

**COLLECTION OF BRITISH
AUTHORS, VOL. 2776. THE IDLE
THOUGHTS OF AN IDLE FELLOW:
A BOOK FOR AN IDLE HOLIDAY.
IN ONE VOLUME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649400669

Collection of British Authors, Vol. 2776. The idle thoughts of an idle fellow: a book for an idle holiday. In One Volume by Jerome K. Jerome

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Cover @ 2017

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JEROME K. JEROME

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COLLECTION
OF
BRITISH AUTHORS
TAUCHNITZ EDITION.

VOL. 2776.

THE IDLE THOUGHTS OF AN IDLE FELLOW,
BY
JEROME K. JEROME.

IN ONE VOLUME.

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THE
IDLE THOUGHTS
OF
AN IDLE FELLOW

A BOOK FOR
AN IDLE HOLIDAY

BY
JEROME K. JEROME.

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TO

THE VERY DEAR AND WELL-BELOVED

FRIEND

OF MY PROSPEROUS AND EVIL DAYS—

TO THE FRIEND

WHO, THOUGH, IN THE EARLY STAGES OF OUR ACQUAINTANCESHIP,
DID OFTIMES DISAGREE WITH ME, HAS SINCE BECOME
TO BE MY VERY WARMEST COMRADE—

TO THE FRIEND

WHO, HOWEVER OFTEN I MAY PUT HIM OUT, NEVER (NOW)
UPSETS ME IN REVENGE—

TO THE FRIEND

WHO, TREATED WITH MARKED COLDNESS BY ALL THE FEMALE
MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD, AND REGARDED WITH SUSPICION
BY MY VERY DOG, NEVERTHELESS, SEEMS DAY BY DAY
TO BE MORE DRAWN BY ME, AND, IN RETURN, TO
MORE AND MORE IMPREGNATE ME WITH THE
ODOUR OF HIS FRIENDSHIP—

TO THE FRIEND

WHO NEVER TELLS ME OF MY FAULTS, NEVER WANTS TO BORROW
MONEY, AND NEVER TALKS ABOUT HIMSELF—

TO THE COMPANION OF MY IDLE HOURS,

THE SOOTHER OF MY SORROWS,

THE CONFIDANT OF MY JOYS AND HOPES—

MY OLDEST AND STRONGEST

PIPE,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME

IS

GRATEFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY

DEDICATED.



PREFACE.

ONE or two friends to whom I showed these papers in MS. having observed that they were not half bad; and some of my relations having promised to buy the book, if it ever came out, I feel I have no right to longer delay its issue. But for this, as one may say, public demand, I, perhaps, should not have ventured to offer these mere "idle thoughts" of mine as mental food for the English-speaking peoples of the earth. What readers ask now-a-days in a book is that it should improve, instruct, and elevate. This book wouldn't elevate a cow. I cannot conscientiously recommend it for any useful purposes whatever. All I can suggest is, that when you get tired of reading "the best hundred books," you may take this up for half an hour. It will be a change.
