institute in Jerusalem. He is remaining at his post in spite of many difficulties.

The new house for the professors of the Institute in Rome (work on which has made lectures at times almost inaudible) is already partly occupied, and the glad news has been announced that it will be ready by the time lectures begin next October. It is connected with the old building by a bridge across the Via del Vaccaro, but when it is completed the main entrance will be in the Via della Pilotta at number 25. The old building will be reserved for lecture halls, libraries and the museum.

Germany. We have mentioned in a previous number the work of the German Catholic Bible Society known as the *Kath. Bibelwerk Stuttgart*. It is good to see that in spite of innumerable difficulties they are able to continue, though not of course on the same scale as before the war. We have received several of their publications, some of which we review in this issue. They also publish small booklets of Bible readings for everyday, which are small enough to be slipped in a prayer-book. In appearance they are rather like those of the Bible Reading Fellowship, though not so elaborate in contents.

Lending Library. The generosity of our members is unfailing. We have to thank the donors of the following: Gordon, *The Liturgy and its Meaning*; Rolle, *Office Psalms*; Martindale, *The Prayers of the Missal*, Vols. I and II; McNabb, *Infallibility*; Barry, *Cardinal Newman*; Rousselot, *The Intellectualism of St. Thomas*; Walker, *Science and Revelation*, presented by Miss Poulter; Didon, *Jésus Christ*; Durand, *Évangile selon St. Jean*; Lepin, *Jésus Christ, sa vie et son oeuvre*, presented by R. A. Dean, Esq. *The Expositor's Greek Testament* (5 vols.); *The Koran* (Sale's trans.), presented by Dr. Van Acker; Conybeare and Howson, *The Life and Epistles of St. Paul* (2 vols.); *Smith's Dictionary of the Bible* (3 vols.), presented by Rev. A. Clayton.

Back Numbers of "Scripture." Single copies may be obtained from the Secretary at 1s. 6d. each post free. Complete sets are still available (Jan. 1946 to date) at 1s. a copy, post free.

Books and Periodicals received

Dictionnaire de la Bible, Supplément, ed. Pirot-Robert. Letouzey, Paris. May, *Ecce Agnus Dei* (John i; 29, 36). Cath. University of America,

1948.

Murphy, *A Study of Psalm 72* (71). Cath. University of America, 1948.

Saller, *Discoveries at St. John's, 'Ein Karim 1941-2*. Franciscan Press, Jerusalem, 1946.

Bagatti, *Il Santuario della Visitazione ad 'Ain Karim*. Franciscan Press, Jerusalem, 1948.

Black, *New Forms of the Old Faith*. Thomas Nelson and Sons, Edinburgh.

Thomson, *Parish and the Parish Church*. Thomas Nelson and Sons, Edinburgh.

Coppens, *La Connaissance du Bien et du Mal et le Péché du Paradis*, Louvain, 1948.

Catholic Biblical Quarterly. Washington, U.S.A.

Verbum Domini. Biblical Institute, Rome, Italy.

Cultura Biblica. Segovia, Spain.

Theologisch-Praktisch Quartalschrift. Linz, Austria.

Pax. Prinknash Abbey, Gloucester.

LETTER OF THE PONTIFICAL BIBLICAL COMMISSION

In reply to questions asked about the date of the documents of the Pentateuch and the literary form of the first eleven chapters of Genesis, the Biblical Commission has addressed a letter to His Eminence Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris, containing the following points.

The Commission¹ first expresses a desire to promote Biblical studies assuring to the student the most complete liberty within the limits of the traditional teaching of the Church; and in this respect, a passage is quoted from *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, the Encyclical Letter of Pius XII on Biblical Studies. The replies of the Commission already published on the historical character of the Pentateuch, are next referred to—replies concerning the historical books in general (1905), the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch (1906) and the historical character of Genesis, chs. i-iii (1909). The Commission says that these replies in no way preclude further study of the questions in the light of the knowledge gained during the last forty years and hence does not consider it necessary, at least for the present, to issue any new decrees on the subject.

(1) As regards the composition of the Pentateuch—after reminding the reader of the reply of 1906, namely, that one may hold that Moses

¹The full text of the Letter appears in the official *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*, 1948, pp. 45-48.