

come the man he did? I would that every youth in the land had such a father. So deep was his sense of honor that he resigned his position in the government when he wished to speak against some measure, in order that he might not compromise himself.

Again, when he was Paymaster in the army he had always great sums of money about him which were in times of peace not less than one hundred thousand pounds. He could have used the interest accruing therefrom for himself, which was not considered disreputable in those times. It was customary for foreign princes receiving pay from England to give the Paymaster a small percentage on the subsidies. Both of these Pitt scorned to do. Such fidelity was not without its effect upon the masses of the people, being at a time of so much political corruption, of such appliance of wealth to private ends.

He was very haughty and commanding. His ambition was great, but of such a nature that it were well if all men were actuated by the like, for he wished power and influence for the sake of doing his country good. There is an incident well illustrating the character of the man. A certain naval officer, Byng, was being tried for cowardice. Pitt was the most popular man with the people, but hated by the King. The forces of the King on sea and land were not successful, and his Majesty was determined some one should suffer for it. Pitt, risking his position and his influence, manfully defended Byng, both in Parliament and before the King. He said to the King, "The House of Commons is inclined to mercy." "Sir," replied the King, "you have taught me to look for the sense of my people in other places than the House of Commons." Though uttered in a sarcastic spirit, it yet contains a just and high tribute to Pitt. From the King's dislike he was forced from office, but public discontent was high and the King was obliged to re-instate him. By forming a coalition

with the Duke of Newcastle he became Secretary of State and Leader of the House of Commons, with full power in conducting the wars in which England and France were then engaged. Previous to his ascension to power, the British army had been unsuccessful, but the tide soon changed. Victory after victory followed in quick succession. The French both on land and sea were conquered in three years. France's navy was annihilated, its colonies in India were lost, and the provinces of Canada were taken. Pitt was considered the greatest man of his time, and he made England the greatest nation in the world. He was adored by the people, but dreaded and admired by all Europe.

He was created Earl of Chatham. His acceptance damaged his popularity to some extent, since without friends, without dignities or titles, he had become the first man of his country, and the people loved to think of him as the "Great Commoner." But a long eventful life was drawing to a close, and the disease, which had troubled him from early childhood, was more painful, so that he was unable to do much more in public life. He fell in an apoplectic fit, occasioned by too much exertion while making a speech against the dismemberment of the empire and degradation of the power of England, and was borne home to die in a few weeks. All parties and creeds united to do him honor. He died in debt and poverty, but a generous nation paid the debts and provided for his family. So passed away the most remarkable man of English history, and as we look back over the pages of history no name shines with clearer luster, or no one has a more stainless or splendid one than William Pitt.

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