Address of
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CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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If a traveller were to stand in the City of Jerusalem within the Jaffa Gate and gaze towards the hills beyond, he would see a massive stone portal set into the ancient walls of the City. The great gates of this portal are opened at daybreak and closed again at nightfall, but on each side of the main entrance are two narrow apertures through which, during the night, foot passengers entitled to enter the City are admitted. Those openings in the gateway are so narrow that a camel laden with a pack could not force itself through; but by a tremendous effort a camel of moderate size, not too rotund from overeating, could be squeezed through and into the City, - this aperture is called "The Eye of the Needle."

We are all familiar with the parable based on this fact: "It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

Throughout all periods of history the doctrine has been held by men of a philosophical turn of mind that riches are not conducive to man's spiritual growth and welfare; on the contrary, that they make for self-centered hardness leading to forgetfulness and indifference to the interests of other men. Doubtless, this is often true. The accumulation of wealth and the difficulties attending its preservation after it is gained are apt to harden a man unless he possesses sufficient humanity and sympathy to keep him
alive to the needs and the struggles of his fellow-man. Not all who are successful in the gaining of riches can justly be condemned as hard and selfish. Such men are the exception rather than the rule, for we all know many instances in which private wealth has been applied to the lessening of the ills of humanity, to the advancement of science and to the progress of civilization.

In this list of able and intensely human men, the name of Andrew Carnegie shines with a clear light. The founder of this splendid institution in his lifetime covered the great areas of worldly accomplishment, and touched in an infinite variety of ways the peaks which mark their utmost heights, — as an industrious and hardworking youth, as a pioneer in the great industry to which he left an imperishable name. As a friend of the workers, as a sympathetic comforter of the afflicted, a healer of the sick, and a benefactor who made possible the pursuit of knowledge; in his day he was without a rival in the whole wide world. But the outstanding feature of his career was the distribution which he made of his wealth during his lifetime. He heeded the admonition of scripture which we have cited, and in the magnificent benefactions so widely distributed, with rare judgment and unrivaled generosity, he rid himself of substantially all his fortune and prepared to face his Maker free of the burden of wealth.

Perhaps no one of his benefactions was closer to his heart than this, the Carnegie Institute of Technology. For here he provided the means by which youth in endless procession could drink of the waters of knowledge and could carry on the study of methods and equipment in ever-increasing refinement of knowledge by which the products of industry could be made more suitable to the needs of men and placed within the reach of the masses. In his home city
he planted this institution which we may hope will be/lasting growth, that through his foresight and generosity unnumbered men of the generations to come may be partakers of the fruit of this tree of knowledge.

Your inquiring minds will lead you in due course to visualize the entire world rather than a particular locality, for the whole is more than the sum of its parts. From time to time, as your minds develop, your thoughts will reach further and further into the past; and as your interest grows and your knowledge of men and life and the affairs of the world, and the varying character of its customs and religions give you greater zest for the search, you will seek the earliest traces of mankind upon the globe, and you will gain from your studies much that will give entertainment and cause you to dwell thoughtfully upon the ultimate destiny of humanity.

Records have been bared in Egypt which take men back with certainty for more than seven thousand years and show, for example, that in ancient Thebes, which is said to have been a city the size of present-day Paris, which on occasion could muster 100,000 war chariots fully equipped, whose spiritual life was presided over by more than 20,000 priests of Osiris, and whose pomp and circumstance in war and in peace have never been rivaled, knowledge covered a wide range of scientific and cultural activity. Their adherence to definite religious creeds varying in detail as time and circumstance appeared to have required, but without variation in the belief in the existence of a Supreme God who rules over the destinies of creation and all that in it be, furnishes substantial food for the belief that the human race must have lived through countless previous centuries to have brought men to the stage of development, physical, mental and spiritual, then evidenced.
Through succeeding generations this race exploited its trade and commerce across the deserts, the seas, and into remote corners of the earth, gathering together minerals and precious stones and materials foreign to their own products, and set up caravans of camels and elephants, and ships of primitive design, and with them dominated the commerce of their age.

Then it would seem as if the hand of fate had stretched out and laid a blight upon them; that the aggressiveness of envious competitive neighbors who had grown strong around them, and some weakening in the moral fibre of the race, and the covetousness which their wealth excited in the breasts of their neighbors, leading to incessant wars upon them, brought about their gradual decline and their ultimate decay. The desert sands of centuries are now brushed aside to disclose the record of their rise and fall, exemplifying the saying of Montesquieu: "Commerce is sometimes destroyed by conquerors, sometimes cramped by monarchs; it traverses the earth, flies from the places where it is oppressed, and stays where it has liberty to breathe; it reigns at present where nothing was formerly to be seen but deserts, seas and rocks; and where it once reigned now there are only deserts."

This was the fate of the Babylonians, who likewise rose to great heights of prosperity and grandeur and luxury. Their ultimate downfall came in the midst of dissipation and revelry which left them defenseless before their Assyrian conquerors. The glory of Assyrians likewise faded away. Success was too potent a draught to be sipped with moderation, and the days of the Assyrian empire were numbered.

The Phoenicians - great traders, sturdy sailors, daring adventurers - in their unique ships sailed the then known seas and brought,
from remote and little known lands, merchandise of a wide variety. Their voyages took them even into the unexplored lands of Britain, where they sought and obtained tin from the natives, who were then but a crude and backward race.

Out of the chaos of the then past, Greece appears upon the scene, and puts the imprint of her strength and her great prosperity upon the map of the world, dominating all about her. In the height of her prosperity, she too, cultivated the fine arts and gave to the present world those marvelous examples of classical architecture and unrivaled sculpture before which we today stand in amazement and ecstasy.

But these fine evidences of an advanced culture were of relatively short duration, and in turn gave way before the hand of time and the degenerating influence of great conquests and greater prosperity. Greece suffered a decline from which she has never fully recovered. Her buried cities and outcropping monuments tell the story of her great achievements, her glory and her decline.

We turn the page and find, another step westward, the engrossing history of ancient Rome; and in these reflections as we approach nearer to our own time, we find more numerous than in some of her predecessors the evidence of her art, of her refinement and of her great wealth. These led to the inevitable enjoyment of luxury by an ever-increasing number in the community, to the eventual disregard of duties and obligations to the physical, mental and spiritual self, to orgies to whet flagging appetites for entertainment, and to an ultimate downfall that humbled Imperial Rome to the dust.

Rome sailed the Mediterranean and the seas beyond in ships which conquered all her adversaries. The mark of her empire and of
her strength was put upon foreign lands, even into what is presentday England, and throughout the continent of Europe, to the eastward to Arabia and southward into Egypt, as well as on the African shores of the Mediterranean, where deserts hold the ruins of her great edifices. Such a power as this had never before existed in all the world. But it fell, and little remained of all her spoils to enrich her descendants. Of Imperial Rome it might well have been said at a later day, as it was said of Julius Caesar at the height of his career and violent death - "Mighty Caesar, doest thou lie so low; art all thy victories and thy spoils shrunk to this small measure?"

The Venetians in a lesser way, as well as the Genoese, put forth their efforts in wars and in trade, and brought back to their cities the fruits of their daring and of their skill and their superior seamanship. Their lives too reached the heights of great achievement and wealth, and in their wake the arts were cultivated. Our galleries today, notably your own in the Fine Arts Building, possess the works of the great Titian, Tintoretto and Paolo Veronese as reminders of the patronage given to art in the days of colorful, cultured Venice.

Spain and France caught up the thread of this great life story, and each in turn enjoyed the dream of Empire and of trade domination, its moment of preeminence and rise to dizzy heights, but in the end yielding the palm to a more sober, aggressive and hardy competitor.

Then in due course the dream of empire drifted to the west, and the British Empire, the last thus far in the great unfolding of life's adventurous drama, became, and is, the reality of one. Its story is not half told. It will dispense happiness, freedom and prosperity throughout endless years in keeping with a code which we inherit and upon which our own laws are based, that emphasizes fair-
play, honorable dealing, courage, freedom and a reverence for God that deserves to be perpetuated. May the tale of the present era, when it is written, be found to conclude, as I believe it will, in great contrast with those which preceded it.

Turning to our beloved America, we find 300 years of history, beginning in an unbroken wilderness, on a continent stretching between the two great seas, possessed of all the natural resources which present-day civilization demands and in abundance unrivaled elsewhere in the world; a productive soil, and a range of climate to suit every taste and necessity; with a present population of one hundred and twenty millions of people, more than half of whom are descendants of those vigorous and courageous pioneers who left their homes and firesides and braved the terrors of 3,000 miles of tempestuous sea, to face the unknown, the wilderness, the savage, and to found a nation which, please God, shall not perish from the earth. Other peoples of various times and nations have sought the protection of our flag, and have adopted our principles of government, here to enjoy the rare opportunity to make their way under the influence of our institutions. We have progressed until our national wealth has grown to great proportions, as have our industrial, commercial and financial affairs, until now we rival, if we do not surpass, any of the leading powers of the world.

These successes and this enormous wealth, the fruit of the strenuous efforts of our forebears and predecessors in America through the past 300 years of their vigorous, untiring work, have increased in our hands within a relatively brief period of years, to an extent far beyond that of our predecessors in the earlier nations or groups to which we have alluded.
In the industrial field we have made such tremendous strides, and in the mechanical field such great inventions, and the systems of production have been so greatly improved, that all along the line of the vast operations being carried on throughout the nation, the burdens heretofore borne by men in the earlier days, have either been eliminated or greatly lightened through the introduction of mechanical means, making the operation more wholesome and more productive.

This evolution in the mechanics of industry has worked also an evolution in the men of industry. Their ability and capacity have developed to a higher order. These complex operations are directed and controlled by intelligent men, progressive and happy, well paid, well housed and with all facilities for the upbringing and educating of their children that could be desired. And incidentally all this shows what can be accomplished through the working of the minds of men of this progressive day since they are applied to the task. The hours of labor throughout the nation have been greatly reduced and hard labor in the principal industries has been eliminated in many occupations and greatly reduced in others.

The novelty of the developments of this period, the efficiency of systems of productive operation, the mechanical means which have revolutionized the production of materials, together with capital and credit resources in great volume, have combined to inaugurate mass production of practically all the materials essential to life and in a way economically heretofore unknown. The cheapening of product thus accomplished has opened to the producer markets previously undeveloped, and at the same time the community in general has been able to enjoy many luxuries not previously within its reach. Another effect in this period has been the attendant profit which has
flowed from improvements in methods and in the machinery of production. Thus in a brief time the attainment of reasonable wealth has become a rather general condition in the community. All branches of labor as well have benefited in increased compensation. So that the period in which we live in our own land has been one of improvement in the means of production, expansion in the use of materials, and an accumulation of wealth in which practically all active men and women have participated.

This state of affairs has given rise to the charge that we have become too materialistic. If the charge is true, what, then, is the remedy? The generation of middle-aged men who have participated in this great awakening are on the whole too shackled to the creations which they have developed to rid themselves of such portion of their burdens in time to begin the search for knowledge along lines which would lead then to a broader and greater happiness through a fuller understanding of life, its higher purposes and its greatest beauty. But the generation to which you belong has every advantage, because you inherit not only the fruit of the efforts of those immediately preceding you, but also the accumulated effort and knowledge and experience of all men since the beginning of time. In the words of John Ruskin, "All history is open to you; all high thoughts and dreams that past fortunes of men can suggest, all fairyland is open to you."

These observations lead to the inevitable question, how shall we conduct ourselves to escape the fate of the great empires and nations of the distant past?

Within the past year we have witnessed as striking an evidence of instability in a nation as could be found in any concrete example that, if it had been propounded to us, we would, even a short year
ago have declared to be hypothetical in character. The unreasoning, unjustified and highly dangerous massacre of the community in regard to speculation, in utter disregard of the cautionings of those principal public agencies which our law-making bodies and our best banking and business judgment had set up to sound warnings against unwise and dangerous courses that the public through its ignorance or its eagerness to take unwarranted hazards might be pursuing, reminds one of a locomotive, driven at full speed over a busy line, through populous districts, past all signs and signals along the way, headed for certain disaster.

Second only to the folly of the speculative frenzy that lifted securities to levels far beyond any warrant of supporting profits to the industry or of yield to the investor, has been the crisis through which we have just passed, when another evil effect of mass psychology overwhelmed the nation—beating a retreat, abandoning all paraphernalia en-route, and by the frenzied movement of the mass bringing about the very peril for themselves and for the community as a whole from which they sought to escape.

These two examples of collective action may well make one pause in considering the problem of the nation's ultimate destiny, for if such a tremendous operation, carried on in a period when the nation's financial and industrial and commercial strength was at its highest peak, when the labor of the country was fully employed, and when confidence in the future was justified on every hand, should carry the community to such an unwarranted pitch of competitive buying of securities of all sorts, and as suddenly plunge it into the very depths of disbelief and fear, one must wonder whether the temperament of our nation makes it any more secure against the ravages
of time and decay than were those great nations of history to which we have referred. If there have been false reasoning and advice which led the public into the initial error of judgment, and latterly into its necessary consequence, the near crisis which followed in its wake, there is to be learned from this a lesson of greater caution. There is at the present time, if men would set themselves to reaffirm their faith in the nation, its industry and its commerce, and to devote themselves to the every-day duties about them, every reason to believe that the telling effects of this unhappy experience can and will be overcome. It is our duty then to buckle on our armor and join the forward movement with courage and confidence, just as the great founder of this institution met the problems and difficulties of his career, accomplishing great ends, but having as the central article of his civic and commercial faith the strength and security and the assured future of these United States. He exemplified Carlyle's words,

"Blessed is he who has found his work. Let him ask no other blessedness. He has a work, a life purpose. He has found it, and will follow it."

No investment, no matter how great, that Mr. Carnegie devised in respect of the future of his own industry was made with the least doubt in mind of the future of this country and of its growth and its needs for the products which he could create to assist that growth. All the truly great pioneers and leaders in the development of this nation became so not through luck or chance, but because of that central article of faith.

This great progressive, industrial city, which in certain lines has no rival throughout the world, rests peacefully among the undulating beauties of the Allegheny hills, where the confluence of commerce-bearing streams mingle to form the Ohio, their combined forces rushing on to augment the mighty Mississippi on its way to the sea.
Washington visited the site of Pittsburgh in 1753, and wrote in his journal:

"I spent some time in viewing the rivers and land in the forks, which I think extremely well situated for a fort, as it has absolute command of both rivers."

Again in 1770, he wrote:

"The houses, which are built of logs and ranged in streets, are on the Monongahela, and I suppose about 20 in number and inhabited by Indian traders."

Arthur Lee in that year described the town in unflattering terms, saying: "The place, I believe, will never be very considerable."

Which evidences once more the folly of prophecy! He little dreamed that the hamlet boasting then of but twenty houses occupied by Indian traders would number with its environs some million and a half souls, with a property valuation of two billion dollars and carrying on a business of two and a half billion dollars annually with an annual pay-roll of over one billion and a quarter dollars; that it would become the scene of activities of not only the leader Andrew Carnegie, but of a great number of other prominent and the contributions of progressive men. Nor did he dream that one of its citizens, whose benefactions as a whole would scale the gigantic sum of $350,000,000, to the cause of education in a single great co-educational institution of learning established in what would have become a vast city, would amount, in principal alone, to more than $26,000,000.

Your President, Doctor Baker, and this great staff of associates who have directed with so much love and intelligence the destinies of this well founded institution, have taken upon themselves a task which they have performed and will continue to perform exceedingly well, in offering to the young men and the young women who seek knowledge here
an opportunity so to widen the scope of their understanding that they may take their place in the world of men and affairs the better prepared to guide those of lesser opportunities. By direction and example they will assist in bringing the national life and conduct to a state of continuing normality and of temperance in all things, to a contentment with those blessings which usually follow in proportion to our effort in all the different fields in which men and women may be engaged, and to a greater appreciation and thankfulness for the blessings which an all-wise and all-seeing God has showered in such abundance upon us. This to the end that the national mind may be so consolidated upon a basis of reasonable and safe but progressive conservatism that we shall not be found wanting when the day comes that this nation shall be tried with the temptations that surround greater freedom from labor and by a participation even more general than now in the wealth of the land. The remedy for most of the ills from which we seek to flee must die, not in forcible restraint of the individual or of his activities, by the iron hand of poverty or the public hand of law, but by the cultivation of knowledge and of a deeper appreciation of life's great beauty and its divine purpose, and as a preparation for that inevitable transition which follows when this agreeable earthly pilgrimage has come to a close.

It has been said that "Every great human institution is but the lengthened shadow of a single individual." On Founder's Day it is appropriate therefore to consider the meaning of these words as applied to the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Todowell upon the life and works of the founder of this institution is to refresh our recollection of his character, his generosity and his achievements. In such a review much is found to be admired and honored, and to be
followed by those of us who are undertaking to pass over the same way and to achieve something of wisdom and of success and of service to others on the journey.

And so in this instance, perhaps as clearly shown as in any to which reference might be made, there is at the present moment and whenever human beings assemble within this peaceful academic atmosphere, the presence of its founder and patron and its great benefactor; and time itself will probably not eradicate from every thought of this institution the recollection of him who through it brought the cup of knowledge with such generous benevolence to the lips of those who crave it - an opportunity within the reach of all to satisfy that most desirable of all thirsts, the thirst to partake of the clear waters of understanding.