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JHH/PH

9th August, 1938.

Karl Barth, Esq.
c/o The Union Theological Seminary,
New York,
U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

As no doubt you are aware we have had the privilege of preparing the translation and publishing in English Dr. Martin Niemöller's two books, his autobiography "FROM U-BOAT TO PULPIT" and his collection of sermons "FIRST COMMANDMENT". Although it may seem strange, the autobiography did not at first sell well at all despite the eminent position of its author and we reduced the price from 8/6d. to 5/-, and now we are happy to say the book shows signs of distinct recovery. Our first impression is now practically exhausted and we are preparing a new edition.

Most unfortunately these two books were handled for Dr. Martin Niemöller by an agent in London, a German emigré who never handed over to the author the advances we had paid under contract and who ultimately went into liquidation with the result that no money was forthcoming. The autobiography is now reaching the stage where the advance paid has been covered and we hope that the new edition will assist in bringing some small financial assistance to Dr. Niemöller.

We are glad to say that the Dean of Chichester has undertaken to write one or two chapters to go at the end of the autobiography

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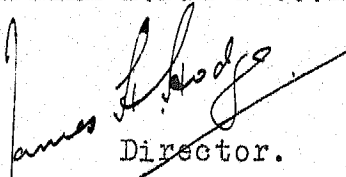
9th August, 1935.

dealing with the work of the author since the establishment of the confessional movement and with the unhappy circumstances which have attended him during the past few years. This we feel will be of very great value indeed, particularly as the Dean is well versed in the church movements in Germany and in particular with the question of Dr. Niemöller.

We would be deeply honoured indeed if you could see your way to writing a few words of appreciation of Dr. Niemöller as a man in the form of a preface to the new edition. We feel assured that this would materially assist in the success and furtherance of the book and we hope that you will see your way to accede to our request. If you will undertake this matter for us and the author, we should be extremely grateful if you could let us have the preface as early as possible as we wish to keep the book out of print as short a time as possible.

The cousin of the undersigned, Professor James Moffatt, of the Union Theological Seminary, New York very kindly wrote a short preface for "FIRST COMMANDMENT" and perhaps a thousand words from your pen would go further in the interests of the author at this time than anything else we can do on his behalf.

Yours faithfully,
for WILLIAM HODGE & CO. LTD.


Director.