

Blackfriars

His work as spiritual director forms the subject of the third part: St. Francis and Women of the World. Mde. de Char-moisy, Mde. de Fléchère and others of his correspondents are portrayed in order to bring some of our modern women into close touch with those remarkable women who were instrumental in giving us the magnificent Counsels of St. Francis de Sales. In the last section, St. Francis and the Life of the Spirit, the author writes of the inner life of the Saint. His friendship with Mde. de Chantal and the fruit of that friendship are inevitably described here. Altogether it is a charming and sympathetic study. The translation reads well. But why re-translate from the French the opening lines of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*?

C.N.L.

A DUEL OF WITS. By F. M. Harrison. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 7/6.)

The year of grace 1692—stirring times, those; romantic, adventurous times, too, when a girl could try her hand at highway robbery, a priest travel secretly about his duties and risk his neck daily, and a Spanish nobleman work for the Stuart cause in England: yet there is little that is stirring in *A Duel of Wits*, nothing, certainly, to keep one awake at night; but there is enough romance and just enough adventure to make Mr. Harrison's book companionable by a winter fireside. I do thank him for not grinding the Catholic axe; and I am grateful for some attractive, short, descriptive passages, and for meeting Don Inigo, Lucy, and Grannie Merton.

R.R.

ONE LORD ONE FAITH: An Explanation. By Vernon Johnson. (Sheed and Ward; paper covers 2/6, cloth 3/6.)

'The Saint of Lisieux pointed me to the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church sent me to Holy Scripture; and Holy Scripture sent me back to the Catholic Church.' This is the pith of Vernon Johnson's explanation of his conversion, which has recently been made much of in the newspapers. The simple, clear statement of the case may be recommended to Catholics who wish to refurbish their reasons of belief when dealing with their Anglican friends; but the book was written primarily as an explanation to Father Vernon's own former co-religionists, who, we hope, will all read it carefully. There can be no doubt that they will derive profit from it. Vernon Johnson insists upon the fact, which he declares is not realised by Catholics, of the great gulf that separates Catholicism and Anglo-Catholicism. They are entirely different worlds and for many Anglicans, as for

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Vernon Johnson before 1925, it is a fact that the Catholic Church is simply non-existent. Such a book as Father Vernon's should forge many links for Anglo-Catholics and show them the Catholic Church as the one living and vigorously thriving reality.

MR BLUE. By Myles Connolly. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 5/-.)

'Do what you will. You can't make me believe that Blue is dead.' Indeed, no. He is gloriously alive, thanks to Mr. Connolly. J. Blue, 'a gent. who's so happy he's almost crazy,' who 'would not, indeed, favour with special courtesy and thought those influential men who were in a position to help him,' 'a man worried because he was so happy,' a youth who frittered away a fortune, lived in a painted packing case on top of a sky-scraper, loved toy balloons and paupers and laughter and talk and the Faith—you must meet J. Blue! And Myles Connolly, who says 'Blue "exchanged money with the poor for their delight with the helpless for lighter hearts. I thought at one time he was setting a bad example for other plutocrats. But the fear was unfounded. Nobody imitated him,"' an author whose rational temper is the perfect foil to his subject's grand unreasoningness, and whose quiet style and simplicity and apparently haphazard arrangement are pure art—you must meet Mr. Connolly, too. In short, you must read this book.

R.R.

PETER'S CITY. An Account of the Origin, Development and Solution of the Roman Question. By Thomas Irving Moore. (Harding and More, Ltd., The Ambrosden Press; 12/6.)

This book might be read with great profit side by side with another book on the same subject recently published in Paris, *Le Partage de Rome*, by the eminent French journalist, 'Pertinax,' where some of the more controversial aspects of the Roman solution are very critically examined. Mr. Moore, however, is not so much concerned with controversy, which is apt to mislead, and in the long run is tedious. There is nothing tedious in Mr. Moore's vivid and well-illustrated narrative. In a previous work he took us to *The Heart of Spain*. In *Peter's City* he brings us to the heart of Rome and makes us understand the conditions and circumstances that have led to the signing of the Lateran Treaty.