

**FÉNELON:  
THE MYSTIC**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649138173

Fénelon: the mystic by James Mudge

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JAMES MUDGE**

**FÉNELON:  
THE MYSTIC**



Men of the Kingdom

# Fénelon: The Mystic

*By*

JAMES MUDGE,

Author of "The Saintly Calling," "The Best of Browning," etc.



CINCINNATI: JENNINGS AND GRAHAM  
NEW YORK: EATON AND MAINS

COPYRIGHT 1906, BY  
JENNINGS AND GRAHAM

*To My Dear Wife.*

A WISE MOTHER OF CHILDREN,  
A FAITHFUL MISSIONARY IN INDIA,  
AN EFFICIENT WORKER IN MANY CHURCHES.

## A WORD TO THE READER



THERE have been many lives of Fénelon. Four were brought out in the eighteenth century, and two quite extensive ones were issued as recently as 1901. In a few cases they have been written in a spirit of cold, supercilious disparagement and cynical comment by people who evidently had no experience which would qualify them to understand the character they rashly attempted to portray. But the endeavor to pull Fénelon down from the pedestal on which he has so long stood can not succeed. So long as his own writings remain to bear testimony to the high qualities of his mind and soul, his fame is secure. It is the chief regret of the present writer that, owing to the restricted size of the book, he has not been able to give more of Fénelon's own words. The reader is recommended to procure the "Spiritual Letters" of Fénelon, published in two volumes by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This edition of the "Letters," edited by H. L. Sidney Lear, is also published by the Longmans of London. There is an abridged edition, in paper, for fifteen cents, for sale by George W. McCalla, Philadelphia, who also publishes Fénelon's "Christian Counsel," "Spiritual Letters" of Madame Guyon, "Life of Dr. John Tauler," and other similar books. The five most important Lives of Fénelon are by H. K. Sanders, Longmans, London, 1901; by Viscount St. Cyres, Methuen & Co., London, 1901; by H. L. Sidney Lear, Rivingtons, London, 1877; by Dr. T. C. Upham, Harpers, New York, 1846; and by Charles Butler, Esq., John Murray, London, 1819. *ŷ*



It is not claimed that Fénelon was wholly without faults, or was in all respects ahead of his times. How could that be expected? He took, in the main, of course, the Roman Catholic view in the questions that arose regarding heresy and the general affairs of the Church. It is not necessary to defend him for this. We are concerned, in studying such persons, not so much with their dogmatic opinions and beliefs, the result of their environment, as with the spirit of their lives, their attainments in holiness, and the light which they can shed on the best means of growth in grace. It is believed that the present volume will be found helpful to this end. The type of piety exemplified by Fénelon, Fletcher, Faber, and others of this sort, does not appeal with equal force to all, owing to difference of mental and physical constitution. But all, whatever their temperament, can get only good by contemplating such an example as is presented in these pages. They can not feel the quick throbs of his deeply loving heart, and note the sincerity of purpose with which he served his dear Redeemer, without being stimulated in their zeal, and helped to walk, in their own way, more worthily of the vocation with which they themselves are called. That this may indeed be the outcome for every reader of the following chapters, is the earnest prayer of the author.

JAMES MUDGE.

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

## CONTENTS



CHAPTER	PAGE
I. FROM YOUTH TO MANHOOD, - - -	9
II. THE SETTING OF THE PICTURE, - - -	45
III. PRECEPTOR TO THE PRINCE, - - -	67
IV. MYSTICISM AND QUIETISM, - - -	94
V. THE GREAT CONFLICT, - - -	120
VI. THE GOOD ARCHBISHOP, - - -	159
VII. THE SPIRITUAL LETTERS, - - -	193

