

BLACKFRIARS

A MONTHLY REVIEW

Edited by the English Dominicans
Published at Blackfriars, St Giles, Oxford

VOL. XXVIII No. 329 AUGUST 1947 ONE SHILLING

THOUGHTS IN VACATION	The Editor	... ..	341
AMERICA AND THE JAPANESE	H. van Straelen, S.V.D.	... ..	342
SECULARIZATION IN EDUCATION	J. R. Hough	... ..	349
SPANISH CIVILIZATION IN AMERICA	A. A. Parker	... ..	355
MINUTE PHILOSOPHER	Columba Ryan, O.P.	... ..	362
WORDS AND MEANING	Illtud Evans, O.P.	... ..	367
OBITER	'Aldate'	... ..	370
REVIEWS: A. H. Armstrong, Donald Attwater, Thomas Gilby, O.P., Gervase Mathew, O.P., Sebastian Bullough, O.P.			... 373

THOUGHTS IN VACATION

IT was the Editor's holiday. The man opposite at the breakfast table was a typical boarding-house bore. Away from the constraint of daily work-a-day life he could expand to editors and engineers. He pushed his chair back, flung wide his arms and addressed perhaps a thousand or two in an open square; his voice was loud enough and it was his *Credo*. 'I believe in the British Empire. I believe that the Anglo-Saxon races will yet lead the world to peace. I believe that Britain and America will do this between them. I believe too in the necessity of the King of England as the centre of this world-wide peace. Whom do you think Princess Elizabeth will marry? A Greek Prince? *No*. Mark my words of this morning: I believe the Princess will marry an American and she will have the *world* behind her'. The Editor breathed a grateful 'Amen' when the Creed was concluded; the room was small and the enunciation loud. The listener was driven back into his own thoughts and so to those articles left in the printer's hands. They needed an introduction. Had the bore contributed one? America—yes, America and Britain were important. But not as a substitute for a *Catholic* religion. It was not an Anglo-Saxon importance. America herself (North and South) embraces almost every nationality, the French and Scots of Canada, the Irish and general Babel of races of the U.S.A., the Latins of Mexico and the South. Here a solid peace reigns amid great variety. Britain, rather more restlessly, rather more self-consciously, still preserves a wide peace amid the variety of the Commonwealth. The Americas and the Commonwealth are not essentially European. But

Europe lies on a very sick bed, and her soul may be seeking a Transmigration. The soul of Europe is the Faith, as Mr Belloc has often told us in the past. The soul is immortal, but not the body: and this kind of soul is constantly migrating. The real Creed, then, the Catholic Faith remains the supreme factor for peace to come; not the sociological faith of debased Christianity, but the Faith of the Catholic Church. This does not remain an intangible cloud blown across the land by European storms. It lives in men; and so perhaps the important natural human element lies in the Americas, Latin and Barbarian, together with the Commonwealth.

Out of the mouths of bores . . .

THE EDITOR

A M E R I C A A N D T H E J A P A N E S E

THE Japanese Diet has made its first use of the power secured to it under the new constitution by selecting Mr Tetsu Katayama as Prime Minister. On Saturday, May 24th, he was formally invested in office by the Emperor and he had a 30-minute conference with General MacArthur. In a wireless address he appealed to the Japanese people for their help in the task of rebuilding the country. What most Japanese—rulers and ruled alike—desired, has more or less become a fact. They can now reconstruct their national life in their own way. MacArthur's administration has partly come to an end. Now that we have arrived at this milestone in Japanese history, we may survey the hundred years of American-Japanese relations.

* * * *

Twice in the course of history America has forcibly opened Japan to the world and has brought her into peaceful intercourse with other nations. Twice she has made the opportunity of exerting a tremendous influence on the history and development of the Japanese Empire and the Japanese people.

The first occasion was after her more than two centuries' long seclusion, and was brought about through the mission of Commodore Matthew Galbraith Perry.

On 24th November, 1852, he sailed from Norfolk, Virginia, in the steam frigate *Mississippi*. His squadron was assembled in Shanghai, and on 8th July, 1853, he entered the Bay of Yedo with four ships of war. The Japanese were not completely unprepared for his arrival, for in 1844 William II, King of Holland, had addressed a letter to the Shogun warning him of the impossibility of maintaining any longer the policy of seclusion.

One can get a vivid impression of what happened on that date, July