

Further on personal peculiarities

I have always been extremely embarrassed or shy about asking anyone for anything. If something is really owed to me or ~~if~~ someone has an obligation to something, of course I have no ~~diff~~ difficulty in asking for it, but to ask for something, particularly from a stranger, is ~~has~~ always been extremely difficult. I would walk around three blocks looking for the name of a street rather than ask someone, because of this. However, when I was in high school once I noticed a very peculiar thing. A cousin of my father's came to California and she wanted to find a certain address where a friend of hers lived. I drove to the general area and then I began asking people and I found it. Since I was doing it for her, rather than for myself, I had absolutely no difficulty in ~~ask~~ asking people for help. To this day I detest asking anyone to do any kind of favor for me, or to do anything or to give me help in any way that in which there might be some question as to my ~~right~~ having a right to it. This has been a handicap in many ways. I have mentioned in my previous discussion of this my lack of discipline. This I regret very much. If only I had learned, as a young person, to be more orderly and systematic. One point: when it comes to writing, my mind works in a peculiar way. To sit down and write out something, planning it step by step, and wording it carefully, has always been extremely difficult for me. It is far easier to slap something off and then go over it and rearrange it and add to it, and get ~~some~~ something out of it that is worth while. I remember one time when they asked me to give a paper on the Virgin Birth at an ICCC (?) meeting in one of the Sandinavian countries, I read extensively on the subject and then I sat down at my typewriter and I typed off several pages~~x~~ and then I kept on typing and I typed twice as much. Then I found that dropping the first half, the last half made a rather good ~~xxx~~ paper. I had the same experience last week when I was asked to write a receipt letter for the Seminary. I wrote about twice as much as was needed and asked David McCarty to look it over and see whether he thought some parts of it would be worth using or what suggestions he might have. He wrote me a note in which he said that the first half of it might be good for ~~some other~~ another purpose but not so good for this, that the last half he thought would be excellent,