

# CARNEGIE'S MEMO TO SELF

ST NICHOLAS HOTEL, NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1868



Andrew Carnegie

Thirty three and an income of \$50,000 per annum! By this time two years I can arrange all my business as to secure at least \$50,000 per annum. Beyond this never earn – make no effort to increase fortune, but append the surplus each year for benevolent purposes. Cast aside business forever, except for others.

Settle in Oxford and get thorough education, making the acquaintance of literary men – this will take three years' active work – pay especial attention to speaking in public. Settle then in London and purchase a controlling interest in some newspaper or live review and give the general management of it attention, taking a part in public matters, especially those connected with education and improvement of the poorer classes.

Man must have an idol – the amassing of wealth is one of the worst species of idolatry – no idol more debasing than the worship of money. Whatever I engage in I must push inordinately; therefore should I be careful to choose that life which will be the most elevating in its character. To continue much longer overwhelmed by business cares and with most of my thoughts wholly upon the way to make money in the shortest time, must degrade me beyond hope of permanent recovery. I will resign business at thirty-five, but during the ensuing two years I wish to spend the afternoons in receiving instruction and in reading systematically.

ANDREW CARNEGIE, aged 33