CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS

DANTE AND *IL GRAN RIFIUTO*

SIR,

Mazzini's conjecture, for the knowledge of which I am indebted to Miss Emily Hickey, raises an interesting character-problem. For the only important mention of Pilate by Dante is in *Purgatorio* xx, 91. in the famous Anagni scene, where Philip IV of France is pilloried by the poet in his wrath as " il nuovo Pilato." Was there, then, in Dante's mind, a closer likeness between the two than the fact that one delivered up CHRIST and the other His Vicar to their enemies ? For Dante had a remarkable insight into the secret recesses of conscience.

Mazzini may be right, but the word " conobbi " connotes personal recognition.

JOHN FOSTER MAKEPEACE.

" WE ENGLISH "

SIR,

Is it not somewhat ingenuous of Father Bede Jarrett to attempt to place the responsibility for English misgovernment in Ireland on the shoulders of the British ?

Whether the tools or hirelings were Irish, Scotch or English is beside the point—they were employed by the dominant partner, and the shame and the blame must be hers.

Regarding Father Bede Jarrett's other point.

Is it fair to ask Irishmen to be grateful that they may claim trial by jury, and other judicial rights accorded them by English law, when it is common knowledge that the practise of her own superior Brehon Law was made treasonable by several Acts of Parliament ?

Yours faithfully,

LOUIS VINCENT.

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