

Of this course we know the least of all. Leigh Hunt was very late for the first lecture, because his omnibus ran a waiting race with another; and he reports it in one vague sentence. The second, on "Protestantism, Faith in the Bible, Luther, Knox, Gustavus Adolphus," he reports at some length;¹ and one of Mrs. Carlyle's lively letters² deals with some of its aspects. The two are worth comparing. Hunt notices his manner and its effect on his audience. "There is frequently a noble homeliness, a passionate simplicity and familiarity of speech in the language of Mr. Carlyle, which gives startling effect to his sincerity, and is evidently received by his audience, especially the fashionable part of it (as one may know by the increased silence), with a feeling that would smile if it could, but which is fairly dashed into a submission, grateful for the novelty and the excitement by the hard force of the very blows of truth." One of the passages which had this effect was Carlyle's denunciation of the degenerate Papacy. The heartiness of the speaker's convictions, uttered in simple, truthful words, had full weight with his audience. "Every manly face . . . seems to knit its lips, out of a severity of sympathy, whether it would or no; and all the pretty church-and-state bonnets seem to think through all their ribbons." Hunt was plainly a most sympathetic listener, sensitive to moods and impressions. One paragraph of commendation and summary is given to the account of Luther, which shows much the same treatment as in *Heroes*.

Mrs. Carlyle is not concerned with the matter of the lecture, but with its effect. Writing to old Mrs. Carlyle at Scotsbrig on May 6, she says: "Our second lecture 'transpired' yesterday, and with surprising success — literally surprising, for he was imputing the profound attention with

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

² *L. and M. I.*, 112.