

presbyter.

opponent

~~president~~. The man who is known historically as his great ~~representative~~ was a man who at the Council of Nicea was a man in his early twenties. A man named Athanasius, a young fellow from Alexandria, the very city from Arius had come. But this young man, Athanasius had seen the errors of Arianism and had opposed it strongly right from the beginning. And the bishop of Alexandria had condemned the Arian teaching ~~and~~ but very soon he found this young fellow very helpful to him with suggestions, ~~and~~ and he made him his secretary. He went as his secretary to the Council of Nicea.

Now it wasn't long after the Council that the bishop of Alexandria died, and the young man was made bishop in his place, which greatly disgusted some of the elderly presbyters who had been in the ~~an~~ Arian direction in their teaching, at least, and who felt that they with their long ~~and~~ service deserved recognition of being made bishop, the head of the church at Alexandria. And perhaps they did deserve the recognition, but positions of leadership should not be given for recognition, they should be given to ~~the best~~ get the best leadership we can. And everybody recognizes the fact that this young fellow had remarkable ability. Remarkable insight and remarkable ability. And here is a man who became the very symbol of opposition to Arianism, and whose name has stood through Christian history ever since as a symbol of standing for the truth against error regardless of what it cost. Athanasius against the world, a word which we sometimes find ~~quoted~~ quoted. And ~~indeed~~ indeed it looks ~~like~~ like Athanasius was standing alone against the world. Athanasius was the man who became the great symbol of this, the opposition to Arianism, and he stood for years for it, but a man whose personal character was so excellent, so free from flaw, that though all sorts of attacks and criticisms were made of him during his lifetime, there is, I believe, nobody in history since who ~~has~~ has claimed that Athanasius was faulty in his personal life, in his kindness toward his ~~opponents~~ opponents, although he stood very strongly against them, or in any point of his teaching. The only thing which his ~~enemies~~ enemies have said during the last two or three hundred years is that he was too stern, too unbending, too unyielding on this point.