

CONTEMPORARIES ON NEWMAN

William E. Gladstone

Notes from a diary | 1873 - 1881

I do not believe there has been anything like Newman's influence in Oxford, when it was at its height, since Abelard lectured in Paris.

George Elliot

Letter | 1868

I have been reading Newman's *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* with such absorbing interest that I found it impossible to forsake the book until I had finished it.....the Apology now mainly affects me as the revelation of a life – how different in form from one's own, yet with how close a relationship in its needs and burthens – I mean spiritual needs and burthens.

Oscar Wilde

Letter to William Ward | Date unknown

I have dreams of a visit to Newman, of the holy sacrament in a new Church, and of a quiet and peace afterwards in my soul. I need not say, though, that I shift with every breath of thought and am weaker and more self-deceiving than ever. If I could hope that the Church would wake in me some earnestness and purity I would go over as a luxury, if for no better reasons. But I can hardly hope it would, and to go over to Rome would be to sacrifice and give up my two great gods 'Money and Ambition.' Still I get so wretched and low and troubled that in some desperate mood I would seek the shelter of a church which simply enthrals me by its fascination.

Cardinal Manning

Requiem at Brompton Oratory | 20 August 1890

The history of our land will hereafter record the name of John Henry Newman among the greatest of our people, as a confessor for the faith, a great teacher of men, a preacher of justice, of piety, and of compassion.

The Times

Obituary | 12 August 1890

The truth is the great Cardinal has occupied so exceptional a place in human affairs that, while he has largely influenced them, he has had himself to discover and even to recognize that they could go on without him. Standing apart from the world, he has long been on excellent terms with it, and they part in peace. Rome, wisely and happily for its credit and its influence, eleven years ago added his name to its highest list of honour; but, otherwise, Cardinal Newman may be said to have been without a place in the earth's pedigrees and successions; to have been left out of common reckoning, tied by no allegiance, complicated by no secular ties, "without father or mother," in the links of causation and the rolls of time.

The Guardian

Obituary | 13 August 1890

Cardinal Newman is dead, and we lose in him not only one of the very greatest masters of English style, not only a man of singular beauty and purity of character, not only an eminent example of personal sanctity, but the founder, we may almost say, of the Church of England as we see it. What the Church of England would have become without the Tractarian movement we can faintly guess, and of the Tractarian movement Newman was the living soul and the inspiring genius. Great as his services have been to the communion in which he died, they are as nothing by the side of those he rendered to the communion in which the most eventful years of his life were spent.... He will be mourned by many in the Roman Church, but their sorrow will be less than ours, because they have not the same paramount reason to be grateful to him."