

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

Conversion by Masonry

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Philippine Studies vol. 3, no. 4 (1955): 428

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Conversion by Masonry

In PHILIPPINE STUDIES for March 1954 we reviewed Walton Hannah's *Darkness Visible*. A Revelation and Interpretation of Freemasonry. In that review we said:

The author of this book is an Anglican Clergyman whose thesis is that no Christian (using that term in the sense of a person who accepts Christ as divine and the sole source of supernatural good) can belong to Masonry. Much less can clergymen and bishops. This latter contention is no *tour de force*. Masonry is full of men who call themselves Christian clergymen, and numbers even a fair sprinkling of bishops.

A recent issue of *America* (Oct. 1, 1955) carries the news that Mr. Hannah has been converted to Catholicity. Actually the conversion was not directly a result of the Masonry issue but of another example of straddling: the recognition by the Church of England of the validity of orders conferred in the Church of South India, a merger of Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed groups. The Church of South India is not committed "to any particular interpretation of episcopacy or any particular view or belief concerning orders of the ministry." Since the Church of England recognizes the validity of orders conferred under this nebulous intention, the Church of England by this recognition declares that it is no longer committed to any particular view of belief concerning orders of the ministry. This admission knocks the props from under the position of those Anglican clergymen who have held that their episcopacy and priesthood were continuous with and the same as that of the Apostolic Church.

LEO A. CULLUM