

LITERATURE

ANDREW CARNEGIE—THE MAN AND HIS WORK. By Barnard Alderson.

THIS is a biography free from partiality and from fulsome adulation. The author gives us the story of the man's life and work, and lets us draw our inferences. It is well done; the story is clearly told, proportion is duly observed, and there is no lack either of discrimination or sympathy. It is a noble monument to a noble subject.

Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, in Scotland, on November 25th, 1837, the year in which Queen Victoria ascended the throne.

His father was a master-weaver, and the owner of four damask looms. The introduction of steam looms put him out of business, and the ruined family emigrated to America. The Steel King began his business career on this side of the ocean as a bobbin-boy in a cotton factory at \$1.20 a week.

At the age of thirteen he was promoted. His work was to fire the boiler and run the steam engine, which drove the machinery of a small factory. It was an onerous position, and told heavily on his nerves, but he never showed the white flag. He was a confirmed and plucky little optimist, who had confidence in the future.

The embryo millionaire never believed in the precept "Stick to your last." He seemed to think it the equivalent of "Stick in the mud," and, therefore, at fourteen he made his third change by forsaking stoking for the brighter work of a telegraph boy at \$3.00 a week.

In his spare time "Andy" practised sending and receiving messages, and became expert in such a short time that he was promoted to the position of operator. It was at this time his father died,

and on his youthful shoulders fell the burden of maintaining the family.

Among those who visited the telegraph office was Mr. Thomas A. Scott, superintendent of the Pittsburg Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. His keen eye singled Carnegie out as a young fellow of unusual promise; accordingly he offered him a situation as operator in the service of the railroad company at an advance of \$10.00 a month. It was accepted.

Mr. Carnegie's first "deal" was the purchase of ten shares of the Adam's Express Company at \$60 a share; \$100 of the money was his own, the other \$500 he borrowed from his mother, who mortgaged her house to raise the money. This was the basis of his fortune.

By his ability and promptitude, Carnegie made himself indispensable to his chief, so when the Civil War broke out, and Scott was made Assistant Secretary of War, he took his young protege with him. Carnegie, who was then only twenty-four, was appointed by his chief to a responsible work. He had to see to the transport of the troops and stores, and generally supervise the network of railways and telegraphs—a work that required a clear head and nerves of steel.

Although he did no fighting, curiously enough he was the third man to be wounded in the war. A telegraph wire which had been pinned to the ground sprang up and cut a severe gash in his face, but he did not allow the injury to affect his duties. He was at several battles, and was the last man to leave the field at Bull Run.

In the War Department at Washington, Carnegie inaugurated a system of telegraphing by ciphers, which proved to be of invaluable service.

Shortly after the war, he was appointed