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THOMAS CARLYLE.

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THERE is a peculiar fascination in the personality of a great man. Everything connected with his life, his sayings and doings, is read eagerly, and although disappointment frequently ensues, the appetite for further information remains. The opinions elicited by Froude's publications have been of the most contradictory character. There seems to be a tendency on the part of the majority of readers to accept the revelations of Carlyle's domestic and social life as conclusive evidence that the hero-worshipper, the man who, in season and out of season, denounced cant and barren talk, who counselled action and energy in all departments of life, was in his own life the antithesis of a hero, the originator of a new form of cant, and the vainest of babblers. No doubt, there is a certain heroism in Carlyle's life, and in nothing was it shown more clearly than in his refusal to prostitute his pen to writing that which he did not believe to be wholly true, at a time when want was coming perilously near. But of that heroism, Christian

heroism, it may be called, which manifests itself in bearing patiently the small ills of life, in sacrificing feelings and suppressing emotions to save others from pain and distress, of such a heroism he knew nothing.

There are two points in Carlyle's life and opinions worth noticing:—

(1) Froude has put on record a terrible mental struggle of Carlyle's, a struggle that terminated in an escape from spiritual slavery and in breathing the air of spiritual freedom. Just what the character of that struggle was we are left to conjecture, and we are not fully informed of the nature of his deliverance; but Carlyle has given us some insight into them. He, in true Puritan fashion, had his days of darkness, despair and temptings; and out of the darkness he emerges with the fixed impression that nothing is so dreadful as death, that the worst that can happen to any mortal can be expressed by the word *death*; and that he that wins the victory over the fear of the last enemy, is henceforth spiritually free. Carlyle claimed to have won that