

THE RECORD

The Editor writes:

APOLOGY?

I understand that, in the strict sense, an apology is the offering of a reason or justification for a certain fault or failing, or even for the course of a life, as in the case of the eminent Victorian churchman whose name has recently been again prominently in the news. John Henry Newman wrote his *Apologia pro Vita Sua* to justify the path of life and thought which had led him to move from the Anglican communion to that of Rome. He felt that his integrity had been wrongly impugned by Charles Kingsley. His *Apologia* (1864) is largely an autobiographical account of his religious opinions until 1845, asserting the consistency of their tendency and direction with the transition of that year.

In that sense, there is no apology for the very late appearance of this issue of *The Record* and any which I might contrive would not convince me nor, I suspect, anyone else. Contributors who long ago met the Editor's deadlines, the officers and members of the Society and our other subscribers and readers do, however, deserve some expression of regret for a lateness for which there is no-one to blame except the Editor himself. Like the Apostle and, I suspect, many others, I do not understand my own actions (or, in this case, inaction) but at this time I do regret it. Vain regretful tears? Only the future and, in particular, the appearance of another issue before next AGM can disprove that.

In the meantime I hope that Alasdair Heron's paper with its apparent challenge to Maxwellian orthodoxy and the other matter in this issue will be found both of interest in themselves and appropriate to the anniversaries of 2009 and 2010.