

sentences peculiarly constructed, though some of them, no doubt, savored of his peculiar manner."¹ The success of the course was most unmistakable. At the last, Carlyle had some of his audience, ladies undoubtedly, weeping; others, undoubtedly men, wanted to give him a dinner to express their sense of obligation; but he declined the honor. More lasting than "the glory of Portman Square" was the net result in money, nearly 300 guineas. The London season and the cosmic programme for 1838 included, as two of their chief events, the coronation of the girl queen of nineteen and the lectures of Thomas Carlyle.

Of this course, we know more than of any other, except *Heroes*. Thackeray, we may be almost sure, attended the first lecture, and wrote the fine compliments in the *Times*, which pleased Carlyle so much. Leigh Hunt reported him in the *Examiner*, after a fashion that pleased him much less. Instead of giving a clear summary of what was said, Hunt argued in print with the lecturer and disputed his various propositions. The most characteristic thing is his disallowing Carlyle's praise of thrift, after borrowing two of Carlyle's hard-earned guineas. The *Examiner* reports have a distinct value and interest; but there is an even fuller account to be had. Sterling laughed with Caroline Fox over the ladies who attended Carlyle's lectures and took notes, not of the thoughts, but of the dates, "and these all wrong"; but there was another taker of notes at this course, who worked to some purpose.

In 1892, Professor J. Reay Greene edited, with preface and notes, "Lectures on the History of Literature Delivered by Thomas Carlyle April to July, 1838."² The account the editor gives of them is not quite clear; we would gladly

¹ *Life of George Ticknor*, sub dat. June 1, 1838.

² Significant extracts had been published, in an article by Professor Dowden, in *The Nineteenth Century*, April, 1881.