

good. Against this there is to be set no small measure of harm done by the sophistical perversion of morality in the interest of "heroes." The more questionable the hero, the greater and more frequent, of course, are the perversions, and no work of Carlyle's is more full of them than his life of that most questionable of heroes, Frederick the Great. Often in that book does he trample on justice and mercy, not seldom does he descend to the veriest pettifogging to cover the iniquities of a brilliant buccaneer or the brutalities of an old Cyclops who would have been seen in his true colours if he had not been the buccaneer's father. When the wrong-doing cannot be veiled, it is treated as privileged, and censure is daffied aside. "It is dangerous to have spoken kindly to the Crown-Prince, or almost to have been spoken to by him. Doris Ritter, a comely enough young girl, nothing of a beauty, but given to music, Potsdam Precentor's daughter, has chanced to be standing in the door, perhaps to be singing within doors, once or twice when the Prince passed that way; the Prince inquired about her music, gave her music, spoke a civility, as young men will,--nothing more, upon my honour, though his Majesty believes there was much more; and condemns poor Doris to be whipt by the Beadle and beat hemp for three years. Radamanthus is a strict judge, your Majesty; and might be a trifle better informed." This, we submit to the Carlyleists, can hardly be the path of righteousness, or the way of salvation for mankind. The same may be said of the passages on the Katte affair and the forcible incorporation of the Saxon army into the Prussian; of that on the partition of Poland, and many others in the same history; while the whole book is pervaded by a spirit of inhumanity and a truculent recklessness of bloodshed, which when found in a literary man, who ought to be a faithful servant of moral civilization, are very repulsive. The practical consequences of such doctrines were exhibited by Carlyle himself, Kingsley and others of the sect, in upholding slavery and applauding the dastardly atrocities of Governor Eyre. Nor is the historical insight displayed in "Friedrich" superior to the sentiment. What