

testimonials from familiar names, both distant and local. “Great capital was made from the fact that persons of renown like Tennyson, Thomas Carlyle, and Alexander H. Stephens smoked Bull Durham tobacco.” (Tilley 550)

Blackwell’s Durham Co-Operative Tobacco Company—in Thomas Carlyle’s day the manufacturer of the familiar “makings in a sack”—was later amalgamated into the American Tobacco Company. This successor corporation, active through most of the twentieth century, has been dissolved, and its brands are now under the umbrella of Reynolds American. At this writing, several queries have been posted to the public relations department of that Winston-Salem firm to see if archives from the many predecessors—specifically Blackwell’s—can be accessed.

Thomas Carlyle apparently wrote more than a few testimonial letters, among them perhaps one or more to the Cope’s Tobacco Company of Liverpool, from whose 1878 calendar watercolor a section is rendered as the cover of this journal. Carlyle’s endorsements returned delivery, very likely *gratis*, of the best and freshest blends for his pipe. *Carlyle Studies Annual* readers with knowledge of Carlylean tobacco testimonials are invited to inform the editors of such, with their sources.

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## Too Lates

THE FOLLOWING THREE LETTERS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN UNCOVERED, BUT not in time for publication in *The Collected Letters*. Eventually, they will appear in *The Carlyle Letters Online* at their proper chronological locations.

**TC to Unidentified Correspondent, 2 November 1841.** MS: Professor G. J. Romhnes of Kishorn, Ross-shire. The following transcription was arranged for by Iain Brown, National Library of Scotland, and by Ian Campbell, University of Edinburgh.

Chelsea, 2 Novr, 1841— / Dear Sir, / I am accessible to visitors every day for a little while at 2 o’clock,—tomorrow,

for example, and Thursday. On Thursday evening,  
 too we are at home, and have Tea about half past six.  
 / Come and see me if you can, on these terms. Yours  
 always truly / T. Carlyle

**TC to Charles B. Darwin, 17 May 1847.** MS: Syracuse University Library. Hitherto unpb. The editors of *The Collected Letters* erroneously conjecture that the recipient of this letter is Erasmus or Charles R. Darwin (see *CL* 21: 211). Charles Ben Darwin (ca. 1823–1901) was a young attorney who traveled to California in 1849 in search of gold (his diary is now published; see *Nebraska History* 85 [2004]: 58–115). He later settled in Burlington, Iowa, where he served as a state legislator. His son, Charles Carlyle Darwin (b. 1848) became the first Librarian of the US Geological Survey. For “King Hudson,” see George Hudson (1800–1871; *ODNB*).

Chelsea, London, 17 May / 1847 / There is unfortunately no recipe or “word” that can avail you. The “course of reading” or endeavour that would be wisest of all for Charles Darwin in Kentucky, will already not be *quite* the wisest for him in Tennessee; what would have exactly suited him, at his age, in 1837, will no longer altogether suit him now when the World has got ten years forwards on its course! Specific direction is and remains impossible, in such a case. You will have, as heretofore, to chose, by what of light, of manfulness and faithfulness is in your own mind, The Better and the Good from out of the boundless imbroglio of the trivial, the Bad and Base (which men of *less* light are eagerly following on all hands of yore); and with, your whole sorely to appropriate these, and elaborate them as you have faculty and opportunity— *you* then and now. It appears you have had a very fair success hitherto; and have lifted your head and shoulders somewhat out of the slough, and can look about you a little: hope confidently that the good henceforth will repay with like bounty the like fidelity of effort. I have observed this truth, even in our confused world: that whatever of real *human worth* a man does put into his grand enterprise, just about the same quantity of real human *victory* (unrecognisable often to blockheads, but very real for all that) does he in the end get out of it;— this is an unspeakable comfort to a brave young man! But “real” human worth and human

victory are, as I say, very often not so recognisable: who knows, for example, whether your President Polk and our King Hudson (if you have heard of such a man, who has made 2 millions by railways here) have gained any "victory" at all,— have *gained* anything but a "more conspicuous exhibition of their own ugliness"; which surely is *defeat* and not victory? You must very particularly pray the Heavens, for one thing. Not to infect you with *vulgar ambitions* (literary or other), which is fatal to all nobleness in men! "Seekest thou great things, seek them *not*." Seek *eternal* things (if you know them); you will better and better get to know them, if you seek *honestly*. That also is a fact. / As to "reading,"— read "*History and Prophecy*" (if you understand these words): whatsoever of truly Interesting, has been, is, or is about to be, in this World where you have come to live,— all that authentically bears on *these* questions, snatch it wherever you can find it, read that with greedy heart, and on the whole read *nothing else*. The hugest Follies of this world are flying about at present in the shape of *Books* and *Book-Celebrities*. Adieu. / T. Carlyle

**TC to John Childs, 24 September 1841.** ALS, 3 pages, courtesy of Philip Kelley of the Browning Letters project. Facsimile published in Stewart Kidd & Company, Cincinnati, *A Catalogue of Autograph Letters* (1930), 19, item 106. See *CL* 13: 262.

[Dear Sir] / It is a most small favour you request of me: as it were, to assist the emancipation of the black by a wish! Your fair Friend is altogether welcome to that. If it help anywhere or at any time to lighten the oppressed burden of an oppressed Black man, or even to render a white oppressor a little uneasy in his false notion, a little readier to change it for a true one, I shall be well pleased. / Black Slaves in Virginia and elsewhere, I do believe, stand on a wrong footing; but I confess, in these times the *Yellow Slaves* close at hand, grown yellow and pale with famine, drudgery and despair in corners of our own country, absorb almost all my sympathies! Near is my shirt, but nearer is my skin. Sometimes, not without a certain impatience, I could with fair Charity, after having circumnavigated the globe, would look a little into its own back parlour. White men and women in this country (witness a late

trial at Stockport) are beginning to eat their own children; which excels considerably all that I have heard out of any Indies West or East. / That day when you saw me I was in so confused a state I hardly knew who anybody was, who I myself was. If in one of your visits hither you had a quiet spare hour, it would give me pleasure to see you again. / Believe me always / Yours very truly / T. Carlyle

## Letters Offered for Sale

THE EDITORS OF *CSA* WISH TO TRACK ALL CARLYLEAN MANUSCRIPTS, letters of TC and JWC, and any associated *ana* that come on the market through auction houses, manuscript dealers, and antiquarian book dealers within the year preceding publication. The following is hardly a complete list for 2006–07 and is taken mostly from random samplings of the online sites ABE and eBay, extended with a few items from catalogues issued much earlier. Readers of *CSA* who regularly monitor autograph catalogues, both print and electronic, or otherwise learn of uncollected letters are urged to bring such items to the editors' attention for addition to an improved annual list.

**TC to Unidentified Correspondent, 28 March 1876.** Offered for sale by David J. Holmes Autographs, Collingswood, New Jersey, the letter is in the hand of Thomas Carlyle's niece, Mary Carlyle Aitken, but signed by TC. Facsimile provided by Mr. Holmes.

5 Cheyne Row, Chelsea / 28 March 1876 / Sir, / About a week ago I received the agreeable and most unexpected announcement from you that I had been elected an honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy, an Institution which I have always much respected. To this your official announcement there was added on another sheet some extremely kind words in your private capacity, from which also I derived great satisfaction and beg to thank you accordingly. By this morning's post, there arrived, accompanying your second note, the Official Diploma or Certificate