
"A Sign of Littleness."

"A man said: 'I have been waiting 10 years to get even with So-and-So, and now I have my chance.' Another said: 'That fellow double-crossed me once, and I will make him regret it if it takes me the rest of my life.'

"Each of them was really saying: 'I am a little man.' For if biography and history teach us anything it is that big men have almost always refused to poison their spirits with vindictiveness and hate.

"Napoleon was by no means an ideal character, but he had superb indifference to personal animosity. When someone questioned his judgment in appointing one of his critics to an important office, Napoleon expressed surprise. 'What do I care what he thinks of me,' he demanded, 'as long as he can do the work?'

"Abraham Lincoln amazed the nation by putting into his Cabinet his foremost political adversaries. As Secretary of War he chose Stanton, who had sneeringly characterized him as a clown and a gorilla. He made Seward Secretary of State, knowing well that Seward regarded himself as much the abler man. Chase, his Secretary of the Treasury, used his Cabinet influence to promote his own chances for the Presidential nomination. It meant nothing to Lincoln so long as Chase kept the confidence of the country and did his work well. When McClellan snubbed him brutally, and Lincoln was urged to replace him, he replied: 'I will hold McClellan's horse if only he will give us victories.'

"Disraeli had the same calm superiority to personal resentment. Says Andre Maurois: 'During his short tenure of power in 1868 he granted a pension to the children of John Leech, the Punch draughtsman, who had mercilessly attacked him for 30 years. Now, in 1874, his first action was to offer the highest distinction within his power to Thomas Carlyle, who had formerly asked how much longer John Bull would suffer this absurd monkey to dance on his chest. When a partisan of more vindictive turn expressed his astonishment at his meekness, he replied: "I never trouble to be avenged. When a man injures me, I put his name on a slip of paper and lock it up in a drawer. It is marvelous to see how the men I have thus labeled have the knack of disappearing"

"In the Bible is this sentence: 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.' A certain proportion of men feel that they must help the Lord in His task of repayment, that otherwise He will get behind in His work. So they nurse personal injuries; they harbor resentment, and accept every opportunity to denounce and criticize.

"These are never big men. Big men are too busy." (--Bruce Barton in Herald Tribune Magazine.)

The Opportunity of the Year.

Canvassers are covering all the halls these days to make it convenient for each of you to sign up for Lenten Adoration. Be courteous to the canvassers and generous with our Lord. You should make as many half-hours of adoration as possible during Lent.

There are many reasons. Lent is the period of the year when earth cries to Heaven for pardon. It is the time when you must do penance for your sins--even for those forgiven in the Confessional. Adoration combines penance with sweet, intimate conversation with your God. You have a future to settle? You need God's inspiration and help. Ask for it in those silent half-hours of Adoration.

PRAYERS: Deceased, Mother Mildred, Ursuline Nuns, Springfield, Ill.; father of Jorry Der. Ill, Father Fogarty; father of Jack Britton; mother of Wm. Dorsey (Brownson); Joe Sullivan; Ed Kirby (Sorin). Six special intentions.