

- BOOK REVIEW -

THE END OF THE ARMISTICE

by G. K. Chesterton

All of us have thought of Chesterton as filling many positions, but few of us have ever imagined him as a prophet. Yet, in *The End of the Armistice*, he shows himself to be no mere cup-reading forecaster but a good, sound prophet.

From as far back as the early 20's, Chesterton was contemplating a great European war. He did not see this as a mere possibility but as a thing that had to happen. He saw the actual outbreak of our present war, that Germany in agreement with Russia would attack Poland. "The Prussian patriot may plaster himself all over with eagles and crosses, but he will be found in practice side by side with the Red Flag. The Prussian and the Russian will agree about everything; especially about Poland."

The End of the Armistice is Chesterton's analysis of the great Germanic problem in Europe. It shows us Chesterton's theory of Germany. He sees the roots of the German racial problem springing from the old seed of Prussia.

The first section of this book deals with Prussianism. Chesterton sees in Prussia a source of continual trouble to the world. The only way Prussia can be converted is by means of a Catholic Revolution. If this is not possible, then we must understand Prussia; if we fail to understand her, we shall make another blunder as great as that of Versailles.

Hitler and Germany occupy the second section of *The End of the Armistice*. In this section Chesterton deals with the problem of racism. In the quarrel of Alsace Lorraine, France debated on Catholic principles. She set down the lawful landmark and was willing to follow that landmark. Germany agreed on "an entirely new Theory of Race; that a modern science of ethnology revealed a superior Teutonic type, spread everywhere

from prehistoric times, and wherever this type could be recognized there the new German Kaiser would stamp his foot crying, 'This is German land.' " The German thus advanced the heathen principle that "his blood was more sacred than the brotherhood of men."

The third section of this book is devoted to Poland. The author shows why Poland is hated. We have but to read this book, and then form our opinion of Poland.

In the fourth section of the book, Chesterton deals with pacifism and cynicism. He touches upon the trend of English thought during the period of re-armament in Germany. Oddly enough, Chesterton fears that England will not be in this war.

Although this book is made up of essays which were written at different intervals, and were not intended as chapters of a future book, it possesses a unity which clearly reflects the unity of this problem in the author's mind.

The average reader may have to use his dictionary considerably when reading *The End of the Armistice*. The book itself is not light reading, but when one has finished it, he possesses a great deal of valuable knowledge about the present European war, and the separate nations taking part in it. All Chesterton readers will find it interesting, and that it does not detract anything from his prestige as a writer.

—*Thomas MacLellan*, '46

THESE TWO HANDS

by E. J. Edwards, S. V. D.

Most authors who write the life stories of missionaries confine their writings to a mere enumeration of bare facts, interspersed with Scriptural quotations. Although very informative and very edifying in itself, this style of writing often makes for dry reading. In *These Two Hands*, Father Edwards gives us a most interesting story by showing the frailties of human nature. He depicts the struggles of a man who tries to conquer his cowardice, his natural revulsion from squalor and disease, and his

disdain for the natural shiftlessness of the natives of the remote mission station on tropical Mindanao.

The story opens in the Philippines on a scene at the "Colegio de Sagrado Corazon," a scene in which the hero of the story, Father Templeton, fails in his first real task as a missionary. He refuses to answer the call of a dying leprous beggar because his whole being shrinks from the unclean and diseased body of the outcast. His Father Superior hears about this event and attempts to remedy Father Templeton's fear by sending him to the lonely mission outpost of Mindanao where Father Templeton begins his ceaseless war against his mortal enemy, "Fear."

Although the natives of Mindanao like their new "padre," they do not take him fully to their hearts. He passes his next two tests of courage when he saves a native's life by killing a shark, and when he finally ministers (not without revulsion) to a leper. His final triumph comes when he saves this same leper from a burning hut and in so doing burns his hands almost beyond recognition. This heroic act so endears him to the natives that when he is released from the hospital and returns to the village his new found children cannot seem to do enough for him.

The Jacket advertisement states, "This apprehensive young missionary might be any one of a thousand soldiers in soutanes. His story is told without any frills of verbiage by one who knows the ordinary, everyday parts of missionary life with all its loneliness and difficulties. He knows, too, how weak human nature can be, but he recognizes the treasury of strength from which the weakest among us can draw the cold courage of heroism."

This book is calculated to give an interesting picture of missionary life. It is highly recommended.

—Joseph J. MacDonald, '46