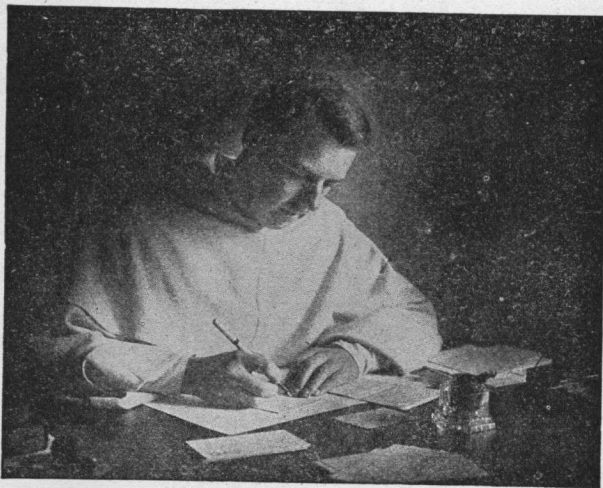


SNATCHES FROM LIFE'S STORY*

TO the Catholics of America Fr. Bede Jarrett, O. P., is familiar as the author of many scholarly productions. His books, all showing the keen perception of an acute mind as well as the tender sympathy of a priestly heart, have been received throughout the English-speaking world with sincere appreciation. But while Fr. Bede's books are an index to his singularly attractive and versatile nature, they often excite some

parentage. His father, Colonel Henry Sullivan Jarrett, has been distinguished for honorable merit in English military service, having received the title of "Commander of the Indian Empire." In the present war four brothers of Fr. Bede have seen active service. One was killed in Gallipoli, another died of wounds received in Flanders, while a third was lately wounded in the operations on the Persian Gulf.

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Very Rev. Bede Jarrett, O. P., S. T. Lr.

curiosity as to the data of his career, which, while it has only lately assumed striking prominence, is nevertheless replete with interesting details. It is with a purpose to give to the many readers of Fr. Jarrett's books some general characteristics of his wonderful personality that the following brief notes have been gathered.

Fr. Bede Jarrett was born on August 22, 1881, of excellent English Catholic

parentage. His father, Colonel Henry Sullivan Jarrett, has been distinguished for honorable merit in English military service, having received the title of "Commander of the Indian Empire." In the present war four brothers of Fr. Bede have seen active service. One was killed in Gallipoli, another died of wounds received in Flanders, while a third was lately wounded in the operations on the Persian Gulf.

Fr. Jarrett's early education was re-

ceived at Stonyhurst, the renowned Jesuit institution. He entered the Dominican novitiate at Woodchester in 1898. Here he displayed remarkable docility. His early ardour and love for the spirit of Saint Dominic nurtured in his gifted nature qualities characteristically Dominican, above all magnanimity and zeal, which have been the salient features of his untiring activities in the ministry. During his novitiate days he wrote with great diligence and accuracy the *Chronicle*, a sort of conventual diary in which a record of

* Data supplied for this article by Brother John-Baptist Reeves, O. P., editor of *Fawkesyard Review*.

current events is kept, a traditional remnant of those mediaeval *scriptoria* which played so important a part in the preservation of historical documents. Fr. Bede gave early indication of his predilection for history by bringing to light during this year an old obituary notice of the Fathers who died in exile at Borheim, the Belgian home of the English Dominicans during the Penal days—which document he transcribed verbatim into the chronicle, as “likely to be useful to historians of the Province.”

After his year of probation he made his simple profession, September 24, 1899, after which he went to the Studium Generale at Hawkesyard for philosophical and theological courses. During these years his mind and heart were set on the Dominican ideal, the perfect blending of science and sanctity, and accordingly his life was characterized by noble persistency in the formation of habits of study and prayer which resulted in the brilliant success of all his undertakings. Nor were his efforts at this time confined to the pursuit of his prescribed curriculum of studies. He also found time to write short articles, generally of an historical character, for the Hawkesyard Review.

Fr. Bede was ordained after two years of St. Thomas and interrupting his theological studies to follow a three-years' historical course, provided for by his relatives, at Oxford. While here he resided at the Benedictine House then “Hunter Blairs” Hall. He took a brilliant degree (first-class honors) in Modern History, standing second in a long list and only a fraction of a mark behind the first. From Oxford he proceeded to Louvain, where he pre-

sented himself for his Lectorate in Theology after one year (he had kept up his theological studies at Oxford) and his fine display on that occasion is still remembered with profound admiration by the Belgian Dominicans.

On his return to England he was assigned immediately to St. Dominic's, London, where he has remained ever since. Nearly three years ago he was elected prior there and at the last provincial chapter held at Woodchester, September 5, 1916, he was made provincial by an overwhelming majority of votes.

Fr. Jarrett's personality is one of calm impressive dignity. His countenance beems with good nature, while his eyes sparkle with a bright glow of affability. Steady, methodical habits have produced in his manner a poise and charm both indescribable and irresistible. His generous willingness to be service of every one has brought him into close touch with numerous social activities. Besides, he belongs to many learned societies devoted to historical research, notably the Catholic Record Society and the Catholic Truth Society. As a preacher and lecturer he is in great demand and enjoys an enviable reputation in all Catholic centers.

His publications include “St. Antonino and Medeval Economics”; “Meditations of Layfolk”; “Medeval Socialism,” a study of the social system of the Middle Ages, published as one of the “Peoples' Books,” a popular series; and “A History of the English Dominican Province.” Besides these books he has written pamphlets for the Catholic Truth Society and articles to the Catholic Encyclopedia.

—Xavier Dolan, O. P.