The Four Last Things

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THE FOUR LAST THINGS



Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.THE following treatise of Blessed Thomas More may be justly styled unknown, for it is now transcribed for the first time from the black letter type of Rastell s edition of 1517. Written in 1522, soon after More s promotion to knighthood, while he was living amidst the splendours of Henry VIII s court, De Quatuor Novissimis might be the work of a Carthusian monk or of some austere solitary of the desert. It possesses for us a twofold interest: it illustrates the holy martyr s general tone of mind even from his early years; and it remains as a very lofty example of pre-reformation books of devotion. The author's ready wit and genial humour mingled with his deep consciousness of the vital truths of Christian life make us regret that the treatise is unfinished; but it is well worth perusal even as it stand. It is the best of More s ascetical works. The Dialogue of Comfort against Tribulation and the Treatise Upon the Passion, though of greater length and containing many fine passages, do not possess the peculiar charm of this little treatise. As the late Father Bridgett appropriately remarked, Blessed Thomas More stands quite alone among the ascetic writers of the Church; for while he is not inferior to the best ecclesiastics in his use of Holy Scripture, his knowledge of the human heart, his analysis of the workings of passion and counter-workings of grace, he considered it his layman s privilege to use a livelier style and to illustrate his matter with abundance of merry stories. Saint Thomas More comments on Saint Augustine s proposition of gladness in sorrow: Lo! the holy doctor,...



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