

An incident in connection with the government of Ireland caused Pitt and his ablest followers to resign. When he again assumed power it was amidst great difficulties and with a weak ministry. He was worn out in body, but his haughty spirit remained unaltered.

Another coalition was formed and on this he staked all. But the genius of Napoleon prevailed. The Austrians surrendered at Ulm. At first Pitt refused to believe the report, "It is all fiction," he said, but when an official report was read to him, the shock was too great, he went away with death in his face. The victory of Trafalgar revived his drooping spirits for a time. But Austerlitz soon completed what Ulm had begun. On the 23rd of January, 1806, he died, as truly slain by the nation's enemy as were those who fell before the leaden messengers of France. On the 22nd of February his remains were followed by a mourning nation and placed in the north transept of the Abbey, near the spot where his great father lay, and where his great rival was soon to follow.

As an orator Pitt had few equals. His style was logical, methodical and cold. He led his hearers through all the subtleties of argumentation. "He could," says Macaulay, "pour forth a long succession of round and stately periods without premeditation, without even pausing for a word, without ever repeating a word, in a voice of silver clearness, and with a pronunciation so articulate that not a letter was slurred over." He knew how to be either luminous or obscure. When he wished to be understood no one could be plainer, but when he wished to be obscure he could say nothing in language that made his hearers think he had said a great deal. He was a complete master of sarcasm, which he used unmercifully. During one of his speeches Lord North and Lord George Germaine were disputing, and Ellis bent down between them to put in a word. Pitt stopped and, looking at the group, said, "I shall wait till Nestor has composed the dispute between Agamemnon and Achilles." His ambition was neither for titles nor wealth, but merely to sway the parliament at will. Though he had made many rich he remained poor. Though he had created more lords than any other three ministers, he remained plain William to the last.

In thinking of the life of Pitt we are reminded that there is no royal path to fame. We are not carried to these heights on