

MY TRIBUTE TO OUR PRESIDENT (SWARTHMORE COLLEGE)

DR. COURTNEY SMITH

How tall is a man, as tall as his deeds,
How great is a man, as great as his achievements,
his compassion for others, his dedication to his
work, his beliefs, his ideals.

We had such a man on our beloved campus.
He walked among us quietly, and with dignity,
always with a pleasant smile for everyone.
He left us the same way, quietly and with dignity,
closing the door on his life, while opening another
door which to us seemed almost impossible to open.

How he must have prayed for God's guidance in that
troubled week, and God in his mysterious way,
answered that prayer; and in so doing, made this
man seem even taller in stature and greater in his
love for Swarthmore College.

As he strode among us he seemed to belong entirely to
the majesty of the surroundings of Swarthmore, the
Peace and Tranquility of the rolling green grass, the
Sturdiness of the mighty oaks, the Magnificence of the
tall pines, and the Beauty of the flowering shrubs of
our deep and wondrous woodland.

How he fought with all his strength to preserve this
God-given beauty in the Swarthmore College area, to
keep it untouched, unmarred, unspoiled by the devastation
of progress wishing to change it into a mass of cement
and highways.

He had the interest of each and everyone in his heart,
from the highest to the lowliest,
His welcome speeches at the end of summer vacations were
the high spots of our returnings and he made us all
feel as if we had indeed come home again from a long
journey.

He was never too busy to listen, to advise and assist.
He was a calming instrument in any situation, and had the ability
to project a feeling of confidence and serenity to all.

This is a great tragedy and loss to his wife and family and our prayers and good wishes are with them. To us in the College Family, he will ever be in our hearts.

We will miss him at the June graduations, and September, when we return to work. These times will never seem the same.

But I am sure the surroundings of our College will from now on seem more beautiful than before as his Spirit moves around it and we will ever feel his presence there. Our beloved President was a Compassionate, Dedicated and Religious Man, and the greatest of all his fine qualities was Humility. As, no matter how great a man becomes, unless he is humble enough to bend from his heights to shake the hand of those less fortunate, he is nothing.

We pray his soul has now the peace of God's rest and he has heard the Master say,

"Well done thou Good and Faithful Servant."

Lily Mari