

DRIPPINGS

From Other Pens

CAN EDUCATION BRING WORLD PEACE?

(From World Order)

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Since the World War there has been going on with earnestness and sincerity a vigorous campaign to educate people for peace. In the schools, at least some of them, there has been an effort to extol peace heroes instead of war heroes, to create world fellowship societies among school children, to arrange for the exchange of gifts and letters with children of other countries, and by other means to create understanding and appreciation of people of other races and nationalities. In the adult world groups have been organized to study the World Court, the League of Nations, economic and other problems associated with causes of war; lectures and sermons have been delivered decrying war and extolling peace; books, pamphlets and articles have been written and circulated with the same object; innumerable peace societies have been formed. Moving pictures and stories based on experience in the World War have set out the horrors of war, and now for the past few years we have had opportunity to observe, at a distance, the even greater horrors of up-to-date war carried on from the air. And surely no one will deny that this education has in a way been effective, for who is there today who does not desire peace? Never was such universal desire for peace because never was there such universal fear of war with all its attendant and far-reaching suffering and disorganization. Few today are deceived by the "glories" of war. And yet nations are seemingly being swept into war like swimmers into a horrible vortex, powerless to resist.

Shall we say then that education for peace has failed, that the goal of world peace is unattainable? No, on the contrary, Baha'u'llah assures us that world peace is possible and that it will be established within the next few decades. All the teachings of Baha'u'llah have for their aim universal peace and the accompanying progress of mankind in true civilization. To study and follow these teachings is, we believe, to become educated for peace because they are far-reaching and go deep into the heart. He tells us that the root cause of war is some kind of prejudice,—either race prejudice, national prejudice, religious prejudice or class prejudice,—lack of love and understanding of other humankind. Nursed and cultivated these prejudices grow into jealousy, greed, hate and finally into the monster War. Education can do something to wipe out these prejudices and already has among a few for scientific research on the intellectual plane endorses the idea of the oneness of mankind. But to eradicate deep-seated prejudice education on the higher spiritual plane is necessary. Man's spiritual consciousness must be quickened. To do this is the mission of the Prophets, God's Messengers.

This brings us, we believe, to the secret of peace education for today. Baha'u'llah has swept aside all ground for prejudice in His declaration that this is the Age of the Oneness of Mankind and that there is but one true religion, the religion of God. All the Prophets who have founded the great religions, He declares, are Messengers of the one God and all have taught the worship of one God and love and justice to fellowmen. And as in the past God has fortified His Messenger with that spiritual potency which assures the fulfillment of His Words. That is why we urge those who work for peace and would educate for peace to study these Words for themselves. "I commend it to you all," wrote recently one of royal blood, "If ever the name of Baha'u'llah or 'Abdu'l-Baha comes to your attention, do not put their writings from you. Search out their Books, and let their glorious, peace-bringing, love-creating words and lessons sing into your hearts as they have into mine."

But the substituting of love and justice for prejudice is not all. Baha'u'llah tells us that this principle of the Oneness of Mankind means not only right and just feelings towards our fellowmen but a unified world with all the nations brought together under a universal House of Justice. A world organized for peace is the only answer to world war which in reality is world anarchy. Peace education must look forward to a World State.

These ideals show the direction, Baha'is believe, in which genuinely constructive peace education must move. It is not claimed that it is a simple thing or that it will necessarily avert the impending catastrophe, but that it is laying a firm foundation for lasting peace, that it is God's destined plan for the world and that He has therefore released through His Prophet Baha'u'llah the spiritual forces to bring it to pass.

This education is, in fact, now

taking place. All over the world are groups of people educated and being educated for the New Age. But 'Abdu'l-Baha tells us that "Endeavor, ceaseless endeavor is required. Nothing short of an indomitable determination can possibly achieve it. Many a cause which past ages have regarded as purely visionary, yet in this day has become most easy and practicable. Why should this most great and lofty cause—the day-star of the firmament of true civilization and the cause of the glory, the advancement, the well-being and the success of all humanity—be regarded as impossible of achievement?"