

LETTERS
OF
THOMAS CARLYLE



1886
1793

EARLY LETTERS
OF
THOMAS CARLYLE

EDITED BY
CHARLES ELIOT NORTON

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By CHARLES ELIOT NORTON

PREFACE

MR. CARLYLE was for many years, especially during his early manhood, an industrious letter-writer. A great many of his letters have been preserved and are in the possession of his niece, Mrs. Alexander Carlyle. It is at her desire that I have undertaken to edit a selection of them.

“Express biography of me I had really rather that there should be none,” said Carlyle in his Will, and a biography of him, correct at least if meagre, might perhaps have been gathered from his letters, his *Reminiscences*,¹ and the *Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle*.²

¹ *Reminiscences, etc.*, edited by J. A. Froude, 2 vols. London, 1881.

² *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle*. London, 1883.