

**SELECTIONS  
FROM CARLYLE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649700950

Selections from Carlyle by Thomas Carlyle & Henry W. Boynton

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**THOMAS CARLYLE & HENRY W. BOYNTON**

**SELECTIONS  
FROM CARLYLE**



SELECTIONS

FROM

5-85-34

CARLYLE, Thomas

EDITED BY

HENRY W. BOYNTON, M.A.

INSTRUCTOR IN ENGLISH IN PHILLIPS ACADEMY, ANDOVER, MASS.

Boston

ALLYN AND BACON

1896

Recd. 2-3-37 jfm

## PREFACE.

THE present volume, it is believed, includes within its narrow limits material adequate for the elementary study of Carlyle in his earliest and most fruitful period. The notes are planned in the main to give aid rather than information or opinion. By the frequent quotation of supplementary or illustrative passages wherever it was practicable, the plan has been to let the author annotate himself. Occasionally it has seemed natural to call attention to some characteristic mode of thought or of expression, but in neither case has a set analysis been attempted. The editor's suggestions to the teacher who may use this book are three: First, that some sort of insight into the character of the man Carlyle is essential, not only as a commentary upon, but as an introduction to, the study of his work. Second, that a good deal of additional matter should be read aloud to the class, with a view to familiarizing them with peculiarities of manner which are obstacles only to the unaccustomed ear. And third, that all systematic discussion of style be reserved until the student has had a chance to form an opinion of his own, and is ready to take a part in the discussion.

The reader is referred in the notes mainly to such authorities as may be supposed to be accessible in the

average secondary school. References by page to work of Carlyle's which is not contained in this volume are uniformly to the Chapman and Hall 'Shilling Edition.'

Among the books to be read sooner or later by every student of Carlyle are Garnett's *Life of Carlyle* (Great Writers Series), which is mainly biographical; Nichol's *Thomas Carlyle* (English Men of Letters Series), which deals more in criticism; the first two volumes, at least, of Froude's fuller *Life of Carlyle*; and the *Carlyle-Emerson Correspondence* (edited by Professor Norton). There is also an excellent paper by Leslie Stephen in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, Vol. IX. Two of the most suggestive critical essays are to be found in Lowell's *Carlyle* (My Study Windows), and Arnold's *Emerson* (Discourses in America).

A full bibliography is given as an appendix to Garnett's *Life of Carlyle* (Great Writers Series).

H. W. B.

ANDOVER, November, 1895.

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
BURNS . . . . .	1
ON HISTORY . . . . .	66
BOSWELL'S LIFE OF JOHNSON . . . . .	80
ON HEROES AND HERO-WORSHIP.	
Introduction . . . . .	158
The Hero as Poet . . . . .	170
The Hero as Man of Letters . . . . .	204
NOTES . . . . .	247





## SELECTIONS FROM CARLYLE.

---

### BURNS.

[*Edinburgh Review*, No. 96. 1828.]

IN the modern arrangements of society, it is no uncommon thing that a man of genius must, like Butler, 'ask for bread and receive a stone;' for, in spite of our grand maxim of supply and demand, it is by no means the highest excellence that men are most forward to recognize. The inventor of a spinning-jenny is pretty sure of his reward in his own day; but the writer of a true poem, like the apostle of a true religion, is nearly as sure of the contrary. We do not know whether it is not an aggravation of the injustice, that there is generally a posthumous retribution. Robert Burns, in the course of Nature, might yet have been living; but his short life was spent in toil and penury; and he died, in the prime of his manhood, miserable and neglected: and yet already a brave mausoleum shines over his dust, and more than one splendid monument has been reared in other places to his fame; the street where he languished in poverty is called by his name; the highest personages in our literature have been proud to appear as his commentators and admirers; and here is the *sixth* narrative of his *Life* that has been given to the world!

Mr. Lockhart thinks it necessary to apologize for this new attempt on such a subject: but his readers, we believe, will readily acquit him; or, at worst, will censure only

the performance of his task, not the choice of it. The character of Burns, indeed, is a theme that cannot easily become either trite or exhausted; and will probably gain rather than lose in its dimensions by the distance to which it is removed by Time. No man, it has been said, is a hero to his valet; and this is probably true; but the fault is at least as likely to be the valet's as the hero's. For it is certain that to the vulgar eye few things are wonderful that are not distant. It is difficult for men to believe that the man, the mere man whom they see, nay, perhaps painfully feel, toiling at their side through the poor jostlings of existence, can be made of finer clay than themselves. Suppose that some dining acquaintance of Sir Thomas Lucy's, and neighbor of John a Combe's, had snatched an hour or two from the preservation of his game, and written us a Life of Shakspeare! What dissertations should we not have had,—not on *Hamlet* and *The Tempest*, but on the wool-trade, and deer-stealing, and the libel and vagrant laws; and how the Poacher became a Player; and how Sir Thomas and Mr. John had Christian bowels, and did not push him to extremities! In like manner, we believe, with respect to Burns, that till the companions of his pilgrimage, the Honorable Excise Commissioners, and the Gentlemen of the Caledonian Hunt, and the Dumfries Aristocracy, and all the Squires and Earls, equally with the Ayr Writers, and the New and Old Light Clergy, whom he had to do with, shall have become invisible in the darkness of the Past, or visible only by light borrowed from his juxtaposition, it will be difficult to measure him by any true standard, or to estimate what he really was and did, in the eighteenth century, for his country and the world. It will be difficult, we say; but still a fair problem for literary historians; and repeated attempts will give us repeated approximations.

His former Biographers have done something, no doubt,