

## Book Reviews

LIFE OF SAINT JOHN EUDES. By Henri Joly. Translated by Rev. Joseph Leonard, C.M. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne. Pp. xxv—223; 6/-.)

The reader of this short biography will learn, perhaps for the first time, that St. John Eudes was the first to spread liturgical devotion to the Sacred Heart. This does not imply that others before him had not practised this devotion privately; we know that devotion to the Heart of Jesus was characteristic of the Benedictine piety of St. Gertrude, but up to the time of St. John Eudes, no one, apparently, had taken measures to spread a public cultus.

It is intelligible that the Fathers of the French Oratory should have raised strong objections to his leaving their community, and we are inclined to look with indulgence upon the tactics they employed to prevent his departure, though we should hardly describe them as 'cricket.'

The founding of seminaries for the much needed education of the clergy claimed an abundance of energy and perseverance from St. John Eudes. So successful were his efforts that eighteen of these flourished at his death, although they were to be swept away by the fury of the French Revolution.

It is, however, as the founder of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary for men, and of the Order of Our Lady of Charity for women, that this great figure in French ecclesiastical history is best known to-day.

R.H.

BLESSED LOUIS-MARIE GRIGNON DE MONTFORT. By Georges Rigault. Translated by C. M. D. B., with foreword by the Lord Bishop of Menevia. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne. Pp. viii—180; 5/-.)

One is led to wonder, after reading this gripping story, whether any of God's servants have been so mercilessly snubbed by 'good people' as was Louis-Marie de Montfort. It has been said only too accurately that 'the good is the enemy of the better,' and we find this truth written across nearly every page of this short life. Without question, the hero was one of those characters whose 'singularities' are hardly ever in abeyance, but thanks to his humility his pastoral work for souls never seems to have been prejudiced by them.

Louis-Marie stands out pre-eminently as the apostle of devotion to Our Lady, and it was through this, rather than through anything else, that he was able to lead so many souls to the solid practice of their religion.

R.H.