

OF RESOLUTIONS

At the beginning of any season of Lent we make resolutions, and we ever so willingly oblige ourselves with firm determinations to keep those resolutions most religiously. We oblige ourselves to proceed with a life committed to more penance, more mortification, and more self-sacrifice. When the priest places ashes upon our heads we feel the devotion of that very special moment, and the very sound of the words of "*Remember man . . .*" sends a thrilling chill throughout our whole being. It is all so beautiful, so heart warming, and so devotional. It is all so Catholic, and our thoughts turn to the seriousness, the reasonableness, and the purpose of life.

However, in the light of the ashes shed upon the inner movements and thrilling chills of our souls; in the light of our promised Lenten prayer; in the light of all our Lenten hope and faith; in the light of the rigor of our Lenten determination; in the light of our genuine Lenten desire to re-live the Christ-life; in the light of the settings of the vicissitudes of our daily lives; in the light of the horrors that face us all at this very moment; everyone - at this very moment:

DOES OUR DISPOSITION CHANGE?

How much of our mental disposition turns toward, or becomes occupied with, the importance of the salvation of our ETERNAL SOULS? how much effort do we spend in the rearrangement of our priorities? We turn and look at our prayers, our Rosaries, our fastings, our mortifications, our penances, and all the rest, and a smile of smug satisfaction shows upon our faces. SURELY GOD SEES AND CERTAINLY HE MUST BE PLEASED WITH US. We congratulate ourselves that we live a spiritual life, that our spiritual life must be what its name indicates - that we must be really spiritual. When God looks upon us, what does He see? What does He find in us? Where there is a truly genuine interior spiritual life, there, above all, is found a more perfect observance of the commandments and regulations, the practice of virtue, the love of silence and recollection, compassion for those around us, and a standard of prayer that carries our every move aloft. A tiny act of self-denial made with a view to prayer will predispose the soul for prayer, and it is a step toward the necessary stifling of unruly desires of sense and of bringing our desires under the control of reason and will. This tends to quiet the imagination, encouraging in the soul a serenity which in turn gives a great facility in finding God and communing with Him. But when God looks at us, what does He see? Does He see works well done - but done out of obligation and duty and human respect, or does He see works done out of LOVE?