

LETTER III

No, I agree with you that transitions never come with any real suddenness ; but
Theological
outlook. to certain classes of the community they will always be catastrophic. I know a man of taste and intelligence, by inheritance and training very religious, who is never stirred by philosophical or critical questions or doubts concerning any underlying principle. He ignores the ferment of doubt in the schools with respect to any matter which he desires to hold as settled, and he does not believe it will ever reach the street. What then ? Ferment, or leaven, is a very real force, and the results of modern doubt will come upon this man, as to his forerunners, as a surprise.¹ This man of whom I speak read

¹ "Newman was contemporary with the application (by German scholars) of historical criticism to Christian