

**THE NEMESIS OF FROUDE:  
A REJOINDER TO JAMES  
ANTHONY FROUDE'S "MY  
RELATIONS WITH CARLYLE"**

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The Nemesis of Froude: A Rejoinder to James Anthony Froude's "My Relations with Carlyle" by Alexander Carlyle & Sir James Crichton-Browne

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**ALEXANDER CARLYLE & SIR JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE**

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THE  
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A REJOINDER

TO

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE'S  
"MY RELATIONS WITH CARLYLE"

BY

ALEXANDER CARLYLE, B. A.

AND

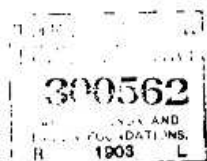
SIR JAMES CRICHTON-BROWNE, M.D.

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## PREFACE

**I**N the Prefatory note to "My Relations with Carlyle," by James Anthony Froude, it is stated by the Editors, Mr. Ashley A. Froude and Miss Margaret Froude, that it 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 Foot-notes, appeared to demand its publication. But the serious charges referred to, although no doubt rendered more serious by the fresh evidence in their support brought to light in the "New Letters and Memorials"—evidence which Mr. Froude had suppressed—were not in any case new charges, but the mere repetition of charges which were first made twenty years ago, and which are not really traversed by "My Relations with Carlyle." Mr. Froude attempts to explain his superabundant verbal inaccuracies, but has not a word to say in answer to the grave charges brought against him, of giving garbled extracts of documents and omitting of set purpose such portions of them as did not fit in with his own views, of contravening again and again the solemn injunctions imposed on him by Carlyle, of making claims to advantages to which he was not entitled, of refusing to implement an unconditional promise, and generally of producing a Biography elaborated

## PREFACE

with the art of the practised romancer in which the true features of the subject can scarcely be recognised, but in which assertion and inference, unsupported by evidence, are palmed off for correct statement. On all these points he has allowed judgment to go by default. His defence consists in the accentuation of what he had already said derogatory of Carlyle, with the addition of fresh charges against him of a very odious description, which, had they been true, should in decency have been kept concealed, but which, being groundless, as we hope to prove, reflect discredit on those who have rashly, or in the spirit of retaliation, thrust them prominently forward. That Mr. Froude ever decided to keep silence on these charges we take leave to doubt.

As early as 1881 Mr. Froude, in a letter which appeared in the *Times* of May 6th, alluded to reasons which he could not give "without entering on a subject on which it is better to be silent," and added that he would be sorry if the difficulty of his task was "increased by a demand for further explanations which I shall be very reluctant to give." He was at once challenged by Mrs. Alexander Carlyle in the *Times*, to satisfy the curiosity he had awakened by his reference to "hidden reasons and explanations." To this challenge he made no reply; but on the 20th of April, 1886, when he heard that Professor Charles Eliot Norton was about to publish the "Early Letters of Carlyle," he wrote to Mrs. Alexander Carlyle, drawing attention to the passage in Mrs. Carlyle's Journal relating to "two blue marks on the wrist," and hinting that this secret might have to

## PREFACE

be revealed. Again, in 1896, there was a threat to publish "My Relations with Carlyle," merely because Mr. Alexander Carlyle had requested that a private letter by Mr. Froude to Mr. McPherson, which was published in his short Life of Carlyle, should not be allowed to appear in a second edition, lest it should involve a renewal of the old controversy about the papers. On this occasion Mr. Leman, Mr. Ashley Froude's solicitor, wrote as follows: "Mr. Froude's representatives have no desire to re-open any controversial questions in relation to Mr. Thomas Carlyle, but I know that there is in existence a Memorandum by the late Mr. Froude written in anticipation of any further controversy on the lines of the former one (the main point in which is however known to me and I believe to a few other people), which, if published, would throw perhaps an unexpected light upon the whole business, and materially justify what he has written and printed."

It is clear that this Memorandum, which was found in a despatch-box after Mr. Froude's death, but which, it is said, he had shown to no one, has not been kept altogether private by his representatives, but had been held in readiness for a convenient moment for that publication which Mr. Froude, notwithstanding his alleged decision to remain silent, had obviously all along contemplated and intended. Towards the end of the Memorandum he writes, "If I have now told all it is because I see that nothing short of it will secure me the fair judgment to which I am entitled. . . . The whole facts are now made known. . . . I have nothing more to reveal."