

(1) As a child, docile, affectionate, gentle, and therefore easily possessed. He was a comfort to the woman who for some reason was unable to love her three step-daughters or even her own first son, and she poured out her love on this child. She was already known as a dominator. When the child was 3, his father died.

(2) As a boy, so much younger than his class-mates that he never really became one of them. He was sundered from them by his intellectual superiority, by his mother's possessiveness, and also by his own sensitiveness, which was increased by ill-health during early boyhood. Onze Jan in a sense became his father, but he died too.

(3) As a student, he gradually, because of his long stay at SACM, made up the lack of years. Here he showed real signs of leadership, especially in the SCA, but it was a special world, in which he moved like a Galahad. He won his place in it, not by growing up with it, but by his fantastic gifts and reputation. So far no world in which he lived had ever challenged him.

(4) At Oxford, a larger world, he was at once not at home. He and his mother, who went with him, moved in the circles of Mansfield College, not Balliol. He neither liked nor understood the boy of the public schools. He might have learned to, even despite his mother, but in August, 1914, Oxford was suddenly deserted. He was therefore able to go on living in the smaller world, and was trained and prepared in it on the assumption no doubt that this would open the way to the conquest of the larger. But one thing he had, compelling in any world, i.e. his character.

(5) At Wits, he was soon Principal. Here, because of the narrower virtues of his religion, and abetted if not inspired by his mother, he clashed violently with the Senate, especially over the Stibby affair. He was inadequate, and secretly ashamed, hence his saying that this was the most painful period of his life. In some respects his elevation to the Administration rescued him from an impossible situation. Here surely he began to understand his mother, and the necessity to be master in his own house. Here he began to wean himself, but of course in a sense she had already made him. He might have married now, but could not while she was alive.

(6) His Administration was the happiest period of his adult life; he was ebullient, witty, self-confident, efficient, trusted. Here a larger world began to yield to him, but it was a bureaucratic world, where mastery is easy if you are the boss. The last world lay in wait for him, to inflict its wounds on a man who was really at last passing through some kind of adolescence.

(7) 1929 - 33 His early parliamentary years. (My material is scanty and vague). He found a father again, in Smuts, and played a large part in bringing about Fusion.

(8) 1933 - 38 The Minister. Now he faces the real world. He clashes with Hertzog, and is ejected, but is full of come-back and ambition. Smuts lets him go, and he now begins to wean himself from the father.

(9) 1939 - 48 Returns to Smuts, who establishes for a time his old ascendancy over him. At first he occupies himself with work, but the old conscience reasserts itself, for after all, it is God, not Smuts, who is ultimately his father. At some period he withdrew himself. Why? Was it because he saw that Prime Ministers never die, or because he had learned that his own hold on life was precarious, or because he was beginning to understand more clearly the limitations set by character and temperament? Yet although he is ill, frustrated, and diffident as always, he does not whine, but continues his fight, and almost alone (though that is largely his own doing), against the Goliath that will not fall to his stone.

(10) The elections. Great pain of heart. Grows humbler, sweeter, gentler than ever before, and shows affection more generously and openly. Ambition done, only duty remains. Dies.