

or in uplifting the great mass of mankind. The two views are not always distinctly separated; and that may arise from the fact that they are by no means incompatible, are, in fact, perhaps even inseparable. This will appear if the place of the great man in human progress is correctly interpreted.

On the historical position of the great man, there are also two theories, which unfortunately are sometimes treated as if they were mutually exclusive. They are perhaps best distinguished by the names 'aristocratic' and 'democratic.' The latter, which is also known as the representative theory, views the great man as but the highest or most brilliant bubble on the wave of human progress, and therefore as merely representing, in no sense as creating or directing, the movement of which he is a product. The facts commonly cited in support of this theory go no further than to prove that the great man, like every other phenomenon in nature or in history, can arise only in a suitable environment. But this of course is by no means ignored by opponents of the theory. Carlyle, for example, in his numerous biographical sketches, almost invariably lays stress on the environment in which men are brought up; yet he was undoubtedly chief among the champions of the aristocratic view.

Carlyle's championship of this view, which gleams in incidental flashes through all his writings, finds a noble embodiment specially in his "Lectures on Heroes and Hero-Worship." It forms also one of the most striking and powerful influences in the literature of the nineteenth century. For a time, indeed, Carlyle's influence seemed to receive a check from hasty exponents of Darwinism, who interpreted the process of evolution as a mere transposition of elementary particles—molecules, atoms, electrons, or whatever else they may be called—with varying degrees of velocity in their movements. Such an interpretation of course excludes a real evolution of anything whatever, not to speak of heroic natures among men. It is not surprising, therefore, that thinkers who conceive more clearly what evolution means