

Letter by Mr Carnegie to the Trustees
expressing: the purposes of the Trust.

SKIBO CASTLE,

DORNOCH, August 2nd. 1903.

GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMISSION,

The Trust Deed, of which this may be considered explanatory, transfers to you Pittencrieff Park and Glen and Two millions five hundred thousand dollars in 5 per cent. bonds, giving you an annual revenue of Twenty-five thousand pounds, all to be used in attempts to bring into the monotonous lives of the toiling masses of Dunfermline more of sweetness and light : to give to them—especially the young—some charm, some happiness, some elevating conditions of life which residence elsewhere would have denied; that the child of my native town, looking back in after years, however far from home it may have roamed, will feel that simply by virtue of being such, life has been made happier and better, if this be the fruit of your labours you will have succeeded ; if not, you will have failed.

It is more than twenty years since I provided in my will for this experiment, for experiment it is. My retirement from business enables me to act in my own lifetime, and the fortunate acquisition of Pittencrieff, with its lovely glen, furnishes the needed foundation upon which you can build, beginning your work by making it a recreation park for the people. Needed

structures will have admirable sites upon its edge, in the very centre of population. I have said your work is experimental. The problem you have to solve is "What can be done in towns for the benefit of the masses by money in the hands of the most public-spirited citizens?" If you prove that good can be done you open new fields to the rich which I am certain they are to be more and more anxious to find for their surplus wealth,

Remember you are pioneers and do not be afraid of making mistakes ; those who never, make mistakes never make anything. Try many things freely, but discard just as freely.

As it is the masses you are to benefit, it follows you have to keep in touch with them and must carry them with you, Therefore do not put before their first steps that which they cannot take easily, but always that which leads upwards as their tastes improve.

Not what other cities have is your standard ; it is the something beyond this which they lack, and your funds should be strictly devoted to this. It is not intended that Dunfermline should be relieved from keeping herself abreast of other towns, generation after generation, according to the standards of the time. This is her duty, and no doubt will continue to be her pride.

I can imagine it may be your duty in the future to abandon beneficent fields from time to time when municipalities enlarge their spheres of action and embrace these. When they attend to any department it is time for you to abandon it and march forward to new triumphs. "Pioneers, always ahead" would not be a bad motto for you.

As conditions of life change rapidly, you will not be restricted as to your plans or the scope of your activities.

Permit me to thank you one and all for the cordial acceptance of the onerous duties of the Trust. Britain is most fortunate in the number and character of able educated men of affairs who labour zealously for the public good without other reward than the consciousness of service done for others. I am most fortunate in having a companion commission in charge of the Trust for the Universities of Scotland also another in charge of Pittsburg Institute, whose success has been phenomenal and I believe yours is to be. Let me commend a great truth to you which has been one of my supports in life "The gods send thread for "a web begun". Thread will be sent for that you are about to weave I am well assured. You have the first instalment already in your Chairman, emphatically the right man in the right place. Indeed, Dr John Ross seems specially designed for this very task, original though it be.

Gratefully your obliged fellow Townsman
(Sgd) Andrew Carnegie
(Signed) Andrew Carnegie
Written by James Lumsden
Collated by J W Watson.