

transgressors are surpassing their earlier outrages. I forbear to recount their latest doings at length—it would run beyond the bounds of a history, let alone a letter. Only I make this one appeal to your vigilance: though the authors of this widespread turmoil may be beyond repentance and cure, let hopelessness and despair never master you who have set your heart on healing these troubles; consider how much your success will mean. The task you face concerns the whole world almost—the Christian communities beaten to their knees, the scattered laity, the persecuted clergy, the exiled bishops, the flouted traditions of our fathers.

Urgently then, most urgently, I bid you intensify your zeal with the intenser persecution. Something may then be gained, recovery may come nearer—such are my hopes. But should they be unfulfilled, then you for your part have your crown prepared by a gracious God, and for all the sufferers your perseverance in love will be a great consolation. For two years I myself have been in exile, exposed to hunger and pestilence, to constant fighting and sieges, inexpressible loneliness, daily peril of death, the swords of the Isaurians; yet I have been immeasurably consoled and inspired by your continued unwavering courage and confidence and the joy of your true and abundant love. This has been my bulwark and safeguard, my haven of peace, my storehouse of numberless good things, my source of joy and of untold happiness. And should I be carried away again into some more desolate region still, that stalwart comfort in my distress will be with me when I go.

Translated by WALTER SHEWRING

NOTICE

The present issue of BLACKFRIARS is a double number (July-August). The next issue will appear in September and will include 'Films: A Personal View' by Freda Bruce-Lockhart, 'Language and Metaphysics' by Columba Ryan, O.P., and 'The Sculpture of Arthur Pollen', an illustrated article by Iris Conlay.