

Lay Thoughts upon Religious Art

aeval 'primitives' will live again. They will lift religious art from the dust into which we have let it fall, reject the bad, cleanse and purify all that is good, reshape, breathe a new life into it, and offer it to God as a hymn of praise and adoration. Then, and only then, shall we see in a world rejuvenated and Christianised new churches worthy of the ancient cathedrals that lift their great spires heavenwards. But the primary condition for such a revival is a Christian society, without which even these imaginary artists-saints would be powerless to create.

At present sadly and humbly we must confess that we have the religious art we deserve for our sins.

OLGA BENNIGSEN.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

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It is stated in our first article that very little has been done in this country to deal with the problem of the cinema through criticism. We would, however, draw attention to the weekly contributions of 'Celluloid' to *The Catholic Herald*. Sympathetic, discriminating, incisive and, what is remarkable, exhaustive of the chief current films, his Cinema Notes are almost a model of what such a feature in a popular Catholic paper should be. More spasmodically, able Film Notes have also appeared in *The Universe*. But much, very much, remains to be done.

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The Life of Abbot Marmion by Dom Thibaut, recently translated from the French by Mother Mary St. Thomas and published by Sands, has already been noticed in **BLACKFRIARS**. This English version, it must be added, has the advantage of giving the exact text of the extracts from the early note-books and the fifty or sixty letters which the Abbot wrote in his native tongue.