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A Most Unspectacular Man: A Chance to Die

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area of mission theology, cannot afford to be unaware of the contributions of Protestant theology today.

The annotations in this bibliography are much more infrequent and briefer than those in the work treated in the first part of this review. There is an index. Unfortunately, there appear to be a number of misprints which, however, cannot seriously mar this excellent tool of scholarship. It will be most valuable to the theologian, but is of interest to every one seriously interested in the mission work of the Christian churches.

JOHN N. SCHUMACHER, S.J.

A MOST UNSPECTACULAR MAN

A CHANCE TO DIE. By Ramón C. Aquino, with an introduction by Carlos P. Romulo. Quezon City: Alemar-Phoenix Publishing House and José Abad Santos Memorial Society of the Phil., Inc., 1967. x, 248 pp.

The life and achievements of Jose Abad Santos have not always been too clear to most Filipinos. There are those who remember him as twice having been Secretary of Justice. There are even those who remember him as Chief Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court, administering the oath of office to President Quezon during one of those fateful last days at Bataan. Almost everyone recalls that he died a patriot's death. "The cause of his execution: his refusal to take allegiance to the Japanese regime," in Justice Roman Ozaeta's words.

Ramon C. Aquino is eminently qualified to undertake this biography of the late Chief Justice. A lawyer, Aquino is also a noted scholar. The fact remains that Abad Santos spent most of his life as a member of the bar and bench, and it is for these things that most of us would like to remember him, not for how he died solely, but for the life he led and the jurisprudence he inspired and wrote himself.

Aquino's prize-winning biography proves one thing in particular: Abad Santos was a most unspectacular man. He was a quiet man in many ways; one who did not have to broadcast his achievements to the world; one who felt the utmost satisfaction in having done his best, expecting no praise from others.

Aquino's biography does not attempt a total recall of Abad Santos' life. It is based mostly on interviews, newspaper and magazine articles

and public documents. As such, it does not possess or generate the feeling of intimacy with the person under consideration. Were he alive today, perhaps his biography would have been little different. He was, as we said, a quiet, modest man.

It is the unspectacular nature of the man that is revealed in this study. The inference one is led to draw is that it takes, sometimes, such a character to be a great man. As Carlos P. Romulo states in his introduction to this book: "What we badly need is greater variety of interpretations, more realistic approach to the life and times of our political and intellectual leaders—an approach that will render their total humanity without neglecting their greatness; critically examine their ideas without perverting them by either adulation or prejudice."

It is not often that a reviewer can agree with the introduction of a book. This is one such occasion. A warning, though—this is a dry book to read, not because of its content, but precisely because its treatment is of a scholarly character. It is not by any means a novelized biography; so no reader should expect a study "à la Irving Stone". The fact is, Aquino's study is so objective in its approach that the reader will have to draw his own conclusions about the real value of the man's achievements.

This writer hopes that this biography will initiate a trend towards the production of more biographies about our eminent figures. Very many books have been written on Rizal, Bonifacio and Mabini. It is time that we paid a little more attention to the other men who have made Philippine history a more vital thing. It is high time, too, that we encourage living figures and their families to donate their personal papers to university libraries, the National Library or, in the case of Justices, the Supreme Court Library. Quite often, scholars interested in the lives and times of such men have lamented the paucity of available materials. In the case of Abad Santos, the paucity of materials proved a problem. And yet, the greater part of the man's life is well-presented.

JORGE M. JUICO

BIBLICAL RESEARCH TODAY

NEW TESTAMENT ESSAYS. By Raymond E. Brown, S. S. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1965. xvi, 280 pp.

This collection of New Testament essays presents a cross section of biblical studies both in popular style and in depth, with particular