

AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, HELD ON DECEMBER 31, 1919, THE FOLLOWING MINUTE WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED:

THE death of Andrew Carnegie on August 11, 1919, at his summer home at Lenox, Massachusetts, in his eighty-fourth year, deprives the American Library Association of one of its few honorary members, and the free public libraries of the English-speaking world of their staunchest and most munificent friend. His substantial encouragement of the establishment of libraries stands unparalleled in the history of the world. His benefactions for libraries have been on such a scale as to make him a unique figure in popular education. His support of library schools in various parts of the country has been an important contribution to professional librarianship, and a natural supplement to his great work for the encouragement and promotion of libraries.

Mr. Carnegie's extensive gifts to libraries began in the eighties and followed each other with increasing rapidity, until the number and size of his donations attracted world-wide attention. His interest continued until his death; in fact, still continues, as much of his wealth was left for a continuance of the work.

Believing, as he did, that free libraries were "cradles of democracy" and "fruits of the true

American ideal," he made it the business of his later life to give the opportunity for reading to any community which manifested sufficient interest to give promise of adequate and continuous support. Before his death, some three thousand library buildings were erected, at a cost to him of over \$66,000,000.

His interest in libraries was based on a keen appreciation of the educational benefits he had received personally from them, and his approval of an institution so unusually fitted to assist those compelled to educate themselves. Among the many avenues open to those who wish to benefit others, this made the strongest appeal to him, and received much the greatest share of his attention.

The principal direction to which his gifts were devoted was the erection of buildings. Believing, as he did, that a library was a necessary public utility in a modern community, he felt that the institution of this aid to education was best promoted by this direct initial contribution to those communities which already felt the need and were anxious to meet it. Once established, he felt, every community would maintain its library to the extent justified by the value of its work.

The sudden increase in library facilities occasioned by his benefactions, especially in this country, created an acute need for skilled librarians. To meet this want, Mr. Carnegie became an active benefactor of library schools, and continued to con-

tribute to their support until his death. An additional contribution to professional librarianship was the endowment of \$100,000 presented to this Association, to promote the publication of professional literature, which has made possible the production of many useful handbooks.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that there be recorded in the minutes of the Association our deep sense of the loss of the greatest friend and benefactor of libraries in the world's history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Minute be sent to Mrs. Carnegie and her daughter.

CHALMERS HADLEY
President

GEORGE B. UTLEY
Secretary