

**READING AND THE  
MIND: WITH  
SOMETHING TO READ**

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Reading and the Mind: With Something to Read by J. F. X. O'Connor

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READING  
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THE MIND

WITH SOMETHING TO READ

(ELEVENTH THOUSAND)

BY

REV. J. F. X. O'CONNOR, S. J.

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"RHETORIC AND ORATORY"; "FACTS ABOUT BOOKWORMS"; ETC.

SIXTH EDITION  
(REVISED AND ENLARGED.)

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## PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION

IT is with grateful appreciation of the courtesy of many kind readers and good friends that this sixth edition is printed. Not a few have been pleased to say it was a guide, of the kind they had been seeking, and had proved of no little help. The author has not found reasons sufficient to change the principles, ideas or judgments of the former editions, and it is in the hope that it may be helpful to some new readers and to supply an existing demand that this edition is now issued.

THE AUTHOR.

## PREFACE.

THE kind welcome extended to this book by all classes of readers is a proof that it goes home to the human heart. The work is substantially a list of the English authors, an acquaintance with whom is imperatively demanded in those readers who would aspire to the title of English scholars. Under well-selected heads are given the names which have illustrated in prose or in verse the great tongue which is fast gaining supremacy among the languages of the world; and if golden leisure hours but come to one in moderate store, he can fill them up with treasures drawn from the sources which this little book will indicate, at the same time running no risk of wasting time in gathering dross or garnering poison. Often are



*Preface.*

teachers, parents, and friends asked by those who take guidance from them, "What shall I read?"

This work will answer the question, an important one, as all know, for, to quote a line from the pages before us: "It is nearly an axiom that people will not be better than the books they read."

Though it would be far too much to presume that all herein outlined has been accomplished, yet to do so was indeed the aim and ardent wish of the writer. Should this book induce one young mind to undertake a profitable course of reading, its work will have been done.

LETTER FROM CARDINAL NEWMAN  
TO THE AUTHOR.

*October 3, 1884.*

THE REV. FR. J. F. X. O'CONNOR, S. J.

*Dear Rev. Father :* I thank you cordially for your letter and your pamphlet. It is of course very pleasant to receive such testimony in my favor from one who is so far removed from me as to be able to claim impartiality. And I have that great opinion and respect for the Society of Jesus, that the good word of a member of it is most acceptable to me.

Our respective countries so differ from each other that what I am going to say is, perhaps, out of place; but in England I should have some misgiving lest the generous praise you bestow on

*Letter from Cardinal Newman to the Author.*

what I have written should lead in some quarters of the literary world to a reaction against it. In my past life I have found that some of my best benefactors were those who abused me, and by abusing raised a feeling in my favor; while those who spoke out boldly their liking for what I was saying or doing raised a contrary feeling which was adverse to me. I should not be surprised to be told that this is *not* the case of America, but I have thought it worth while to mention it to you.

Excuse my stiff writing, which is the trouble of old age.

Begging your good prayers for a very old man, I am,

Your faithful servant,

JOHN H. CARD. NEWMAN.