

Truth's Contributors.

The First Forty Years of the Life of Thomas Carlyle.

BY J. A. FROUDE, M.A. PART I.

Among the numerous excellent biographies published of late years, none are more interesting than the one of which we propose to give some account to the readers of TRUTH. Thomas Carlyle, as much as any great writer of our time, has left his mark on the mind of all English-speaking nations of this age. And that not from any novelty of teaching, but from insight into character, picturesque and forcible presentation of his thoughts, certain grim humor, an element which he first introduced into historical and philosophical writing, and above all from the indomitable integrity and force of his nature. James Anthony Froude was one of his most intimate friends, a man like-minded in many ways, and long known to be master of a singularly charming style. In his portraiture of Carlyle he has shown what his former writings lack, great power of analysis, and a desire to deal in all ways fairly with the facts.

Thomas Carlyle was born at a poor cottage in Ecclefechan, near Dumfries, Scotland, on Dec. 4th, 1794. His parents were God-fearing, industrious peasants. They lived a life regulated by the Word of God, which was read aloud night and morning. The constant study in his boyhood of the grand diction of the Old and New Testament has evidently colored the literary style of Carlyle, which so often rises into the tone of a Hebrew Prophet, denouncing hypocrisy and evil. But, as Froude says, "education is a passion in Scotland," and Carlyle's father saw that he was grounded in arithmetic and Latin by the minister and schoolmaster of the village and afterwards at Annan High School. His father had, silently observed his little Tom; the reports from the Annan masters were all favorable; he inclined to send him to the University. The wise men of Ecclefechan shook their heads. "A Scottish University at that time seems to have been an admirable school for self-help, both of mind and body. Each student as a rule, was the most promising member of the family to which he belonged. And complete confidence was placed in him. They walked from their homes, being unable to pay for coach hire. They entered their own names at the college. They found their own humble lodgings, and were left entirely to their capacity for self-conduct. The carriers brought them oatmeal, potatoes, and salt butter from the home farm, with a few eggs occasionally as a luxury. With their thrifty habits they required no other food. In the return cart their linen went back to their mothers, to be washed and mended." Under these conditions Carlyle studied his favorite mathematics, in which alone he was distinguished at the University; for philosophy, as interpreted by the Professor, Dugald Stewart, "an eloquent, acute little gentleman, full of suggestions," he cared nothing. Quite another kind of philosophy, that of the great German transcendentalists, was to mould his thought in the future. What was of most real use to him in his studies in the University was the insight he gained into the great classics. Homer he delighted in, and Virgil, and Tacitus, the trace of whose curt condensed sentences may be often traced in his writings. Horace he thought a fop, "whom it is a sad fact I never cared for."

In Cicero he found "a windy person and a weariness." But more than from professor or text book, the young student learned from his father, from whose manner of conversation, and not, as has often been said, from the German writers, with whom he afterwards became so familiar, he learned his very peculiar and forcible mannerism. "None of us (so Carlyle writes) will ever forget that bold, glowing style of his, flowing free from the untutored soul, full of metaphor, though he knew not what metaphor was, with all manner of potent words, which he appropriated and applied with surprising accuracy, brief, energetic, conveying the most perfect picture, definite, clear, not in ambitious columns, but in pure white sunlight."

light." No more accurate description of Carlyle's own manner when at his best.

When he had finished his course at college, Carlyle set about to maintain himself. He tried pupils, schoolteaching, preparation for the ministry. In the winter of 1816 he met the most noteworthy of his early friends, Edward Irving, afterwards the celebrated pulpit orator, the founder of the religious movement, not unknown in Canada, as "the Catholic Apostolic." A likeness of Irving in the writer's possession, presents him as tall, enthusiastic looking, singularly handsome. As a student, in those days he had not adopted the stern, religious enthusiasm of later life. He seems to have been then better read than Carlyle, to whom his library was of great advantage. Then it was he first read Gibbon's masterpiece of history. In later life, Mr. Froude tells us, Carlyle was much to correct in his early estimate of Gibbon, "a man of endless reading and reserve, but of a most disagreeable style, and a great want of the highest faculties." It is curious that whereas in earlier years Carlyle had ridiculed the controversy against Arian heresy as a mere "dispute about a diphthong," he told Mr. Froude shortly before his death that "he now perceived Christianity itself to have been at stake. Had the Arians won it would have dwindled away into a legend."

They wrote each other long letters, as people did in days when the postage fee was equivalent to twenty-two cents. Irving's are full of enthusiastic hope, not only for the regeneration of all things, but for his friend's genius, and of plans for its development. It was through Irving that Carlyle was first introduced to Miss Jane Welsh, an heiress, and of social position far above that of the farm laborers of Ecclefechan.

Law had by this time become intolerable to Carlyle, its teachers "mere denizens of the kingdom of dullness, pointing towards nothing but money as a reward for all that bog-pool of disgust."

The ministry he had even before this thought it right to consider unfit for him. Doubt had arisen. He had read Gibbon; he had been brought up to regard as infallible every word and letter of the Bible. Finding this unbelievable, he abandoned much else along with it, as happens in the case of Roman Catholics, who rarely throw aside belief in the Pope's infallibility without throwing aside all allegiance to Christianity. Had Carlyle at this time fallen under the influence of broad and enlightened Christian teaching, he might never have written the impatient words: "Go thou thy way, O church, and let me go mine."

The next important event in the first forty years of Carlyle's life was his marriage to a lady whose beauty, wit, social talent and social position materially aided him in his early struggles. Carlyle's mother and sisters belonged altogether to the peasant class, but Miss Jane Welsh was an heiress, the descendant of a family of "lairds," an accomplished young lady with strongly-marked literary tastes. She had been the pupil of Edward Irving, to whom Carlyle owed his introduction to the Welshes. Miss Welsh had become strongly attached to Irving, and when she learned that his affections were otherwise engaged, felt the disappointment keenly. Just then Carlyle appeared on the scene as her admirer, and was accepted more readily than might have been the case but for the peculiar circumstances in which Miss Welsh had been placed, her heart being won, as it were, on the recochet! On the whole the marriage was a happy one for both. Mrs. Carlyle appreciated her husband's genius, and from the first resolved that come what might, no work or business trouble should come between him and his intellectual work. She herself bore every household burden. "She had to work as a menial servant. But in their married life, as Mr. Froude says; "it is not certain that there is anything to regret. The married life of Carlyle and Jane Welsh was not happy in the roseate sense of happiness. In the fret and chafe of daily life the sharp edges of the facets of two diamonds remain keen, and the never wear into surfaces which harmoniously correspond." C. P. M.

After crackers have got to be old, tough, and tasteless, just put them into the oven on a tin and brown them a little, and they will be as brittle and nice as when first from the bakery.

* Harper & Brothers, New York

Reminiscent Soraps.

BY COL. D. WYLLIE, BROCKVILLE.

Since the first introduction of printing into Canada in 1703, and the first appearance of the Quebec Gazette in 1764, many newspapers have appeared and disappeared, both in what was then Lower and Upper Canada. The oldest now in existence in the Province of Quebec is, as far as the writer is aware, the Gazette and Herald. The Courier, the Transcript, and the Pilot, after good service have passed away, as well as several others. The Transcript was for a number of years carried on by Mr. McDonald, a very excellent man. The Pilot, for some time, had Sir Francis Hincks as its establisher and editor; afterwards Mr. Rollo Campbell, with a nephew of Sir Francis as editor, who, after the Parliament houses were burned in 1849, went to Washington, and acted as shorthand reporter for the leading paper of the American capital. While Mr. Hincks was connected with the Pilot, the first reportorial corps for taking verbatim reports of the proceedings of Parliament was formed. Messrs. Hincks and Moore, the latter afterwards connected with the Toronto Colonist, acted for the Pilot, and the late Senator Penny and Mr. D. Wylie for the Herald. After the Parliament House was burned, a call of the Upper House, now the Senate, was held, for the purpose of passing a resolution of condolence with the Governor-General, Lord Elgin, for the bad treatment received by him in consequence of his sanctioning the rebellion losses bill, and the destruction of the Houses of Parliament. Mr. Wylie was requested to attend this meeting, with a promise that Mr. Penny was to take part in reporting proceedings. The debate was commenced at three o'clock in the afternoon, and was continued till near that hour on the following morning. Mr. Penny, having other duties assigned him, could not attend, and Mr. Wylie was kept at work till ten at night, when he felt both his sense of seeing and hearing distinctly give way. He threw down pencil and notes, and rushed from the chamber in search of refreshments. Having found these, he hastily drank a glass of wine and eat a couple of biscuits, hurried back to the chamber, and continued his work till about three o'clock in the morning. The report of the proceedings occupied eighteen columns of the Herald, and as he had attended all the sittings of the Upper House for the session, the members, at the close, to show their appreciation of his labors, voted him a gratuity of fifty dollars. Mr. Low, now of the Emigration department at Ottawa, commenced his first duties during this session as reporter for the Gazette. Mr. Chamberlain, Queen's Printer, was also connected with the Gazette. The former editor, Mr. Ferris, having received the appointment of Penitentiary Warden, a fact showing that Sir John Macdonald looks well after his friends of the press. Well may we pray this million burning light May blight the root of sin's foul upas tree, And raise yet darkened nations from their night, And aid to make man what he ought to be— A being—while the earth is his abode, Who seeks the good of all by serving God.

Whatever the foregoing appointments tend to such a consummation, let each answer for himself.

Some fifty years ago, a quiet, studious-looking lad, wearing the uniform of the Highland Society, (an institution established for the education of boys of Highland descent without parents,) might have been seen "at the case" in a newspaper office, bound, as is the rule, to a seven years' apprenticeship as a compositor. After the expiry of his apprenticeship he went to Liverpool, and commenced the arduous duties of a local reporter. The writer of this, and the boy alluded to, took alternate weeks at this work. The boy, now grown to manhood, afterwards went to Newcastle, and became part proprietor and editor of a paper in that city. Leaving Newcastle, he settled in Bristol, and is now not only proprietor of one of the most widely circulated newspapers of that city, but also a member of the British House of Commons. Here is a pattern for the young printers of Canada; but let me say this for their guidance, sobriety and perseverance are two important factors in climbing to such an honorable eminence. More anon.

NOTES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. W.—General Gordon was born in 1833. Lord Wolseley is of the same age.

M. L. B., Holland, Mass.—The sentiment in Tin-Bir sent, do you honor. Hope it will prove acceptable.

Mrs. H. O., Allen's Corners.—Stories for competition are really more acceptable in printed form than when written.

J. L. L., Grovearor Avenue, City.—The poem on Canada is good. Hope it will meet with the approval of the committee.

J. W., Ballyduff.—The story you sent is very fair. Can't say anything about its acceptance. It will be published as soon as accepted.

J.—The Emperor Napoleon died on the 9th of January, 1873. He was a contemptible scoundrel and deserved all the humiliation he got and a great deal more.

GENTLE.—The Jewish year 5645 began on the 20th of September, 1884. The feast of Passim is on the first of March. The year 5646 begins on the 18th of September.

N.—You could not do better than procure a copy of the Canadian Almanac. It will answer your question and a great many others, much more satisfactorily than we could.

G. A. MELLEK, North Amherst, Ohio.—You send us a \$5 "Confederate" bank bill and want us to send you \$4 in change. Well, hardly, Mr. M. Send a dollar if you wish to compete.

A SUBSCRIBER.—It is said that the Prince of Wales means to reign as Edward VII., and his son, if spared, as Edward VIII., but that the Queen is so set upon Albert that nothing in the meantime can be said on the subject.

M. S., Harrowsmith, Ont.—It is not necessary to supply the author's name to a selected story sent for a prize. If the name is known it is of more interest to have it for publication. The story will be judged on its merits anyway.

E. M., Port Elgin.—The prize stories are selected, as far as practicable, out of those sent each week. In some instances one or more is kept for a time to give it a chance of insertion. It is all but impossible to get the story and return it to the sender again. We much regret that it is so.

T. F., Nananec.—More than one story or tid-bit can be sent and the best will be selected. In case more than one chance is desired a second or third dollar can be sent, accompanied by a second or third article, each will have a fair chance. You order the extra copy of TRUTH to any friend you wish.

M. W., Weston.—There is no objection to sending your answers for Bible competition to some friend at a far distant post office to mail for you in competition for consolation prizes. The last correct answers received, mailed not later than Feb. 15th, will be awarded prizes, no matter by whom sent, or through whom. If you have sent in for the earlier prizes you can also compete for the last.

J. F., London.—In all cases stories to be accepted at all for the prize competition must be accompanied with the one dollar subscription fee. It would not be fair to require this of some and not of all. We deal with everyone alike in the distribution of prizes. There is a fair field and no favor to all. No story will be submitted to the committee without the preliminary conditions are complied with.

ADA C., Hampden, N. B.—The contributions you send are certainly worthy of publication and a prize too; and so are a good many others that are sent. If the committee consider them the most worthy of those in they will be published and the prize given.

The same general answer may be given to a score of other correspondents. Whatever ones sent, accompanied with the necessary conditions, are submitted for adjudication, and those deemed best are published.

J. J., Peterboro.—It is found all but impossible to exchange prizes awarded, as it involves an amount of correspondence and confusion much greater than is usually imagined. Every prize awarded will be promptly and honorably paid, and we would be glad to accommodate friends by exchanging one for another as some desire, but it seems impracticable in such an immense distribution.

Secret letters remain to be answered next week.

\$20.

We are glad to hear for the in the judgment for this the competition must become three months their Tid-Bit. These terms extend dollar sent. only (the one best). The s be the work ay pamphlet other public address of t happen to s received will by the comm want to mak in TRUTH. I something of prize will be delay. Tho (if it contain need a half a row and reader and a use article. "Truth" O

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