

# **CONVERSATION S WITH CARLYLE**

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Conversations with Carlyle by Sir Charles Gavan Duffy

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**SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY**

**CONVERSATION  
S WITH CARLYLE**





My best wishes and regards  
from Limerick  
his 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 1849.  
T. Carlyle

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CONVERSATIONS

WITH

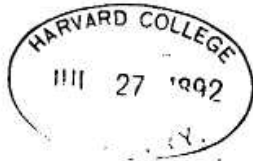
CARLYLE

SIR CHARLES GAVAN DUFFY,  
K.C.M.G.

NEW YORK:  
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS,  
743 & 745 BROADWAY.  
1892.

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Subscription fund

## PREFACE.

THESE papers were originally published in the *Contemporary Review*, chiefly for the purpose of presenting a more real, as well as a more human, picture of the philosopher of Chelsea than readers have been accustomed to of late.

It has been no little gratification to me to receive letters from cultivated and thoughtful people, declaring that the conversations and correspondence, and, in some degree, the testimony of the author, had enabled them to accept anew an estimate of Carlyle which they had relinquished with pain, and to be assured that the nature and habits of the eminent man were not unworthy of his position as a teacher and leader of his age.

They have incidentally served another purpose : they furnish a striking gallery of portraits, and an unique body of criticism on the writers of the century, by one of the most impressive painters of men that ever existed. The criticisms have sometimes been called harsh and unjust, by impatient



partisans of this or that personage; but when they are dispassionately examined, they will be found, in almost every instance, to be just judgments, the exact truth uttered by a critic as competent to discern and express it as Bacon or Burke. The conversations have not been prematurely published; it is more than forty years since the earliest of them were written, and it is not too soon to hear the judgment of such an expert on the men and things among which he lived.

Critics of these papers have recognised that Carlyle is made to use the exact phraseology he was accustomed to employ. The conversations were, in fact, written down immediately after they took place, when his emphatic and significant language was still fresh in my memory. Readers who knew Carlyle will, I think, recognise the familiar cadence, and those who did not know him will have the means of realising his ordinary speech and method for themselves.

VILLA MARGUERITE,  
NICE, ALPES MARITIMES,  
*April, 1892.*

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