

Blackfriars

also receives little attention. This defect is most noticeable in the chapter on 'Charity, Unity, Peace,' which is short and deals almost exclusively with the last of the three. The value of the book would have been greatly increased had there been more concentration on the Mass. However, once the reader grasps this point, he can supply from his own meditations the true perspective, and this after all is to follow out Fr. Martin-dale's desire that we should use the book as a starting point for a deeper understanding of the Mass than any book can provide.

C.P.

JOHNSON AND QUEENY : LETTERS FROM DR. JOHNSON TO QUEENY
THRALE. From the Bowood Papers. Edited by the Mar-
quis of Lansdowne. (Cassel & Co., 1932; cloth, £2/5/0.)

When Hester, Viscountess Keith, died in 1857 at her house in Piccadilly at the age of ninety-three, there passed away not only a very great lady, but also the last survivor of all the famous men and women who figured in the pages of Boswell. It was well known that Lady Keith had in her youth been the recipient of many letters from Dr. Johnson, for was she not the Queeny Thrale, the child-friend, the ward, almost the adopted daughter of the Sage in the later and happier years of his life? Those letters, jealously treasured, and refused to all collectors, remained hidden and unpublished, until at last the very memory of their existence died down and was gone, and the various editors of Johnson's voluminous correspondence neither knew nor thought of them. But by a happy accident, Lady Keith's papers passed eventually into the keeping of the Marquis of Lansdowne, a descendant of her husband, the celebrated Admiral Lord Keith. Looking through them quite recently, Lord Lansdowne discovered a carefully preserved and absolutely intact series of letters from Dr. Johnson, thirty-three in number, which thus most unexpectedly emerge after an interval of one hundred and fifty years. This is perhaps the greatest Johnsonian 'find' of our time. The letters are admirably written, full of good advice and wise counsel well-suited to the very clever and highly educated girl to whom they were addressed, and show the Doctor in a somewhat new and very charming light. Lord Lansdowne has written a helpful introduction to his book, which is superbly produced, exquisitely bound and printed, and enriched with twelve engravings, including a reproduction of Sir Joshua Reynolds' beautiful portrait of Queeny Thrale preserved in the Lansdowne collection.

F.R.B.