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Literature

Karl Barth is qualified by practical experience to write on "Church and State" (S.C.M.: 2s. 6d.). He has been a professor in Germany, and the Third Reich obliged him to resign his chair. He resigned simply because he asserted the freedom of a Christian man to speak his mind. It has been one of the permanent misfortunes of Germany that Luther never thought out the problem of the relationship of Church and State. In the past the Lutheran Church has been the servant of the State, with the result that the Führer has been able to step into the authority Luther bestowed upon the sovereign in Church matters. It is the aim of Barth, in his striking work, to travel back to first principles as he reads them in his Bible. His topics are the Church and the State as they confront one another, the essence of the State, the significance of the State for the Church, and the service which the Church owes to the State. On each of these matters he writes with a dispassionateness which commands our admiration. He might be discussing a matter that affects the planet Saturn. Beneath the surface it is clear how much he realises the gravity of the question raised in his very illuminating pages. At bottom his book forces us to consider the ever-old, ever-new question of the relationship of the individual to the State or the Church. The brief notes are most helpful. 4

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