



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**
**SENATE HOUSE
LIBRARY**

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference:	AL342
Title:	Francis William Newman letters
Dates:	1864-1894
Level:	fonds
Extent and Medium:	34 items
Name of Creator:	Newman, Francis William (1805-1897) classical scholar and moral philosopher

CONTEXT

Biographical/Administrative History: Francis William Newman was born in London and educated at Worcester College, Oxford, graduating with a double first in 1826. As a young man he travelled in the Middle East before settling to an academic career. After holding positions in Bristol and Manchester, he became Professor of Latin at University College London in 1846, retaining the post until 1862. Newman also wrote widely on classical and religious topics and was a staunch supporter of women's rights and women's education. He returned to south-west England in 1866 and continued to write extensively while living in retirement at Weston-super-Mare. Unlike his elder brother, John Henry Newman (who converted to Roman Catholicism and became a cardinal), Francis Newman came to be sceptical of religious teaching, rejecting biblical authority and Christian dogma, but still considered himself to be a Christian.

CONTENT

Scope and Content: 32 letters addressed to Newman's nephew John Rickards Mozley; 1 letter addressed to Newman's sister Jemima Mozley; and 1 letter addressed to J R Mozley's father-in-law Bonamy Price. Topics covered include: domestic and family affairs; Newman's brother John Henry Newman (Cardinal Newman); education (including Augustus De Morgan and University College London); New Testament criticism; religion and morality; classical literature; mathematics; wealth; current affairs (including Irish Home Rule and the American Civil War); W E Gladstone; and John Ruskin. All items are autograph, with signatures.

ACCESS AND USE

Language of Scripts:	English
System of Arrangement:	See hard copy catalogue
Conditions of Access:	Open for research. At least 24 hours notice is required for research visits.

Conditions of Reproduction: Copies may be made, subject to the condition of the original. Copying must be undertaken by the Special

Collections Reading Room staff, who will need a minimum of 24 hours to process requests.

Catalogued by Viv Aggett.

- AL342/1 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1864
February 6**
- Written from 10 Circus Road, N.W. Congratulating him on his prize winning essay.
- 2 sides of paper
- AL342/2 Letter from Newman to Jemima Mozley 1865
February 3**
- Written from 10 Circus Road, N.W. Mentions Mrs. Griffiths caring for Charles Robert Newman and about ointment for his legs. Family news about the cold weather and health problems. News from American newspapers about emancipation in Missouri and Tennessee, the celebration of the anniversary in, the freeing of the wives and children of "coloured" soldiers from loyal states and technical difficulties in Kentucky.
- 4 sides of paper
- AL342/3 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1866
November 20**
- Written from Dover Place, Clifton. Encouraging Rickards to ask for details about the vacant chair of Logic and Metaphysics at University College London and giving advice about applying and testimonials. His opinions about the various candidates (James Martineau, Alexander Bain) and the procedures.
- 4 sides of paper
- AL342/4 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1867**
- Written from Dover Place, Clifton. Apologies for neglecting to comment on Rickards' proposed marriage. More about the University College London professorship.
- 4 sides of paper
- AL342/5 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1872
November 5**

Written from Weston- super- Mare. Congratulations on the new baby, hope Edith is well.

- AL342/6 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1876 August 7**
- Acknowledgement of letter from Rickards on the death of Newman's (first) wife [10 July 1876].
- 1 side of paper
- AL342/7 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1877 July 30**
- Written from Weston-super-Mare. Asks about a translation of Vergil and asks for Rickards' opinion. Expands about translations.
- 4 sides of paper
- AL342/8 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1877 August 23**
- Written from Weston-super-Mare.
[Sheets 1-4 have been labelled AL342/8 (i), sheets 5-8 AL342/8 (ii) and sheets 9-12 AL3428 (iii). They all have the same date and are part of one long letter.
- (i) Newman says there are several excellent treatises which deal well with the overwhelming evidence against the narrative books of the New Testament. He describes his own discontent with the moral precepts ascribed to Jesus and he considers the accounts of Paul (and Peter) superior. He thinks that the gospels, if made sacred, are mischievous and a gross misrepresentation. Newman does not accept the denunciation of the government of Judea (the Scribes and the Pharisees) and says our English institutions are more unjust than theirs were.
- (ii) Newman says that reporting Jesus as denouncing a wicked and adulterous generation at the same time as declaring that he is meek and lowly of heart is to confuse credulity with truth. He refers to his tract James and Paul (1869) in which he sets out a theory of the corruption of Christianity after the deaths of Paul and Peter and which persists in our ideas about ordination and the power which it is said to

bestow on ordinary men. He cites his brother [John Henry Newman] as saying “This is either a very momentous truth or it is a frightful blasphemy.”

(iii) Defends rulers of Judea: they were no worse than any other rulers, and Jesus knew nothing of Roman, Macedonian, Persian or Assyrian rule. Then he takes issue with the account in Luke xi,37 of the dinner with the Pharisee.

Newman believes Jesus to have been only a frail man and therefore rejects the accounts of him in the 4th gospel.

Questions the stories of the resurrection and points to inconsistencies in the accounts. Insists that Paul did not believe it.

12 sheets of paper

AL342/9 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley

**1877
September
10**

Written from Weston-super-Mare.

[Sheets 1-4 have been labelled AL342/9 (i) and sheets 5-8 AL342/9 (ii). They have the same date and are part of one long letter.]

(i) Explains that the previous letter was in response to JRM’s view of the “violent and fierce outburst in Matthew xxiii.” His own rejection of the authoritative claims of or for Jesus has taken him 40 to 46 years to arrive at. Newman complains that Christianity deplorably confounds religion with history. His preface to *The Hebrew Monarchy* explains his attitude to miracles. He agrees with Paley and Butler that there is no adequate testimony for miracles from anonymous persons at a date unknown.

(ii) Cites James Martineau: the fourth gospel is a romantic invention of the second century, yet spiritually true. Newman wants an expurgated gospel: a true history.

He cannot explain the judgements of Peter and Paul about Jesus... but he, Newman has no trustworthy history. Paul showed no knowledge at all of the human Jesus, nor any care to know. Orthodox churchmen are in a dilemma about Jesus, either he was the Messiah and superhuman or he was vainly and despicably giving himself airs of Divine authority. The disciples did not claim to judge human hearts or to know all about God; they disciples their master, he was young and

inexperienced, they were humble and became riper by experience.

9 sides of paper

AL342/10 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley

**1880
February 24**

Written from Weston-super-Mare.
Writes about a coupling of his name with that of Feuerbach, which he refuted, by the British Quarterly (about 25 years ago.) Newman mentions his book on the Soul, and also a Miss Cobbe who has written to him.
Jane Rickards has written to him about learning German. Rickard's children enjoy Scott's novels. Mentions author George Macdonald.

4 sides of paper

AL342/11 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley

**1881
August 24**

Written from Weston-super-Mare. Says he is always welcome to visit Gloucester. Talks of visits from family members. Talks about his wife's health and treatment she may have.

4 sides of paper

AL342/12 Letter from Newman to Bonawry Price

Undated

No address. In reply to a letter asking a problem with his hand, a half paralysis, which is now recovered but may recur without care and rest.

4 sides of paper

AL342/13 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley

**1883
January 8**

From Weston-super-Mare. Thanks for the Christmas card. News about family and health. Critical remarks about imperialism. And government.

4 sides of paper

AL342/14 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1884 July 10

From Weston-super-Mare. Apologises for forgetting to acknowledge the Christmas card. Sends JRM some of his notes on Aeschylus. Has received a copy of his treatise "Christianity in the Cradle." He is still at work on his Latin version of Robinson Crusoe.

4 sides of paper

AL342/15 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1885 December 28

From Weston-super-Mare. [Sheets 1-4 have been labelled AL342/15(i) and sheets 5-8 AL342(ii). They are both part of one long letter with the same date.]

8 pages

AL342/16 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1886 April 1

From Weston-super-Mare. Criticism of Mr. Ruskin's views about interest on money and his confusing it with usury. Talks about his own views and writings on the subject. English views on political economy, William Ellis and University College London.

4 sides of paper

AL342/17 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley 1886 September 5

From Carnarvon.
[Sheets 1-4 have been labelled AL342/17 (i) another sheet is labelled AL342/17 (ii) and another AL342/17 (iii.) All are assumed to be written on the same date.]
AL342/17 (i) visits by family members to north Wales and Snowdon and how much he, Newman enjoys visiting Wales. Family news and concerns.

AL342/17 (ii) a quotation from Hebrew Theism, p.46.
AL342/17 (iii) a page in Greek, a retranslation by
F.W.N.

6 sheets of paper

AL342/18 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley

**1886
September
7**

From Carnarvon. Defends the consistency of his religious views, refers to his works on Soul and Theism. Criticism of Gladstone over Home Rule. Ideas about parliamentary reform and Irish independence.

4 sides of paper

AL342/19 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley

**1886
December
15**

Protests that he does not press his religious convictions on anyone else. Apologises for the pamphlet he sent, but he was reacting to being labelled an agnostic and a defender of positivism.

1 side of paper

AL342/20 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley

**1888
August 18**

From Bournemouth. Thanks him for sending an article on BP. Apologises [again] for his small writing and says that he also writes very slowly.

1 page

AL342/21 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley

**1888
December
19**

From Weston-super-Mare. Defends himself against the views of Jesus which John Rickard attributes to him.

4 sides of paper

- AL342/22 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley** **1889 March 13**
 From Weston-super-Mare. Mathematical equations and argument.
 4 sides of paper
- AL342/23 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley** **1889 May 22**
 About evolutionary theory and geology. Mentions Richard Chambers whose ideas were rejected in favour of Darwin and Wallace and James Cowles Pritchard who wrote about the evolution of man.
 4 sides of paper
- AL342/24 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley** **1889 September 27**
 From Weston-super-Mare. We came home safe and sound.
 1 page
- AL342/25 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley** **1890 September 28**
 The publishers want him to write a little book on “the late Cardinal.” He finds this very difficult.
 3 sides of paper
- AL342/26 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley** **1890 October 5**
 Inveighs against his brother’s Romanism and opposition to Protestantism and the reformation which he dates back to at least 1832. He expresses his very mixed feelings towards his brother, though says they have got on better since John Henry Newman’s

“great humiliation” in having to submit to the Pope in Rome.

4 sides of paper

AL342/27 Postcard from Newman to John Rickards Mozley **1890
November 3**

From Weston-super-Mare. Refers to a Circular of 1833.

AL342/28 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley **1891 March
3**

Complains he is overwhelmed by superfluous papers though he tries to examine and tear up. A continuing argument about the Jesus of the gospels. “Only plain truth can succeed and truth is our martyrdom.”

2 sides of paper

AL342/29 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley **1891
December
12**

Identifies people in family photographs of his parents. I have not yet read your verses, of course I shall value them.

1 side of paper

AL342/30 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley **1893 May
18**

From Weston-super-Mare. Trying to arrange a visit by JRM. [Writing very difficult to read]. He is writing about Paul of Tarsus.

3 sides of paper

AL342/31 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley **1894
September
8**

He and his wife are in rather poor health. [The writing varies in size and references in the first sentence seem confused.] Visit of three grandnieces from Australia. Still working on Paul of Tarsus.

2 sides of paper

AL342/32 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley **1894
November
14**

Expects to see JRM on 1st December. Herbert's marriage. Eyesight is poor. A brief note.

AL342/33 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley. **circa 1894**

His eyes are a problem. [Rather rambling letter and difficult to follow].

AL342/34 Letter from Newman to John Rickards Mozley **circa 1894**

Expecting JRM to visit soon. [Difficult to read.] About his work on Paul.

1 side of paper