

BLACKFRIARS

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EDITORIAL

CARDINAL BOURNE'S death marks the close of thirty years of English Catholic history to which in the future his name will no doubt be affixed. Already his long rule at Westminster can be seen to have something of the unity and consistency which we associate, for instance, with the Manning period. His consciousness of being a Londoner, the absorption of the old Catholic tradition at Ushaw and Old Hall (and perhaps also his period of novitiate with the English Dominicans), served to anchor him in the life of England. A clear understanding of English habits of thought and outlook contributed to his marked success in dealing with changing governments and to his universal prestige in the non-Catholic world.

It is of particular and personal interest to us to remark that such qualities, added to a deeply spiritual character, were undoubtedly responsible for the great and unvaried confidence which he placed in Father Bede Jarrett, O.P., to whom he was attached so strongly. They met for the first time thirty years ago, one evening at Imberhorn, when Francis Bourne was Bishop of Southwark and Cyril Jarrett was leaving Stonyhurst. Their personal friendship then begun was sustained, and years later Father Bede, become now almost in spite of himself an acknowledged exponent of Catholic truth, was encouraged and sustained by his

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sympathy with all that the Cardinal represented and by a serene trust in his judgement. It might even seem symbolic that the Cardinal presided, in 1921 and in 1929, on the two principal occasions of the re-founding of the Oxford Blackfriars.

It was characteristic of the period to which both belonged that their English traits were tempered as well as emphasized by their foreign contacts. In the case of the Cardinal the influence of Saint Sulpice led to the care which he gave to the question of the training of priests, and his sympathetic understanding of French Catholicism was in part responsible for his great success as the spiritual leader of the English Catholics during the European War. Throughout his rule his conduct of affairs was marked by a judgement rather conservative in its mould, according with sound traditional opinion, and by a care that his words and writings should be worthy of the office with which God had entrusted him. A deep and personal interest in spiritual matters and the saintliness so manifest in him could alone have given him that constant strength and wonderfully equable temper with which he bore so worthily the burden of his pastoral charge. *Requiescat in pace.*



Firm in our conviction of the interest and importance of this question, we are happy to offer our readers in this issue three noteworthy articles on Christian unity. While Father St John reiterates his point of view in a careful statement, it is instructive to read along with it the consentient opinions of a Catholic Bishop and of a Catholic Professor domiciled in a country where the issue is as alive as in our own.

EDITOR.