

Roosevelt, like Taft, had had recourse to the Cardinal's support and advice in times of stress and had come to realize his real measure as a benevolent power in the nation. No one of those who sat with the ex-President

and who heard him declare in his speech "I am honored—we are all honored—that the opportunity has come to-day to pay a tribute to what is highest and best in American citizenship, when we meet to celebrate this occasion" could doubt that he was speaking the deliberate judgment of years, for he had gratefully expressed the same views before. He said:

"Not only is this gathering characteristic of Maryland, but it is characteristic of our great Union, it is characteristic of America, because here in this republic, with all of our faults and shortcomings—and we have plenty of them—it is nevertheless true that we have come nearer than any other nation to solving the difficult problem of combining complete religious liberty and toleration with a devoutly religious feeling in the people as a whole.

"And we meet this afternoon to do honor in the name of all the American people, in the name of the American nation, to you, because while the American people may differ among themselves on questions of dogma, they are a unit in recognizing what counts in civic affairs for so much more than dogma—conduct, in the churchman as in the statesman.

"Friends, we read now and then prophecies of woe about the churches in the future, complaints as to congregations growing smaller, complaints as to lack of belief among the congregations. There will be no trouble about the future of any American church if that church makes as its cardinal principle the rendering of service to the people.

"No church in the United States will ever have to defend itself as long as those standing highest in that church, as well as those under them, serve the people, devote their lives to the service of the men and women round about them, as you, Cardinal Gibbons, have de-

voted your life to the service of your fellow-countrymen and countrywomen. What we care for, what we Americans wish to see in the church, is service; what we wish to judge the man by is his conduct and character.

“If the church renders good service and if the man rings true when we apply the touchstone of principle to his conduct and his character, then the American people will be well content with both church and man. And, my fellow-countrymen, in spite of all the little things that divide us, think how blessed we are because we are united on an occasion like this without regard to past history and antecedents, without regard to differences of religious or political belief, to honor a good man, who in and through his church and as a citizen of this country has lived the life that a good man should live.

“It was my good fortune the other day to attend a meeting composed chiefly of Protestant preachers, where I was introduced by a Catholic priest and where we were led in prayer by a Jewish rabbi, and now we come together, Catholic and Protestant, as the President has said, to render honor to a man who is our fellow-citizen and in whom we all claim a certain proprietary right. And, friends, religious intolerance and bitterness are bad enough in any country, but they are inexcusable in ours.

“Our republic, mighty in its youth, destined to endure for ages, will see many Presidents during those ages, and it will see Presidents who are Catholics as well as Presidents who are Protestants; Presidents who are Jews as well as Presidents who are Gentiles.

“The Cardinal throughout his life has devoted himself to the service of the American people. He has endeavored to work and he has worked steadily in the uplifting of the lowly; he has worked steadily to bring nearer the day when we should approximate better to the rule of justice and fair dealing as between man and man. His voice has ever been raised on behalf of the weak and the

downtrodden, his hand ever stretched out toward those who may have slept, toward all those who are in suffering, who have suffered loss or were suffering pain. He has fought for the rights of the lowly, he has done all that he might to bring nearer the day when there should be a more complete reign of justice in this land, and he has shown by his life his realization of the truth that justice can come only through law and order; that disorder and lawlessness are the negation of justice and in the end deal most severely against the poor and the lowly.

“He has set an example to all of us in public and private life, both by that for which he has striven and the way in which he has striven to achieve it. He has striven for justice, he has striven for fair dealing and he has striven for it in the spirit of truth, in the spirit that has no relation to lawlessness or disorder, and at the same time with the fullest recognition that law and order, essential though they are, are primarily essential because on them as a foundation, and only on them as a foundation, is it possible to build the great temple of justice and generous fair dealing as between man and man. I am honored—we are all honored—that the opportunity has come today to pay a tribute to what is highest and best in American citizenship, when we meet to celebrate this occasion, Cardinal Gibbons.”