

tures and the liturgy, that the seven-hundred-year-old letters of this Friar have so much to offer us today.

S. M. ALBERT, O.P.

THE ONE TRUE KIRK. By Ronald Walls. (Burns & Oates; 15s.)

At any time the story of a Scottish Presbyterian minister's return to the auld kirk of Rome is news. It does not, alas, happen very often. Such a story appearing at this time has an added interest and poignancy. Four hundred years ago the old religion of Scotland was swept away, and with it much of the warmth and romance of Scotland's past. Nearly two hundred years later there was a brief interlude of romance when the Catholic Prince Charles Edward set foot in Scotland. That passed and once again the glowering spirit of Knox brooded over Scotland. But those defiant words of Mary Queen of Scots, 'Your kirk is not my kirk, Mr Knox', still echo far beyond Holyrood.

Mr Ronald Walls heard a variant of Mary Stuart's words when, as an Edinburgh University student holidaying with a Catholic family in Hungary, a girl said to him: 'My religion goes back to St Peter: yours goes only to Luther'. This Hungarian holiday was one of the signposts on the way home to the old faith. There were many others, meetings with Catholics, discovering Catholic books, such as the late Mgr Ronald Knox's *The Belief of Catholics*. All the way through Mr Walls' fascinating story one has the impression that he was bound to end up in the old faith. There is more than a hint of 'High Church', which may surprise a Catholic reader who has lived among old-style Presbyterians.

Even so, an authentic picture of the Scottish kirk emerges. We meet the die-hard elder hostile to any innovation that smacks of 'popery'. We meet, too, the kindly village folks. We share in their daily lives; we learn what the solemn communion means to them, and come to understand other features of the Presbyterian way of life.

Mr Walls tells a moving and, at the same time, a joyous story, which is a hopeful sign in the land that, before John Knox, was the *filia specialis* of the Holy See.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

MAN AND MORALS. By D. J. B. Hawkins. (Sheed and Ward; 10s. 6d.)

Here, in a hundred concise pages, with his usual reliability and practised style of exposition, Dr Hawkins offers the traditional version of 'morals without religion'. While the study of ethics does eventually disclose a certain incompleteness which points naturally to religion for its complement, religion is not the *basis* of ethics. The starting-point is the nature of man—it is round this point, in fact, that all moral argu-