

## **TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY.\***

What the Fourth-of-July orators have long been telling us in glittering generalities, Mr. Carnegie has set forth in a bill of particulars; and he shows conclusively that the much-ridiculed orators have been telling the truth. He confines the field of his observations mainly to the past fifty years—the era of railroad building, on which the rapid development of the country has so largely depended; and gives, incidentally, a great deal of significant information regarding other countries besides our own. He sets out with an array of facts

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\* **TRIUMPHANT DEMOCRACY; or, Fifty Years' March of the Republic.** By Andrew Carnegie. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

that hardly cease to be startling even when familiar; as, that the United States contain more English-speaking people than all the rest of the world; that the wealth of the republic exceeds that of Great Britain; and that it also surpasses the mother country not only in agriculture but in manufactures. Many of the other items in the array of statistics follow as corollaries from these, but not all. It is shown that for every pauper in the United States there are twenty-one in Holland and Belgium, and six in Great Britain and Ireland; that seven-eighths of our people are native born; that twenty-two per cent. of them now live in towns of 8,000 or more inhabitants; that if the live stock in our country were marshalled in procession five abreast, in close order, the line would reach round the world and overlap; that Chicago alone makes half as many steel rails in a year as Great Britain, and Minneapolis turns out so much flour that the barrels would form a bridge from New York to Ireland; that we produce sixteen pounds of butter annually for every man, woman, and child in the country, and if our crop of cereals were loaded in carts, it would require all the horses in Europe, and a million more, to move it; that more yards of carpeting are manufactured in Philadelphia than in all Great Britain; that a single factory in Massachusetts turns out as many pairs of boots as 32,000 boot-makers in Paris; that our Government has given us more land for the support of schools and colleges than the entire area of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Nearly every page of the book is crowded with facts, those here cited being only snapped up at random. But Mr. Carnegie has not thrown them together at random; he has marshalled them in orderly array, considering in succession the growth of our cities and towns, the conditions of life in America, our occupations, our system of education, our religious liberty, our treatment of pauperism and crime, our agriculture, manufactures, mining industries, trade and commerce, railways and waterways, our progress in literature, art, and music, and our national balance-sheet. He has done his work so well that no reader need pass the book by because he hates figures; he has turned the census into exciting reading, and rendered statistics poetical. Only in rare instances does his rhetoric outrun his facts; but two are noteworthy. When he says, "The American people have never taken up the sword except in self-defence or in defence of their institutions; never has the plough, the hammer, or the loom been deserted for the sword of conquest," he forgets the Mexican war; and when he says "They [the freedmen] now exercise the suffrage just as other citizens do; there is not a privilege possessed by any citizen which is not theirs,"

he forgets the wholesale suppressions of the votes of freedmen in the South. On the whole, the volume makes a showing of which any American may justly be proud, so far at least as present achievements are concerned; and in its indications of the future the citizen may find many texts for serious reflections upon our responsibilities as well as our privileges. It should especially be read by those who are accustomed to fix their eyes upon the defects of American institutions and manners, while ignorantly extolling the supposed superiority of something across the sea. Mr. Carnegie is himself a living example of the prizes that our country offers to genius, enterprise, and industry, unhampered by accidents of birth and social restrictions. He came here from Scotland, a poor boy, and he is now, at the age of fifty, the greatest steel manufacturer in the world, and a millionaire several times over,—made so, not by any gambling stock-jobbing or management of "corners," but by the development of useful industries. He very pertinently says: "Only the man born abroad, like myself, under institutions which insult him at his birth, can know the full meaning of republicanism."

ROSSITER JOHNSON.