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GREAT MEN



THEIR ESTEEM FOR
A Great City

COMPILED BY JOHN P. COWAN

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A Great City



GEORGE WASHINGTON
JAMES MONROE
MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE
HENRY CLAY
CHARLES DICKENS
LOUIS KOSSUTH
DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT
ABRAHAM LINCOLN
THEODORE ROOSEVELT
GROVER CLEVELAND
ANDREW CARNEGIE
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Compiled by John P. Cowan

PITTSBURGH • PENNSYLVANIA
MCMCIX

TO THOSE CITIZENS OF PITTSBURGH
WHOSE SERVICE TO THEIR CITY HAS
MERITED THE PRAISE BESTOWED BY
THE EMINENT MEN QUOTED IN THE
THE FOLLOWING PAGES, THIS BOOK-
LET IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

—J. P. C.

COYPRIGHT, 1919
JOHN P. COWAN

JAN -5 1920

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WHAT THEY SAID of PITTSBURGH

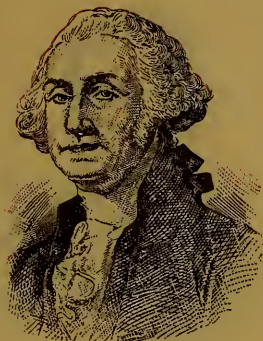


THE MEN—*Washington, Monroe, La Fayette, John Quincy Adams, Dickens, Clay, Kossuth, Lincoln, Farragut, Carnegie, Cleveland, Roosevelt*—illustrious names every one in the annals of the last one hundred and fifty years.

THE CITY—*Pittsburgh*—industrial metropolis of the Western World, which has fulfilled the vision of its immortal founder and has justified every prediction made by its eminent visitors and well-wishers.

In the following pages are given verbatim the expressions of twelve men whose names will illumine the tablets of the World's history for all time; their praise of Pittsburgh and its people was voiced in spontaneous gratitude and most hearty sentiment. Cherished is their memory!

John P. Colman
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
December 25, 1919



GEORGE WASHINGTON
1732-1799

The Vision of the Founder

“I SPENT some time in viewing the Rivers, and the land in the Fork [the future site of Pittsburgh]; which I think extremely well situated for a Fort, as it has absolute Command of both Rivers. The Land at the Point is 20 or 25 feet above the common Surface of the water; and a considerable Bottom of flat, well-timbered land all around it, very convenient for Building.”

From Washington's Journal of His Tour to the Ohio. November 24, 1753



JAMES MONROE
1758-1831

The First Presidential Visitor

“RETURNING from a tour along a large portion of our Atlantic and inland frontiers, which was undertaken from a sense of duty, I am happy to pass through this town, and have been much gratified by the friendly reception which has been given me by the Select and Common Councils, and by the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Pittsburgh.”

Address by President Monroe, the first President of the United States to visit Pittsburgh during his term of office. The quotation is from “Monroe’s Tour” by S. Putman Waldo, Esq., 1820. Saturday, September 6, 1817



MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

1757-1834

LaFayette's Tribute

“THE patriotic inspiration I have felt at the sight of your [city's] manufactures is still enhanced by the friendly reception I have met from you, and by the most acceptable favor you are pleased to offer me. Accept my affectionate thanks, good wishes and regard.”

From a letter written by Marquis de La Fayette to the Pittsburgh firm of Bakewell, Page & Bakewell thanking them for courtesies shown during his visit to the city. The original letter is in the collection of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. May 31, 1825



HENRY CLAY
1777-1852

Henry Clay's Inspired Prediction

"I HAVE come to meet and exchange friendly salutations with my fellow citizens [of Pittsburgh], and to visit, perhaps for the last time, a city endeared to me by many early and agreeable associations. Alas how many of my estimable friends whose generous hospitality I enjoyed are now no more! * * * Now I will hazard a prediction that Pittsburgh, perhaps in the life of persons still living, will as far exceed Birmingham, England, to which it is sometimes compared, as the United States in extent, in grandeur, in the natural elements of power and greatness exceed the circumscribed limits of the islands of Great Britain."

From an address by Henry Clay before a meeting of citizens of Pittsburgh at the Exchange. Tuesday, March 21, 1848



CHARLES DICKENS
1812-1870

Box in Pittsburgh

“PITTSBURGH is like Birmingham in England, at least its townspeople say so. Setting aside the streets, the shops, the houses, wagons, factories, public buildings and population, perhaps it may be. It certainly has a great quantity of smoke hanging over it, and is famous for its iron works. Besides the prison, this town has a pretty arsenal and other institutions. We lodged at a most excellent hotel, and were admirably served. As usual, it was full of boarders, was very large and had a broad collonade on every story of the house.”

One of the least cynical paragraphs in Dickens' "American Notes." March 28, 1842



LOUIS KOSSUTH
1802-1894

A Patriot's Poetic Tribute

"CITIZENS of Pittsburgh, you have wreathed the flowers of Pennsylvania into garlands full of blossoms and hope, like the orange tree of fruit, and to this garland you have added the fairest flowers, yourselves."

From an address by Louis Kossuth to an assembly of Pittsburgh women. From the "Pittsburgh Gazette," January 26, 1852. Saturday, January 24, 1852



DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT
1801-1872

For the Gem of the Ocean

“ * * * I WILL say of the Navy, that * * * armed with the guns of Pittsburgh and iron-clad armors I trust will always prove true to the country, and endeavor to meet our foes whether we have iron or wooden ships, and we will endeavor at the same time to do justice to your Pittsburgh iron and Pittsburgh guns.”

From an address by Admiral Farragut at a banquet in the St. Charles Hotel where the citizens of Pittsburgh paid signal honor to the hero of Mobile Bay. Thursday, September 13, 1866



ABRAHAM LINCOLN
1809-1865

*Imperishable Names,
Pittsburgh, Lincoln*

“ALLEGHENY COUNTY!
It is the banner county of the Union.”

*From impromptu speech by President-Elect
Abraham Lincoln in the lobby of the Monon-
gahela House while enroute to Washington
for his inaugural. His published address so
often quoted was delivered from the balcony
of the hotel the following morning. February
14, 1861*



THEODORE ROOSEVELT
1858-1919

The Typical American City

“THERE is no more typical American city than Pittsburgh. And Pittsburgh, by its Americanism, gives a lesson to the entire United States. Pittsburgh has not been built up by talking about it. Your tremendous concerns were built by men who actually did the work. You made Pittsburgh ace high when it could have been deuce high. There is not a Pittsburgh man who did not earn his success through his deeds.”

From an address by Col. Theodore Roosevelt before Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh in the William Penn Hotel on the occasion of his last visit to Pittsburgh. Thursday, July 25, 1917



GROVER CLEVELAND
1837-1908

Vulcan's Jewels

“THE alchemy of civilization's evolution is full of splendid wonders; but no transmutation will ever be exhibited more startling and impressive than the creation of the bright jewels of education, art and music from the grime and noise of your furnaces; and no gem will ever have a more astonishing setting than the Carnegie Institute in your Smoky City.”

From an address by Ex-President Grover Cleveland at the Founder's Day exercises of the Carnegie Institute. Thursday, November 7, 1901



ANDREW CARNEGIE
1837-1919

Andrew Carnegie Back Home

“It is delightful to find myself with you today in the old home, this dear old Pittsburgh, and to see so many visible proofs of the usefulness of the institution to which so many of my dear friends have and are contributing invaluable service without money and without reward, animated solely by the patriotic desire to labor for the good of the city of their home * * * Although non-resident, it must not be thought I have ceased to follow local matters pertaining to this city. * * * and certainly Pittsburgh should consolidate the populations around her * * * and get credit for being the important center she is.”

From an address at the Founder's Day exercises at Carnegie Institute.” Thursday, April 27, 1911



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS
1767-1848

A Benediction

“AND may the choicest blessings of Almighty God rest upon you, both as a corporation [Pittsburgh] and as individuals, and lead you to a greater improvement of the advantages you so richly possess.”

From an address by Ex-President John Quincy Adams to a meeting of citizens at the Pittsburgh Exchange, as reported in the "Pittsburgh Gazette." Friday, November 17, 1843

OF THIS VOLUME
"GREAT MEN—THEIR ESTEEM FOR A GREAT CITY"
OF WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN PRINTED
250 COPIES BY
MACGREGOR-CUTLER PRINTING COMPANY
FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION
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PITTSBURGH,
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