

tament, particularly for anyone who is approaching the New Testament for the first time. She is aiming at presenting writings in the order in which they were written as far as possible, so that the reader can picture to himself how the whole grew stage by stage. Her book will be doing in a popular manner what Moffatt's famous historical New Testament has done for scientific scholars. But while Moffat could presuppose in his readers, a detailed knowledge of the historical background, Miss Monro is writing specifically for beginners. For this reason, the precise historical order has at times been sacrificed. Thus the Acts of the Apostles have been put towards the beginning of the book since most of the other writings find their place within the historical setting of the Acts.

Various selections for reading are given after each chapter which will prove a great help in finding one's way through the more complex part of the New Testament writings, especially St. Paul's Epistles.

DANIEL WOOLGAR, O.P.

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## C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

3rd. September, 1945.

To The Editor of Blackfriars:

DEAR SIR,—Two undocumented statements have appeared in your issue which, in my humble opinion require some substantiation, or withdrawal, inasmuch as they detrimentally confuse the affairs of an unfortunate ally:—

Professor Leibholz, on page 327, states that "A big army of . . . non-Germans, including . . . Poles . . . had rallied to the National Socialist flag". Surely we have yet to hear of Polish National Socialists? In fact we have been often very truly informed that Poland is the only nation which failed to produce a Quisling. Perhaps the Professor has confused National Democrats with National Socialists? If so, the confusion is highly regrettable, as there is a vast distinction between them.

Again, in an otherwise excellent review on page 355 "D.A." writes, "a majority (of the inhabitants of the disputed Eastern area of Poland) certainly is culturally closer to the Russians than to the Poles". As one who knows Eastern Poland well and comes of a Polish family of partly Ruthenian descent (and even Muscovite) exiled long ago from areas east, even of the "disputed area", may I ask for some substantiation of this statement? The two main Nationalities in the "disputed area" were Poles 4,010,000 and Ruthenians (proper and White) 4,842,000—or, in the area annexed in 1939 Poles 4,794,000 and Ruthenians (proper and White) 5,132,000. (I give the latter figures, as I have not the Religious denominational figures for the former area. All figures are based on 1931 census). For the latter area there were in principal re-

ligious dominations 4,016,000 Roman Catholics, 3,050,000 Greek Catholics (i.e. 7,076,000 Catholics acknowledging the See of Rome plus Armenian Catholics for which figures are not available to me) and 3,529,000 Greek-Orthodox. In other words there was a preponderance of Catholics and therefore culturally more akin to Poland than to Russia. The Orthodox were preponderantly Greek and not Russian and therefore, through the Greek-Catholic rite and through long resistance of the attempted compulsion to Russian orthodoxy, more akin to Poland than to Russia. Certainly more than 50% of the populace used the Latin alphabet—that alphabet being used also by many of the Ruthenians. As to architecture, which was partially, but certainly not preponderantly, Byzantine one has yet to hear that the Byzantine is a Russian monopoly. Westminster Cathedral is Byzantine, is it not? Indeed there was a Western influence in Eastern Polish Byzantine and a Mongol influence in Eastern Russian Byzantine.

It is to be hoped, if justice and peace are to come to the world, that *all nations*, including these people, will speedily and effectively be enabled to express their own will in circumstances, as D.A. says, “that beyond doubt provide for a free and unconstrained answer.

Yours, etc.: STEFAN POTOCKI.

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