

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES

THE RELIGIOUS ISSUE IN POLITICS

¹ *The Roman Catholic Church in the Modern State.* By Charles C. Marshall, New York, Dodd, Mead & Co., 1928. xiv+350. Price \$2.50.

² *Al Smith, The Pope and the Presidency.* By Theodore Schroeder. New York, published by the author, 1928. v+212.

IT has long been considered by many a tradition having almost the force of law that a Catholic would never be elected president of the United States. This belief was so well established that many erroneously thought that there was a legal or constitutional obstacle. The present election has called forth a considerable number of books discussing the question of whether being a Catholic should in any way disqualify a man for the presidency. The books on this subject are uneven in quality but vary little in the material they discuss. Charles C. Marshall's book¹ is the first to be considered being a continuation of the controversy he began in the *Atlantic Monthly* over this question. His book is moderate in tone and he tries to be fair. He discusses chiefly from historical and doctrinal grounds the clashes in the past and the possible clashes in the present and future of the Church and the state, emphasizing particularly the twilight zones which can neither be classified as wholly spiritual or wholly secular. He quotes chiefly Catholic authors in support of his contentions.

Another such book is by Theodore Schroeder.² He speaks more bluntly than Mr. Marshall bringing up the historical and the theological disputes. After reading his book one feels that a great many points concerning the questions of the relation of church and state ought to be clarified.

Most books of this type seem to make a false impression on the question of what is meant by the "temporal power" of the church. Much of the controversy over this referred to the States

of the Church and at present refer to their claims to this which is now Italian territory rather than as often supposed to sovereign rights in other countries. The question as to the Church's right to the Papal States in reality dates back to a time when this claim was for centuries undisputed. Whether one would consider the Pope's sovereignty as inherent in the office of the papacy or as a mere personal union between the sovereign of the patrimony of St. Peter and the supreme pontiff is purely academic. The discussions as to the rights and wrongs of the Pope's quarrels with the sovereigns of the middle ages such as King John of England or the Emperor Frederic II and others, while they are important as furnishing precedents it would be interesting if some student of church and state politics would write a discussion of this question entirely from the events and documents of the present generation.

In the United States there has been considerable discussion in the last few years of bringing religion into politics. The offenders, however, have chiefly been from the Protestant side. And their activity has been less to gain recognized sovereign rights than to compel the state to accept and support their theological doctrines with the force of law. The Catholic Church has gained much sympathy in the last few years from many of our liberals and it would be interesting if some book could fully discuss the Catholic relations with the state as compared with those of the various other churches. These books under discussion although they may tend to increase the controversy under discussion may help to clarify and bring the issue to a head. The book we would like to see written on this subject has, however, not yet appeared.

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Edited by

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September, 1928

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Hocking—Herbert Wildon Carr, *Changing Backgrounds
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Published Bi-Monthly

LONGMANS, GREEN & CO.

Lancaster, Pa.

55 Fifth Avenue, New York

Single Numbers \$1.00 (5s.)

Per Annum \$5.00 (25s.)

Publishers: DAVID NUTT, London—G. E. STECHERT CO., New York—FELIX ALCAN,
Paris—Akad. Verlagsgesellschaft, Leipzig—NICOLA ZANICHELLI, Bologna—
RUIZ HERMANOS, Madrid—RENASCENCA PORTUGUESA,
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Published at the beginning of JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER

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