

I. Thomas Carlyle.

"All true work is sacred; in all true work, even but true hand-labour, there is something of divineness. O brother, if this is not worship, then I say the more pity for worship, for this is the noblest thing yet discovered under God's sky. Who art thou who complainest of thy life of toil? Complain not. Look up, my wearied brother; see thy fellow workmen there in God's eternity; surviving there, they alone surviving; sacred band of the immortals, celestial body-guard of the Empire of Mankind."—Thomas Carlyle.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS.—Thomas Carlyle was born December 4, 1795, in Ecclefechan, Annandale, first son of James Carlyle, mason and small farmer, and his second wife, Janet Aitken. Carlyle had the usual training of the clever Scotch boy—even peasants' son—a start at home from mother and father in reading and arithmetic, the village school, Latin under the eye of the minister, the grammar school (Annan) for some French, Latin, mathematics, then the university. Carlyle went up (walked) to Edinburgh in November, 1809, expecting in the end to enter the ministry. He got some Latin, Greek, and mathematics at college, but he was not remarked except among his associates, to whom he seemed a second Dean Swift. He became mathematical tutor at Annan, 1814, and set about qualifying for the ministry by preaching two sermons in Edinburgh. In 1816 he went to Kirkcaldy to teach, became intimate there with Irving, then also a schoolmaster. There he abandoned his orthodox views and all thoughts of the ministry. In 1819 he began the study of law, but it was soon given up. Dyspepsia seized on him. His "three most miserable years" follow, in which hackwork and tutoring keep him alive. The "spiritual new birth" described in *Sartor*, is an autobiographic fragment of this period. His study of German revealed to him a master in Goethe. For some years Carlyle acted as tutor to Charles and Arthur Buller, which took him to London. His literary work, passing over articles for encyclopædias and translations of Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister* and Legendre's geometry, was fairly begun by his *Life of Schiller*. In 1826 Carlyle married Jane Welsh, "the flower of Haddington", a marriage not without its mutual affection and happiness and comradeship, likewise not without its heartburnings and explosions and human discontent. They lived at Edinburgh, then at Craigenputtock, 1828 to 1834, where in the quiet of a remote country house Carlyle forged his intellect to its best uses. *Sartor Resartus* and many of the essays belong to this period. In May, 1834, he went to London, soon renting No. 5. (now 24) Cheyne Row, Chelsea, his abode till death. The *French Revolution*, begun there the year of his arrival, was finished in 1837, and its publication marks the turn of the tide of fortune. His