

Testament of Thomas Carlyle
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I, Thomas Carlyle of 5 Great Cheyne Row, Chelsea in the County of Middlesex Esquire declare this to be my last Will and Testament Revoking all former Will I direct all my just debts, funeral and testamentary expences to be paid as soon as may be after my decease And it is my express instruction that since I cannot be laid in the Grave at Haddington I shall be placed beside my Father and Mother in the Churchyard of Ecclefechan. I appoint my Brother John Aitken Carlyle, Doctor of Medicine and my friend John Foster of Palace Gate House, Kensington, Esquire Executors and Trustees of this my Will. If my said Brother should die in my lifetime I appoint my Brother James Carlyle to be an Executor and Trustee in his stead and if the said John Forster should die in my [p.463] my lifetime I appoint my friend James Anthony Froude to be an Executor and Trustee in his stead. I give to my dear and ever helpful Brother John A. Carlyle my Leasehold messuage in Great Cheyne Row in which I reside subject to the rent and covenants under which I hold the same and all such of my Furniture plate linen china books prints pictures and other effects therein as are not hereinafter bequeathed specifically My Brother John has no need of my money or help and therefore in addition to this small remembrance I bequeath to him only the charge of being Executor of my Will and of seeing everything peaceably fulfilled If he survives me as is natural he will not refuse My poor and indeed almost pathetic collection of books (with the exception of those hereinafter specifically given) I request him to accept as a memento of me while he stays behind I give my Watch to my Nephew Thomas the son of my Brother Alexander "Alicks Tom" as a Memorial of the affection I have for him and of my thankful (and also hopeful) approval of all that I have ever got to know or surmise about him. He can understand that of all my outward possession this Watch is become the dearest to me. It was given me on my Wedding by one who was herself invaluable to me. It had been her Father~*s made to her Father~*s order, and had measured out into still more perfect punctuality his noble years of well-spent time and now [p.465] now it has measured nout (always punctually it) nearly forty seven years of mine and still measures as with an ever loving solemnity till time quite end with me and may the new Thomas Carlyle fare not worse with it than his two predecessors have done. To Maggie Welsh my dear Cousin (and hers) One hundred pounds. To my House servant Mrs Warren if in my service at the time of my decease Fifty pounds. Having with good reason ever since my first appearance in Literature a variety of kind feelings obligations and regards towards New England and indeed long before that a hearty good will real and steady which still continues to America at large and recognising with gratitude how much of friendliness of actually credible human love I have had for that country and what immensities of worth and capability I believe and partly know to be lodged especially in the silent classes there I have now after due consultation as to the feasibilities the excusabilities of it decided to fulfil a fond notion that has been hovering in my mind these many years and I do therefore hereby bequeath the books (whatever of them I could not borrow but has to buy and gather that is in general, whatever of them are still here) which I used in writing on Cromwell and Frederick and which shall be accurately searched for and parted form my other books, to the President and Fellows of Harvard College, City of Cambridge, State of Massachusetts, as a poor testimony of my respect for that alma mater of so many [p.467] many of my Trans Atlantic friends and a token of the feelings above

indicated towards the Great Country of which Harvard is the Chief school. In which sense I have reason to be confident that the Harvard Authorities will please to accept this my little bequest and deal with it and order and use it as to their own good judgement and kind fidelity shall seem fittest. A certain symbolical value the bequest may have but of intrinsic value as a collection of old books it can pretend to very little. If there should be doubt as to any books coming within the category of this bequest my dear Brother John of lest behind me as I always trust and hope, who already knows about this Harvard matter and who possesses a Catalogue Catalogue or List drawn up by me of which the Counterpart is in possession of the Harvard Authorities will see it for me in all points accurately done. In regard to this and all else in these final directions of mine I wish him to be regarded as my second self my surviving self. My Manuscript entitled "Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle" is to me naturally in my now bereaved state of endless value though of what value to others I cannot in the least clearly judge and indeed for the last four years am imperatively forbidden to write farther on it or even to look farther into it. Of that manuscript my kind considerate and ever faithful friend James Anthony Froude (as he has lovingly promised me) takes precious charge in my stead. To him therefore [p.469] therefore I give it with whatever other fartherances and elucidations may be possible and I solemnly request of him to do his best and wisest in the matter as I feel assured he will. There is incidentally a quantity of Autobiographic Record in my notes to this Manuscript but except as subsidiary and elucidative of the text I put no value on such. Express biography of me I had really rather that there should be none. James Anthony Froude, John Forster and my Brother John will make earnest survey of the Manuscript and its subsidiaries there or elsewhere in respect to this as well as to its other bearings their united utmost candour and impartiality taking always James Anthony Froude's practicality along with it will evidently furnish a better judgement than mine can be. The Manuscript is by no means ready for publication may the questions How when (after what delay seven-ten years) it or any portion of it should be published are still dark to me but on all such points James Anthony Froude's practical summing up and decision is to be taken as mine. The imperfect copy of the said Manuscript which is among my papers with the original letters I give to my niece Mary Carlyle Aitken to whom also dear little soul I bequeath Five hundred pounds for the loving care and unwearied patience and helpfulness she has shown to me in these my last solitary and infirm years. To her also I give at her choice whatever Memorials of my Dear Departed One she has seen me [p.471] me silently preserving here, especially the table in the Drawing Room at which I now write and the little child's chair (in the China Closet) which latter to my eyes has always a brightness as of Time's Morning and a sadness as of Death and Eternity when I look on it and which with the other dear Articles I have the weak wish to preserve in loving hands yet awhile when I am gone. My other Manuscripts I leave to my Brother John. They are with one exception of no moment to me. I have never seen any of them since they were written. One of them is a set of fragments about James First which were loyally fished out for me from much other Cromwellian rubbish and doubtless carefully copied more than than twenty years ago by the late John Chorley who was always so good to me. But neither this latter nore perhaps any of the others is worth printing. On this point however my Brother can take counsel with John Forster and James Anthony Froude and do what is then judged fittest. Many or most of these papers I often feel that I myself should burn but probably I never shall after all. "The one exception" spoken of above is a sketch of my Father and his life hastily thrown off in the nights between his death and burial

full of earnest affection and veracity most likely unfit for printing but I wish it to be taken charge of by my Brother John and preserved in the Family, Since I think the very night of my Father~*s Funeral [p.473] Funeral (far away form London and me) I have never seen a word of that poor bit of writing. In regard to all business matters about my Books (of which not only the copyrights but all the Stereotype plates from which the three several collected Editions have been respectively printed and which are at present deposited with my Printers Mess[ieu]rs Robson and Son belong exclusively to me) Copyrights, Editions, and dealings with Booksellers and others in relation thereto John Forster~*s advice is to be taken as supreme and Complete better than my own ever could have been. His faithful wise and ever punctual care about all that has been a miracle of generous helpfulness literally invaluable to me in that field of things. Thanks poor thanks thanks are all that I can return alas! I give the Residue of my personal estate to my Trustees before named In trust to convert into money such part of my Estate as shall not consist of money or securities for money and upon trust to invest in such securites as they shall think fit the moneys to arise from such conversation and the moneys and securities of which my personal Estate shall consist at the time of my decease with power to change investments from time to time And to stand possessed thereof In trust as to one fifth part thereof for my Brother Alexander absolutely And as to one fifth part In trust for my Brother James absolutely And as to one other fifth part thereof In trust for my Sister Mary wife [p.475] wife of James Austin, Farmer at Gill Cummertrees Dumfries-shire absolutely for her separate use independent of the debts control or engagements of her present or any future husband And as to one other fifth part thereof In trust for my Sister Jean the wife of James Aitken of Dumfries absolutely for her seperate use independent of the dents control or engagements of her present or any future husband And as to the remaining fifth part thereof In trust for my sister Janet wife of Robert Hanning of Hamilton Canada absolutely for her separate use independent of the debts control or engagements of her present or any future husband Provided always that if my said Brothers Alexander and James or my said Sisters or any or either of them shall die in my my lifetime the share of shares of him her or them so dying shall be In trust for the children of my Brothers and Sisters respectively so dying who shall attain the age of Twenty one years or being Daughters shall marry in equal shares but if there shall be no such child then such share or shares shall go to the others or other of my said Brothers and Sisters in equal shares but so than the shares which may thus accrue to my Sister shall be for their separate use in the same manner as their original shares. I direct all legacies to be paid free of duty. I direct that notwithstanding the trust for conversion hereinbefore contained my Trustees shall have absolute authority to postpone the conversion for any period not exceeding two [p.477] two years after my death of all or any part of my personal estate and I say this with especial reference to my Copyrights and the income to be derived from my Estate previous to its conversion shall be applied in the same way as the income of my estate if converted would be applicable. To my dear friends John Forster and James Anthony Froude (Masson too I should remember in this moment and perhaps some others) I have nothing to leave that could be in the least worthy of them but if they or any of them could find among my reliques a Memorial they would like who of men could deserve it better. No man at this time. If no choice be made bt themselves I leave to Forster, Faithome~*s Print of Cromwell Cromwell between the Pillars now in the Drawing Room here and to Froude Perne~*s Portrait of Wilhelmina with the Fontange on her brow now in the same room. In Witness Whereof I the said Thomas Carlyle the Testator have to this my last Will and

Testament set my hand this Sixth day of February one thousand eight hundred and seventy three ___ T. Carlyle ___ Signed and Declared by the said Thomas Carlyle the Testator as ans for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us both present at the same time who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other hereunto subscribe our names as Witnesses ___ William Hares, Butler. Palace Gate House. ___ Frederic Owry 66 Lincoln~*s Inn Fields Solicitor. This [p.479] This is a Codicil to the last Will and Testament of me Thomas Carlyle of No 24 Cheyne Row Chelsea in the County of Middlesex Esquire which said Will bears date the Sixth day of February one thousand eight hundred and seventy three. Whereas by my said Will I have appointed my Brother John Aitken Carlyle Doctor of Medicine and John Forster Esquire Executors and Trustees thereof and appointed and directed that if my said Brother should die in my lifetime my Brother James Carlyle should be an Executor and Trustee in his stead and that if the said John FORster should die in my lifetime my friend James Anthony Foude should be an Executor and Trustee in his stead And whereas my dear and ever faithful friend the said John Forster has been taken form me by death and and I am desirous of revoking the said appointment of Executors and Trustees contained in my said Will and of appointing my said Brother John Aitken Carlyle the said James Anthony Foude and Sir James Fitz James Stephen of No 24 Cromwell Gardens South Kensington in the said County of Middlesex K[night] C[ommander of the] S[tar of] I[ndia], Q.C. to be Executors and Trustees of my said Will now therefore I do hereby revoke the above recited appointment of Executors and Trustees contained in my said Will and do hereby appoint my said Brother John Aitken Carlyle, the said James Anthony Froude and the said Sir James FitzJames Stephen to be Executors and Trustees of my said Will. I hereby revoke the gift in my said Will of the Writing table belonging to me which stands in the Drawing Room [p.481] Room at No 24 Cheyne Row aforesaid and hereby give and bequeath the same writing table to the said Sir James Fitz James Stephen. I know he will accept it as a distinguished mark of my esteem. He knows that it belonged to my honoured Father-in-law and his daughter and that I have written all my Books upon it except only Schiller and that for the fifty years and upwards that are now past I have considered it among the most precious of my possessions I give and bequeath the screen which stands in the Drawing Room at No 24 Cheyne Row aforesaid to my dear Niece Mary Carlyle Aitken who best knows the value I have always put upon it and will best take care of it to the end of her kife when I am gone. She knows by whom it was made made and I wish her to accept it as a testimony of the trust I repose in her and and as a mark of my esteem for her honourable veracions and faithful Character and a memorial of all the kind and ever faithful service she has done me. The Faitholme Portrait of Oliver Cromwell which I had intended for my loving and ever faithful friend John Forster the only bequest he would accept of from me I now give and bequeath to his Widow Mrs Forster and I beg her to accept it in memory of him and of me I give and bequeath to my dear freind David Masson my photographically printed folio Copy of Shakespeare~*s Works, in memory of me. The two pictures of Luther~*s Father and Mother which were a gift to me form One Robert Tait of Queen Anne [p.483] Anne Street, Cavendish Square in the said County of Middlesex I give back to him. The large oil painting which hangs in the drawing Room at No 24 Cheyne Row aforesaid and which had been engraved under the title of "The little Drummer" I give and bequeath to Louisa Caroline the Dowager Lady Ashburton for her life and after her death to her Daughter the Honourable Mary Florence Baring absolutely And Whereas by my said Will I have given to my said dear Brother John Aitken Carlyle

my Leasehold Messuage No 24 Cheyne Row aforesaid in which I reside subject to the rent and covenants under which I hold the same and all such of my Furniture plate, linen, china books prints pictures and other effects therein as are not by my said Will bequeathed specifically Specifically And whereas I Am desirous of revoking such gift and of making such bequest of the said messuage property and effects as hereinafter appears Now therefore I do hereby revoke the said gift of the said messuage property and effects and hereby bequeath the said last mentioned leasehold messuage and all such of my furniture plate linen china books prints pictures and other effects therein as are not by my said Will and this my Codicil bequeathed specifically unto my said Brother John Aitken Carlyle for his life he paying the rent and all rates taxes and outgoings payable in respect of the same messuage and performing the covenants and Conditions under which I hold the same and after his death I give and bequeath the same messuage furniture plate linen china [p.485] china books prints pictures and other effects unto my said niece Mary Carlyle Aitken absolutely. In all other respects I confirm my said Will. I Witness Whrereof I have to this Codicil to my said Will set my hand this Eighth day of November One thousand eight hundred and seventy eight. ___ T. Carlyle. ___ Signes and declared by the said Thomas Carlyle the testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other (both being present together at the same time) have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses. ___ Vicotr H. Deacon Sol[cito]r. ___ C. Ernest Bowles clerks to Messrs Farrer Owry & Co[mpany] Solrs. 66 Lincoln~*s Inn Fields, London. [in margin, on side] Extracted by Farrer Owry & Co. Sols 66 Linc Inn Fields [main text] The Principal Registry In Her Majestys High Court of Justice. Be it known, that at the date hereunder written, the last Will and Testament with a Codicil thereto, (a Copy whereof is hereunto annexed) of Thomas Carlyle late of No 24 Cheyne Row, Chelsea in the County of Middlesex Esquire deceased, who died on the fifth day of February 1881 at No 24 Cheyne Row aforesaid, was proved and registered in the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of Her Majesty~*s High Court of Justice, and that Administration of the personal estate of the said deceased was granted by the aforesaid Court to James Anthony Froude Esquire, and The Honourable Sir James FitzJames Stephen, Knigh Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star [p.487] Star of India, the surviving Executors named in the said Codicil they having been first sworn will and faithfully to administer the same. Dated the thirteen day of April 1881 (signed) Edward F. Jenner Registrar [in margin] Personal Estate under £35,000 in The United Kingdom the above names Deceased was domiciled in England at the time of his death (signed) Edward F. Jenner Reg. [main text] Edinburgh 22 April 1881 I James Geddes Com[missione]r Depute Commissary Clerk of the County of Edinburgh hereby certify that this Grant of Probate had been produced in the Sheriff Court of the said County and that a Copy thereof had been deposited with me Seal (Signed) James R Currie