

*On the benefit of being disliked*

God's providence sends us two kinds of souls to help bring us to Him. The first soul reassures us, sees what Jesus intended in us, and makes us believe we are that person or at least are in the process of becoming that person. This first soul builds us up and encourages us on our way. The second soul is quite different. This soul sees what is amiss in us, reacts to it and makes us feel we are far from the person we should be, forcing us to reflect on what we are in and of ourselves, apart from grace, which picture is never consoling. It is always devastating to meet such a person, to experience his or her rejection. But in God's Providence, encounters with both souls are necessary and we should be thankful for what each of them works in that Providence. Children especially seem able to see what's wrong with us and often have the simplicity to say so where others would conceal what they think. I still smart from encounters with certain children. It is easy to like someone who likes us, difficult to even smile at one who does not. But there is value in bowing to truth.

– *diarist*