

## REVIEWS

Donatists." Surely, however, there is nothing to be astonished at in the many genuine conversions of those brought to the knowledge of the truth at first unwillingly. But St. Augustine does seem to approve of this government coercion, for he distinctly says, "partly through people obeying God's admonitions, partly owing to others obeying the Imperial commands, all will be called to salvation, all will be recalled from destruction . . . Anyone refusing to obey Imperial laws enacted for God's Truth deserves severe punishment." The letter does at first sight seem to include more than one contradictory view; but the statement made in the latter part of the letter, which I quoted first, refers of course to the Saint's view in 405, which he certainly seems to have modified greatly, if not actually changed when writing to Boniface twelve years later.

Father Pope has indeed achieved a great work and not only the Catholic public will be grateful to him, but many sincere friends of St. Augustine outside the Catholic Church will undoubtedly welcome the volume. The publishers are also to be congratulated on the manner they have produced the book. The four maps at the end are extremely well executed.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.

ST. DOMINIC AND HIS SONS. By Teresa Lloyd. For Boys and Girls. (Sands and Co.; 3s. 6d.)

Miss Lloyd has already proved conclusively, in her *St. Francis for Little Folk* and other works, that she has a more than ordinary gift of writing for the young mind. But she has given us nothing better than this bird's-eye view of Friar Preachers throughout the centuries. It was not an easy task that she set herself to do. It is a platitude to say that St. Dominic and his sons have not had the popular and easy appeal of St. Francis and his friars; and this is not merely due to the mythical tradition of the typical Dominican as an ogre of the Inquisition; it is due also to the fact that the devotion of the Order to Divine Truth in all its aspects has been unduly emphasized on its purely intellectual side, so that the Dominican Saints have seemed somewhat unhuman, or at any rate unhumane. Miss Lloyd has done much to restore the true balance. But the remarkable thing is that she has done this not only by the easy way of introducing very human and attractive facts from the lives of St. Dominic and his sons, but also by the difficult way of explaining in simple language the learning and living and teaching of Truth which is of the very essence of Dominican sanctity.

Miss Lloyd has chosen her subjects extraordinarily well. More than a third of the book is occupied with the story of St. Dominic himself, and the sweetness, the gentleness, the

humility, as well as the burning charity and zeal, of the holy Patriarch, are vividly pictured in a series of vignettes, or better in a succession of brush strokes which combine to produce a beautiful and life-like portrait. The brief stories of the other saints and holy sons of St. Dominic, which go to form the rest of the book, are much less detailed but have the same quality of vividness and beauty; Blessed Jordan, St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Antoninus, St. Pius V, all these holy and typical Dominicans are made to live again within the small compass of less than forty pages. Cardinal Howard makes a brief, perhaps too brief, appearance; whilst Father Lacordaire and Father Thomas Burke, two of the greatest preachers of the nineteenth century, are etched with a very sure and informed hand, noticeable especially in the intermingling of holiness and humour so typical of Father Tom. Finally, there is a well-chosen summary of the life and work of Father Bede Jarrett, probably the most representative Dominican of our own day, to bring to a successful conclusion a very valuable contribution to the literature of the Order.

It would ill become us, however, to bring this review to an end without calling attention to the format and general production of the volume. In several of their recent publications Messrs. Sands have shown that they are determined to produce the best material in the best way. This present book is no exception. The printing and paper are admirable, the illustrations are well chosen and beautifully reproduced, and the dust-cover is most attractive, offering in all very good value for the modest price asked.

HILARY J. CARPENTER, O.P.

FATHER BROWN ON CHESTERTON. By Mgr. John O'Connor.  
(Burns, Oates; 5s.)

When Gilbert Chesterton first went to the Holy Land he found Jerusalem one morning deep in snow, as it had not been deep within the memory of man. Some of us who loved Gilbert Chesterton for his knightly defence both of little things and of old customs could not help seeing in this freak of tropical skies something more than an unwonted but casual fall of snow. We remembered, and we knew that God also remembered, Gilbert Chesterton's defence of the customary Christmas; not just the turkey and plum pudding Christmas of the dining room, but the snow-covered Bethlehems and the snow-bearded Santa Claus of the nursery Christmas. And we could "see amid the winter snow" that startled even the merchants of Jerusalem and the shepherds of Bethlehem, Christ the Child's welcome to one who always looked upon himself as a child who had wandered wondering amongst the prophets.