

# BLACKFRIARS

## A MONTHLY REVIEW

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### MAURICE BARING

By the death of Maurice Baring BLACKFRIARS loses one of its very earliest friends and contributors. It was characteristic of the man that, when importuned to write for us, he did not disdain to give of his best to an unknown editor of a then non-existent review. He answered almost by return with two perfect sonnets, *Mozart* and *Beethoven*, which have been praised as among the best he ever wrote. In one of his books he says that the most delightful part of writing for publication is correcting the proofs. This mysterious saying only became intelligible when he returned his first corrected proofs of a translation of Soloviev's *Easter Letter*: I think nearly every other word was changed and the whole thing had to be re-set!

The literary temperament develops sophistication and artificiality which are frightening and disconcerting to ordinary mortals. Not so Maurice, who had a simplicity and humility which put you at your ease. He got on excellently with children and ordinary simple folk because he was always just his own simple spontaneous self. I know of no writer whose sincere character shines more clearly through all he has written and for that reason it would seem his works will endure. May God rest his soul. B. D.