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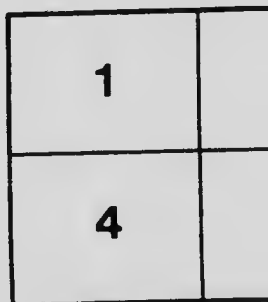
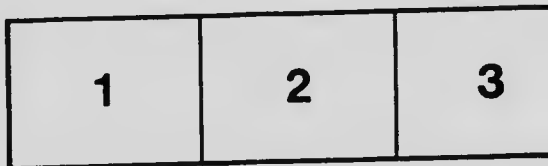
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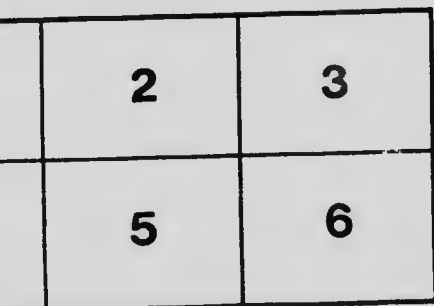
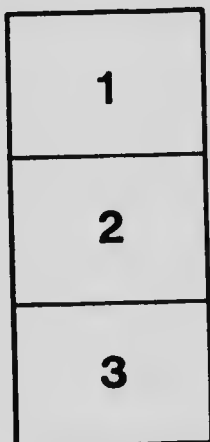
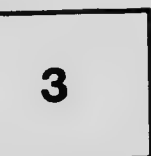
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Shall Canadians take Gifts from Andrew Carnegie?

The self-respecting individual is very careful about accepting presents. I know no reason why Communities should be any less particular; and I venture to ask whether self-respecting Canada should take money from Mr. Carnegie.

It is very natural that offers of free libraries, etc., should at first sight appear praiseworthy in every way; and the fact that Mr. Carnegie was born under the British flag, though now an American citizen, seems a sufficient explanation of his proposed contributions to Canadian objects.

I submit, however, that we cannot accept his benefactions without forfeiting all claim to independence of character and proper self-esteem, for reasons which I will proceed to give.

There are certain things which we Canadians, in common with all true British subjects, hold very dear, and of which we feel we may be justly proud. They are our own fair Country; the splendid Empire to which we belong; our form of Government, a constitutional Monarchy under which we enjoy a freedom unsurpassed since the world began; the Navy and Army, whose glorious achievements no words could over-state.

Upon all these Mr. Carnegie has aired his opinions in print, so it is easy to ascertain what they are.

As the day is approaching, when Englishmen all the world over gather to do honour to their Motherland, (always heartily joined by their fellow-subjects of every race); and soon follows the anniversary upon which for more than sixty years Britain's sons and daughters have voiced their devotion to our late deeply lamented Queen; it has occurred to me that the facts might be most forcibly presented by compiling a "toast-list" appropriate to such occasions, substituting for the usual quotations from the great poets and authors extracts from the writings of Mr. Carnegie.

If these examples of that gentleman's sentiments do not cause his proffered gifts to be declined, without thanks, by all Canadians I am greatly mistaken in the people of my adopted country.

WILLIAM ROBINS.

WILKERVILLE, ONTARIO.

April 8th, 1901.

Since the above was written it is reported that Mr. Carnegie has subscribed in England to a memorial to our late Queen. I am aware that certain Old Country towns have placed themselves under obligations to Mr. Carnegie, (probably in ignorance of his sentiments); but I cannot believe that he will be permitted to share a privilege which belongs only to those who in her lifetime loved the Queen as she deserved. Mr. Carnegie seems to think money can buy anything. I trust he will be taught that nothing can purchase our forgetfulness of indignity toward the most revered Sovereign in English history.

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Toast — Our Gracious King

"Of course men can kiss the hand of the Queen, but how will it be when the Prince of Wales holds out his hand, and Messrs. Chamberlain and Morley, Collins and Broadhurst, Trevelyan and Fowler, and others, are required to kiss THAT? I am not sure but that even these Radicals may find it no stain upon their manhood to *incur this degradation*. But the first man who feels as he ought to feel will either smile when the hand is extended, at the suggestion *that he could so demean himself*, and give it a good hearty shake, or knock *his Royal Highness down*." (1)

From Andrew Carnegie's TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY.

Toast — To the Memory of our Late Beloved Queen

"The Royal mother of her people cannot be induced to support her own children during life, or even to bury them decently at death, as long as the public can be further *bled*." (2)

"Even the Queen, a woman, who should shudder at war and not publicly parade her interest in slaughter, would publicly congratulate him." (3)

"If any man believe that Queen Victoria, or the Prince of Wales, could receive more welcome news than that of the downfall of the Republic" (meaning the United States) "his estimate of human nature differs from mine." (4)

From Andrew Carnegie's TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY.

Toast — The Royal Family

"These royal people are only excrescences upon the State, *the setters of bad example, and the very core round which the worst vices of English life gather and fester*." (5)

From Andrew Carnegie's TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY.

Toast — The Motherland

"The man born abroad, like myself, under institutions which insult his birth." (6)

"The insult inflicted upon me by my native land at birth." (7)

"To the beloved Republic under whose equal laws I am made the peer of any man, although denied political equality by my native land, I dedicate this book, with an intensity of gratitude and admiration which the native-born citizen can neither feel nor understand." (8)

From Andrew Carnegie's TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY.

Toast — The Dominion of Canada

"Canada's hypocritical and ungrateful conduct merits and inspires only contempt." (9)

"Canada, subject and dependent, contrasts unfavourably with the Republic in every way." (10)

"But why talk of Canada, or of any mere colony? What book, what invention, what statue or picture, what anything, has a colony ever produced, or what man has grown up in any colony who has become known beyond his own local district? NONE. Nor can a colony ever give to mankind anything of value beyond wood, corn and beef." (11)

From Andrew Carnegie's TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY.

Toast — The Army and Navy

(Referring to England's interference to preserve order in Egypt.) "The Government sent a large force to Egypt and began an aggressive campaign to prevent the people of Egypt from having such rulers as they desired." (12)

"It (the Soudan campaign) was a crime." (13)

"How was it with Admiral Seymour, the servant of a Monarchy? Let him refrain from bombarding, from behind his iron walls, the few miserable defences in Alexandria Bay, and never in his history, perhaps, would such an opportunity occur again to rescue his name from obscurity. Admiral Seymour might have thus reasoned: 'Negotiate this trouble peacefully, I remain poor and obscure. There is no danger; I am perfectly safe behind these iron walls; just open my guns, and fame and honour and rank and wealth are mine.'" (14)

"Fellow-countrymen, what would you think of a judge upon the bench deciding his own cause, where a verdict for the defendant meant to the judge obscurity and half-pay, and a verdict for the plaintiff meant a peerage and twenty-five thousand pounds? Yet this was precisely the position of Admiral Seymour at Alexandria, and it is practically the position occupied by every British commander to whom is committed the issue of peace or war in the 'exercise of his discretion.'" (15)

From Andrew Carnegie's TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY.

(Referring to the South African war.) "She (England) stands condemned before the civilized world. Her conduct is indefensible." (16)

From Article by Andrew Carnegie in THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

NOTES

1 The vulgarity and uncharitableness here displayed are probably a key to Mr. Carnegie's character.

2 If her Majesty's sex and universally recognized virtues were not thought by Mr. Carnegie a sufficient protection against so coarse an accusation, he might at least have had the honesty to remember that the money grants made by Parliament to the Queen were largely, if not entirely, offset by the revenue from the 'Crown Lands' surrendered by her to the nation; which 'Crown Lands' were as fully Her Majesty's private property as is any foot of land owned by Mr. Carnegie the property of that gentleman.

3 This is as malicious a misrepresentation of the Queen's character as it would be possible to make.

4 The general and generous tribute to the Queen's friendship for the United States paid by the American press of all shades of politics during her illness and after her death abundantly proves that Mr. Carnegie's estimate of human nature does differ, and that very materially, from the estimates of his fellow-citizens.

5 Common decency and a sense of fair play would prevent ordinary men from making charges of this sort without offering proof. If one should allege that Mr. Carnegie's home circle is a hot-bed of vice he would doubtless consider it an outrage.

6, 7, 8 These are remarkable statements regarding a land which for generations has been conspicuous for freedom and justice; which has been the asylum of political refugees

of almost every nationality. No one will find fault with the warmth of Mr. Carnegie's devotion to the country where he has been able to accumulate one of the colossal fortunes of the day; but that could have been as well expressed without false accusations against the land of his birth; and to show how unjust the comparison is, it is permissible to mention that there were in the United States millions of human slaves long after there had ceased to be *one* on British soil.

10 This may be dismissed with the simple remark that very few Canadians will admit its correctness until some evidence much more substantial than Mr. Carnegie's mere assertion is forthcoming.

11 It would seem hardly worth while to dignify these wild statements with any specific reply. Their ridiculous character could be abundantly shown on behalf of Canada and every other considerable Colony of Great Britain if that were needed. It will suffice, however, to ask Mr. Carnegie what he thinks of those Colonial products, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Jay, Benjamin Franklin, and the many other great men who were born and developed in the American Colonies before their independence was asserted.

12 13, 14, 15, 16. It might be thought that in the copious records of the British army and navy a fair-minded person could find many battles for the right, many commanders humane and just, even if these particular condemnations were warranted, which is denied. But in a book of 350 pages not one word of approval of either is to be seen. The work which made possible the wonderful regeneration of Egypt, and was absolutely essential thereto, is denounced as a crime; one of the leaders therein is described as a blood-guilty poltroon, who fought only for his personal advantage and because he incurred no personal risk.

A temperate discussion of the relative merits of Monarchical and Republican forms of government should offend no one; but the argument for the latter is not strengthened by slandering the country which, whatever its shortcomings, has done more to spread the doctrines of liberty and justice than all the other powers of the world combined.

As a measure of the value of Mr. Carnegie's opinion and the accuracy of his statements, the following further quotation from his book, TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY, is offered:

"The American people are satisfied that the worst native government in the world is better for its people than the best government which any foreign power can supply; that governmental interference upon the part of a so-called civilized power, in the affairs of the most barbarous tribe upon earth, is injurious to that tribe, and never under any circumstances whatever can it prove beneficial, either for the undeveloped race or for the intruder. THE MAN IN AMERICA WHO SHOULD PREACH THAT THE NATION SHOULD INTERFERE WITH DISTANT RACES FOR THEIR CIVILIZATION, AND FOR THEIR GOOD, WOULD BE VOTED EITHER A FOOL, OR A HYPOCRITE."

Verily it would be better for Mr. Carnegie's reputation for sound judgment if, before founding Libraries which may give wider currency to his remarkable feats of authorship, he should devote as much of his wealth as might be needed to buying in and suppressing every evidence of his violation of the old and wholesome adage, "*cobbler, stick to your last.*"





