

One question never mooted is, how long it took for the devotion to be stamped out of the hearts of the English people. Perhaps there is no evidence, but as late as 1555, two Dominican nuns who had been driven from their monastery at Dartford sixteen years before were 'living continently' at Walsingham, and doubtless they at least remembered our Lady. (EHR. Vol 48 (1933), p. 211.)

The book is well produced, with nine pages of plates and a folding plan of the priory, but the price seems rather high for these one hundred and fifty pages.

GODFREY ANSTRUTHER, O.P.

MABEL DIGBY. By M. K. Richardson. (Longmans; 16s. 6d.)

Mabel Digby, the daughter of parents passionately devoted to each other, passed through a childhood of great happiness to enter on a period of excessive bitterness caused by Simon Digby's harsh rejection of his wife and two of their daughters after their admission to the Catholic Church. Mabel sided with her father in his bigotry and seems to have joined in this persecution. When her health forced her to return to France and join her mother she treated that poor lady in the most unfeeling manner by her 'outward show of scrupulous courtesy'. At length she herself was converted by what seemed a miracle when, much against her will, she attended Benediction in the church of Notre Dame des Tables at Montpellier. She sat sullenly on a chair until the third stroke of the Benediction bell and was then seen to throw herself suddenly on her knees, 'her face lit with a strange radiance, while great tears rolled silently down her cheeks from eyes that gazed and gazed'. The old family happiness, however, never returned even when Simon showed signs of relenting, and this sorrow was the foreshadowing of that which overtook her at the end of her life when as Mother General of the Society of the Sacred Heart she was to witness in person the closing of all her convents in France and the expulsion of her Sisters under the anticlerical regime of M. Combes in 1907. Her sufferings, however, were softened by the wonderful joy brought her and her daughters by the solemn beatification of their saintly foundress, Blessed Madeleine Sophie Barat, by Saint Pius X in 1908. Her health, however, prevented her presence at that ceremony and her holy death occurred in 1911.

In keeping with what the gifted authoress Mother Richardson calls 'the unscholarly treatment' of her biography, but what we would prefer to call attractive, is the choice of the illustration which forms the frontispiece and adorns the jacket, in which Mabel appears in full riding habit complete with top hat and switch, an unusual introduction to the life of a servant of God.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.