

MY RELATIONS WITH CARLYLE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649397631

My Relations with Carlyle by James Anthony Froude

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JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE

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WITH CARLYLE**

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BY

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE

*TOGETHER WITH A LETTER FROM THE LATE
SIR JAMES STEPHEN, BART., K.C.S.I.
DATED DECEMBER 9, 1886*

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1903

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PREFATORY NOTE

IN making facts public on which Mr. Froude had, after long and anxious consideration, decided to be silent, we are fully aware of the responsibility we are taking on ourselves. For the re-opening of the controversy, however, we are not to blame. The following private account, written by Mr. Froude himself, of his own relations with Mr. Carlyle would never have been given to the world had not the production of the 'New Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle,' with the serious charges contained in the Introduction and Footnotes, appeared to us to demand its publication.

In the face of such charges, we feel that we should not be doing our duty as Mr. Froude's representatives if we failed to use the means which we possess of vindicating his memory. It seems to us best that Mr. Froude should speak in his own words, even though they may not be those which he himself might finally have chosen, had he been

now living, and had he consented at last to speak in his own defence.

The history of the Notes is given on a subsequent page. As the style itself shows, they have received no literary revision; and none has been attempted by ourselves. We have corrected a few clerical errors; we have omitted a few passages, containing intimate reflections and recollections, unconnected with the point at issue; and two passages, dealing not with Mr. Carlyle but with certain business complications which arose out of the publication of his Memoirs, we have transferred *in extenso* to the Appendix.

With the Notes we publish, by permission of Sir Herbert Stephen, a letter from Sir James Stephen to Mr. Froude, which was printed in 1886 for private circulation only, and in which reference is made to the above business matter. The letter is evidence which cannot be disputed as to Sir James Stephen's opinion of his co-executor's conduct, throughout a difficult and most painful business, and it shows incidentally the complications which resulted from Mr. Carlyle's changes of purpose.

ASHLEY A. FROUDE.

MARGARET FROUDE.

May 22, 1903.

MY RELATIONS WITH CARLYLE.

Mr. Froude's account of his 'Relations with Carlyle' was found after his death in a despatch-box with a copy of Mr. Carlyle's will and a few business papers. The notes are written in pencil in a note-book, and, so far as is known, Mr. Froude had shown them to no one. The first few pages are of too intimate a nature to be given to the public; but they are painful evidence of how acutely Mr. Froude had suffered under the criticism to which he refused to reply. The short account which he gives of his own early life, is only important because of the light thrown by it upon his first acquaintance with Mr. Carlyle. He describes how he had been bred up in the usual way, had gone to school and college, passed fairly through his university career, and in process of time gained a fellowship, the natural result of which had been ordination. He had taken deacon's orders, and looked to the Church as his regular profession. So much as a doubt, he tells us, had so far never crossed his mind of the truth of the creed in which he had been brought up.