

The Spirituality of Mother Thérèse Couderc

When the cause is brought before the Court of Rome, it will not be difficult to demonstrate that the servant of God practised the Theological and Cardinal virtues to that high degree which is styled heroic.

We declare that we do not attach to the words and facts quoted any other value than that of private testimony and we wish to conform ourselves in all to the decree of Urban VIII and to the other rules of the Church concerning the beatification and canonisation of the saints.

EDOUARD HUGON, O.P.

Rome, Angelico. April 1927.

BOOK REVIEWS

A HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OR SAINTE UNION, 1576-1595. By Maurice Wilkinson, M.A. (Glasgow: Jackson, Wylie & Co.; 10/6 net.)

Here is a book that will serve both the student of sixteenth century European politics and the lover of the history of France. A scholarly piece of work, written in a style that makes good reading and enlivened by the comments of an author at ease with his subject. Often the comments are provocative. 'Catholicism and Royalism are historically inseparable in France,' declares Mr. Wilkinson at the very beginning of his story of the League; and with grave hurt to religion and monarchy it might be added when the abuses complained of by the French bishops in 1579 are considered. 'Over 800 abbeys were in the gift of the King and not more than 100 of them were occupied by regular abbots; all sorts of persons, many of bad character, held the rest *in commendam*, and 28 bishoprics were vacant and their incomes appropriated by laymen.' The Church was helpless in the matter, the author adds; 'those who were to blame were Francis I and Leo X who made the Concordant of Bologna.' More provocative is the *obiter dictum*: 'Democracy is merely the tyranny of a vulgar caucus in the place of the tyranny, if tyranny there be, of a sovereign who at least has the

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instincts of decent behaviour, the accumulated tradition of centuries.' (Mr. Wilkinson takes rather a high line when he turns from the notable episode of the League and reflects on modern politics: 'Those who have a stake in the country may fairly safely be reckoned as constitutionalists. Those who had everything to gain and nothing to lose were Leaguers, much in the same way as in our days they would be radicals and socialists.') But these remarks, which may please, or irritate—and the author is probably quite indifferent to the reader's feelings—do not take away from the real value of the book. This history of twenty critical years, with its just estimates of the characters of the leading persons in the drama, its clear exposition of the aims of Leaguers, Huguenots and Royalists, and its vivid descriptions of the changing fortunes of the groups concerned, does make plain much that was obscure. Many documents are appended, also a bibliography of appalling length. ('It is hardly necessary to say that I have only looked at the merest fraction of these works,' the author explains—for our comfort). The book is well printed, and this is to the credit of the Glasgow University Press.

J.C.

THE HEROINE OF PE-TANG. HELEN DE JAURIAS, SISTER OF CHARITY (1824-1900). By Henry Mazeau. Crowned by the French Academy. Translated from the French by an Ursuline Grandniece of Hélène de Jaurias. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd. ; 6/- net.)

To the outsider, the life of any Sister of Charity appears heroic, but some of them, like Hélène de Jaurias, have to face difficulties and dangers beyond the ordinary routine of their wonderful vocation. This account of the life, work and tragic death of Sister de Jaurias must be good reading in the original French, told with humour, and giving much interesting information about a Sister of Charity's life in China. The translation is unfortunately not good. About ten years after she became a Sister of Charity, Hélène de Jaurias was sent as a Superior to China where she set her hand to every good work, but especially to the task of raising the Chinese woman from her state of servitude and degradation. So well did she succeed, that at the outbreak of the Boxer rising she had actually started retreats for Chinese ladies which were well attended. The great International Hospital at Shang-Hai was begun and organized entirely by her.

The terrible accounts of the sufferings undergone during the Siege of Peking make us realize what a missionary in China has