

John Henry Newman

Complete Works



Series Fourteen

The Complete Works of JOHN HENRY NEWMAN (1801-1890)

(1801-1890)



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The Delphi Classics Catalogue

John H. Ueunan

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The Complete Works of

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN



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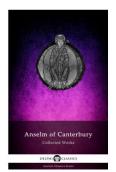
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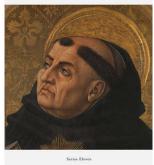






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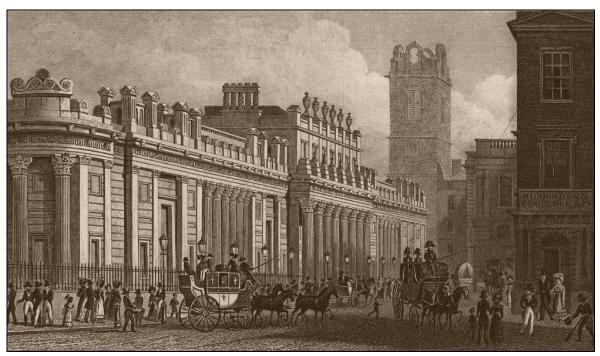
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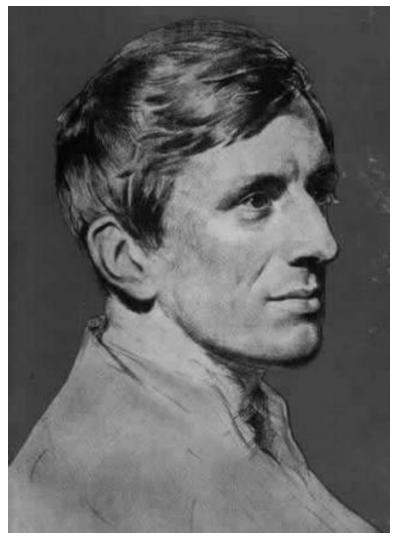
The Novels



Threadneedle Street, London, c. 1800 — John Henry Newman's birthplace



The site of the birthplace today



Newman as a young man

Loss and Gain (1848)

THE STORY OF A CONVERT

The first work Newman published after his conversion to Roman Catholicism in 1845, this philosophical novel depicts the conversion of a young student, set against the backdrop of Oxford University. It describes the religious climate of the 1820's, a time of great contention between various factions within the Church of England. Some factions advocated Protestant doctrines, renouncing the development of doctrine through tradition, instead emphasising private interpretation of scripture. Against these and other liberal religious factions, the Oxford Movement, of which Newman was a principal member, advocated a Catholic interpretation of the Church of England, claiming that the Church and its traditions were authoritative. Amongst many thinkers, however, the Roman Catholic Church was despised as having abdicated its claim to doctrinal authority by introducing superstition into its practice. Therefore, when Newman converted in 1845, he met with vehement criticism.

In the novel Newman reveals the intellectual and emotional development that led him to Roman Catholicism and the response his conversion elicited. He was then in his forties and an esteemed theologian, but for the narrative he portrays his experience in the form of the protagonist Charles Reding, a student entering Oxford and experiencing its intellectual climate for the first time. Although Charles attempts to follow a conventional path and avoid being influenced by "parties", he soon discovers that he is inclined towards Catholicism. He struggles against this inclination, but eventually decides he must convert, a decision that causes great consternation to his family and friends, though it leads to personal fulfilment.

The novel was extremely popular, going through nine editions in Britain during Newman's lifetime, and two editions in America, France and Italy during the 1850's. The first reviewers tended to judge it according to its theological principles rather than its literary merits, and accordingly were divided along denominational lines.



Newman read for a fellowship at Oriel College, then the acknowledged centre of Oxford intellectualism. He was elected a fellow at Oriel on 12 April 1822.

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Loss and Gain.

ADHUC MODICUM ALIQUANTULUM, QUI VENTURUS EST, VENIET, ET NON TARDABIT. JUSTUS AUTEM MEUS EX FIDE VIVIT.

LONDON: JAMES BURNS, 17 PORTMAN STREET, PORTMAN SQUARE.

MDCCCXLVIII.

The first edition's title page

TO THE VERY REV. CHARLES W. RUSSELL, D.D., PRESIDENT OF ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAYNOOTH, &c. &c.



MY DEAR DR. Russell, — Now that at length I take the step of printing my name in the Title-Page of this Volume, I trust I shall not be encroaching on the kindness you have so long shown to me, if I venture to follow it up by placing yours in the page which comes next, thus associating myself with you, and recommending myself to my readers by the association.

Not that I am dreaming of bringing down upon you, in whole or part, the criticisms, just or unjust, which lie against a literary attempt which has in some quarters been thought out of keeping with my antecedents and my position; but the warm and sympathetic interest which you took in Oxford matters thirty years ago, and the benefits which I derived personally from that interest, are reasons why I am desirous of prefixing your name to a Tale, which, whatever its faults, at least is a more intelligible and exact representation of the thoughts, sentiments, and aspirations, then and there prevailing, than was to be found in the anti-Catholic pamphlets, charges, sermons, reviews, and story-books of the day.

These reasons, too, must be my apology, should I seem to be asking your acceptance of a Volume, which, over and above its intrinsic defects, is, in its very subject and style, hardly commensurate with the theological reputation and the ecclesiastical station of the person to whom it is presented.

I am, my dear Dr. Russell, Your affectionate friend, John H. Newman. The Oratory, *Feb. 21, 1874*.



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