

like a god; and, therefore, to worship the greatest of men or to put blind trust in him is folly and degradation. But when greatness is identified with force, Hero worship becomes a superstition as gross as the adoration of any hundred-handed idol. The idea is an anachronism; in early times the chief is everything; as civilization advances the people rise to his level and his importance grows less. A passage in "Frederick" shows that Carlyle had never got rid of his Scotch Calvinism, and that at the root of his historical philosophy lay Predestination. The most unpractical of teachers, not even caring to be practical, he never asked himself how the hero, in following whom lay the world's sole hope of salvation, was to be found. The names of Cromwell, Frederick, Napoleon issued from the urn of war or political convulsion, which would be rather costly modes of election. A vague sympathy with violence Carlyle succeeded in creating, and, unhappily, it sometimes took practical forms. It must be said for him that while he perverts history by partiality for the hero and by flagrant injustice (or as he styles it "justice of the gods") towards all who get in the hero's way, he never, so far as we know, falsifies facts. But his imitators, the avenging Furies of eccentric genius, do falsify facts and turn history into a vast lie for the glorification of some hero like King Henry VIII. and the disparagement of his victims. The moral of "Past and Present" is just as untrue as that of "Hero Worship"; the world with which Abbot Samson battled was, on Carlyle's own showing, not better, but worse than ours. Here, again, Carlyle himself keeps some measure with common sense, but he is followed by howling dervishes who denounce their generation, though it keeps them pretty comfortably, as a mere mass of roguery, and, being themselves the softest of sentimentalists, affect to pine for the return of a heroic age in which they would have been the most abject and the most constantly kicked of slaves. How much insight the sage derived from his philosophy was seen when he pronounced on the greatest practical question of his day, the struggle between Slavery and Freedom in the United States, a