

selectness of taste and understanding." The lecturer himself is of the same opinion. "My audience was supposed to be the best for rank, beauty and intelligence, ever collected in London. I had bonnie braw dames, Ladies this, Ladies that, though I dared not look at them lest they should put me out. I had old men of four score; men middle-aged, with fine, steel-grey beards; young men of the Universities, of the law profession, all sitting quite mum there, and the Annandale voice gollying at them." The lecturer's wife is not to be described as gushing; but she goes beyond even Carlyle himself. "The audience is fair in quantity (more than fair . . .), and in quality it is unsurpassable; there are women so beautiful and intelligent, that they look like emanations from the moon; and men whose faces are histories, in which one may read with ever new interest." Maurice was of this audience and confessed himself more edified by the lectures than by anything he had heard for a long while.¹ Monckton Milnes wrote to Aubrey de Vere of the interest they aroused. "He talks as graphically as his *French Revolution*; his personality is most attractive. There he stands simple as a child, and his happy thought dances on his lips, and in his eyes, and takes word and goes away, and he bids it God speed, whatever it may be."² Handsome George Ticknor, enjoying himself very much in London, found time to look in at the tenth lecture, just before he took ship for the United States; he was only moderately pleased with Carlyle. He thought him ugly and his accent unpleasant; but he remarked the careful preparation, although the lecturer spoke without notes. "He was impressive, I think, though such lecturing could not very well be popular; and in some parts, if he were not poetical, he was picturesque. He was nowhere obscure, nor were his

¹ *The Life of Frederick Denison Maurice*, I, 250. Lond., 1884.

² *Life of Lord Houghton*, I, 220.