

far and wide, if they knew of only one name in Maryland, familiarly referred to Governor Ritchie.

Assured of himself, he could be, and was very unassuming; of true patrician cast and character, he was yet, nevertheless, intensely democratic; with an intellectual equipment which gave him superiority among the best, he yet could and did make himself thoroughly at home with and amongst the untutored, the plainest and the humblest, and they,—the masses, loved him. Their enthusiastic demands for his presence were so great and numerous that the fact appears to be that he literally wore himself out physically in trying to satisfy their demands that he be so often amongst them.

Yet at the same time, it could be properly said of him that like McGregor, where he sat, was the head of the table. Of Governor Ritchie it can be truthfully said that while he was the servant of the people, he never ceased for a moment to be the complete master of himself. Our people instinctively realized that, and it seems to me, that it is out of that phase which so characterized his career, that one of the greatest parts of the man is to be discerned.

By force of such example, others previously discouraged or indifferent, were induced to participate in public affairs. The result was an infusion of a higher grade of political blood to the benefit of the State—and it is to be hoped that many others still will be so encouraged to take part in public activities.

In referring to his career, it is significant to note that he attained outstanding success at an early age. The fact that he could and did make his mark as a young man, undoubtedly should give encouragement to younger persons who have the proof that age necessarily is not a barrier where competency, zeal and high-purpose are the attributes of a prospective public official.

During the better part of a generation which we now know was given over to money madness in almost all walks of life, Governor Ritchie demonstrated by his deliberate choice of public service, that for him at least, there was something more important than the mere making of money. That is not to say that he failed to appreciate the importance of the part played in our policy by those who were active in business and industry. As a matter of fact, he was clear-sighted enough to recognize the fact that our whole structure is very largely grounded upon those who are so engaged. By his surrender of himself, however, to lead the life of a servant of the public at a time when by force of his superior intellectual capacities and undoubted opportunities, he could have retired to the pursuit of private emolument, he gave living example of the fact that in his opinion, service to the State could be, and was for him, a sufficient reward. By taking such a course in the circumstances, it is hardly possible to overestimate the benefit which he thus, by example, at such a time, rendered to his people.

In sum, Albert Cabell Ritchie was first a gentleman in the ancient meaning of that word; he was highly intellectual; completely trained; loved the people; took pride in serving them; was indefatigably industrious; conservative in his judgments—and so honest, both mentally and otherwise, as to give him distinction in a day and time, when things elsewhere were otherwise; he was tolerant; dependable and faithful.

With considerable truth it may be said that the quality of a people is portrayed by the quality of its leadership. With equal truth it may be added