

SAINTS GO WESTWARD. By Donald Attwater. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons; \$2.50.)

St Peter Claver said: 'A hungry man must be fed, not instructed'—and one of the most unforgettable of these sketches of American saints by Mr Attwater is of that 'slave of the Negroes' setting about the job. But times change. And now we are in danger of being fed by American dollars when we want more than anything instruction by American holiness. American saints! how important they are going to be for the whole world. Who are they in our own times, and what is the pattern of sanctity in their shiny mechanical world? Will they be found only in the new Trappist cloisters? on Rosary Crusade platforms? down in Harlem? Or shall we find them everywhere, Catholicly, up North and down South, round New York and far West, and in South America too? God knows, no man can say. Meantime, here are the pioneers, caught by Mr Attwater in a kind of gossip-column which makes us long to know all about them, and so much more than he tells us. They are all sorts, some twenty of them, revered, venerable, beatified or canonised, from North or South of the great continent, lay and clerical, married and nuns, Spanish, French, Italian, Indian, Negro, English—in a word, as American a collection as possible. And they are a very human lot, for though none of them, with the possible exception of Mother Cabrini, would be anything but amazed in America today; even in those days (for very different reasons) none of them could afford to be made of plaster or stained glass or dream material. Neither can saints in the American continent now. These are the saints of yesterday. But things have happened so fast over there that yesterday seems to have very little to do with today. Only, they challenge their successors. And that is a very good reason for Mr Attwater's having written this book for Americans, and for us to look over their shoulders as they read it, unless we may hope (as hope we do) for an English edition of our own.

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THE COLLECTED WORKS OF ABBOT VONIER. Vol. III. (Burns Oates; 25s.)

In this final volume three books are brought together under the single title, *The Soul and the Spiritual Life*. The three books are, 'The Human Soul', 'Christianus', and 'The Life of the World to Come'. Broadly speaking they deal with the personality of the Christian. As Abbot Vonier remarks in Chapter 47 in his book on the Soul, many men 'are bound to the language and understanding of their childhood days, with the result that faith has become insipid to their mature minds'. And of an English agnostic it was said that 'the only Christianity he ever knew was the one he learned at the age of five'. This is so widely true at the present time that many would profit by reading these collected works.