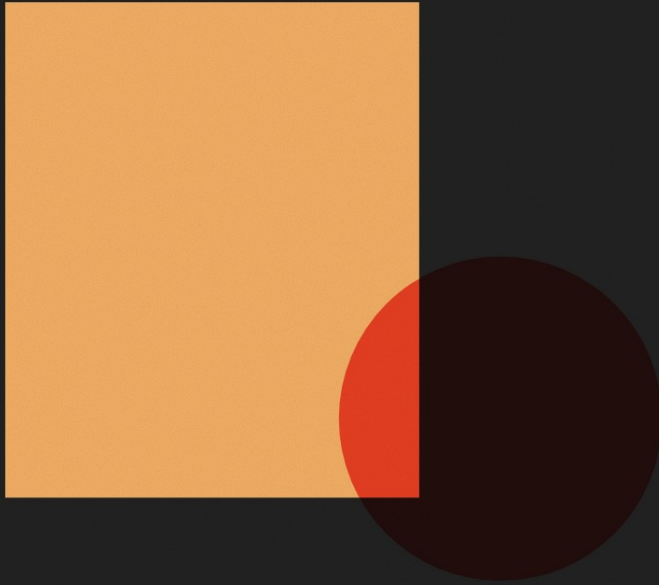




Autobiography of Andrew Carnegie

ANDREW CARNEGIE

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First published: 1920

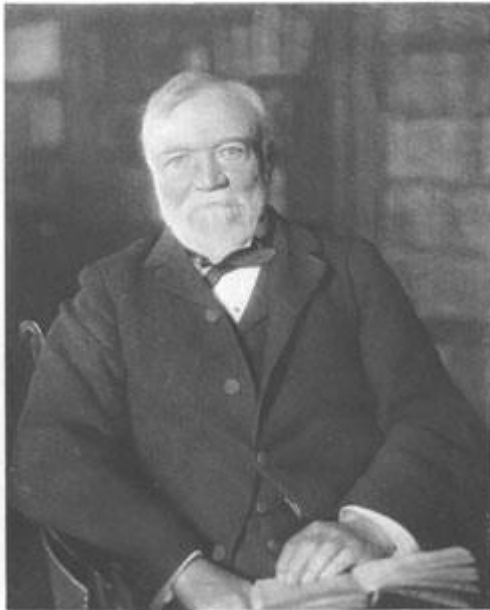
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JVA Editora

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

OF
ANDREW CARNEGIE

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



Andrew Carnegie

London
CONSTABLE & CO. LIMITED
1920

[Pg v]

PREFACE

A**FTER** retiring from active business my husband yielded to the earnest solicitations of friends, both here and in Great Britain, and began to jot down from time to time recollections of his early days. He soon found, however, that instead of the leisure he expected, his life was more occupied with affairs than ever before, and the writing of these memoirs was reserved for his play-time in Scotland. For a few weeks each summer we retired to our little bungalow on the moors at Aultnagar to enjoy the simple life, and it was there that Mr. Carnegie did most of his writing. He delighted in going back to those early times, and as he wrote he lived them all over again. He was thus engaged in July, 1914, when the war clouds began to gather, and when the fateful news of the 4th of August reached us, we immediately left our retreat in the hills and returned to Skibo to be more in touch with the situation.

These memoirs ended at that time. Henceforth he was never able to interest himself in private affairs. Many times he made the attempt to continue writing, but found it useless. Until then he had lived the life of a man in middle life—and a young one at that—golfing, fishing, swimming each day, sometimes doing all three in one day. Optimist as he always was and tried to be, even in the face of the failure of his hopes, the world disaster was too much. His heart was broken. A severe attack of influenza followed by two serious attacks of pneumonia precipitated old age upon him.

It was said of a contemporary who passed away a few months before Mr. Carnegie that "he never could have borne the burden of old age." Perhaps the most inspiring part of Mr. Carnegie's life, to

those who were privileged to know it intimately, was the way he bore his "burden of old age." Always patient, considerate, cheerful, grateful for any little pleasure or service, never thinking of himself, but always of the dawning of the better day, his spirit ever shone brighter and brighter until "he was not, for God took him."

Written with his own hand on the fly-leaf of his manuscript are these words: "It is probable that material for a small volume might be collected from these memoirs which the public would care to read, and that a private and larger volume might please my relatives and friends. Much I have written from time to time may, I think, wisely be omitted. Whoever arranges these notes should be careful not to burden the public with too much. A man with a heart as well as a head should be chosen."

Who, then, could so well fill this description as our friend Professor John C. Van Dyke? When the manuscript was shown to him, he remarked, without having read Mr. Carnegie's notation, "It would be a labor of love to prepare this for publication." Here, then, the choice was mutual, and the manner in which he has performed this "labor" proves the wisdom of the choice—a choice made and carried out in the name of a rare and beautiful friendship.

LOUISE WHITFIELD CARNEGIE

New York

April 16, 1920

[Pg
vii]

EDITOR'S NOTE

THE story of a man's life, especially when it is told by the man himself, should not be interrupted by the hecklings of an editor. He should be allowed to tell the tale in his own way, and enthusiasm, even extravagance in recitation should be received as a part of the story. The quality of the man may underlie exuberance of spirit, as truth may be found in apparent exaggeration. Therefore, in preparing these chapters for publication the editor has done little more than arrange the material chronologically and sequentially so that the narrative might run on unbrokenly to the end. Some footnotes by way of explanation, some illustrations that offer sight-help to the text, have been added; but the narrative is the thing.

This is neither the time nor the place to characterize or eulogize the maker of "this strange eventful history," but perhaps it is worth while to recognize that the history really was eventful. And strange. Nothing stranger ever came out of the *Arabian Nights* than the story of this poor Scotch boy who came to America and step by step, through many trials and triumphs, became the great steel master, built up a colossal industry, amassed an enormous fortune, and then deliberately and systematically gave away the whole of it for the enlightenment and betterment of mankind. Not only that. He established a gospel of wealth that can be neither ignored nor forgotten, and set a pace in distribution that succeeding millionaires have followed as a precedent. In the course of his career he became a nation-builder, a leader in thought, a writer, a speaker, the friend of workmen, schoolmen, and statesmen, the

associate of both the lowly and the lofty. But these were merely interesting happenings in his life as compared with his great inspirations—his distribution of wealth, his passion for world peace, and his love for mankind.

Perhaps we are too near this history to see it in proper proportions, but in the time to come it should gain in perspective and in interest. The generations hereafter may realize the wonder of it more fully than we of to-day. Happily it is preserved to us, and that, too, in Mr. Carnegie's own words and in his own buoyant style. It is a very memorable record—a record perhaps the like of which we shall not look upon again.

JOHN C. VAN DYKE

New York

August, 1920

[Pg ix]

CONTENTS

I. <u>PARENTS AND CHILDHOOD</u>	1
II. <u>DUNFERMLINE AND AMERICA</u>	20
III. <u>PITTSBURGH AND WORK</u>	32
IV. <u>COLONEL ANDERSON AND BOOKS</u>	45
V. <u>THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE</u>	54
VI. <u>RAILROAD SERVICE</u>	65
VII. <u>SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA</u>	84
VIII. <u>CIVIL WAR PERIOD</u>	99
IX. <u>BRIDGE-BUILDING</u>	115
X. <u>THE IRON WORKS</u>	130
XI. <u>NEW YORK AS HEADQUARTERS</u>	149
XII. <u>BUSINESS NEGOTIATIONS</u>	167
XIII. <u>THE AGE OF STEEL</u>	181
XIV. <u>PARTNERS, BOOKS, AND TRAVEL</u>	198
XV. <u>COACHING TRIP AND MARRIAGE</u>	210
XVI. <u>MILLS AND THE MEN</u>	220
XVII. <u>THE HOMESTEAD STRIKE</u>	228
XVIII. <u>PROBLEMS OF LABOR</u>	240
XIX. <u>THE "GOSPEL OF WEALTH"</u>	255
XX. <u>EDUCATIONAL AND PENSION FUNDS</u>	268
XXI. <u>THE PEACE PALACE AND PITTENCRIEFF</u>	282
XXII. <u>MATTHEW ARNOLD AND OTHERS</u>	298
XXIII. <u>BRITISH POLITICAL LEADERS</u>	309
XXIV. <u>GLADSTONE AND MORLEY</u>	318

[Pg x]