

HOW DO WE KNOW THE FRIEND?

story, and come closer to Him through it, is it a real revelation to us.

If a noble-minded man were to go to a savage tribe and attempt to get its members to understand his character and his motives, he would not be likely to choose one of these savages and dictate to him a set of words which summed up his character. Words, no matter how all-embracing, can never fully express character—action alone will do that—and no word conveys exactly the same thing to any two men. What he must needs do would be to live among these savages, to educate them, to try to get them step by step up to a height where they could comprehend something of the meaning of his character. They would soon begin to talk about him, to tell each other what he had done, to analyze his actions, to try to get at his motives and understand his purposes. Some, more acute and capable of truer friendships than others, would see farther into his nature, would grasp sooner the meaning of his actions, and they would give to the others the benefit of their insight. If he could live a life extending over two or three generations, the fathers would hand down to their sons oral or written impressions of his nature and accounts