Among the many friends of the prominent English publicist and journalistic innovator, William T. Stead, was Carnegie. Few men were so opposite in personality and temperament. Yet, the brilliant idealist and the hard-headed realist developed a friendship which gave rise to a long correspondence that, like the following letter, reveals much of their personalities, opinions, and views.¹

As a steadfast friend and honest critic of the United States,² Stead tried to understand the “phenomena” of the rising Republic and American “Big Business” and his amity with Carnegie did much to contribute to this end. They did not always agree, but they were able to accept each other’s point of view in the tolerant and even humorous manner which this communication reflects.³ Carnegie was not even adverse to Stead’s bold advice on the “problem” of how to dispose of his wealth⁴ because he respected the journalist as an unselfish and disinterested man who did not fawn on the self-made men of wealth of his time.⁵

In a sense, the moderate monarchist and the conservative republican complemented each other. Both were devoted to the promotion of Anglo-American friendship and unity and championed world peace through the Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907.⁶ Each was an in-

¹ I am deeply indebted to Miss Estelle W. Stead and Mr. W. K. Stead for their kindness in granting me access to, and use of, the papers of Mr. W. T. Stead.

² On aspects of the character and work of Stead, see Miss Estelle W. Stead, My Father Personal and Spiritual Reminiscences (New York, 1913). See also W. T. Stead, The Americanization of the World or The Trend of The Twentieth Century (London, 1901).


⁴ See W. T. Stead, Mr. Carnegie’s Conundrum.£40,000,000. What Shall I Do With It? (London, 1900).


novator in his own way and found friendship in diversity.

Allerton, Cannes

PRIVATE

30th December 1897

My dear Mr. Stead,

Thanks for your "Satan Invisible"?—It is difficult to understand how a man of your general knowledge could call New York the typical American city; it is the one city in America which is anti-typical, and foreigners will never understand America until they adopt the rule which is followed by American statesmen;—Ascertain what New York thinks, and then judge that the great West which dominates the country thinks exactly the reverse.

I read with greatest interest your "Study of the Sovereign and the Reign,"8 and was on the eve of writing you that your childhood and mine had been remarkably alike—I was brought up among Chartists and Republicans—Our family is distinguished by having an uncle in jail for holding a prohibited meeting in Chartist times.9 My childhood's desire was to get to be a man and kill a king—hereditary privilege was my red rag—You have become corrupted by success, and are somewhat of a courtier nowadays. I have recognized the virtues of Her Majesty, and if in public life in Britain, would be a Victorian Republican, would meet her wishes, and indeed endeavor to anticipate even her whims, but for all that of course I remain republican, like John Bright, and would stand for the equality of the citizen. Sorry that in your old age you are a little "off" in this, and have fallen from the high standard of youth; but what can one expect of a man who talks to ghosts, or what is worse,


8 One of the innumerable articles and works that Stead wrote dealing with the life and reign of Queen Victoria. Although often a critic of his sovereign and her heir, Edward, Prince of Wales, Stead was very devoted to the Crown. Cf. W. T. Stead, "What Kind of Sovereign is Queen Victoria?" Cosmopolitan Magazine, XXIX (June, 1900), 207-16ff.

9 That Chartism was strong in Carnegie's loom-weaving family in Dunfermline, Scotland, reflects the fact that Chartism was particularly prevalent among the factory weavers of Lancashire and the Scotch border country who suffered most from the prevailing wretched wage rates and long hours. It is also interesting to note that Carnegie's family emigrated to the United States in 1848—the year of the final collapse of Chartism. Cf. Keith Feiling, A History of England from the Coming of the English to 1938 (London, 1948), pp. 836-39.
allows ghosts to talk to him. What a combination you and I should make—you have so many brilliant qualities, and I have common sense—"let us bunch."

Always your friend,
s/ Andrew Carnegie

W. T. Stead, Esq.,
Mobray [sic] House,
Norfolk St., Strand, W. C.

10 A reference to Stead's active interest in spiritualism. Cf. Stead, My Father, passim; W. T. Stead, Letters from Julia, or Light from the Borderland, received by Automatic Writing from One who has Gone Before (London, 1897).