

**THE IDLE THOUGHTS OF
AN IDLE FELLOW. A BOOK
FOR AN IDLE HOLIDAY**

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The Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow. A Book for an Idle Holiday by Jerome K. Jerome

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JEROME K. JEROME

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OF AN IDLE FELLOW

A BOOK FOR
AN IDLE HOLIDAY

BY

JEROME K. JEROME

AUTHOR OF "THREE MEN IN A BOAT," ETC.



NEW YORK
HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

TO
THE VERY DEAR AND WELL-BELOVED

Friend

OF MY PROSPEROUS AND EVIL DAYS—

TO THE FRIEND

WHO, THOUGH, IN THE EARLY STAGES OF OUR ACQUAINTANCE-
SHIP, DID OFTTIMES DISAGREE WITH ME, HAS SINCE
BECOME TO BE MY VERY WARMEST COMRADE—

TO THE FRIEND

WHC, HOWEVER OFTEN I MAY PUT HIM OUT, NEVER (NOW)
UPSETS ME IN REVENGE—

TO THE FRIEND

WHO, TREATED WITH MARKED COOLNESS BY ALL THE FEMALE
MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD, AND REGARDED WITH SUSPI-
CION BY MY VERY DOG, NEVERTHELESS, SEEMS DAY
BY DAY TO BE MORE DRAWN BY ME, AND IN
RETURN, TOMORE AND MORE IMPREGNATE ME
WITH THE ODOR OF HIS FRIENDSHIP—

TO THE FRIEND

WHO NEVER TELLS ME OF MY FAULTS, NEVER WANTS TO
BORROW MONEY, AND NEVER TALKS ABOUT HIMSELF—

TO THE COMPANION

OF MY IDLE HOURS, THE SOOTHER OF MY SORROWS,
THE CONFIDANT OF MY JOYS AND HOPES—
MY OLDEST AND STRONGEST

Pipe,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME

IS

GRATEFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY
DEDICATED.

42560

PREFACE.

ONE or two friends to whom I showed these papers in MS. having observed that they were not half bad; and some of my relations having promised to buy the book, if it ever came out, I feel I have no right to longer delay its issue. But for this, as one may say, public demand, I, perhaps, should not have ventured to offer these mere "idle thoughts" of mine as mental food for the English-speaking peoples of the earth. What readers ask nowadays in a book is that it should improve, instruct, and elevate. This book wouldn't elevate a cow. I cannot conscientiously recommend it for any useful purposes whatever. All I can suggest is, that when you get tired of reading "the best hundred books," you may take this up for half an hour. It will be a change.

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