

CORRESPONDENCE

THE LATE ROBERT KEABLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF 'BLACKFRIARS.'

SIR,—I wonder whether you will allow me to add a little to your two most sympathetic articles on my friend Robert Keable? He and I were very intimate friends for two years at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and I knew a great deal, of course, about his doubts and difficulties.

I very clearly remember an occasion when he told me with great conviction that he felt sure he would have to become a Catholic eventually, and that would mean for him, inevitably, the religious life. His idea at that time was to apply for admission to the Redemptorist Order.

But another side of him suddenly flashed out in anger at such a notion, and he turned to me fiercely and said that, after all, it was impossible to imagine a more useful life than that of an Anglican Vicar in a country parish.

He was full of such contradictions. While at Cambridge I should think he must have attended, often in company with me, practically every kind of religious service provided in the town, including the little Catholic Apostolic Church! And his moods would vary from blank agnosticism on one day to, let us say, 'Plymouth Brethrenism' on the next.

I remember, too, that he made the acquaintance of a poor half-witted fellow who dressed in some curious black garb and preached in the streets, proclaiming himself the forerunner of our Lord's second coming. Keable invited this man to lunch at his rooms, and invited me to meet him, but (to my intense relief!) he failed to put in an appearance.

When I last met him, during his year at Dunstable, he was more confident than ever it was either Catholicism or nothing, but he himself seemed to have hardened into an invincible agnosticism. And yet it was largely owing to his influence that I, brought up in a most bigoted anti-Catholic atmosphere, became a Catholic, not long after coming down from Cambridge.

Yours faithfully,

ARCHIBALD W. COUCH.