

GREATNESS? THERE IS NO HUMAN GREATNESS

Without trying to detract from the merits of workers, of people who were apparently responsible for great results, I cannot see that there are in the world or ever was in the world any great men or women, I contend that these so-called great people are only Gods agents or mediums, that God uses them, that he endows them with gifts for the good of the world in general. If walking through the woods we discover a clear, cool, sparkling spring of pure fresh water, we speak of that as a lovely, as a great spring, but we do not mean that the muddy hole in the ground that contains the water is really great. In the same way, if a man has genius, has talent in a certain direction we should not glorify him, he is only the hole in the ground the container of these gifts, we should not say admiringly or enviously. there goes John Jones the great inventor, the great musician, the great poet. There is nothing great about the man, he is only the temporary custodian of a great gift, he did not discover this gift in his cellar or grow it in his garden, it was given to him by a kind and loving God and as sure as his name is John Jones if he neglects or abuses that gift it will be taken away from him. He must work, nurse, develop and take care of his gift as a mother takes care of her baby, and if he does this honestly it will not be work at all, it will be a pleasure. This pleasure is his reward, his pay for taking care of the gift, just as a mothers joy and becoming pride is her pay for taking care of her child. There is probably no harm in feeling proud that he is entrusted with the gift or in accepting reasonable applause or pay for dis-