

**LETTERS OF
SPIRITUAL COUNSEL
AND GUIDANCE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649251735

Letters of spiritual counsel and guidance by John Keble & R. F. Wilson

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

JOHN KEBLE & R. F. WILSON

**LETTERS OF
SPIRITUAL COUNSEL
AND GUIDANCE**

LETTERS
OF
SPIRITUAL COUNSEL AND
GUIDANCE,

BY THE LATE

REV. J. KEBLE, M.A.

VICAR OF HURSLEY

Edited by

R. F. WILSON, M.A.

VICAR OF BOWNHAMS, PREFERENDARY OF SARUM, AND EXAMINING
CHAPLAIN TO THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

"Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened
the weak hands.

"Thy words have upheld him that was falling, and thou
hast strengthened the feeble knees."—JON IV. 3, 4.

OXFORD and LONDON:
JAMES PARKER AND CO.

1870.

All Rights reserved.

BV4501
K3

NO MAN
ABSOLUTELY

"Thy Book I love because Thyself is there."

J. Williams' "Thoughts in Past Years."

PREFACE.

THESE Letters form no part of Keble's General Correspondence, which yet remains to be published. Materials for it had been collected, and the work begun by a far more competent Editor; but, when he was called to fill the place of one whose memory will long be held in affectionate veneration, not only in his own diocese, but throughout the Church of England, Dr. Moberly felt that the calls upon his time and thoughts would be too weighty and manifold to allow of his continuing the work. At the request of the Keble family, it was undertaken by the present Editor, and the Letters, then in Dr. Moberly's possession, were, with the consent of those who had furnished them, transferred to his hands.

These, with others which have been since contributed, are so numerous, and various in

character, and spread over so many years, that the selecting and arranging is a work of difficulty, and will require a considerable time before a collection can be ready for publication.

But long before the Editor had any reason to expect that this charge would be laid upon him, a large number of the Letters in this volume had been entrusted to him, on the express understanding, that, if printed at all, they should be in a separate collection, apart from the General Correspondence. Many more have since been added, on the same condition, and the publication kindly allowed, (often at the expense of personal feelings,) with the charitable desire to make others, in some measure, partakers in the benefit and comfort which those to whom they were written had themselves derived from them.

The Editor desires to express his sincere thanks to all, who have contributed materials to this collection, but most particularly to those who, for the love of others' souls, have been willing to place letters of so private a kind (and to them so very precious), in the hands

of a stranger, and to entrust the use of them to his discretion. He earnestly hopes that nothing in his manner of dealing with them will cause any to regret the trust thus reposed.

Those who are acquainted with the *Lettres Spirituelles* of Fenelon and of S. Francis de Sales, may trace a resemblance to them, especially to those of the saintly Bishop of Geneva, in the Letters in this volume.

The reader must not expect to find in them an orderly, systematic, or exhaustive treatment of the subjects to which they refer. They are very far from this. Written often hastily, amid the pressure of other duties, they are, in some cases, spontaneous effusions, prompted by affection and sympathy for those in trouble; but, for the most part, they were called forth by enquiries on various matters, more or less closely touching the spiritual life, addressed to him by different persons, of different characters, and under different circumstances; and they are directed simply to the need of the particular soul. It is the special case before him which is in the writer's mind, and not any

theological handling of the points referred to. In many cases, moreover, they are the more brief and unsystematic, because he counted on supplementing them by personal advice and direction.

The collection extends over nearly fifty years : the date of the earliest letter contained in it is 1817, that of the latest 1865. As a general rule it has been thought best not to give the date of each letter, in order, as far as possible, to avoid everything which might afford a clue to the person addressed. In some cases, where there seemed no need to guard against this danger, the dates have been given.

A few Letters have been admitted into this volume which have strictly no place among Letters of Spiritual Counsel and Guidance ; such are Nos. I., II., XIX., CXIII., CXVII., CXX., CXXI., and CXXII. The two first are introduced as a beautiful and instructive example of his way of dealing *with himself* ; the others have been added, as containing, each in their several ways, some word of

helpful guidance or soothing comfort amid the perplexing questions of our day.

Of the first twelve letters, a few were written before 1820, the rest, with one exception, before 1830. Letter XIII. is dated 1860, and is placed next to the one immediately preceding, as affording a remarkable illustration of the identity of his views on the subject of which these letters treat, though they were written at such a long interval.

The Letters from No. XIV. to LVIII. were all written between the years 1840 and 1850. The rest, for the most part, later. Six of the Letters in this volume have already appeared in Sir J. Coleridge's Memoir, viz. Nos. I., III., V., XI., XIX., and CVII.

This is not the occasion for remarking upon any peculiarities or graces in John Keble's character; but there is one, which has so much to do with a right understanding of what he says, and of his manner of saying it, particularly in giving advice or direction, that it is desirable to notice it, though at some length.

When you consult a person confidentially,