

## **Blackfriars**

It is a sequel to *The Shadow on the Earth*, in the sense that the same characters appear again, with one very important addition in the person of Beauty Dethier. But the theme now, different from that in the earlier novel, deals with the contrast between the attitude of the materialist and the attitude of the Catholic on the vital question of human love. Yet it must not be concluded that the moral overlays the action of the story. On the contrary, the plot is vivid and full with incident. The characterisation is good, notably in the development of Beauty Dethier's view of love and religion down into the depths and up finally to heroic heights. Basil, again, is a very human and attractive boy. The Monk, the Major and above all Eric, will be welcomed by those who have already made their acquaintance and will speedily attract those who meet them for the first time.

As a novel it is good, but as a statement and justification of the Catholic position on the question of love and marriage it is a magnificent and yet entirely palatable piece of apologetic. The thesis and arguments of the materialist are put forward fairly and as convincingly as could be desired even by their protagonists, notably in the public speech by Julian Verrers. They are met and overthrown with admirable finality not merely in the answering speech of Bro. Anselm, the Masterful Monk, (which, by the way, did not seem to merit the ovation given to it) but again and again throughout the book.

It is, unfortunately, again produced in the same objectionably lurid jacket, with another startling illustration not less deplorable. This is doubtless a policy—but equally undoubtedly a mistaken policy. H.C.

**THE LIFE OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.** By the Rev. Harold Burton. Vol. II. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd.; 15/-.)

In this second volume of his *Life of St. Francis de Sales* Fr. Harold Burton maintains the excellence of the first volume, published four years ago. Fr. Burton has not rushed his work. He set himself a great task and he has accomplished it, or rather will accomplish it, for there is still a third volume to come. This volume deals with the last twelve years of the Saint's life. It begins with the foundation in 1610 of the Order of the Visitation. As we know, St. Francis was the co-founder with Mde. de Chantal, who, like him, is now a Saint of the Church. The close association of these two Saints is described in detail. They were friends and God made abundant use of

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their friendship. The Order developed with remarkable rapidity. St. Francis saw the erection of thirteen convents and Mde. de Chantal herself founded eighty-seven.

The labours of the Saint seemed to increase with the years. It would be difficult to find a more active bishop. Each single day was crowded. To govern his diocese, taking into consideration the time and the place, on the morrow of the Reformation and in a stronghold of Protestantism, was in itself a formidable task. He preached, heard confessions, wrote hundreds of letters. He never refused an interview. He was the despair of his household and friends in this respect. They expostulated with him, but he refused to give way. He died at Lyons in 1622 in the 56th year of his age.

There is an index to the two volumes and an excellent map of Savoy, the country of his birth and his ministry. A third volume, dealing with the beatification and canonisation of St. Francis, is promised. It will also contain a study of the Saint's most notable characteristics and other matters of interest.

C.N.L.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES. By Henri Bordeaux. Translated by Sister Benita. (Longmans, Green and Co. ; 10/6 net.)

This is a study of St. Francis de Sales by M. Bordeaux, the eminent Member of the French Academy. It is a study of the human side of the Saint, an attempt to portray 'the aspect of his character that is most readily grasped by the average reader.' The result is a double tribute, to the author and to his subject; the outcome of a posthumous friendship between fellow Savoyards. M. Bordeaux lays claim to St. Francis. And he is not to be gainsaid. He was born in a house which belonged to Mde. de Charmoisy (the Philothea of *The Introduction to a Devout Life*) and in which the Saint and Mde. de Chantal had been guests. He has read and re-read the complete edition of the Saint's works. And he wishes to make the Gentle Saint, who 'kept in the common way' (as Mde. de Chantal said of him) better known.

A sub-title, *Theologian of Love*, gives us the key to the study. It is divided into four parts. The first part, The Personality of St. Francis, gives an intimate study of the childhood, youth, vocation, work and daily life of St. Francis. The second part is headed: St. Francis and Love in Marriage. It is based on *The Introduction to a Devout Life* and treats of such as the Young Girl, the Married Woman, etc., applying the wisdom and teaching of St. Francis to problems of family and married life.