

**LETTERS TO JACK.
WRITTEN BY A PRIEST
TO HIS NEPHEW**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649048984

Letters to Jack. Written by a Priest to His Nephew by Francis C. Kelley

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

FRANCIS C. KELLEY

**LETTERS TO JACK.
WRITTEN BY A PRIEST
TO HIS NEPHEW**

LETTERS TO JACK

WRITTEN BY A PRIEST TO
HIS NEPHEW

By the
RIGHT REV. FRANCIS C. KELLEY, D.D., LL.D.

Author of
"THE LAST BATTLE OF THE GODS,"
"THE CITY AND THE WORLD,"
"THE BOOK OF RED AND YELLOW,"
Etc., Etc.

With a Preface by His Grace
ARCHBISHOP MUNDELEIN

EXTENSION PRESS
223 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO
1917

Nihil Obstat
P. L. BIERMANN,
Censor Deputatus.

Imprimatur
GEORGE WILLIAM MUNDELEIN,
Archbishop of Chicago.

LOAN STACK

COPYRIGHT 1917
BY FRANCIS CLEMENT KELLEY

All rights reserved

Printed in U. S. A.

BJ1671
K37

CONTENTS

	PAGE
ARCHBISHOP MUNDELEIN'S PREFACE.....	5
NOISE	13
RELIGION	25
LIVING	39
TEMPTATION	45
THINKING	51
FRIENDS	59
ENEMIES	69
RULE AND SERVICE.....	81
OTHER PEOPLE.....	95
THE WORLD.....	109
CITIZENSHIP	119
CLEANLINESS	129
LOVE	135
THE PLAIN MAN.....	143
THE ENTHUSIAST.....	149
THE CONSERVATIVE.....	157
CRITICISM	165
HATRED	173
SILENCE	181
DREAMERS	189
OLD THINGS.....	197
HUMILITY	209
INSPIRATION	217
OPPORTUNITIES	225
LOYALTY	233
BURDEN BEARERS.....	241
VISION	251

PREFACE

BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO

We are living in a town which possesses a most energetic public official. I have rarely, if ever, found a harder-working head of department than the present Commissioner of Health in the city of Chicago. When he goes in pursuit of a disease-germ, it is all over with the germ; for the attack will be made with a ferocity that is appalling. So say his friends, and they are many. Nor will he neglect to ally himself with anyone who can be useful to him in stamping out disease when existing, or preventing its spread when threatening. The writer has good reason to know, for he fell a victim to the doctor's persuasive powers, and became an ally in the campaign. All this brings me to one of the great subjects of discussion at the present time.

The tendency of medical research to-day is directed far more towards prevention than cure. As soon as a new disease raises its head, or a contagion appears to spread among children or adults, at once the laboratories of the country work day and night to find the inimical microbe,

discover its origin, isolate the germ, and ferret out its fertile soil; it is the application in medicine of the old adage "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure." If it holds good in this corruptible body of ours, why should not the same rule apply to the soul? If we try to ward off disease from the infant and the growing child, why should we not adopt the same precaution in training the growing boy or girl, young man or young woman? Especially does this hold good in the case of youth budding into manhood. It is then that a lad is angular, somewhat rough and uncouth, and by no means attractive in his personality; simply because he is emerging from boyhood and settling slowly into manhood; because then his character is forming, his habits becoming more fixed, and he still lacks the finish that experience will supply. It is a time when he needs good sane advice, given in sugared capsules, administered in patient, kindly doses; when he should have the prompt infusion of "friendly microbes" by a wise physician in order to fight the disease germs that he will take in from bad companions, from vile literature, from careless, conscienceless elders and superiors. It is here that this little volume will play its part. I do not know whether the author is an uncle or not, but he certainly can talk like one. A father really ought to be a boy's closest friend, especially in the

years when he feels that he is emancipating from the domination of the maternal apron-string. But most of us know that the father feels he is too busy to play that role, or he is fearful that it may bring about an infringement on the sacred rights of his paternal authority. Of course such an attitude never would undermine a father's jurisdiction; rather such friendly intercourse would strengthen, preserve, immortalize it; but most fathers find that out too late in life.

But sometimes you will find a bachelor uncle in a family who brings in pocketfuls of candies to the youngster, bushels of roses to the debutantes and smiling good advice to the awkward squad of young nephews, and to them all he is ever a hero, an idol and, later, a depository of secrets and a never-ending source of advice. Just such a role has the author of this book assumed. In an easy conversational style he talks to the young fellow about pretty nearly everything. Without adding any irritation to his reader's sensitive spirit of adolescent pride, without brushing the furry mustache of the young man the wrong way; finally, without letting the interest lag, he is giving him just as much salutary advice as the young fellow's system will absorb with ease. At the same time he does not assume the preaching attitude of a reverent relic of a past generation; but rather he lets the young man feel that he is