It is this "pre-history" which this carefully documented study, based chiefly on diocesan archival sources, the contemporary press, and periodicals offers. It brings its readers to the day the University opened its doors in November, 1889, The "real" history—merely hinted at in such a statement as: "There were still trying days ahead for the University, but during the seven years of Bishop Keane's rectorship a goodly number of these problems were met and solved, and when in September, 1896, John J. Keane went out of office there was no further doubt in the minds of reasonable men of the University's ultimate success" (p. 399)—that real history is still to be written.

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The ten brief chapters which comprise this volume come riding the wake of the author's immense Nature and Destiny of Man like so many scholia bravely bringing up the rear of a mighty thesis. Dr. Niebuhr calls them "sermons" and "sermonic essays" and in them sends some of the familiar ideas of that earlier work ricocheting against the problems of reconstruction, both international and personal, which the war has left.

Facing the problems of selfishness, anger and vengeance, pride, disillusion, and despair in the certainty of frustration which at present confront our hopes for the future, the reader is led again and again to the very Christian conclusion that mankind must cherish the dream of its ideal and keep striving towards its realization, but at the same time, humbly conscious of the deficiencies of human nature, mankind must not expect too much in this vale of tears.

Discerning the Signs of the Times is written with the same fascinating combination of brilliant phrasing and abstract wordiness which makes the author's style so engaging and yet, at times, so amusing. Its most profound defect is the very unchristian concept of "original sin" which underlies most of its reasoning. Perhaps there is no more vivid testimony to the vitality of the Christian moral ideal than its ability to survive and transcend the quality of the "proofs" which in this, as in so many similar books, are brought to its service. It may yet be that love of "the Way" will lead thoughtful men to a rediscovery of "the Truth" which is the secret of that vitality.

Woodstock College

Joseph Bluett, S. J.
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Published in March, June, September and December at Mt. Royal and Guilford Avenues, Baltimore 2, Md. Entered as second-class matter December 15, 1942, at the Post Office at Baltimore, Md., under the Act of February 28, 1925. Cum firmissimus
Superiorum. Yearly subscription: United States, $5.00; Canada and foreign, $5.50. Single copy $1.25. Special rate to seminarians only, $3.00 a year.
Office of the Editor and Business Office: THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, Woodstock, Md.