

The Handwriting of Thomas Carlyle.

FROM 1809 TO 1875.

(Born 4th December, 1795; died 5th February, 1881.)

BY J. HOLT SCHOOLING.



THE earliest existing specimen of Thomas Carlyle's handwriting is shown in No. 1. It was written at age 13-14 in the "Matriculation Album" of Edinburgh University. Curiously enough, a boy named *Cheyne* signed on the fourth line below Carlyle—who in later life was so intimately associated with Cheyne Row, Chelsea.

Handling Carlyle's school-books is somewhat of a novel sensation. I cannot pass the sensation on to readers of this paper, so I give in No. 2 the signature from

Thomas Carlyle
William Carson
Eliza Cathcart
Samuel Caven
Samuel Cheyne

No. 1.—Written in 1809. Age 13-14. When a first-year student in Edinburgh University. (Reduced facsimile.)

The Carlyles
Book
Feb 5th 1810.

No. 2.—Written February 10, 1810. Age 14-15. From the fly-leaf of the boy's "Homer." (Reduced facsimile.)

Thomas Carlyle
Mich^l Casarschael
Catherine Barry.

No. 3.—Written in 1810. Age 14-15. When a second-year student in Edinburgh University. (Reduced facsimile.)

his "Homer," and, later, other facsimiles of these most interesting signatures. Nos. 3 and 4 both relate to Carlyle's life at Edinburgh University; and, as regards No. 4, the numerals at the left relate to the numerical order of the signatures in the "Matriculation

966 *Thomas Carlyle*
967 *David Hamilton*
968 *James Blundell*
969 *William Black*

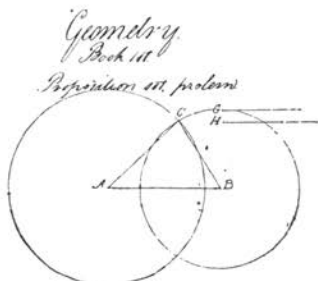
Ecclefechan
Cathness
London
Galloway

7	3	Lat
7	3	Div
7	2	Med
7	4	Med

No. 4.—Written in 1811. Age 15-16. When a third-year student in Edinburgh University. (Reduced facsimile.)

Album"; the figure "7" is the fee paid, 7s. od.; the numbers at the right denote the year of studentship, and the abbreviated words show the class of the student—*Literature, Divinity, Medicine, Law, etc.* We see, thus early, literature written against the name of Thomas Carlyle.

The earliest specimen of Carlyle's mathematical inability—subsequently, he became an excellent mathematician—is shown in No. 5. This is the 1st Problem of the 1st Book of "Euclid": "To describe an equilateral triangle on a given finite straight line"—which Carlyle did not succeed in doing, for inspection shows that the triangle A B C is not an equilateral triangle: the sides of it are of unequal length. No. 6 shows to us Carlyle's experiments with "Conic Sections" (December 24, 1811), and in No. 7 there is a facsimile of the label pasted by him on this "Old College Note-Book"

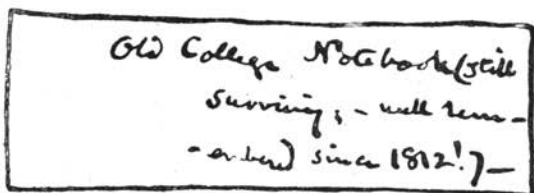


No. 5.—Written in 1811. Age 15-16. From the first page of Carlyle's "Old College Note-Book." (Reduced facsimile.)

Conic sections. — Ed. D. 1811
Definition. — The locus of a point, whose distances from a given point & a straight line, given in position, have a given ratio, is a curve of the second order.
That CP:PD is given and is called the dist. remaining ratio: AB is called the directrix: C the focus CE the axis and is the vertex. — when CP:PD is a ratio of equality the point P will never meet EF. but at a v for CP = CR & P = PD = EI EF > CF but it would be equal were the curve to meet EF. and

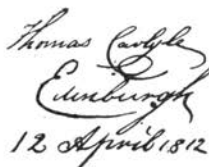
No. 6.—Written December 24, 1811. Age 16-17. From the second page of Carlyle's "Old College Note-Book." (Reduced facsimile.)

in (about) the year 1860. No. 8 is from the boy's "Sallust," and in No. 9 is a pen-and-ink caricature on page 56 of the same book. Close examination showed that the moustache was added, probably on August



Old College Note-book (still
surviving; - well remem-
-bered since 1812!)-

No. 7.—A label pasted by Carlyle on the cover of his "Old College Note-Book." This was written in or about 1860.



Thomas Carlyle
Edinburgh
12 April 1812

No. 8.—Written April 12, 1812. Age 16-17. From the fly-leaf of Carlyle's "Sallust." (Reduced facsimile.)



No. 9.—A caricature of "Cataline" from page 56 of Carlyle's "Sallust." (Reduced facsimile.)

24th, 1825, for the ink used for the moustache is the same as that used by Carlyle for appending, in 1825, both this date and the moustache. No. 10 shows a curiously written signature on the last page of this "Sallust."

No. 11 deserves special attention. First it is the only one of Carlyle's signatures that



No. 10.—From the last page of the "Sallust." Written at about age 16-18.



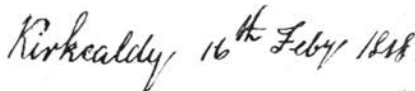
No. 11.—Written March 17, 1817. Age 21-22. When a schoolmaster at Kirkcaldy.

I have seen which contains any sort of a flourish—a significant gesture conspicuously absent from his writing throughout his life. Second, it is from a very early letter written to his mother when Carlyle was a schoolmaster at Kirkcaldy. He writes:—

... It gives me pleasure to hear that the *bairns* are at school. There are few things in this world more valuable than knowledge—and youth is the period for acquiring it. . . . My father spoke once of a threshing machine. If twenty pounds or so will help him—they are quite ready at his service.

Thomas Carlyle respected his father, the sturdy, reliant stonemason, and he loved his mother—she loved Carlyle; and she learned to write, at a mature age, in order to be able to exchange letters with her son Thomas.

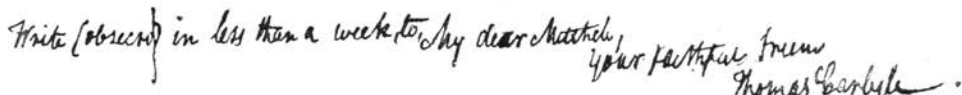
Want of space prevents the showing of many unpublished letters of extreme interest. Here, in No. 12, is the address of one written to Carlyle's friend, Mitchell. He poses his friend thus:—



No. 12.—Written February 16, 1818. Age 22-23. When a schoolmaster at Kirkcaldy.

After an arduous struggle with sundry historians of great and small renown, I sit down to answer the much-valued epistle of my friend. Doubtless you are disposed to grumble that I have been so long in doing so; but I have an argument in store for you. To state the proposition logically—this letter, I conceive, must either amuse you or not. If it amuse you, then certainly you cannot be so unreasonable as to cavil at a little harmless delay; and if it do not, you will rather rejoice that your punishment has not been sooner inflicted. Having thus briefly fixed you between the horns of my dilemma—from which, I flatter myself, no skill will suffice to extricate you—I proceed with a peaceful and fearless mind. . . .

There is a splendidly characteristic bit of Carlyle in the letter from which No. 13 has been taken:—



No. 13.—Written November 6, 1818. Age 22-23. When Carlyle had just resigned his position at Kirkcaldy Grammar School.

Kirkcaldy.—My dear Mitchell,—About a week ago, I received a letter from the Magistrates of this burgh (which letter I even now use as a blot-sheet), accepting my "resignation of the Teacher of the Grammar School," as their phrase goes: and in a fortnight, I shall quit my present situation. . . . The desire, which, in common with all men, I feel for conversation and social intercourse, is, I find, enveloped in a dense repulsive atmosphere—not of a vulgar *mauvaise honte*, tho' such it is generally esteemed—but of

deeper feelings, which are partly due to the undefined station I have hitherto occupied in Society. . . . Therefore I must cease to be a *paedagogue*. . . . I have thought of writing for Book-sellers. *Risum teneas*; for at times I am serious in this matter. . . . You see, my boy, that my prospects are not the brightest in Nature. Yet what shall we say? . . . Simply I wish to tell you, that in days of darkness—for there are days when my support (pride or whatever it is) has enough to do. . . . But have done.

Here's a gem! He tells his friend not to laugh, "for at times I am serious in this matter"—the matter of "writing for book-sellers"!

*Remain My dear Mother,
Your affectionate son
Thomas Carlyle*

No. 14.—Written December 17, 1818. Age 23-24. To his mother, from Edinburgh, when Carlyle was struggling for existence.

he was then drawing monthly rations of oatmeal and butter from the domestic store at Mainhill, near Ecclefechan, but he was bravely fighting for an opening in life. Listen to this:—

. . . Therefore I entreat you, my mother, not to be any way uneasy about me. I see none of my fellows with whom I am very anxious to change places. They are mostly older than I by several years—and have as dim prospects generally as need be. Tell the boys to *read*, and not to let their hearts be troubled for me. Tell them, I am a stubborn dog—and evil fortune shall not break my heart—or bend it *either*, as I hope. . . .

A "stubborn dog," indeed—a man of dogged grit and no show was Thomas Carlyle—and the small, strongly-compressed, and simple gestures of his handwriting remain to prove to us that he was such a man.

*Yours most sincerely
Thomas Carlyle*

No. 15.—Written May 19, 1820. Age 24-25. At this date Carlyle was seeking a post as mathematical tutor.

Here, in No. 15, he writes—with fine scorn:—

. . . Eighty pounds a year, if board and lodging are included, is a respectable salary for teaching a mathematical class three hours a day. . . . If, however, Mr. Vicars wants a creature of the *usher* species, to sit ten or a dozen hours per diem with his boarders, to superintend the washing of their faces, and see them all quietly put to bed each evening—I cannot be of any service. The very word *usher* vibrates detestably across the tympanum of one's ear. . . .

*I like to see a friend write from the head, somewhat in earnest - tho' it be a tick in dishabille. It indicates at least the absence of excessive caution - a Scottish quality - but one which I am not partial enough to respect very highly - Yours most sincerely
Thomas Carlyle*

No. 16.—Written June 7, 1820. Age 24-25. In this letter Carlyle comments upon the indications of character that are shown by handwriting. (Reduced facsimile.)

In No. 16 we have one of Carlyle's deductions from handwriting. Mr. J. A. Froude wrote to me on June 27th, 1894:—

More than 50 years ago John Sterling showed me a letter which he had just received from Carlyle, whom I had then never seen. I made some remark about it, on which Sterling observed: "No doubt there is a physiognomy in everything that we do."

*My dear Jack,
Thomas Carlyle*

No. 17.—Written January 25, 1821. Age 25-26. To his brother John.

The letter of which No. 17 is part says:—

. . . After all, this literature is a grand and glorious thing. It is the life-blood of the mind; and mind is the Sovereign of Nature. Kings who have it not go down to dust and are forgotten; those who have it influence the world, and spread their own brief being over many generations of their fellow-men. Go on then to improve! . . . I shall be well I know by-and-by—and we shall then remember with joyful thoughts these days of trial. *Vale et me ama!*

Carlyle crippled his own means when he needed help to provide for the medical education of his brother John.

In No. 18 we have the end of a letter, in which Carlyle wrote:—

*Your affectionate son,
Thomas Carlyle*

No. 18.—Written in 1822. Age 26-27. To his mother.

. . . For I begin to feel more and more the necessity of setting about *writing a book*. In general I am quite unhappy on this score; but I hope I shall at last fix on something, and then set to it like fire to tow. . . . Always, my dear mother. . . .

Carlyle began to publish his "Life of Schiller" in 1823, in the *London Magazine*. He wrote to his mother on his twenty-seventh birthday. See No. 19:—

This is my birth-day: I am now seven
and twenty years of age! What an unprofit-
-able lout I am!

No. 19.—Written December 4, 1822. Age 27. From a letter to Carlyle's mother on his twenty-seventh birthday; he had not then published any book.

trouble of my upbringing? Great part of an ordinary life time is gone by: and trifter, still sojourning. . . .

He wrote No. 20 when he was in London for the first time; No. 21 was written to Leigh Hunt, and No. 22 refers to the complete failure of the famous "Sartor Resartus":—

. . . I am writing *nothing*; reading, above all things, my old *Homer*. . . . Fancy me as reading till you see me, then must *another* scene open.—(The "Homer" is that from which No. 2 has been taken.) . . . as for the unhappy *Sartor*, none can detest him more than my present self. There are some ten pages rightly *fused* and

my best wishes to Mrs. Hunt, to Miss, and the little
grey-eyed Philosopher who listened to us

No. 21.—Written November 20, 1832. Age 36-37. Part of a letter to Leigh Hunt.

It was a dead failure, and letters poured in to the publisher countermanding subscriptions until Carlyle should be removed from the pages of the magazine. Two persons, Ralph Waldo Emerson and another, wrote to praise the work, but it was for a while doomed to failure. Recently, Mr. Frederick Chapman informed me that 114,000 copies of one edition *only* of this work had been printed by his firm during 1871—1894.—J. H. S.]

In No. 23 Carlyle wrote:

. . . I must be a toughish kind of lath after all, for my life here these three years has been sore and stern, almost frightful, nothing but

I must be a toughish kind of lath after all

Be steady my boy: we shall see what becomes of us.

No. 23.—Written May 30, 1837. Age 41-42. To his brother John.

This letter was addressed "Dr. Carlyle, Countess of Clare's, Poste Restante, Rome." There was a "margin left," on which Carlyle wrote, in tiny letters, "Excuse this mean end of a letter. . . . I will do better next time. Adieu, Dear Brother, T. C." The four sides of a large sheet of paper are covered with writing, which is also neatly squeezed into the margins.

When Carlyle wrote No. 24, he also wrote:—

. . . The lectures terminated quite triumphantly, . . . there was applauding, complimenteering, &c., &c., and a money result of near £300 left in the hands of a man heartily glad to shrink back into his hole

This is my birth-day: I am now seven and twenty years of age! What an unprofitable lout I am! What have I done in this world to make good my place in it, or reward those that had the here am I, poor

New Green, 3^d July 1824—

Thomas Carlyle

No. 20.—Written July 3, 1824. Age 28-29. During Carlyle's first visit to London. (Reduced facsimile.)

You will offer

harmonious; the rest is only *welded*, or even agglomerated, and may be thrown to the swine. . . .

[Carlyle's work, "Sartor Resartus," appeared originally in *Fraser's Magazine*, vols. viii.—x., 1833-34.

Your Newspapers will interest me, &c

For the work asking *labor* none can desert them more than my present self.

There are some ten pages rightly *fused* and harmonious, the rest is only

welded or even agglomerated, and may be thrown to the swine

All calculations from us both! valete et nos amate. T. Carlyle

No. 22.—Written April 18, 1834. Age 38-39. Part of a letter to Leigh Hunt.

Eternity beyond it in which seemed we can still do without such; still, and always, if it be so. Esperons!

. . . Be steady, my boy: we shall see what becomes of us. . . . Adieu, dear Jack. Gehab Dich wohl mein wackerer! (Take care of yourself, my dear boy.) I shall see (whether) there is a margin left. Auf ewig (Yours ever), T. C.

Jane says I am fated to be the nucleus for all the mad people of my generation.

Your poor true Brother, T. Carlyle

No. 24.—Written July 17, 1838. Age 42-43. When Carlyle was lecturing in London. (Reduced facsimile.)

again. . . . If dire famine drive me, I must even lecture; but not otherwise. . . . Freedom under the blue sky; ah me, with a bit of brown bread, and peace and pepticity to eat it with: *this* for my money before all the "glory" of Portman Square or the Solar System itself!

The "Jane" here mentioned was Thomas Carlyle's wife.

The reading-room ticket shown in No. 25 is interesting. Dr. Richard Garnett, of the British Museum, ascertained the year of this ticket, and recently showed me the small reading-room (now closed to the public) where Carlyle wrote it, and where he was

Press Mark.	Title of the Work, or Number of the MS. wanted.	Size.	Place.	Date.
3. O. h.	Melmoth's letters of Pliny	8°	6p ^o	1747

(Date) 27th April _____ T. Carlyle (Signature).
Please to restore each volume of the Catalogue to its place, as soon as done with.

No. 25.—Written April 27, 1839. Age 43-44. A British Museum reading-room ticket. (Reduced facsimile.)

"obliged to sit on the top of a ladder" when reading—owing to the then scanty accommodation.

No. 26 explains itself. In letter No. 27 Carlyle wrote:—

One thing struck me much in this Macaulay, his theory of *Liberal Government*. He considers Reform to mean a judicious combining of those that have any money to keep down those that have none. "Hunger" among the great man is *irremediable*, he says. That the pigs be taught, etc.

No. 28 is from a splendid letter to his wife. No. 29 was written to brother John, the doctor:—

. . . If you do good to the poor patient, why should you not be content? It is to be *doing* good. Few people can certainly say of themselves so much. The most are but consuming vidual; a *malefaction* and theft if there be not work returned for it, in the shape of *improvement* to some man or thing!

That the pigs be taught to die with

out squealing: there is the sole improvement pos-

sible according to him. Did Whiggery ever express

itself in a more damnable manner. T. Carlyle

No. 27.—Written July 24, 1840. Age 44-45. From a letter adversely criticising Lord Macaulay's political writings.

But space is very much too limited, and I can give only a scanty account of many of the selected passages, etc., from these unpublished letters. The originals of Nos. 30 and 31 are of great interest, and No. 32 is from a closely written three-page letter sent by Carlyle to his publishers on behalf of a poor lad who went to solicit his help; the letter ends: "So stands it in our Scotch Psalm Book; and, really, it is a

No. 28.—Written in August, 1840. Age 44-45. From a letter to his wife: ". . . Have your earthquakes done; and the house all ready for me to begin work at my return."

Adieu Dear Jack

No. 29.—Written September 5, 1840. Age 44-45. To his brother John, the doctor.

Courage, Patience, Cheerfulness!

No. 30.—Written January 12, 1841. Age 45-46. A "syllable of salutation" to brother John.

great truth." No. 33 is from a letter to Carlyle's mother, which narrates the advice he gave to "those red-hot Irish Repealers," who had just visited Carlyle at Chelsea: "They are all ready for 'insurrection,' for 'death,' etc., etc. I strongly advised them to make a general insurrection *against the Devil* first of all, and see what came of that! . . ." No. 34 is the signature from the receipt for £300 for the first edition of "Oliver Cromwell." On May 21, 1844, Carlyle wrote to a

Thomas Carlyle

No. 31.—Written May 17, 1842. Age 46-47. From an agreement with Messrs. Chapman and Hall about the publication of "Heroes and Hero Worship."

"Blessed is he that wisely doth
The hood man's case consider;
For when the time of trouble is
The Lord will him deliver!"

against the Devil

No. 33.—Written April 28, 1845. Age 49-50. (See text for description.)

T. Carlyle

No. 34.—Written January 7, 1846. Age 50-51. From the receipt for £300 for the first edition of the "Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell."

No. 32.—Written March 29, 1844. Age 48-49. From a letter written to aid "a raw, respectable-looking Scotch lad."

collector who possessed one of Cromwell's letters, asking for a copy of it: "If it be of any length, I will come to the Museum, or send; for at any rate I must have a copy. . . . The punctuation I should like to have exact. . . ." The great attention given by Carlyle to his own punctuation affords good evidence of his thoroughness and care. No. 35 must go

As Robson sent me the first

Proofsheet of the 7. Revolution the other

No. 35.—Written June 14, 1847. Age 51-52. From a letter which refers to Carlyle's "History of the French Revolution."

without notice; No. 36 is the end of a letter, in which Carlyle wrote:—

Mr. Bosworth tells me that the Book *Sartor Resartus* has been quite out of print for a month past, and that

"Simon Brodie had a cow;
He lost his cow, and he could na find her;
When he had done what man could do,
The cow came hame and her tail behind her."

Man always truly

T. Carlyle

No. 36.—Written August 31, 1848. Age 52-53. About "Sartor Resartus." (See text.)

inquiries are occasionally made for it—of course in vain. . . . As many "editions" as you like of it, and of all the others.

In 1894, no fewer than 5,000 copies of "the Book *Sartor Resartus*" were printed—of one edition only.

No. 37 speaks for itself, and I pass by

T. Carlyle

No. 37.—Written January 23, 1849. Age 53-54.

T. Carlyle

No. 38.—Written November 15, 1851.
Age 55-56. From the receipt for £100,
the first edition of the "Life of
Sterling."

instead of 'Lewis' in a French name, but it occasions a jar on our common habits;—and with 'Frederic the Great' would perhaps be unintelligible. You might say Friedrich

Nos. 38 and 39. The next one was written to John Ruskin:
"What a pleasant human evening we had. *Encore* to
it!—T. C."

Here, in No. 41, are Carlyle's original instructions about
the title of his "Life of Frederick the Great": "Friedrich,
always used in the Text, is his right name (just as 'Louis'

My time for 750 copies, at the old-established rate
of the 5th shilling per 1000 copies, will be a simple
re-qu-ir-e de me,—and will come out extremely
—by smile, I am afraid! — £67.6

No. 39.—Written July 10, 1852. Age 56-57. This relates to a "cheap edition" of "Heroes."

II. called the Great, King of, &c.—I leave it with Robson and you." What an instance of
Carlyle's minute care—which all his handwriting throughout his life shows so prominently.
Thomas Carlyle, like many another famous man, knew the great value of "an infinite

What a pleasant human evening we had *Encore* to it!
T. C.

No. 40.—Written in about 1854. Age 58-59. From a letter to John Ruskin.

capacity for taking pains" with his work. Every figure in this pageant of a book "has
his own proper visage, stamped indelibly with the expression it bore as he flitted across
this earth." No. 42 is worth notice. At the end of No. 43 Carlyle wrote: "Let him

Friedrich, always used in the Text, is
his right name (just as 'Louis' in
—stead of 'Lewis' in a French name
but it occasions a jar on our common
habits;—and with 'Frederic the Great'
would perhaps be unintelligible. You might say
Friedrich II. called The Great, King of &c.—
leave it with Robson & you

No. 41.—Written November 13, 1857. Age 61-62. A pencil "note" containing instructions
about the title of Carlyle's "Life of Frederick the Great."

come down to me in person"—the *him* was the unfortu-
nate man who had "made a botch" of some of Carlyle's
work. It is interesting to notice in this bit of gesture
how Carlyle's gust of temper gave an unwonted emphasis
and extension to the final strokes of some of the words
here shown (No. 43). Just as an angry man will often

T. Carlyle

No. 42.—Written September 18, 1858.
Age 62-63. From the receipt for £1,050 for
the first edition of Vols. i. and ii. of "Frederick
the Great."

Raging nonsense

is mainly what I make of it

No. 43.—Written February 6, 1865. Age 69-70. From a letter of complaint. "Raging nonsense is mainly what I make of it."

temporarily abate some of his restraint of speech, so does he show a like intemperance when he makes written gesture at the moment when passion is leading him. No. 44 shows the signs of breaking up of a *man*, whose hand afterwards became more tremulous. It

Cordially selecting myself
your obedient servant
T. Carlyle

No. 44.—Written August 4, 1865. Age 69-70. From a letter to his brother James.

is pleasant to read No. 45, and No. 46 shows increasing infirmity. No. 47 is taken from the fly-leaf of "The Early Kings of Norway: also an essay on the Portraits of John

To Frederick Chapman Esq, my worthy &
ever obliging Publisher:
with many kind wishes & regards:
T. Carlyle.

Chelsea, 23, Jan^r 1871.

No. 45.—Written January 23, 1871. Age 75-76.
From Vol. i. of a complete set of his works which
Carlyle presented to Frederick Chapman, Esq.
(Reduced facsimile.)

T. Carlyle

No. 46.—Written March 2, 1874.
Age 78-79. Endorsement on a bill
for £100.

Knox," by Thomas Carlyle. At this date, and prior to 1875, Carlyle wrote with much difficulty, and usually with a blue pencil; the broken lines were then traced over with a pen by another hand. This specimen has not been touched.

To my Dear Niece Mary C. Aitken:
Affectionately & anxiously

T. Carlyle

Chelsea, 5 May
1875.

No. 47.—Written in blue pencil, May 5, 1875. Age 79-80. From the fly-leaf of a book given to Mrs. Alexander Carlyle (*née* Mary Carlyle Aitken.)

I end this series of facsimiles with one from a letter written at an advanced age by Margaret Aitken Carlyle, the mother of Thomas. She never forgot him—nor did he ever forget his “own old mother.” The Book-Plate shown in No. 49 is the Book-

even your own old Mother

No. 48.—End of a letter written to Carlyle by his mother in May, 1846, when she was of advanced age.

M A C

Plate of a brave and honest man—who has left to us the evidence of his written gesture—who was never inflated by the success brought to him by his genius: who did kind and generous deeds in the dark, and who had—always ready—scornful words for the quack and the pretender, and kind acts for the needy: who was once absurdly accused of vaunting truth and honesty for the sake of the effect to be gained by the vaunt, but who was as sincere a lover of truth and honesty as ever lived; who fought against the depression caused by ill-health, and indelibly and for time stamped his mark—*Thomas Carlyle*—upon the thinking world; who curbed as best he could his fitful gusts of irritation and temper, and who was a true, simple, and kindly man in thought and act—this is the Book-Plate of Thomas Carlyle.



No. 49.—Thomas Carlyle's Book-Plate: from the “Homer” used by him when a boy. (See No. 2.)

NOTE.—I think, for the loan of most valuable letters, those owners or guardians of Carlyle letters, etc., who have enabled me to prepare this unique collection. Mrs. Alexander Carlyle (*née* Mary C. Aitken), the niece, secretary, and faithful friend of Thomas Carlyle; Mr. Frederick Chapman—Carlyle's “worthy and ever obliging Publisher”; Dr. Richard Garnett and Mr. Francis B. Bickley, of the British Museum; Mr. Samuel Davey, the Editor of the *Archivist*, 47, Great Russell Street, W.C.; Messrs. Noel Conway, autograph dealers, of 50B, New Street, Birmingham; Professor Kirkpatrick, Secretary of Senatus, Edinburgh University; Mr. Hugh A. Webster, Librarian, and Mr. Thomas Gilbert, Clerk to the Senatus, Edinburgh University; Sir Edward Strachey, Bart., of Sutton Court, Bristol; Mr. William Brown, 26, Princes Street, Edinburgh, and Mr. R. C. Robertson, of that city; Mr. William Duncan, B.A., Rector of Annan Academy, who undertook inquiries for me at the Dumfriesshire town where Carlyle went to school; Mr. John Waller, autograph dealer, of 2, Artesian Road, Westbourne Grove, W.; and Professor J. A. Froude, who informed me of an interesting fact, which I quote from his letter, dated June 27th, 1894: “. . . More than fifty years ago John Sterling showed me a letter which he had just received from Carlyle, whom I had then never seen. I made some remark about it, on which Sterling observed: ‘No doubt there is a physiognomy in everything that we do.’ . . .” It is curious that all these men, Froude, Sterling, and Carlyle (see No. 16), should have noticed that handwriting contains signs of character—signs that are set out in *Handwriting and Expression* (Kegan Paul, 1892), and which the curious reader may investigate in the complete collection of Carlyle's handwriting that has now been given.—J. H. S.