

THE PERSONALITY OF CHRIST

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The personality of Christ by Anscar Vonier

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ANSCAR VONIER

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OF CHRIST**

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THE PERSONALITY OF CHRIST

BY

DOM ANSCAR VONIER, O.S.B.

ABBOT OF BUCKFAST

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Cum librum cui titulus 'The Personality of Christ'
a Rmo P. Anschario Vonier, Abbate Congregationis
Nostrae, anglico sermone exaratum, Rmus P. Abbas
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et in lucem edi posse probaverit, facultatem facimus
ut typis mandetur, si iis ad quos pertinet ita videbitur.

Datum Sublaci in Protocoenobio S. Scholasticae, V.,
die 26 Junii 1914.

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Abb. Gen.

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WESTMONASTERII,
die 26 Augusti, 1914.

FOREWORD

THE four Gospels are the books most written about and most commented on in our own days. No age has produced anything superior, in finished scholarship, to the Gospel literature of our times. Even those exegetes from whom the fulness of the Christian faith is not to be expected are mostly reverent and often exhibit learning of the highest quality. Indeed, the modern system of 'Meditation,' on the other hand, as an integral part of spiritual and ascetical life, has produced an endless variety of books in which Christ's Life is set forth in a way that ought to be most efficacious in making us understand the Gospels, as they are ransacked by the writers of 'Meditations' in order to compel us to more intimate love for, and more close imitation of, Christ. Some of those productions are really superior studies of the wonderful character of Christ, and they give us what mere exegetical learning could never give—an insight into Christ's intimate Life. The present work is neither exegetical, nor apologetical, nor

devotional, but strictly theological. Catholic Christology has received less attention from the public, though our own days have seen the production of some first-rate treatises *de Verbo Incarnato* by professional theologians. Yet we cannot entirely neglect the theological view of Christ without grave dangers to both our exegetical and devotional efforts. In my own humble way I am trying to help in filling up the great gap with the present modest book.

The English Fathers of the Dominican Order are bringing out an English translation of the third part of the *Summa* of St. Thomas Aquinas, which is his treatise on the Incarnation. That there should be a demand for such a work, in the Anglo-Saxon world, is a thing to rejoice the Angels ; there are evidently men amongst us eager to penetrate the subtleties and sound the depths of the masterpieces of religious thought.

My book is a very unconventional rendering of the most important points of the third part of the *Summa* ; but I trust that I have at least succeeded in giving the spirit of the great medieval saint and thinker, and if the following pages produce a desire in the reader to go to the *Summa* itself, I shall consider that I have had a notable success.

ANSCAR VONIER, O.S.B.

BUCKFAST ABBEY.
May 1, 1914.

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