



AENEAS McCHARLES, Aet 28

AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN BRIEF

I have been thwarted, disappointed, bemocked of destiny ever since my boyhood days; nearly all the desires of my heart have been denied me; and, except for a few short years, the gates of this world's happiness have been inexorably shut against me. But, nevertheless, I have contrived, in one way or another, to snatch from fate perhaps more of the real wine of life than the most of men, and I can still laugh and chat and enjoy myself whenever I chance to meet a congenial friend. I have also succeeded, after a long and desperate struggle, in making a lucky strike in mining at last. But at my age now, and with the most of my loved ones in the grave, it is only the wished for come too late.—*Extract from a private letter.*  
*Date, July 2nd, 1902.*