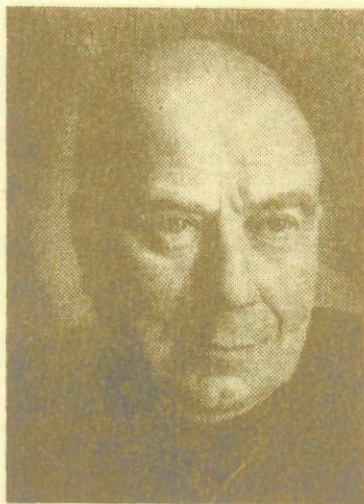


# THE CHURCH ABROAD

MAY, 1957



*The Archbishop of Cape Town*

## A Great Character

By Father Trevor Huddleston, C.R.

**G**EOFFREY HARE CLAYTON, Archbishop of Cape Town, was a bishop, a theologian and scholar; a lover of souls and a warrior of Christ; so outstandingly "big" in each of these ways that it seems essential that those who knew him only by name, should realise what he was.

He served the Church of the Province of South Africa for twenty-three years: fourteen as Bishop of Johannesburg, the remainder as Metropolitan. I am sure that, in the history of the Anglican Church, he must rank amongst the greatest of our Bishops. His episcopate in South Africa covered turbulent years. And, in the Providence of God, he was in the places where his influence could most be felt at precisely the right time.

Together with humility, Geoffrey Clayton possessed and gave expression to that rare Christian virtue, gift of the Holy Spirit, "ghostly strength", by which I mean the courage to state the truth, both to society and to individuals, without respecting persons. I could go on forever about his personal characteristics: not least that glorious sense of humour which showed itself first in the eyes, then, very slightly at the corners of the mouth, then in a chuckle and finally in a laugh which shook him from head to toe and in which one was simply swept away. He was that rarest of all beings in our stereotyped world "a great character"—Churchillian, if you like—but transformed and transmuted (even his natural impatience) by the grace of God.