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during their life time is more common with Americans than with any other people. It is a still greater pleasure to see that the direction of their beneficence is largely toward the founding of public libraries. It has been observed that there is no country in which wealth is so sensible of its obligations as ours. As most of our rich men have risen from the ranks this sympathy is readily understood, and is but the healthy side of that good nature which true democracy tends to foster.

Whenever we read of a foreigner's characterizations of Americans we always see prominently mentioned their generous giving for public needs.

The propriety of speaking of Mr. Carnegie's gifts to libraries, under the head of memorial libraries may be questioned. Yet every one of the thousand which bear his name is very decidedly a memorial to his wisdom and philanthropy. He and Benjamin Franklin stand together as the two men who in the history of this country have been most eminent in shrewdness and practical wisdom, the first founder of a library in America, and the greatest founder of libraries the world has ever produced.

Most persons will agree that no one is a better judge of a good investment than Andrew Carnegie, and he has shown beyond question his belief in the supreme value of the public library. He does not require that the libraries he aids shall bear his name. The public library in Norfolk is a case in point. Up to 1900 the total amount of gifts and bequests to libraries in the United States amounted to nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000). Since that year Mr. Carnegie has given twenty-nine millions to libraries in this country. Outside and beyond his memorable benefactions, it is a pleasure to note that no other agent or instrument of public education has enjoyed the gifts of private beneficence to so great an extent as the public library.

Indeed no other public object seems to attract the gifts and bequests of the wealthy as this does.

There seems to be a ready perception of the truth that one's memory cannot be better perpetuated than by association with an institution so pop-

ular, so elevating and so universal in its influences.

It is the only institution that invites all ages, all classes, to partake of its advantages, without fee or tax of any kind, free as the sunlight and the air we breathe. The desire to have one's name held in honor and gratitude after death is a great incentive to noble deeds—one of the greatest implanted in us. How can one build a better monument for himself or for some one whom he loves than by giving to his home town some grand institution which shall bestow increased advantages upon succeeding generations. Such a memorial constantly recalls past nobleness, constantly serves the present needs, and silently helps to develop the civilization of the future.

It is not an easy thing to keep oneself in remembrance. We fall into the great stream that is hurrying our generation to the other shore. A little circle of waves is made for a moment. The waters become smooth again, and how many of our fellow-men will know that we ever lived? And yet a far more important question is, how many are made better because we have lived? He that gives his name to some great public benefaction, such as a free library has reared for himself a monument that shall endure. Upon this memorial he may confidently allow the word "Resurgam" to be carved, for through his good deed he will rise again in the grateful remembrance, and in the lifted lives, the broadened minds, and fortified characters of generations to come.

"The pyramids may forget their builder, but memorials such as these have longer memories."