

Book Reviews

Of his priestly zeal and apostolic efforts during that period there seems to be little doubt, but all the explanation in the world, and all the subsequent enthusiastic oratory to which the incident has given rise, can never justify in the minds of most readers, his astounding conduct in leaving the Blessed Sacrament behind him, and adding to his offence by saying nothing about it. That God could and did bring good out of evil is only what we might expect, and perhaps it is as well that the evil should be lost sight of in the abundance of good of which it seems to have been the seed.

The author justifies his claim to be an historian by his obvious painstaking endeavours to get at the truth and be fair to all—endeavours all the more noticeable when other authorities, such as Cardinal Moran and Grattan Flood, have to be cited, and in almost every citation reveal their pitiful lack of the historical sense in the bitterness of their national bias.

H. R. M.

A KING OF SHADOWS. By Margaret Yeo. (Sheed & Ward; 7/6.)

The King of Shadows is the 'Old Pretender,' and Mrs. Yeo makes him a Catholic hero, entirely charming, charmingly regal. With his devoted friend, the Prince of Este, and Margaret Ogilvie, he shares in a quick succession of adventures that hold our interest, although many of them are too easily arranged and brought to a happy conclusion. Mrs. Yeo has dealt freely with her historical authorities, and offers us a lively romance rather than a Jacobin apologia. Her characters—diverse as they are—and her colouring are sure and pleasing. She tells her tale with a light raciness, and the love intrigue is brightened by a subtle touch of originality. Her technique is exceptionally good, for the most part, and she could undoubtedly achieve far greater success with a stronger plot and a fuller theme.

R. R.

LIFE OF THE VEN. FR. JOSEPH PASSERAT. By Henri Girouille, C.S.S.R. Translated from the French by John Carr, C.S.S.R. (Sands & Co., 1928; 12/6.)

This is the life story of a priest whose claim to holiness has already been officially recognised, for his Cause was introduced at Rome in 1901, and the acts relating to it were declared valid in 1913. As for the greatness of his work, its extent and durability are attested to by the flourishing condition of

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so many Redemptorist provinces outside Italy, of which provinces, while St. Clement Mary Hofbauer is venerated as the Father, his disciple and friend, Fr. Passerat, has been aptly styled the Mother. He it was who nursed the Transalpine section of the Congregation during its most delicate and critical years. This book, then, will appeal in the first place to all those who have any special tie with the Redemptorist Congregation, for it reveals a most important phase in Redemptorist history. It will also be of interest to the general reader, who will see in the growth of a religious institute yet another manifestation of the interior vital activity of the Mystical Body of Christ. The student of history will find the book useful, in so far as it throws light on the attitude of various governments of Europe in the early nineteenth century towards religious orders. As the original of this translation appeared about six years ago, we feel that, in recommending Fr. Carr's work to the English-speaking reader, we need do no more than warn him that in a book of nearly six hundred pages he will find some half-a-dozen misprints and perhaps a dozen places where he will wish that the translator had used more correct or less awkward English. A.L'E.

TERESA HELENA HIGGINSON, School Teacher and Mystic, 1844-1905. Abridged from the larger *Life*. With eight illustrations. By Cecil Kerr. (Sands & Co., 15 King Street, Covent Garden.)

This excellent abridgement of the larger *Life* by the same author, illustrated by several new photographs, should do much to further interest in the story of Teresa Higginson, and so contribute to the cause which an ever-increasing number of her countrymen have so much at heart, the raising of an English-speaking saint to the altars of the Church. The publishers have omitted to mention the price. H.O.

AN ALPHABET OF THE ALTAR and other Hories. By E. Vincent Wareing. Illustrated by Louis Beyaert and E. MacCarthy with Letterings by the Author and G. N. Gillman. (Harding & More, Ltd.; 5/-.)

From A to Z we are told in simple rhymes of Him who is Alpha and Omega. It is a beautiful book in large script type which the young-eyed will enjoy—a delightful companion volume to Robert Hugh Benson's *Alphabet of Saints* and an appropriate gift for a first communicant.