

The World's Greatest Sportsman.

An article published some time ago in Our Sunday Visitor makes good food for thought on a blue Monday.

"Truly enough, the victor scintillates before the grandstands amid thunderous applause. He skyrockets through life with the lion's share of praise. He is written about, cheered about and courted until some new meteor eclipses the lustre of his star.

"That is natural. Sparkle and brilliance, necessarily, force themselves upon the eye....But anyone who has exchanged blow for blow in the game of living must admire a good loser. It is easy enough to occupy victorious headlines, but....it is the essence of heroism to stand squarely under defeat. That is real sportsmanship.

"There was One who above all men exemplified sportsmanship. It isn't irreverent to say that Christ was the world's greatest sportsman in the sense we have in mind. Think of His courage.

"He could have come to earth surrounded by armies, clothed in the splendid trappings of a king, hailed as a great conqueror, loved by everyone instead of by a few. He could have made Himself a universal success. Instead he chose a stable, persecution, obscurity, and finally dereliction. From Gethsemane to Calvary there was utter failure, but because He drained the cup of sorrow unflinchingly, His was a world-wide victory. It was Redemption.

"No heart can fail to quiver with admiration at the foot of the cross. The terrific sorrow of the God-Man, the frightful laceration of His body, the wrenched, bleeding, pitiable spectacle of the slaughtered Lamb of God. You would think God Almighty had had enough and that He would call on His angels to annihilate the execrable mob. Instead He gasps out: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." That was sportsmanship, infinite, divine sportsmanship.

"For us it is an undying example. It may be a game, it may be studies, it may be the grind of life. You may be lying prostrate 'amid the dust of the mounded years.' Nevertheless, you are never the loser when you can face apparent failure with a stout heart...The unknown heroes of everyday life are continually receiving the seal of God on their works. He gazes down at them from the Cross, which is the symbol of suffering, the tree which blossomed forth a Savior, in whose branches was born Divine Sportsmanship."

Adversity Makes a Man.

Every disappointment in any phase of life can be a cross for us. If we face it with a stout heart, if we bear it in manly, patient fashion, if we offer it up to Jesus Christ in union with His suffering for us:

1. It makes us more courageous, more hardened, more prepared to meet greater crosses in later life.
2. It makes the best reparation for our sins, our past infidelities to Him, the world's greatest sportsman.

PRAYERS: Ill. Grandfather of Ed Schreiber, (Al.); John Sexton, '35, seriously ill; Friend of Frank King, (Mor.). Three Special Intentions.
Please pray for Dr. A. Haas, professor of physics, seriously ill in Cook County Hospital, Chicago.