

Provinces. The letter gave a substantially accurate account of Christian rites and practices; warning the Emperor that these Christians were already so strong in towns and villages that the temples were deserted. But for the student (and admirer!) of Aquila and Priscilla the unique interest is that the Governor is Pliny, the Roman historian, and the far-off Province is no other than Pontus, the birthland of the Jew Aquila who had given a home to SS. Peter and Paul, as St. Peter had given a home to his Master.

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DEMOCRACY: SHOULD IT SURVIVE? By John A. Ryan, Luigi Sturzo, Jacques Maritain and others. (Bruce Publishing Co.; \$2.00.)

This book—speaking to Mr. Common Man—is a collection of essays by prominent writers demonstrating the basic structure of a true democracy. Taking as their starting point the underlying principle of the Declaration of Independence—the inherent dignity of man—the contributors to this symposium present a lucid and comprehensive analysis of the dangers which beset true democracy in the world to-day. Don Luigi Sturzo gives an incisive examination of totalitarianism in his usual distinguished style, follows secular education (a whole system subject to State regulation, supervision, examination and test; compulsion producing a mechanical uniformity which tends to a paralysis of the faculty of distinction), capitalist exploitation, racial discrimination, penitentiary systems and all manner of social injustice.

Man has freely elected to live a communal life under government. Is there then a perfection of system which can be attained by those who are the leaders and the planners of the State? We are in no doubt as to the answer to that question. 'Gouverner,' says Lacordaire, 'c'est diriger des êtres libres vers leur fin.' To guide with intelligence and power—those two essentials of government—the brethren of Christ through the tortuous channels of an industrial age, without imperilling their dignity or sacrificing their rights, towards the true end of man which is the Beatific Vision; here is the true democracy which will save the post-war world from the apostles of materialistic democracy.

The reader will not fail to appreciate the relevance of this work to conditions prevailing in the United States. The general public, however, here in this country will be disappointed if they seek in any of these essays a final analysis of democracy and a definition of its meaning on which to base consistently the doctrine of the distinguished contributors.

J. F. T. PRINCE.