

Blackfriars

Edmund, and many other famed English writers, he had never visited the schools at Paris.' Moreover, one who has been to Rolle's birthplace ought not to put it four miles west of Pickering. Thornton is two miles east of that town. So also Fountains Abbey is south-west and not south-east of Byland.

Among other errors we noticed several puzzling pieces of Latin: *regulis locus* (p. 12), *De Triplice Via* (p. 148), *sacerdotus* and *sancti Dei Ricardi* (p. 183). Besides these, we believe that Miss Comper has used two familiar Latin words in an unjustifiable way. Both occur in reference to the same subject, the nine lessons of the breviary Office composed in hope of Rolle's canonisation. She writes, 'These nine lessons are generally known as the *Vite* The *Vite*, being the main source of his life, are of great importance' (p. 4). And so *passim*. The nine lessons might reasonably and properly be known as the *Vita*; but why *Vite*? Again, referring to the same lessons, 'The *Legenda* give us quaint and picturesque incidents in her life.' But *legenda* is not the plural of a supposed *legendum* meaning a lesson: it is a feminine singular.

It is a relief to turn from Miss Comper to Dom Noetinger. The latter is already well-known for his French editions of the *Cloud of Unknowing* and Hilton's *Scale of Perfection*, and we have learnt to expect from him careful and sound work. And he has, of course, the advantage of being a Catholic and of knowing the spiritual world in which Rolle lived. In the book before us he publishes a French version of three of Rolle's works, with useful notes. It may seem paradoxical, but we do not hesitate to say that for the ordinary person who is not a specialist in Middle English, yet can read French, this is the proper edition of Rolle. Here he is in a modern language, without the hindrances of archaic diction and perplexed syntax and constant reference to a glossary.

Apart from his version, Dom Noetinger gives us a hundred pages of Introduction, which comprises a sketch of Rolle's life and an intelligent account of his spiritual experience and spiritual teaching. We may reasonably rejoice to find that Rolle was not half-educated, or an unbalanced visionary, or even a precursor of the Reformation; but an orthodox theologian and a normal Catholic contemplative. J.M.

BLESSED CUTHBERT MAYNE. By R. A. McElroy, C.R.L. (Sands & Co.; pp. 127; 3/6 net.)

We cannot know too much of our English martyrs and, therefore, this biographical study of the protomartyr of the English

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seminaries by the Prior of Bodmin is to be cordially welcomed. Always, of course, in the west of England, in the Devon of his birth and the Cornwall of his death, will Blessed Cuthbert Mayne be held in special veneration, but his martyrdom has also an historic importance—as Father McElroy is at pains to prove—for Anglicans and for others seeking the truth concerning the change in religion under Elizabeth. The Anglican historians have simply burked the plain facts of the trial and execution of the ex-Anglican parson, Cuthbert Mayne. Father McElroy quotes Green, S. R. Gardiner and Dr. Frère, and convicts them of mis-statement. Bishop Frere is, of course, incorrigible; his prejudice for the Established Church will not allow him to tell the truth when it comes to the story of what happened in the sixteenth century, and that's all that can be said about it. Father McElroy, in addition to setting out very clearly that all who will may read the life story of Cuthbert Mayne, adds valuable and interesting matter concerning the relics of the martyr and the families of Arundell and Weston, and gives an exceedingly helpful chronology and some appropriate illustrations. The case against Sir Richard Grenville for his part in the persecution and martyrdom—an evil part—is also stated. The book, in short, may be recommended to the general reader and to the student alike.

J.C.

GOLDEN MEMORIES : THE LOVE LETTERS AND PRISON LETTERS OF WILLIAM O'BRIEN. Edited, with a personal appreciation, by his widow, Sophie O'Brien. (Dublin : M. H. Gill and Son, Ltd., 2 vols., 5/- each.)

The gathering together of these Golden Memories has clearly been a labour of love. The compiler of them is the only one who could pass final judgement on the fitness of publishing letters which concerned her and her husband so intimately. Their most precious revelation to those who are interested in the public career of the late William O'Brien will be of the loyalty and love which bound two lives together. William O'Brien was one of those Irish leaders whose passionate patriotism led his associates to believe that no romantic attachment could come between him and his love of his land—the Dark Rosaleen of so many tragedies; and it was said that his marriage with the compiler of these memories was as impossible as the marriage of Cardinal Manning and Queen Victoria. But the impossible was achieved because of the love for Ireland which filled each life. The Letters speak throughout of