

Blackfriars

great Capitalist who directly bribes and maintains, makes or breaks, the professional politician, and Parliament is his servant. His newspapers, his gift of shares, his "pressure"—as it is euphemistically called—which he can bring to bear everywhere upon public life, is the master of the situation.

The true issue from Capitalism is the wider and yet wider distribution of private property. It connotes State action and State control and State endowment. These things are complementary to and necessary to a stable distribution of ownership. But they are healthy only if their object is the maintenance of such a distribution.

That distribution of property, the sane and only possible solution alternative to the Servile State, will be adopted here in Britain is unlikely indeed. It requires at the back of it a religion, and the religion is lacking. It requires a national mood protecting the small man against the great, favouring the family, conservative of what is normal to human society.

And that mood is not to be discovered save as a product of the Catholic Church.

HILAIRE BELLOC.



THE DIVINE WHEELS

AS the atoms of dust
In the track of the chariot rise and fall,
So the hosts of the Suns leap up
At the roar of Thy Burning Wheels, O Lord,—
A dance of luminous dust, a pall
That lifts its proud exultant sheen
Like an incense vapour unconsumed
In the vast timeless pure serene.

From the Italian of Niccolò Tommaseo, (1802-1874).

Trans. J. R. MEAGHER