

we find estimates of his character and career made by representatives of both. In the one, the appreciation hinges, as on a pivot, on a certain great turning incident in his life; in the other, there is either no reference made to this incident, or the principles on which it occurred are represented as of a common and obvious, and not very important character. Is it not truly strange, that the most influential event that can possibly take place in the history of individual man,—which has lain at the foundation of the greatest revolutions of which the annals of the species furnish any record,—and which constitutes the main objective theme of revelation,—should be scarce at all appreciated, even in its palpable character as a fact, by the great bulk of the acutest and most intelligent writers of the present age? That change in the heart and life which sent the apostles forth of old to Christianize the world, and the Reformers at a later time to re-Christianize it,—which, forming the charm of the successes of Cromwell, preserved to Britain its free Constitution,—and which altered *in toto* the destinies of Chalmers,—that change, we say, is rightly appreciated, in even its obvious character as a fact, by none of our purely literary men; or, at least, if we must make one exception, by Thomas Carlyle alone. It constitutes a mighty spring of action,—by far the mightiest in this world,—of which the rest are ignorant. Regarded in this point of view, the following extract from the “People’s Journal,”—a periodical conducted chiefly, it is understood, by Unitarians,—is not uninteresting. It refers to the conversion of Chalmers, and describes that event as occurring on a few obvious commonplace principles:—

“A new era in the development of Chalmers’ mind commences with his engagement upon the article ‘Christianity.’ The powerful devotional tendency of his mind had hitherto, to all appearance, lain dormant. The protracted and unintermitting attention to religious questions which, in the compilation of that essay, he was compelled to bestow, was favourable to the formation of a devotional habit of mind in