# **Eastern Thought** Meets Western

By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

Quite recently in this column I ventured to make some reflections upon the strange preference of Mr Busics Carter for the Old Testament instead of the New I made the point or tried to make it that the pre-Christian part of the Bible taken in itself without the part which was written after the wirth of the Lard is worldby incomplete, that as Shaken-peare would be to a man who had read only Titus Andronicus or Corinicaus or Measure for Measure and had never heard of Macbeth or Orthelin or

Even that comparison would be large. For after all the more imperfect works of Shakespears could be read and to a degree enjoyed apart from the appoints masterpieces. Even the historical works of the great hard are not a sequel one to another You can read one and not the next in chandlogical order. You would lose something but not everything.

With the Bible the case is different. The Old Towtament is a truncated thing without the New Revclation before Christ is meaningless without the Revelation in Christ and after Christ. In other

Worth the fible is all of a piece. Well—as I was thinking of that fact, there came to my mind the similar fact that the greatest of all non-revealed, non-Biblical works, the Summa Theo-logics of St. Thomas Aquina is, like the Bible, a magnificent synthesis. Its parts are so intimately and beautifully welded together that you cannot have one part sithout all three. Or if you do, you have an imperfect incomplete work They say that Dante is "B! Thomas in verse" But can you ist-agine Deate's Inferno and Purguiorio without the Paradino? Not unless you are one of those curiously illogical persons who think that this life of ours on outh in complete and needs no other. This life without the other would be a tragic jest. Anatole France sold "The universe is mad." It would be, if this warld were all there is and there were no other

Hut there is another sense in which the stupend-ega masterpiece of St. Thomas is a Tynthesis. For

the working out of this fact. I engagest Geruld Vann's little 183-page book on CL. Thomas Againes. Ceraid Vans happens to be my favorite exponent of Thoseism. Clear as crystal, interesting, illuminating A man who can fascinate the ordinary reader with Scholustic philosophy is a rurn arise Father Vano of the English Dominisans does just that.

In the second chapter of that small volume, he

an evertious mass of philosophical thought, gathered from all corners of the world, and from all sorts of skilosophers. To sit down before that over whetheing man of beterogeneous intellectual material with the idea of whip; g it into shape and consistency would appel any scholar. The job didn't feaze St. Thomas. There was Eastern thought and Western thought. There was the logic of Aristotle and the mysticism of Plato Soth had come from Greece by way of North Africa into the Italian peninsula. In their journey the Greek philosophers had picked up many Mahammedan elements. Also there and suspect into Africa and Turope from India very considerable percenters of findamon. Also Buddism. Father Vann says that St. Thomas in his attempt to answer the riddle of life and of the universe not only had to know and to master all those conflicing ideas (not however always or entirely conflicting) not only sort them out evaluate them. in same instances correct them, but he had to weave them together in a "tiniversal theological-philosophtoul synthous."

in the Western world alone there had been veloring systems of thought in the four centuries preceeding St. Thomas. Those systems were not all consistent. There were not only systems, there were trends and tendencies. Father Vann mentions some of them "the humanist epirit, the love of pactry and art and all created beauty. The zest for reason and logic and philosophy and the sciences, the elaboration of law instural law, civil law the law of nations), concern for the finite and particular and fleeting as well as for the Infinite and the Incom-prebens bie." And Father Vann saks "Yould these two so divergent outlooks tar. We may add these

two dozen systems of thought; we unified. The answer is the Summa Theologica.

Such is our intellectual heritage as Catholics. The wonder of it is, and the shame, that we don't all become acquainted with it.

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Emmel Lavery's THE CONSIGNOR'S HOUR produced in Vienns, Budalest and Chicago Marquis' THE DARK OURS . . produced in

New York by Don Marquis Murray's AUTUMN FIRE iin by the Abbey Players. produced in Dub-

Sierra's CRADLE SONG , produced in New York by Eva la Gallienne. Sierra's THE KINGDOM OF GOD , produced in New York with Ethel Barranore in the lead Sierra's HOLY NIGHT by the Fideral Theatre.

And this week in New York, ton's MACHC, with William Saroya

THERE us a curtain raisor.
It's only when one realizes the re Chinolic dramatic literature that or beed patient with what is usually done school halls. Ever since the Red R. Soviet coincades have been using the powerful lever of propagands. You may fion, the up to the Russian love of drams and don't we gove drams and color, too content to get all our drame and Co ist from Hollywood films and to feel at the far more wonderful drama Church and fils Saints, and at the nating color which He has give lovely, humorous, whimsical, gracious uni its expand in lad ings. In Citholic drama, our h God's treasures, on; and long after the stage is dark, the curter and tenrs to the wonder eyes are opened a little clea curtain has dropped and the tain is still up in our sou nd a bright warm light still burning there. (News acknowledgment to overlooked, last week to MacMillan Company of New York City for the em by Eithen Duggan used in this column !

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FIVE and TEN Years Ago--

e files of the CATHOLIC COURIER

Fom Sept. So. 1933, Edition

Council of Catholic Women.

From Sept. 30, 1937, Edition

While in Berlin the leaders of Germany and I six were issuing a denunciation of Communism this Holiness Pope Pius XI unexpectedly gave to the world a morange warning vigorously against both Communism and a cult of the state which under guise of combating Communism seeks to revive pa give in this column as we go along in the fall and gantsm. The Encyclical pointed out the power and

> "The youth of our day are going to follow some ader. It is up to you to see that that leader carleader. It is up to you to see that that leader carries a cross. This was the challenge laid down by the Mast Rev. James E Kentrey Berhop designate of Rochester in an address to the National Council of Catholic Viomen delegates at Washington D C

> Celebration of Solemn High Mass by the Ver. Rev Hugo Aubry SVD, provincial of the North Amer ican Province, Society of the Drvine Word opened St Michael's Mission House as Hem'ock Lake, on the Feast of St Michael.

No man can save himself from moral destruction

"No arithmetic?" gasped the boy's father. "Do you expect describes "the material" upon which St. Thomas had me to send my son to a school that eliminates the basic prints work if you wish to know why we can St eiples of mathematics, a knowledge needed in every walk of the man of man of man gentus, consider this he had the man

A school with an arithmetic? What nonsense! Yet is it more consension than a school that teaches nothing of God, our first beginning and our last end of fenus our fladeemer and the greatest of all teachers - of the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Hount-of love of neighbor for the sake of God of obedience to our civil rulers because their power comes from God? To the Catholic the elimination

of religious tenching is mere than nonsense. It is tragic. For religion is the only solid basis for morality religious instruction for the mind. religious training for the will. Home teaching or an hour in Sun-day School cannot suffice. God and His will must be an integral part of the child's daily life.

It is because Catholica believe this so firmly: that while paying that full share of the support of the public schools, they are also buying land, erecting buildings and educating with their awn money more than 2,500,000 pupils, thus anying you and other tax-payers more than \$250,000,000 annually And this Catholic education to it academic standing in its teaching Spiritua ability and in its educational remany instances far shead of-the public school education today.

The United States of America

was founded or religious princtchook, up to 1840 ples. All qur religious. George Washington. "Reason and ex-

pertence forbid us to expect that natural morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principles"; and this sentiment has been echoo nearly every President since. Who can then say that the Cathelic school, the nursery of Faith and cilizenship alike, is un-American? (Catholic Information Society, Namerth, Pa.)

## **Feast Days**

Sanday, Oct. 4.—ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. Menday, Oct. 3.-ST. PLACID.

Tuenday, Oct. 6.—ST. BRUNO. Wednesday, Oct. 7. — MOST HOLY KORARY. Thursday, Oct. 8.—ST. BRIDGET

OF SWEDEN. Friday, Oct. 8—ST. DIONYSIUS, AND COMPANION MARTYRS. Saturday, Oct. 18.-ST. FRAN-

# Thoughts

God walks among the pots and upkins." St. Theresa.

We all stand in sore need of conforming ourselves to God's Will.

### ITORIALS E

find them, to turn them over to those who are conducting the Drive in our communities. Don't leave at for the man next door, make it our personal task to add to the total.

Our war industries need every scrap of metal that can be turned in The need is urgent, so urgent that many of our -teel mills, so essential for war production, will have to shad down unless we help them by furnishing needed scrap metal

### Enale that DEATH OF MR. JOHN L. KEENAN

The passing from life of Mr. John I. Keenan during last week total as it brought to an end a career that means much for the con and rethe more than the control of this discess. Mr Keenan by his native ability and the more than the control of the apirit had made for himself a name in the business world, to life with its. Worldly success did not dull his interest in the Church and her activities. He was ready to give himself wholeheartedly to any cause of charity or religion that was proposed to his attention. He was a harter member of the Board of the Hochester Catholic Charities, and for many years has served as its Vice President Just a few ponths ago, he presided at the Silver Jubilee Banquet of the society, giewing its accomplishments over a period of twenty five years.

fr Keenan had the abiding respect of all that knew him. He was a Chiful servant of his community and of his Church. His Bishop has all occasion to know and to appreciate the fine service he gave as artificial and as an official to the Church in the description to value the fine example he gave as a Catholic and as a citizen in his configuraty. May be rest in peace'

### THEY MADE LIGHT OF IT

Francis & Sheed, widely known founder of the Catholic Evidence Gui'd London was announced as speaker for the Second Annual Convention of Rochester Diocesan Council National Council of Enthalis Women. anomical Redefiner, to build the Kingdom of Heaven. His Church, on earth. To the Jewish people had zone out the hist invitation to join that Kingdom. Their neglect of thrists invitation is pictured shorts in the contempt shown by those insited to the marriage teast. Repeated appeals, renewed gifts of grace, found so many unwilling to accept the invitation. The matter was urgent efforts were made to some their acceptance, punishment was vegted on those who treated the servants shamefully and killed them "The one statement of the stitude of those invited, should be of concern to men of our day. They made light of the invitation."

They made light of it," treated it as all little or no importance. to how many in the world today is the sang attitude toward religion be attributed? Religion is calling them, the Church of God incitated for the salvation of all men is beckoning to them, their conwhenever is urging them to seek out God and His truth, and they make tight of it! They treat the matter as of no importance'

There is a serious and weighty obligation on all men to answer the question of why they are here, where did they come from, what is expected of them. To make light of this obligation places men of today in the same class as those Romans of old, whom Paul - alled Inex wable because they did not follow the testimons of their own senses to the fact that God had created them and the things about

The parable of the Marriage Feast ended with an indication of the punishment awaiting these who make light of Christ's invitation. To turn away from God, to spurn His invitation is to invite that endless punishment indicated by the command of the King: - "Cast if m out the exterior darkness.

# Catholic Stagers, Please Note

== Library Signpost=

Here is a dare for parish, high school and sodality theatre groups. Why not begin this year to put on plitys with a real punch? Let's shelve for the dura-tion these dime-a-dozen plays which we've been treating out on our parish and school stages like old naga these many moons plays which are about as silly and puritie as Boratio Alger stories. What other plays are here do you ask, which are not too hard to put on? .fust wait: I'll show you in a exament. But what about entertainment value? You'll find double and triple entertainment value in

the real kind of plays. Withan Suroyan has been giving the American kheater world a good shaking up of late years. Some think he's craxy with his new ideas. But 919978, mare judicious, can we through his antica, to something fresh and stimulating beneath Our parish. high school, and sodulity stagers could stand a little Injection of Saroyan. I don't mean, to produce his plays, but to eaten his spirit of the theatre, his his for what the scage really can do. If Saroyan were only a Catholic (perhaps he is), or if some Catholic were as original and vonturesome as Saro-yan, we'd have an instrument for propagating truth and beauty, comparable in power to the Catholic

school and the Catholic press
Frequently this season I shall devote this column to information about plays for Catholic stagers Maybe no one will listen Maybe one person will

Are you still listening. Here is a sample of the possibilities, I. AS LOVE KNOWS HOW One-set drama by F. H. Drinkwater For advanced amatour groups setting Elizabethan persecution, east 13 men and 2 buys one stage set reception room of medieval castle production time 40 minutes. eurco: Fitzgerald Publishing Corp., 11 East 35th St., N. Y. C., in Gabriel's Ave, a collection of 14 re-ligious plays, cost \$160 a copy. The plot Cumbert-armyne, a seminary priest, is arrested and sentenced to be hanged because of his addity to his faith at the time when Protestantism has become the official religion of England. His friends urge him to escape bue he believes that whatever fate holds for him has been ordained by God and that his suffering will eloquently portray his emulation of Christ He; is condomined as a traitor when he refuses to acknowledge the Queen of England as head of the church and goes to his death exhorting the people. to seek the unity of the true Catholic faith.

This is the kind of information and advice I shall winter I am indebted for it to the painstaking efficacy of the Rosary, in combatting becesses work done by the National Service Bureau of the name disbanded Federal Theatre Project of the WPA.

Now for the rest of today's lesson just consider the following list of Catholic plays (not all by Cath olic authors) which have been produced on the professional stage in recent years

Barry's THE JOYOUS SEASON produced in New York by Arthur Hopkins, outh Lillian fiish in the lead. Bach's WITHIN THESE WALLS produced in

Chicago by the Federal Theatre Saudel's TIDINGS BROUGHT TO MARY . produced in New York by the Theatre Guild Doherty's FATHER MALACHY'S MIRACLE Enduced in New York by Delos Chappell, Drinkwater's A MAN'S HOUSE pro . produced at the Malvern Festival in England by Sir Barry Jack-

Eliot's MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL duced in New York by the Federal Theatre. Goodrich's and Palmer's CAPONSACTHI duced in New York by Walter Hampdon.

The Church adapts berself to all regimes that sufeguard liberty and do not violate conscience. Joseph Cardiral Van Rocy.

; amid the license of modern life unless he continu ously practices mortification and self-denial of the