

which the audience listened, to an awful sympathising expectation on their part of a momentary break-down, when all at once they broke into loud plaudits, and he thought they must all have gone clean out of their wits! But, as does not happen always, the majority were in this instance in the right, and it was he that was out of his wits to fancy himself making a stupid lecture, when the fact is he really cannot be stupid if it were to save his life." She did not think he was talking his best; but she heard "splendid," "devilish fine," "most true" "heartily ejaculated," on all sides. "The most practical good feature in the business was a considerable increase of hearers — even since last day; the audience seems to me larger than last year, and even more distinguished." As in the days of Coleridge, the whole street was blocked with carriages of people who maintained servants in livery. The English aristocracy are the most open to light of any class Carlyle has to do with, thinks Mrs. Carlyle; and gives an instance of their openness to truth. "Even John Knox, though they must have been very angry at him for demolishing so much beautiful architecture, which is quite a passion with the English, they were quite willing to let good be said of, so that it were indisputably true. Nay, it was in reference to Knox that they first applauded yesterday." The whole letter shows sincere elation at her husband's success.

Hunt's notice of the third lecture,¹ the first on Puritanism, is a mild rebuttal of Carlyle's special pleading for Cromwell. To blame Charles for deception, while protesting that Cromwell could not get on without it, seemed inconsistent. Hunt is very careful to qualify his disapproval, in such a way as this: "Had Mr. Carlyle taken pains to draw a distinction he might doubtless have done so." Or else he softens his remonstrance with compliments like this. "Not that Mr. Carlyle

¹ The *Examiner*, Sunday, May 12, 1839.