

BLACKFRIARS

of visible communion with her. The Church is nevertheless solicitous for those outside and may cite them before her tribunal (Trent, Sess. XIV, c. ii). Beyond that they have no visible membership in the Church. Consequently there is need for reconciliation and reception.

The lay communions to which non-Catholic Christians adhere remain what they have always been by origin. History is witness that the Elizabethan Establishment and other similar bodies are not simply "split off" segments from the Church. As corporations they are not and never have been part of or united to the one and undivided Church of Christ. The principle then applies "what has never been united cannot be reunited." Baptism of individuals does not in the least alter the essential diversity of religious bodies in England from the pre-Reformation Church. Rooted and founded in heresy they naturally have an entirely different ethos and do not even belong to the same genus. Their reconciliation to the Church as corporations is impossible, nor can this be implied in liturgical or any other prayer for Christian unity.

A way of reconciliation is surely open to all non-Catholic Christians by their entering into communion with the visible Church, either individually, or in groups, large or small. But this reconciliation is not "corporate reunion." (Clearly comparison with certain Churches of the East does not fit the facts.) We may well remind ourselves of the concise words of Leo XIII when speaking of our "separated brethren": "Dispersa membra atque seiuncta non possunt eodem cum capite, unum simul effectura corpus, cohaerere" (*Satis cognitum*).

I am, Sir,

Yours, etc.,

AMBROSE FARRELL, O.P.

THE AQUINAS SOCIETY

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS

SIR,—I ask the hospitality of your columns to state that a Retreat will be given at Blackfriars Priory Church, Oxford, between the dates September 7 to 11, 1935, by the distinguished Theologian, Rev. Père Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P., Professor of Theology at the Collegio Angelico, Rome.

The conferences will be in French.

Anyone desiring to follow the Retreat is invited to communicate with the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss) D. C. BORTON,

Hon. Sec. Aquinas Society.

2 Marloes Road, W.8.