

upon it; not Paganism only, but far higher and truer religions—all religions hitherto known. Hero-worship, heartfelt, prostrate admiration, submission, burning, boundless, for a noblest, godlike Form of Man,—is not that the germ of Christianity itself?" It is needless to say that Christ has been adored in the belief that He was not a great man, but God. But again—"For myself in these days, I seem to see in this indestructibility of Hero-worship the everlasting adamant lower than which the confused wreck of revolutionary things cannot fall. The confused wreck of things crumbling and even crashing and tumbling all round us in these revolutionary ages will get down so far, no further. It is an eternal corner-stone, from which they can begin to build themselves up again. That man, in some sense or other, worships heroes; that we, all of us, reverence, and must ever reverence, great men: this is, to me, the living rock amid all rushings down whatsoever;—the one fixed point in modern revolutionary history, otherwise as if bottomless and shoreless." Those who, in face of such passages as these, and a hundred more of the same kind, undertake to declare that Hero-worship is not the essence of Carlyleism, but merely one of its trappings, can surely be nothing less than Seers themselves. What are "Cromwell," "Frederick," "Past and Present," "Dr. Francia," but so many embodiments of the doctrine taught in "Hero-worship" and of its corollary, propounded in the same place, "History is the biography of Great Men?" In the "French Revolution," Carlyle could not find a Hero, the men being not near so great as the events, though he does all he can to inflate Mirabeau and Danton; and to this is at least partly due the superiority of that work as a real history, over all the rest. To characters which were simply examples of allegiance to duty, such as Lafayette, Carlyle is far from being partial: he was inclined to sneer at them as formalists and pedants. Time will winnow the chaff from the grain. We suspect that the Seer will vanish, while the Historic Painter and the Humorist will remain forever.