

MR. INSIGNIFICANCE ... who should have been knighted
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(ECCLESIASTES 9:14,15)

Dear Sir,

Don't laugh, but we have found you a wife! You are astonished ; of course, we expected you to be, but you must blame King Solomon. We never had the privilege of meeting you face to face, but your famous exploit has been handed down through history, and Solomon's admiration has spread to other hearts. Again and again we have read the words, "There was a little city and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it: Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city ; yet no man remembered that same poor man." We didn't like the forgetfulness of your, fellow-citizens ; but there, let us return to the point which matters-we have found you a wife. Did you ever hear of the wise woman who saved her city? She belonged to your generation, and her intervention prevented the death of her fellow-citizens. Solomon knew all about her, for it was his father's army which threatened to destroy her home. What is the matter, little wise man? You are laughing! Good gracious! You have good reason to know her! Surely, friend, she isn't your wife already? Now we are guessing, and shall always wonder if that city was saved by your joint efforts.

How Feeble

We remember that when David returned after his flight from Absalom, his homecoming was marred by the insurrection of a man named Sheba. General Joab pursued through the nation, and finally overtook him at the city of Abel in Beth-maachah. It is recorded that " . . . they cast up a bank against the city, and it stood in the trench: and all the people that were with Joab battered the wall, to throw it down. Then cried a wise woman out of the city, Hear, hear ; say, I pray you, unto Joab, Come near hither, that I may speak with thee. . . .Then she spake saying . . . I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the Lord?" (2 Samuel 20: 15-19). Now little wise man, we read Solomon's words concerning your home, " There was a little city, and few men within it, and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it." The parallel is obvious. Both places

were small, and in great danger. The great king was undoubtedly David, whose men were being led by Joab. Oh, wise man, why didn't Solomon write more?

How Fortunate

"Then the woman went unto the people in her wisdom," and her advice prevented immeasurable disaster. " Now there was found in the city a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city." Friend, we want to ask all kinds of questions. Solomon would have been conversant with the happenings of his time, and every man in Joab's army knew of the woman who foiled the determined attempt to batter the city into submission. Her wisdom would have appealed to Prince Solomon, and we wonder if he went forth in search of the heroine. Little wise man, did he discover that she was your wife ; that she only put into operation the plans which you conceived? Your psychology was excellent. The in-

MR. INSIGNIFICANCE ... who should have been knighted vader would be more lenient when dealing with a woman! Anyhow, your fellow-citizens should have been exceedingly grateful. It would have been tragic had you been away on holiday-wouldn't it?

How Forgetful

Friend, you should have been knighted! A deputation from the highest authority should have proceeded to your home, to offer you the greatest reward possible. But that never happened. Were you disappointed, Mr. Insignificance? The people stood about in groups discussing the exciting events of the day, but none called to say " Thank you." You were poor! They could have helped a great deal, but they took things for granted and left you alone. Did you sit and discuss the matters with your wife? Did she look through the window, expecting to see someone approaching? Was she a little weary when the days passed by and you were forgotten? You were destined to enjoy the most excellent company. There was Another who became poor, in order to save many cities. He succeeded at great cost. His precious blood bought redemption for sinners ; His intercession prevented untold tragedy. Yet, in return, the people despised and rejected Him. The people who owed most to Him, were the first to forget Him. You and He would have much in common. Indeed, old friend, it was worth losing your knighthood to secure His fellowship.

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