

ADDRESS
BY
ANDREW CARNEGIE
UPON THE OCCASION
OF THE
PRESENTATION
OF THE
CARNEGIE
INSTITUTE
TO THE PEOPLE OF
PITTSBURGH

NOVEMBER 5 · 1895

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MY DEAR, GOOD FRIENDS
OF PITTSBURGH AND CITIZENS OF
THE GREATER PITTSBURGH
THAT IS TO BE



THE LIBRARY Commissioners who have so admirably managed the trust committed to them, expressed some weeks ago their desire that upon this occasion I should state the reasons which induced me to establish among you the institution about to be opened, and the objects which I had in view. With your indulgence, I shall now do so.

The development of a man's intellectual and moral being advances with his years, and with the experience which years alone can give. In childhood and early youth we have, fortunately, time for nothing but play, and in early manhood, time for nothing but life's struggle. The keenness of the strife leaves but little time for thought. It is only just, therefore, to take little or no account of the follies of youth, and to expect but little from it, or even from early manhood. Indeed, we should not expect much from those who have to engage in the struggle for existence during the second term of twenty-one years, except, perhaps, the absence of folly and the presence of negative virtues. For positive, good work for others, and conduct, flowing from experience and thought, perhaps we do not extend the term too much in fixing it as far on in the second term of twenty-one years. Reference is not made here to those born to assured competency, but to such as are born to the best heritage of all, poverty, which entails upon us the necessity to render some daily service to our fellows, and brings us under the divine order which proclaims that "Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening."

It is distasteful to speak of one's self, but as I am called upon to give reasons for what I have done, necessarily these must be purely personal.

It is long since I entered upon the third term of twenty-one years, and into the ranks of those who could push aside considerations of a pecuniary character, and long since I reached that toward the attainment of which Junius says all our efforts should be concentrated, viz., a competency for

the reasonable and necessary wants of life for yourself and those dependent upon you, without which, he declares, no man can be independent, scarcely honest. It was only reasonable, therefore, that I should then cease to take absorbing interest in, and give unremitting attention to, the details of business; although never has my pride and interest in the general results of our business, and of the prestige and honor of the firm, or of the prosperity of Pittsburgh been lessened for one moment. I had then more time to study, to travel, scarcely less important than study, and what was more natural than that the social conditions of men, and especially the problem of the creation and distribution of wealth, should force themselves upon me. Every thoughtful man must at first glance be troubled at the unequal distribution of wealth, the luxuries of the few, the lack of necessities of the many, and giving away to feeling without regard to judgment, he is very sure to commit many grievous mistakes. For all the foolish, and not only foolish, but injurious gifts I may have made in my early days, and these have not been few, from contributions of considerable sums down to the trifles given to the street beggar, of whose habits I was ignorant, I crave forgiveness, and hope that they may be attributed to the inexperience of the youth of mature age.

Fellow-citizens, one has not to study deeply or to travel far to learn that the path of the philanthropist is difficult, and to find, through sad experience, that how to do genuine good and not mischief by the giving of money, is one of the most difficult problems with which man has to deal. When I read aloud to Mr. Thorndike Rice, editor of the North American Review, at his request, my first essay upon wealth, and came to the passage which stated that for every thousand dollars spent in so-called charity, nine hundred had better be thrown into the sea, because it was so given as to increase the very evil it was intended to cure, Mr. Rice interrupted me, saying, "Make it nine hundred and fifty out of the thousand," and I did so. You will perceive, when forced to the conclusion this indicates, how restricted the field for the wise use of surplus wealth becomes. My views of wealth, and its duties soon became fixed, and to these I have ever since sought to give expression upon fitting occasions; which are, that under existing industrial conditions, which we shall not see changed, but which may be modified in the course of centuries to come, surplus wealth must sometimes flow into the hands of a few; the number, however, becoming less and less under the operation of present conditions, which are rapidly causing the general distribution of wealth day by day, the proportion of the combined earnings of capital and labor, going to labor, growing greater and greater, and that to capital, less and less. To

one to whom surplus comes, there come also the questions: What is my duty? What is the best use that can be made of it? The conclusion forced upon me, and which I retain, is this: 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 have ventured to predict the coming of the day, the dawn of which, indeed, we already begin to see, when the man who dies possessed of available millions which were free and in his hands to distribute, will die disgraced. (*Great applause.*) He will pass away "unwept, unhonored, and unsung," as one who has been unfaithful to his trust. The aim of millionaires should be to deserve such eulogy as that upon the monument of Pitt: "He lived without ostentation, and he died poor." There must sometimes be surplus wealth, then, and it is our duty to use this for public good. But having proceeded thus far, the most serious question of all remains: How is good to be accomplished? How is wealth to be used so that it will not tend to pauperize the community, or to increase the very evils we would fain extirpate? Distributed equally among all the people in the morning, we know that there would be pandemonium at night. Imagine a man with millions, looking upon the poorer districts of a great city, and saying, "I shall cure all this." To the wretched poor he says: "You have not your share of wealth, take this;" and to each one he gives his portion. A few nights later this zealous philanthropist takes his friend to see what he has accomplished, the evils of poverty he has cured. Imagine the sight they behold! Poverty, wretchedness, misery, and crime cured, or even diminished? No, all these increased. The hitherto well-doing and industrious have seen the thriftless and idle in receipt of unearned funds, and these hitherto self-respecting people have said: "Why should we rise in the dark and go forth to toil till dark? There is no special reward for the toiler; the idle receives equally with the industrious; we shall join their ranks." Distribute more millions, and the area of poverty, pauperism, and drunkenness is extended in ever-increasing circles of demoralization. The true benefactors and reformers of society would call aloud to that unwise giver: "Down on your knees and crawl for pardon! You have done more injury than can be cured by all the good you can ever do in a long life." And so in greater or less degree does every man who gives to a cause, society, or institution which is not most wisely and carefully designed and managed so as to encourage the habits of industry, thrift, temperance, morality, and self-help—the best help of all—and to discourage idleness, drunkenness, and dependence upon others. We hear much in these days of the poor, submerged tenth. There is danger that undue interest in this class may render us less disposed to regard the vastly

more precious class, and one much more worthy of our attention—the swimming tenth—the industrious workers who keep their heads above water and help themselves, though sometimes requiring our assistance, which should never be withheld in times of accident, illness, or other exceptional cause, and always deserving our sympathy, attention, and recognition, and the outstretched hand of brotherhood.

Considerations such as these must render it difficult for any man, if he be seeking solely the lasting good of his fellows, and not his own gratification or popularity, to determine just how to administer surplus wealth so as to work good and not evil. It may be said, if surplus wealth brings such difficulties, much better to try to prevent its coming. Distribute every month, for instance, your surplus gains among those you employ. This would be indiscriminate giving again—our supposed millionaire's plan of curing evils—by distribution. The habits and needs of each employee and the use he would make of the gifts, we should be bound to ascertain. We should no more desire to give to unworthy employees than to others of like character or habits. From a business point of view, also, this would be a disastrous use of wealth both for employer and employee. Business in our day is a matter of small margins, a trifling sum per day upon each man employed. The firm that fails to apply the strictest rules of business will soon find itself of no use whatever to the community, for it will have no employment to give. The continuance of any business depends upon success. It must be successful or slowly sink. Let the slightest laxity of management appear and its success is endangered; but even were it otherwise, the plan suggested does not commend itself as justifiable or wise, because there are higher uses for surplus wealth than adding petty sums to the earnings of the masses. Trifling sums given to each, every week or month—the sums would be trifling indeed—would be frittered away, nine times out of ten, in things which pertain to the body and not to the spirit; upon richer food and drink, better clothing, more extravagant living, which are beneficial neither to rich nor poor. These are things external and of the flesh; they do not minister to the higher, the divine part of man. The surplus money gathered in one great sum and spent for the Cooper Institute of New York, the Pratt Library of Baltimore, for the Pratt Institute of Brooklyn, the Drexel Institute of Brooklyn, the Drexel Institute of Philadelphia, or by my friend and partner, and your distinguished fellow-citizen, Mr. Phipps, for the conservatories (*applause, prolonged, until Mr. Phipps, who sat on the platform near Mr. Carnegie, rose and bowed to the enthusiastic audience*), or by Mrs. Schenley for our park (*great applause*), or spent by

Seth Low for the Columbia College Library, is put to better and nobler ends than if it had been distributed from week to week in dribbles among the masses of the people. Concentrated in one great educative institution, lasting for all time, its usefulness is forever, and it ministers to the divine in man, his reason and his conscience, and thus lifts him higher and higher in the scale of being; he becomes less and less of the brute and more and more of the man. I am not content to pass down in the history of Pittsburgh as one who only helped the masses to obtain the greater enjoyment of those appetites which we share equally with the brutes—more to eat, more to drink, and richer raiment. "Man does not live by bread alone." I have known millionaires starving for lack of nutriment which alone can sustain all that is human in man, and I know workmen, and many so-called poor men, who revel in luxuries beyond the power of those millionaires to reach. It is the mind that makes the body rich. There is no class so pitifully wretched as that which possesses money and nothing else. Money can only be the useful drudge of things immeasurably higher than itself. Exalted beyond this, as it sometimes is, it remains Caliban and still plays the beast. My aspirations take a higher flight. Mine be it to have contributed to the enlightenment and the joys of the mind, to the things of the spirit, to all that tends to bring into the lives of the toilers of Pittsburgh sweetness and light. I hold this the noblest possible use of wealth. (*Applause.*)

What we must seek, then, for surplus wealth, if we are to work genuine good, are uses which give nothing for nothing, which require co-operation, self-help, and which, by no possibility, can tend to sap the spirit of manly independence, which is the only sure foundation upon which the steady improvement of our race can be built. We were soon led to see in the Free Library an institution which fulfilled these conditions, and which must work only for good and never for evil. It gives nothing for nothing. (*Applause.*)

The taste for reading is one of the most precious possessions of life, and the success of Allegheny and Braddock Libraries proves that the masses in this community fully appreciate this fact, and are rapidly acquiring it. (*Applause.*)

I should much rather be instrumental in bringing to the working man or woman this taste than mere dollars. It is better than a fortune. When this library is supported by the community, as Pittsburgh is wisely to support its own library, all taint of charity is dispelled. Every citizen of Pittsburgh, even the very humblest, now walks into this, his own library, for the poorest laborer contributes his mite indirectly to its support. The man who enters a library is

in the best society this world affords; the good and the great welcome him, surround him and humbly ask to be allowed to become his servants; and if he himself, from his own earnings, contributes to its support, he is more of a man than before. (*Applause.*)

Our newspapers have recently quoted from a speech in which I referred to the fact that Colonel Anderson—honored be his memory—opened his four hundred books to the young in Allegheny City, and attended every Saturday to exchange them; and that to him I was indebted as was Mr. Phipps (*applause*), for admission to the sources of knowledge, and that I then resolved that if ever surplus wealth came to me—and nothing then seemed more unlikely, since my revenue was one dollar and twenty cents a week as a bobbin boy in a factory; still I had my dreams—it should be devoted to such work as Colonel Anderson's. The opening tonight of this library, free to the people, is one more realization of the boyish dream. But I also come by heredity to my preference for free libraries. The newspaper of my native town recently published a history of the free library in Dunfermline, and it is there recorded that the first books gathered together and opened to the public were the small collections of three weavers. Imagine the feelings with which I read that one of these was my honored father. He founded the first library in Dunfermline, his native town, and his son was privileged to found the last. (*Applause.*) Another privilege is his—to build a library for the people, here in the community in which he has been so greatly blessed with material success. I have never heard of a lineage for which I would exchange that of the library-founding weaver. Many congratulations have been offered upon my having given for this purpose, which I have declined to receive, always saying, however, that I was open to receive the heartiest congratulations upon the City of Pittsburgh having resolved to devote part of its revenues to the maintenance of a library for its people. (*Applause.*)

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope sufficient reasons have been given for devoting surplus wealth to the founding of the Library.

We now come to another branch, the Art Gallery and Museum, which the city is not to maintain. These are to be regarded as wise extravagances, for which public revenues should not be given, not as necessities. These are such gifts as a citizen may fitly bestow upon a community and endow, so that it will cost the city nothing.

The Art Gallery and also the Museum you will tonight have an opportunity to see. Already many casts of the world's masterpieces of sculpture are within its walls. Ultimately, there will be gathered from all parts of the world

casts of those objects which take highest rank. The Museum will thus be the means of bringing to the knowledge of the masses of the people, who cannot travel, many of the most interesting and instructive objects to be seen in the world; so that, while they pursue their tasks at home, they may yet enjoy some of the pleasures and benefits of travel abroad. If they cannot go to the objects which allure people abroad, we shall do our best to bring the rarest of those objects to them at home. Another use we have in view is that the objects, rare, valuable, and historical, belonging to this region will here find their final home. We think, we see, that there will be gathered in this Museum many of the treasures of Western Pennsylvania, so that after generations may be able to examine many things in the far-distant past, which our present will then be, which otherwise would have been destroyed.

It is to be hoped that special attention will be given to the industrial feature, so that the artisans of Pittsburgh and their children may see and examine the raw materials as found in the mines, and after each of the various stages of their manufacture, up to the finished product, and that they may become acquainted with their physical and chemical properties, and learn how strange these are, and how wonderful their preparation for the use of man.

We should ever bear in mind that Pittsburgh is the greatest manufacturing centre, and can continue to be this if true to her destiny; and that the continuance of her supremacy rests equally upon the superior skill and intelligence of her workmen, for whom she is justly celebrated, and upon her men of affairs doing their duty. We are entitled to presume that there are in our mills today more than one embryo Brashear or Westinghouse (*great applause, which was acknowledged by both Dr. Brashear and Mr. Westinghouse bowing from the platform to the audience*) capable of profiting by every new idea which we can place within their reach. It was well to begin with the mummies from Egypt, dating before our era, and to follow with casts of the great masterpieces of Greece and Rome, as we have begun, since these could be so readily acquired; but we should not end there. The practical and educative power of the Museum should never be overlooked, and it should be largely industrial. (*Applause.*)

Now we come to the third branch, the Art Gallery. Here we enter upon a wide field. I remember, as if it were yesterday, when I first awoke to the sense of color, and what an awakening it was and has been. A child, sitting in a cold, barren, little church, the only relief to the dull white walls and plain ceiling being one inch of border of colored glass around the edge of the principal window, and yet that narrow line of little square pieces of different

colors was the first glimpse I ever had of what seemed to me the radiance of heaven. Color in nature—on the moors, and on the hills, and in the sky, and in the streams, and on the sea—and the scene of beauty pervading the earth becomes more and more a tearful joy. I am firmly convinced that no surer means of improving the tastes of men can be found than through color and the sense of beauty. The cant of art, indulged in most by those who are least under its influence, is not, perhaps, to be altogether deplored, for it keeps interest alive. Each petty school calls aloud that it has the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, but no school can embrace the whole, since art is universal, and the judgment of the masses of the people is finally to prove the truest test of the supreme in art, as it is admittedly in literature. (*Applause.*) Let us hope that the pictures exhibited here from time to time will be of all schools, and reach both extremes—the highest critic and the humblest citizen; as the greatest books appeal to both, and attract not only the few, but the many. That extreme care will be given to the purchase of pictures for the historical collection may be taken for granted.

One of the most important objects in view, in endowing it with annual revenues, is that this Gallery should eventually contain a chronological collection of American painting and sculpture. It is provided that the commission shall each year purchase at least three works of American artists exhibited in that year, preferably in this Gallery. These are to be placed permanently, side by side, each year, so that if we imagine the coming of the year 2000 or 3000, Pittsburgh should be able to show to the world—for we may assume that the whole world will then be interested—an historical record of what was considered by a commission in this early day of the world's history the best that the United States year after year produced. (*Great applause.*) It will not much matter historically, as you will observe, whether these pictures are invariably of surpassing excellence; if art in the United States has its periods of decadence and revival, it is proper that a historical record should show this clearly. (*Applause.*)

The commission is empowered, should it ever be necessary, to expend part of the endowment for extensions to the Gallery, so there never can be cessation of growth from lack of room. (*Applause.*)

There is a great field lying back of us, which it is desirable that some institution should occupy by gathering the earliest masterpieces of American painting from the beginning. But the field for which this Gallery is designed begins with the year 1896. From next year we may hope that the Nation will have something worthy of being considered in after years, a record from year to year. Some day,

perhaps, and that may not be remote, the artists of the United States will strive to have one of their productions selected as the best of its year, and placed in the historical collection of this Gallery, as today they strive to be admitted to the Luxembourg, and through the Chantrey Bequest, to the British National Gallery. If this fond hope be realized, then Pittsburgh will be famous for art as it is now for steel. While thus looking to the future for these grand results, we shall have in the present, the supreme satisfaction of endeavoring to do something year after year, in our own day and generation, toward the development and maintenance of the coming school of national American art. (*Applause.*)

There remains to notice this Hall (The Music Hall) in which we are assembled, but I see it is unnecessary to say one word in explanation of, or apology for, its existence. It has already spoken for itself, and is fully vindicated in your opinion. You know from the public press what has already been arranged, and what the masses of the people are to obtain here, without money and without price. That this Hall can be and will be so managed as to prove a most potent means for refined entertainments and instruction of the people and the development of the musical taste of Pittsburgh, I entertain not the slightest doubt, and Goethe's saying should be recalled, that "Straight roads lead from music to everything good." (*Applause.*) Let us trust that here, also, the great organist whom the committee has been so fortunate as to secure (*applause*), and the manager of the Hall will ever bear in mind that there has not been in view the entertainment of the cultured musical few, but that it is intended as an instrument for spreading among the masses of the people the appreciation and love of music which musical people already possess. There is much to be said for the old lady who declined to contribute for the conversion of our good friends, the Jews, because, as she very justly observed, "the Jews were quite rich enough to convert themselves." (*Laughter.*) The artist, pure and simple, is liable to what is surely a grave error. He is apt to think that because he has reached a plane from which he receives rarest satisfaction only in the highest developments of art, in painting or in music, that what he deems the highest and the best should be provided here for the people. The judgment of the teacher might be doubted who insisted upon beginning by trying to reveal the beauties of Shakespeare, or of Wagner, to the child. There seems something still to be said for the alphabet as a first lesson in art and music, as in letters. There does not appear to be much use in providing a ladder for the people to ascend if the distance from the earth to the first step be made so great they cannot reach it. No one advocates poor or mere-

tricious literature, music or art, but there are simple things as pure in art as the most elaborate; indeed, simplicity is a characteristic of supreme genius, and we trust that the managers of the Hall and Gallery will aim to lead the people gently upward, beginning, though not ending, with the simplest forms, "easily understood of the common people," as was so finely said of the Bible when its message, hitherto a sealed book, was revealed to the uneducated masses by giving it to them in their own language. (*Great applause.*) If Library, Hall, Gallery, or Museum be not popular and attract the manual toilers, and benefit them, it will have failed in its mission; for it was chiefly for the wage-earners that it was built by one who was himself a wage-earner, and who has the good of that class greatly at heart. (*Applause.*)

Speaking of the Art Gallery and Museum combined, our hope is that these will become the final home of the art and historical treasures of Western Pennsylvania. The masterpieces of art gravitate to public galleries as if by a law of their being; a generation more or less is nothing; they have no permanent resting place in the hands of private individuals, who are only permitted to enjoy them for a day; sooner or later they become the property of the people. Some good men leave their dearest treasures to the community in which they have resided, and some without bestowing art gifts, like Mr. J. D. Bernd (*great applause*), leave the residue to their estates. Mr. Bernd, honored be his memory, has the distinction of being the first to set us all an example. His name will be first upon the tablet at the entrance which is to record for all time the names of our benefactors. Funds have already been received from his legacy exceeding \$20,000 and appropriated for the use of the Library. (*Applause.*) The Gallery has not been forgotten. The first picture was presented by my friend Charles Stewart Smith (*applause*), a name justly becoming widely known throughout the land. This has been followed by a valuable and most appropriate gift from the Daughters of the Revolution, an original portrait of Pitt, after whom our city was named. (*Applause.*)

The Museum has also been remarkably fortunate. Professor Marsh, of New Haven, present with us tonight, has promised to assist in giving the skeletons or plaster casts of some of the rarest specimens known to scientific men. (*Applause.*) When it is ready for exhibition, we need not concern ourselves about the Museum attracting the populace for some time. The experience of Pittsburgh is very soon to be the experience of New York with its Metropolitan Museum—not what shall be offered, but what we can accept. No expectation in which I have ever indulged in my most sanguine moments, no air castle which

I have ever inflated, no dream which I have ever dreamed regarding the inauguration of this gift, equals what has been accomplished in reality. We have made a splendid start. (*Applause.*)

I have now passed in review each of the branches of this institution, and complied with the request of the commission. To that commission I beg to return thanks and gratitude, for both of which I find words inadequate. The work has been admirably done, every step has been wise. To possess such a body of able, good men, willing to devote themselves without reward to work for the good of the community, is one of the most precious possessions of a city. (*Applause.*) Pittsburgh is rich in such men. We have been fortunate indeed in our Presidents; the untimely death of the first, Mr. Scott, left a vacancy which it seemed almost impossible to fill, but in Mr. Frew, we have an ideal successor. Born to wealth, he yet scorns its vain delights and gives himself to laborious days in work for the public good without reward, except the only reward worth having, the knowledge that by virtue of his labor he will leave Pittsburgh a little better than he found it. (*Prolonged applause.*) And now I might say to the commission, that if they ever wish for a simple test by which they can surely know whether the objects aimed at by the founders are attained or not, they have only to note whether the thousands who visit the conservatories near us, so wisely given by my life-long friend and partner, Mr. Phipps (*great applause*), pass over here from those entrancing gardens of delight and find in some department of this building something also which attracts them and gives them pleasure and instruction. If so, the commission may rest assured our fondest hopes have been realized. If this building be so managed as not to attract the wage-earning thousands to the Museum, Hall or Library, and especially to the exhibitions in the Art Gallery, which will perhaps need most care, then there is still something left to be desired.

It is only an act of justice to give public credit to the Rev. Dr. W. J. Holland, Chancellor of our University, for first drawing attention to the merits of this admirable location. I had walked alone behind the hill yonder and thought we must locate there, but when he suggested to me the entrance to the Park, and explained its merits, all other places vanished; it was the flash of light which revealed this site so brightly as to obscure all others. (*Applause.*) It has also this unique merit for all Pittsburghers, that it plants us upon Schenley ground, which could never have been obtained but for the generosity of Mrs. Schenley (*applause*) and her desire to co-operate in this work. We owe much to Mr. Carnahan, who first interested Mrs. Schenley in the Park idea; and for her co-operation in this Library

site, much do we owe to the persuasive power of our friends, Colonel W. A. Herron and Mr. E. M. Bigelow. (*Great applause.*) Thus we have thrown around us for all time the sweet influence of Pittsburgh's "Uncrowned Queen," who will read of tonight's proceedings with the deepest interest, as I well know, for nothing about her native city fails to elicit her keenest attention. She is one of us, heart and soul, a true Pittsburgher. Her portrait for the Gallery is promised. Some day let us hope she will be able to accept the invitation of the city to visit us and see how much she has done to endear her memory to Pittsburgh forever. (*Applause.*)

To the architects of this structure I am sure you will expect me to express hearty thanks and congratulations. I have been much pleased with the numerous judicious commendations bestowed upon it by those best qualified to judge. One high authority in Europe said to me when he saw the plan, "This is classic, something that can never go out of fashion, a structure which will grow in favor with the years to come. I scarcely thought your young country would favor anything so fine. I am delighted with it." (*Applause.*)

The decorator has already had his full meed of praise, but you will wish me, I am sure, to heap still more upon his head. We owe much also to the contractors, all of whom have proved their title to confidence. We have been most fortunate in having such men. The organ is entitled to special mention, and Pittsburgh is to be congratulated upon having an instrument so remarkably fine. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Mayor, before closing, let me say one word to you, as representing the City of Pittsburgh. The city grows apace. This site, you remember, seemed to many not to be central. Today it is certainly not too far east for the center of the Greater Pittsburgh which already appears upon the horizon. The plan made for branch libraries may soon be inadequate and require further attention. Already we have an important library at Braddock, which ranks with that of Allegheny City. Its work is so valuable that a commission recently appointed to report upon institutions connected with vast industrial works, has given it first place, a result for which we are chiefly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Gayley. For some years a surplus has been desired that I might be able to give a similar library to Homestead, which is to be my next use of wealth. (*Applause.*) I hope to be able to go forward with that work the coming year. We intend to follow that with a similar library for Duquesne (*applause*), and hope also to be able to provide a library for a community which has been so partial as to adopt our name, much to the surprise of Mrs. Carnegie and myself (*applause*), but I will not deny also, much to our satisfac-

tion; for we should rather stand well with our fellow-citizens in and around Pittsburgh than receive the plaudits of all the world besides. (*Great applause.*)

By the time the Greater Pittsburgh comes we shall thus have several libraries, which it may perhaps be thought best to incorporate with the general library system of Pittsburgh. Such other districts as may need branch libraries we ardently hope we may be able to supply, for to provide free libraries for all the people of Pittsburgh is a field which we would fain make our own, as chief part of our life work. (*Great applause.*) Although thus desirous to preempt the library field, it will not be inferred that we see no other proper use for surplus wealth—very far from it—Pittsburgh furnishes many fields for this, a list of which we shall be most happy to supply to any enquiring millionaire upon application. (*Great laughter and applause.*) I have dropped into the plural, for there is one always with me to prompt, encourage, suggest, discuss, and advise, and fortunately, sometimes, when necessary, gently to criticise; whose heart is as keenly in this work as my own, preferring it to any other as the best possible use of surplus wealth, and without whose wise and zealous co-operation I often feel little useful work could be done. (*Prolonged and enthusiastic applause, which was received by Mrs. Carnegie with a very happy smile.*)

Mr. President, it only remains for me to hand over this property to you, as representing the commission, in trust for the city. At your coming meeting, the endowment promised for the Art Gallery and Museum will be arranged. I desire to consult a body of men which has shown such rare managing ability before deciding what form to adopt.

Mrs. Carnegie and myself, who have given this subject much thought, and have had it upon our minds for years, survey tonight what has been done; the use to which we have put our surplus wealth, the community to which we have devoted it, and say to ourselves, if we had the decision to make again we should resolve to do precisely as we have done. (*Great applause.*) We feel that we have made the best use of surplus wealth according to our judgment and conscience; beyond that, is not for us; it is for the citizens of Pittsburgh to decree whether the tree planted in your midst shall wither or grow and bear such fruits as shall best serve the county where my parents and myself first found in this land a home, and to which we owe so much. (*Applause.*)

There is nothing in what we have done here that can possibly work evil; all must work good, and that continually. If a man would learn of the treasures of art, he must come here and study; if he would gain knowledge, he must come to the library and read; if he would know of the great

nature's secrets in the minerals which he refines, or of natural history, he must spend his time in the museum; if he is ever to enjoy the elevating solace and delights of music, he must frequent this hall and give himself over to its sway. There is nothing here that can tend to pauperize, for there is neither trace nor taint of charity; nothing which will help any man who does not help himself; nothing is given here for nothing. But there are ladders provided upon which the aspiring may climb to the enjoyment of the beautiful and the delights of harmony, whence comes sensibility and refinement; to the sources of knowledge, from which spring wisdom; and to wider and grander views of human life, from whence comes the elevation of man. (*Applause.*)

We now hand over the gift; take it from one who loves Pittsburgh deeply and would serve her well. (*Great and prolonged applause.*)

Mr. Frew, on accepting the key, said:

"Mr. Carnegie, representing as I do the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, who are acting on behalf of the people of this city, I am, proud to receive at your hands this key, symbolizing the control of the library system which you have founded. Allow me to express the wish, or rather to give you the confident assurance, that its only use will be to open to the people the treasures of literature, science, and art, that have already accumulated within these walls, and which will undoubtedly multiply as the years go by."

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