

THE WAYSIDE PHILOSOPHER

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The death of Andrew Carnegie removes one whose life was a strange career redeemed from its earlier follies, or mistakes, by its later sincere devotion to the interests of humanity in its truest sense.

One, acquainted with the history of the Homestead riots and the causes which led to such a condition, would be entirely unprepared to find the man responsible for such conditions devoted to the interests of education, mercy, and charity in a space of not more than fifteen or twenty years. Yet, there can be little doubt that the conditions forced on the homestead workers by Carnegie are a direct and startling contrast to the activities of his later life.

Little can be recorded of interest in regard to Carnegie's life beyond what already has been said in various quarters, but one incident may be recalled of one of his mistakes in judgment, for the lesson it teaches of the value of descent.

Those, conversant with Scottish history, will remember the history and character of the Macdonnells of Glencoe and the fate which befell them at the instigation of a Dutch elector, whom accident made King of England. They will also recall that, when in later life, Carnegie wished the distinction of title, he sought to secure for himself the title of Glencoe. Perhaps, a long residence in America had led him to believe that such a distinction was possible to a man of honest family, who had the experience of being many times a millionaire.

The point worth noting in the matter is, that notwithstanding the poverty of this clan; notwithstanding its abil-

ity to assert for itself the title prescribed for loyalty to the Stuart cause, the British sense of what was due to birth resulted in Carnegie's being unable to obtain the proud distinction of being Laird of Glencoe.

In passing, it might be noted that Sir Donald Smith, whose estates in that district are well known, had the good taste to appreciate such distinctions and chose for himself the title of Strath-na-co or Strathcona.

Carnegie has passed. It is not ours to judge of his life and its results, but we can all join in praise of the splendid work of his later years. We can feel glad that he was thus led to atone for the mistakes of his earlier life.

Apropos of the Prince's visit, we can remark with pride on the great satisfaction Canadians have found in the truly royal bearing of the young man. Full of royal dignity, he is free from false pride of position. Clean, wholesome, adaptable, lovable, he has won Canadian hearts, and, should he have the good fortune to ascend the British throne, he will have the knowledge as King that he has, by his visit, immensely strengthened the ties which bind Canadians to the British throne.

It is interesting to note that among his distinguished titles, he carries the proud one of "Lord of the Isles." It would, no doubt, be interesting to many of the readers of the Monthly to learn how this title was acquired by him. Perhaps some of the Magazine's contributors or readers will oblige with the data? (Address, Wayside Philosopher.)

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