

HENRI LACORDAIRE. ESSAY ON THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT IN FRANCE OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS. Edited by Simon Tugwell OP, with an introduction by André Duval OP. *Dominican Publications*. Dublin, 1983 Pp. xx + 68. Obtainable on direct application to Dominican Sources in English, *New Blackfriars, Oxford OX1 3LY, £2.20.*

This is a new translation of the *Mémoire pour le rétablissement en France des Frères Prêcheurs* which was first published on 3 March 1839 and which was designed by Lacordaire to win the approval, or at least the acquiescence, of his countrymen for his projected restoration of the Dominican Order in their midst. He rightly anticipated that the project would encounter opposition in France as well as in Rome and this persuasively written brochure did much to disarm the critics and to prepare the ground for the eventual success of the enterprise.

He based his appeal primarily on the freedom of association that had been promised in the Charter of 1830 which, he argued, made the restoration of religious orders legitimate. Then he proceeds to say why the re-establishment of the Dominicans was particularly desirable and supported this contention with a historical survey of what they had accomplished not only as religious teachers but in the field of the arts, culture and piety. He then devoted a whole chapter to the subject of the Inquisition, in which he sought as far as possible to dissociate the Dominicans from that unpopular institution. This was no doubt the chief obstacle that he had to overcome, and he was able to rebut many of the false ideas on the subject that had gained currency and were being exploited by the enemies of the Church.

Altogether it is a very effective piece of writing which is well worth reading today, even though Lacordaire made careless statements, as is pointed out in the notes to this edition. It certainly merits its early inclusion in this new series of Dominican Sources.

ALEC VIDLER

MOUNT FUJI AND MOUNT SINAI by Kosuke Koyama. *S.C.M. Press, London, 1984.*
Pp. x + 273. £7.95

This book is a kind of extended theological meditation on Japanese history (especially the traumatic experiences associated with the loss of the war in 1945) and Japanese religious culture (Shinto and Buddhist). The author's personal experience and the wider background of Japanese culture are brought into sympathetic relation with his Christian understanding. The Christian themes that are especially significant for him are the Old Testament prophetic tradition (particularly Jeremiah) and a Lutheran theology of the cross. The bringing together of these disparate traditions is not carried through in any systematic way. In large measure the author works by means of the association of ideas. A phrase or motif from one tradition brings to mind a piece of scripture or teaching from the other, and the two are set alongside one another in creative juxtaposition. The emerging parallels and contrasts are at times illuminating, but at other times appear arbitrary and superficial. A number of dominating motifs (the 'impassioned' God, idolatry, human greed) recur many times, in a way that might have been more effective in a spoken meditation. In written form, despite several interesting illustrations and insights along the way, the overall impact of the book tends to be one of unnecessary discursiveness and repetition. The book gives encouragement concerning the potential inherent in a greater interplay between Eastern and Western traditions of religious thought, but cannot be said to make a very significant contribution to that process.

MAURICE WILES