

6 PUT YOURSELF IN HIS PLACE

annoying incident and might have been quite embarrassing to him, but the lady with splendid tact instantly crushed another cup in her slight fingers, saying as she did so, "It is wonderful how easily this ware breaks." The plain man was heard to say afterwards, "Do you suppose that there is anything that I would not do for that woman or her husband?"

Be charitable. Remember that all temperaments are not the same, nor are all the circumstances which surround people the same in every case. Make allowance for temper, training, nationality, education (or the lack of it), and circumstances. Under the right influences we have seen weak people become strong, sour people become sweet, and ill-tempered people become sane and reasonable. Remember, too, that many men are better than they appear. Richard Baxter, after the closest contact with the severest Puritans of the Commonwealth, and the most licentious cavaliers of the Restoration, writes in his old age, "I see that good men are not so good as I once thought they were, and find that few men are as bad as their enemies imagine."

Perfection is not a human characteristic. You must take human nature as you find it. Saints are not as sinless as we imagine and sinners are not as bad as they are painted. So strong is the human imagination that we can always see great virtues in people with whom our acquaintance is but slight. But wait! It was said concerning Joseph Jefferson, the famous actor: "He was greatly admired and respected by his neighbors and worshipped by those in his employ. He did not expect to find in his farm employees all the cardinal virtues for twenty or thirty dollars a month.