

WORD FROM THE CLOISTERS

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Backward glances...

THE TABLET celebrated its fiftieth birthday in 1890 by gleefully scoffing at the “decrepitude” of the Church of England and reproducing page after page of stories of conversions to Rome. “Until the sea give up the dead that are in it, no rendering-up shall be quite so marvellous as that made by Protestantism to Catholicism during the last fifty years. From the Dead Sea of Anglicanism have arisen, in that period, multitudes to be the passengers and the mariners of St Peter’s bark.”

Two years later the paper’s owner, Herbert Vaughan, succeeded Manning as Archbishop of Westminster, receiving the cardinal’s red hat in 1893. The indefatigable Vaughan, then a priest of the diocese of Westminster, had bought the paper in 1868 for £900. In his history of *The Tablet*, Michael Walsh recounts that Vaughan “once told of the cramp he had suffered, working late at night translating papal documents ... cramp in his fingers from holding the pen and cramp in his legs because he could not stretch them out while his sub-editor was curled up asleep under the table”.

IN 1935, the Archbishop of Westminster, Arthur Hinsley, decided to sell off Vaughan’s



inheritance, which had been making a loss for several years, and the following year it returned to lay ownership. Hinsley got £2,000 for it. The centenary issue appeared during the dark days of the Second World War. “The new paganism has unloosed the powers of the abyss,” wrote Christopher Dawson. “The dark forces that have been chained by a thousand years of Christian civilization have now been set free to conquer the world.”

To lighten the mood, the issue featured a collection of spoof letters from the editor “to some of his more important correspondents”,

including one to a Mr Newman of Littlemore:

“My Dear Sir, No one can regret more profoundly than myself the circumstance that a careless printer, in handling the letter you wrote us the other day, should have printed ‘harum-scarum’ for ‘homoiousion’ throughout. It is these harassing details which make the life of an Editor so unenviable. I am sorry, too – I had not myself observed it – that in retracting the error we should have printed ‘homoousion’ for ‘homoiousion’. But the good sense of the public will have made the correction, I feel sure, readily enough.”

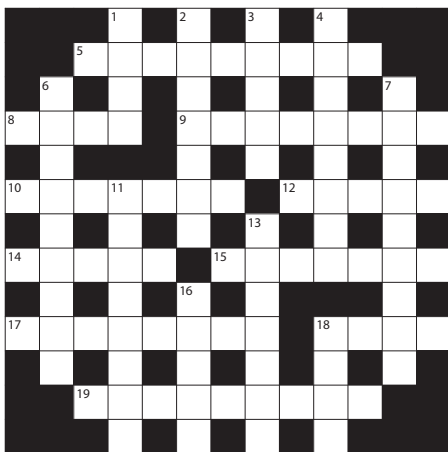
The satirist chortling over the missing iota was Ronald Knox.

FIFTY YEARS later, in the 150th anniversary issue, a congratulatory message from Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, observed that he came across *The Tablet* in vicarage studies as often as in presbyteries – “evidence of its quiet, effective ecumenism”.

In a column opposite, John Harriott recalled how for his Lancashire family “*The Tablet* was like a ghost in the machine of their Catholic life”. Each week, Harriott wrote, “it has to stand apart from the crowd, not to rewrite or gloss over the unpalatable, but to see more deeply, to think more independently. It sheds light and truth or is not worth doing.”

PUZZLES

PRIZE CROSSWORD No. 720 Axe



Please send your answers to: Crossword Competition 15/22 August, *The Tablet*, 1 King Street Cloisters, Clifton Walk, London W6 0GY. Email: thetablet@thetablet.co.uk, with Crossword in the subject field. Please include your full name, telephone number and email address, and a mailing address. Three books – on God, Miracles and Pilgrimage – from the OUP’s Very Short Introduction series will go to the sender of the first correct entry drawn at random.

■ We cannot process entries or prizes at present. Please keep entering. Winners will be notified and prizes awarded as soon possible.

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Across

- 5 Short tax collector of Jericho (9)
- 8 Rocky plateau at the foot of which the Nabateans carved the city of Petra (4)
- 9 Relating to Aramaic-speaking people of biblical Babylonia (KJV spelling) (8)
- 10 Abbot of Glastonbury created Archbishop of Canterbury by King Edgar in 959 (7)
- 12 Canaanite city rebuilt by Solomon, along with Megiddo and Gezer (5)
- 14 Austrian-born composer of oratorios *The Creation* and *The Seasons* (5)
- 15 Capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (7)
- 17 Levite David appointed as a leader of the Temple music (8)

- 18 Son of Omri, husband of Jezebel (4)
- 19 Seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the emanation of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles (9)

Down

- 1 Scene of Jesus’ first miracle, according to John (4)
- 2 Schism between Rome and the East, 482-519 (7)
- 3 Moabite king who hired Balaam to curse Israel (5)
- 4 Sikh place of worship (8)
- 6 Capital of the ancient Kingdom of Israel, then Judah (9)
- 7 Relating to any sacred books considered authentic by the Church (9)

- 11 One of the conservative aristocratic Jewish priesthood, named possibly after Zadok (8)
- 13 Canaanite city adopted by Levites, near where Barak fought Sisera (7)
- 16 Link between Carmelites, Magdalenes, some Cistercian monks, Premonstratensians – and Christmas! (5)
- 18 Semi-circular or polygonal termination of the main building at the liturgical (east) end of a church (4)

SUDOKU | Moderate

		1	4	8			3	6
	6		5					4
							5	
		2						5
6	3		9		8			1
7				1				
	7							
9				5			8	
1	3		6	7	5			

Each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9.

Solution to the 25 July puzzle

8	4	3	9	5	1	7	2	6
7	9	1	2	6	3	4	8	5
5	2	6	8	7	4	1	9	3
1	6	7	5	9	2	8	3	4
9	3	5	6	4	8	2	1	7
4	8	2	1	3	7	6	5	9
3	1	4	7	8	9	5	6	2
2	5	9	4	1	6	3	7	8
6	7	8	3	2	5	9	4	1

Solution to the 25 July crossword No. 717

Across: 7 Nazareth; 8 Holi; 9 Voodoo; 10 Merari; 11 Shishak; 13 Jonah; 15 Rhoda; 17 Massora; 20 Triune; 21 Tishbe; 23 More; 24 Chanukah.

Down: 1 Naboth; 2 Bard; 3 Deborah; 4 Shema; 5 Pharaohs; 6 Gloria; 12 Sadducee; 14 Last Day; 16 Hermon; 18 Riblah; 19 Mercy; 22 Shur.