

A LESSON FOUND IN TREES.

The village trees that stand like friends
To guard and bless each quiet street,
Teach ever with their changeful growth
A truth that all the years repeat.
Not more complete are sturdy trunks
Bound close to earth by roots grown deep
Or mighty boughs that stand outstretched
Or with an arch majestic sweep
Than tiny stems and fragile leaves.
Each fills its small but certain place
And grows to make the great tree grand
With flow of life and touch of grace.

Each humble heart may beauty wear,
Each lowly soul may do its part,
And make the homes beneath the trees
More beautiful than realms of art.
The mingled human lives that grow
Where men in fellowship abide,
United for a common good,
Wield influence benign and wide.
The great and lowly ones may blend
Their toil in wise, ennobling strife;
Each aim toward fair perfection's grace
Uplifts them all to higher life.

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

ANDREW CARNEGIE, THE IRON-MASTER.

It was Pope, the poet and philosopher, who said, "The proper study of mankind is man," and surely the world affords no subject more worthy of study; nor is there anything more inspiring than to review the successful career of a self-made man, who by virtue of his own elements, has risen from an humble beginning to wealth, and high esteem among his fellow-men. In our own country, where there is no inherited greatness, and comparatively little inherited wealth, we find the best examples of great, self-made men. The subject of this sketch, Andrew Carnegie, stands prominently before us, and has a just claim on high public regard.

In 1845, there came to Pittsburg, Pa., from Dunfermline, Scotland, a family of Scotch weavers, by the name of Carnegie. We first heard of Andrew two years later as a "bobbin boy" in the cotton mill in which his father was then employed. From "bobbin boy" we next find him turned telegraph messenger in the employ of the Atlantic and Ohio Telegraph company, and later as telegraph operator, in which capacity he was regarded as an expert, being one of the first to use the system, then new, of reading the signals by sound. His expert knowledge of telegraphy soon secured him the position of chief clerk to the general superintendent, Thos. Scott, of the Pennsylvania railroad, and likewise the position of manager of its telegraph lines, from which situation he was soon after made superintendent of the Pittsburgh division of that road.

His Active Youth.

During his railway experience, Mr. Carnegie was instrumental in bringing about various important improvements in the service, among which was the adoption of the Woodruff sleeping car, the pioneer of the sleeping car business.

It was while still in the service of the Pennsylvania road that the discovery of petroleum in Pennsylvania introduced a new and wonderful factor into the commerce of the country, and Mr. Carnegie, keenly alive to the situation, invested his savings in the oil business, much to his profit. From this investment was formed the nucleus of his subsequent wealth. We now find him quitting the railway service and devoting his attention to the manufacture of iron and steel, and his career may be said to have commenced at this time, for it is as a great factor in iron and steel that Mr. Carnegie first claims our attention. While still a young man of thirty years he was able to foresee that Pittsburg was likely to become the great iron and steel center of the country, and all of his superb energies were at once devoted to developing these industries. Beginning with the organization of the Keystone Bridge works, he soon followed with Bessemer works for the manufacture of steel rails, furnaces and rolling mills for the manufacture of structural iron and steel, finally extending his operations to include the manufacture of armor plate and all kinds of steel products, and to cover every stage of the industry from the mining of the ores to the finished products. So wide a field of operations necessarily included likewise extensive allied industries, such as coke works, coal mines, iron mines, railway and steamship lines for the transportation of raw material and finished product, etc. All of these were soon established and developed like magic under the hand of the master, until now, as the century draws to a close, we may well take national pride in the knowledge that the steel works established by Mr. Carnegie in the Pittsburg district, are the greatest in the world, and that their products may be found in every country on the globe reached by commerce.

Employs 50,000 Men.

It is something of which to be justly proud that an American citizen should, within the short period of time covered by a quarter of a century, develop one of our greatest industries so as to completely surpass those of the old world. But this is accomplished and the great works of the Carnegie Steel company, and allied industries, employing today upwards of 50,000 men, and transacting an annual volume of business equal to twice that of the Pennsylvania Railway company, are the creation of the great ironmaster, whose name they bear, and to whom principally they belong.

A wise and good man once said that he would rather be the employer of 5,000 men and feel that he furnished them the means of gaining a livelihood, than be president of the United States. What then shall we say of him who employs ten times that number and whose hand has furnished the means by which each

is enabled to earn an independent living? Here is a true royalty, here is a magnificence of estate greater than a throne.

As a just reward for well directed energies, combined with integrity and thrift, we find the subject of our sketch, the "weaver laddie," with whom we commenced, now grown great in wealth second to few, if to any, in our country. If a man secure great wealth by inheritance or by the discovery of some gold mine, or by successful gambling in stocks, we are prone to regard him as undeserving of such good fortune, but when a man acquires wealth by his own mental or physical toil, creating and producing, developing the latent resources of our country, to the everlasting benefit of mankind in general, as well as himself, we can only applaud and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant," and if further, such a man finding his earnings to be greater than are needed for himself and dependencies, proceeds to distribute his surplus wealth by well bestowed public benefactions, then the most envious among us will be moved to say truly here is "a man who loves his fellow-men and would serve them well." Early in his career as a millionaire, Mr. Carnegie announced the most remarkable and the most wholesome doctrine, that all surplus wealth is a sacred trust in the hands of the possessor for the benefit of his fellow beings. In his address at Pittsburg, on the occasion of the opening of the magnificent library which his generosity had created, Mr. Carnegie said:

"The conclusion forced upon me is that surplus wealth is a sacred trust, to be administered during life by its possessor for the best good of his fellow-men, and I venture to predict the coming of the day—the dawn of which we already begin to see—when the man who dies possessor of available millions which were free and in his hands to distribute, will die disgraced. He will pass away unwept, unhonored and unsung, as one who has been unfaithful to his trust."

And Mr. Carnegie not only asserts this as his policy, but puts it in practice, of which we have abundant evidence; it is probably not too much to say that he is today the greatest public benefactor in our country. A most careful consideration of the best method of reaching the public welfare has at all times characterized Mr. Carnegie's benefactions. His favorite work has been the building up of free public libraries and similar educational institutions, and in this he has not confined himself to grand monuments in the larger cities, but has rather preferred to establish or aid free libraries in the smaller towns and poorer communities, where such advantages are most needed. Over one hundred cities and towns, mostly in the United States, are the beneficiaries of this great work of philanthropy, to which Mr. Carnegie has contributed within the past few years more than \$10,000,000, the past