

THE SAMARITAN OF SOLFERINO

In its July 1978 edition, the review *Beiträge zur Weltlage* contains an interesting article on Henry Dunant, written by the editor, Mr. Ernst Schenkel, to mark the 150th anniversary of Dunant's birth.

The title of the article: "The Samaritan of Solferino and his humanitarian influence on the future" ¹, and its direct reference to the Gospel parable, immediately set the tone. This is a study on the profound influence that the Christian religion of 19th Century Calvinistic Geneva, heavily imbued with the spirit of religious revival, had on Henry Dunant and how it was reflected in all his work. The author follows Dunant from childhood to old age and points to the constant presence of biblical inspiration in his writings, thoughts and deeds. What is more, he shows how Dunant patterned his life, unconsciously perhaps, on the biblical character Job. The article thus contributes to our understanding of Dunant's personality and spiritual development through the highly contrasting circumstances of his life. This aspect of Dunant's character, which biographers have certainly mentioned without studying it at any great depth, is described here with meticulous attention to detail.

L. C. GREEN:

SUPERIOR ORDERS IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW ²

Should criminal acts be defended on the plea that they were committed in obedience to superior orders? This is a question that has been discussed since a very long time. Justinian's maxim, which L.C. Green chose as an epigraph to his book, and quotations from Saint Augustine, Grotius, Victoria and Locke, serve to remind us of that fact. Even today

¹ *Der Samariter von Solferino und sein in die Zukunft wirkender Menschlichkeitsimpuls*, *Beiträge zur Weltlage*, No. 49/50, p. 1-19, July 1978, Wabern.

² A. W. Sijthoff, Leiden, 1376 XIX+377 pp.