

THE NEW WORLD ORDER

46, BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

Vol. 1, No. 9.

November, 1939.

"The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens."—Bahá'u'lláh.

BEFORE THE DAWN

Most people have already begun to think of what will happen at the end of this war, and it is one of the remarkable and hopeful signs of the day that hardly anyone visualises another peace treaty, imposed upon one party by another. Not only in Parliament and in the newspapers, but in the streets and buses, there is talk of conferences . . . a world conference . . . a new and different order

The present struggle is not, in our view, a simple conflict between opposed parties. Rather is it the culminating stage in a process which has been at work in the world for a number of years. That process is the gradual breakdown of a system based on oppositions within human society. These oppositions . . . nation, race, religion, class . . . have increased as technical knowledge has made the world

"The darkness of this gloomy night shall pass away. Again the Sun of Reality will dawn from the horizon of the hearts. Have patience, wait but do not sit idle; work while you are waiting; smile when you are wearied with monotony; be firm while everything around you is being shaken; be joyous while the ugly face of despair grins at you; speak aloud while the malevolent forces of the nether world try to crush your mind; be valiant and courageous while men all around you are cringing with fear and cowardice. Do not yield to the overwhelming power of tyranny and despotism. Serve the cause of democracy and freedom. Continue your journey to the end. The bright day is coming. The nucleus of the new race is forming. The harbinger of the new ideals of international justice is appearing. The trees of hope will become verdant; the copper of scorn and derision will be transmuted into the gold of honour and praise; the arid desert of ignorance will be transformed into the luxuriant garden of knowledge; the threatening clouds shall be dispelled and the stars of faith and charity will again twinkle in the clear heaven of consciousness."—'Abdu'l-Bahá.

of things. World Order is becoming as well known a term as Empire.

"New World Order" is published with the object of encouraging this outlook and of offering the two essentials required for making the idea a reality. These two essentials are a spiritual energy and a practical plan. Both are available in the Bahá'í Faith, upon whose teachings our policy is based. We have no political or partisan interests, and in accordance with the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, urge all men to obey the Government.

a smaller place, until the breakdown has become violent and rapid. It is upon us now.

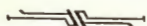
There are, inevitably, dark days ahead for all of us, but just as inevitably, a new day will dawn. The kind of day that is to be, depends to a great extent on what we think now; whether we have bitterness and hatred and self-righteousness in our hearts, or whether we regard all mankind as one family and realise that we all are in dire need. If we are to hold that vision of a new world, we must first insist on and cling to the idea of a single human

race, the human family with one Father. No peace or tranquillity is possible until the unity of the human race is established; and no unity is possible until we all, in our inmost thoughts and highest loyalties, are identified first with mankind, and then with lesser groups such as race or nation.

"New World Order" will carry on. The editors apologise for the delay in bringing this number to press; we have had to make plans to suit war conditions. For the time being the only change, due to the rising cost of paper, is in the number of pages.

Subscribers who have paid a year's subscription in advance will receive copies up to twelve in number, since the delay in bringing this number out would unjustly penalise them if the time limit of twelve months were adhered to. The great majority of subscribers have made their subscriptions to take effect from the first number of the paper; we are therefore fulfilling these contracts by continuing to publish the next four numbers in the same way. After that, it is intended to continue, but with alterations in form and price.

Believing that the ideals and principles for which "New World Order" stands, and that the creative spirit of the Bahá'í Faith which it seeks to diffuse, are more than ever needed now, we call upon all our readers to bring this paper to the notice of others. Help to spread the good news, for by so doing you will be bringing the new world order nearer to reality.



The Bahá'í Faith

(A series of talks given over the radio in New York, and adapted for New World Order.)

II.

We have seen how the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith help us directly in these perplexing times by explaining the true nature of the startling events throughout the world that cause us all such uneasy dismay. We found that, instead of indicating that our planet is rapidly drifting into a state of uncontrolled anarchy, chaos and destruction, as an uninstructed observer might well suppose, these far-reaching changes and perturbations are in reality the outworkings of beneficent forces, preparing for the advent of a new cycle of unimagined progress in human achievement and happiness—a new age which lies just before us and awaits only the opening of our hearts and minds and the adjusting of our lives to its funda-

mental principle of world unity, the oneness of mankind. And these very events, though painful, even shattering at times, are themselves helping us to cast off the shackles of outworn beliefs and practices that hold us back from this true understanding.

How simple and naive to-day seems the hopeful attitude that prevailed during the last century, that in science and invention modern man has found a miraculous power to make the 'ancient dream of peace come true and to bring plenty and happiness to the earth! Granting the miraculous virtue of that power to multiply material things, greatly extending even the fertility of the soil, nevertheless it has become only too obvious that these beneficent results have not transformed human nature; that, on the contrary, they have intensified the tribal instinct and enabled it to express itself in the most destructive conflicts in all history. But through these catastrophes we are slowly learning.

Contrasted with the desolate waste which human greed and ambition threaten to make of the earth, the new age of which the Bahá'í teachings tell seems a veritable paradise in its freedom from those vicious qualities that make for separation, rivalry and war. Here we stand together in this waste land of struggle and violence, without security, lacking assurance, while before us lies that garden of fruitful labour and opportunity—that promised age of world unity and peace, the hope of which has never left us, even in our most desperate hours. The power of science to produce abundance for every human being is not to be doubted. That new force, properly directed and controlled, can fulfil the ancient vision of a better existence on earth. But, uncontrolled, or improperly controlled, it offers before our horrified eyes to-day only too convincing proof of the truth of the Bahá'í teaching:—"Science cannot cure the illness of the social body. Science cannot create amity and fellowship in human hearts. Neither can patriotism nor racial allegiance effect a remedy. . . ." A single glance over the world makes this clear.

Only a spiritual power can meet our need, these teachings say; the supreme power of a common faith, with the resulting common understanding of the fundamental nature and aim of life. This power is likened to the life in the human body, which harmonises the differences of parts and members into mutuality and agreement, establishing so great a unity in the bodily organism that if any of its parts is injured or becomes diseased all the other parts and functions sympathetically respond and suffer, so perfect is the oneness which exists. And as this human spirit of life is the cause of co-ordination among the various parts of the human organism, so the higher spiritual forces are

the controlling cause of the unity and co-ordination of mankind. "To-day the greatest need of the world is the animating, unifying presence of the Holy Spirit," Bahá'u'lláh writes. "Until it becomes effective, penetrating and interpenetrating hearts and spirits, and until perfect, reasoning faith shall be implanted in the minds of men, it will be impossible for the social body to be inspired with security and confidence. Nay, on the contrary, enmity and strife will increase day by day and the differences and divergencies of nations will be woefully augmented."

This supreme remedy for the world's sickness is given us only through those outstanding figures in history, the seers, the prophets—the divine physicians. What influence ever exerted upon the earth is so potent, so renewing both to the individual and to the social group, as the creative Word uttered by the chosen Messenger of the Supreme Will? Under its dynamic force the most abject and impotent peoples have been raised from servitude to become the leaders of civilisation. For hundreds of years after it is uttered the mysterious Truth is treasured and revered, an enduring source of vision, of courage, of wisdom, of integrity, of humane character, of devotion to the highest interests of the community. Where before men were in the darkness of strife, the revealed Truth brings light like the rising of the sun. Where before the social body had been weak and diseased, the Truth came through the divine physician to heal what human capacity could not heal. This healing force "is the light from the Sun of Truth bringing by its infinite power life and illumination to all mankind; flooding all souls with divine radiance, conveying the blessings of God's mercy to the whole world." So does the Bahá'í Faith explain the power by which humanity, from age to age, is given capacity to rise above itself. "The divine Reality (God) may be likened to the sun and the Holy Spirit to the rays of the sun. As the rays of the sun bring the light and warmth of the sun to the earth, giving life to all created beings, so do the Manifestations (the prophets) bring the power of the Holy Spirit from the divine Sun of Reality to give light and life to the souls of men."

Once more, as so often in the past, the world is in dire need of renewal and enlargement of the spiritual truth and power that alone can produce order and justice in society, for it alone can lift us from the state of the rational, selfish animal, where we seem for the most part to be, to the state of man. To strengthen and encourage us in our need, we are told in the Bahá'í writings:—"A new life is in this age stirring within all the peoples of the earth; and yet none hath discovered its cause or perceived its motive. O ye children of men!

The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race. . . . This is the straight path, the fixed and immovable foundation. Whatsoever is raised on this foundation the changes and chances of the world can never impair its strength, nor will the revolution of countless centuries undermine its structure."

Man! Know Thyself

"Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbour, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."—Bahá'u'lláh.

Faith and Love

By Mary Coulson.

When we lose faith in God we start to worry (and how many of us do this, O we of little Faith), and we forget how He loves us and has helped us in the past. "Consider the lilies of the field, they toil not neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore if God so clothe the grass of the field which to-day is and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you. Seek not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind, for all these things do the nations of the

world seek after, and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things." So why should we lose faith in God knowing of that promise. I know how difficult it is for business men especially in the world at this present time, but I know several men who have been helped over difficult periods by their Faith in God, and as in every case they are what you call "hard boiled business men," it is all the more wonderful for them to admit it.

We have all heard of the brave people who have through the ages suffered for their Faith in God and are doing so at the present time, yet I do not think I can illustrate to you the power of Faith in God better than by asking you to think of the faith of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá and their families in the days of their persecution and imprisonment; it is an everlasting monument to Faith in the Divine Love of God. When we think of Them we have no right to dwell in the darkness of hopelessness, but let the rays from the lamp of the spirit of Faith guide us into the light of the Love of God as the rays from the lamp in the lighthouse send out their message of hope and guide the ships on a stormy sea to safety.

The knowledge of the love of God is the physician this sick world is in need of. Love is the most important force in the world. Love is God, God is Love, and without Love our lives would be dull and empty. 'Abdu'l-Bahá says "I pray for each and all that you may be as flames of love in the world and that the brightness of your light and the warmth of your affection may reach the heart of every sad and sorrowful child of God."

We are all flowers of one garden, therefore as St. Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Romans, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love," but it seems to me that in the world at the present time we have turned a deaf ear to the sorrowings of our brethren, and terrible wars are being fought for what 'Abdu'l-Bahá calls a "small piece of the earth," and the countries of the world have adopted the principles of materialism instead of the principles of the Love of God. The Master says "Verily the words which have descended from the heaven of the will of God are the source of unity and harmony for the world. Close your eyes to racial differences and welcome all with the light of oneness. Be the cause of comfort and the promotion of the well-being of humanity. This handful of dust, the world is our home: let it be in unity. Forsake pride, it is a cause of discord. Follow that which tends to love and harmony."

How right people are when they say little children love to play with each other regardless of race,

and that it is the older people who destroy this brotherly love and affection, and here we Bahá'ís can set a wonderful example by carrying out the teachings and showing kindness to people as 'Abdu'l-Bahá advises us in his talk "Kindness to Strangers" to the fullest extent possible.

I have read somewhere these words: "You think you are the chosen people and so you are, but you are chosen for service. God wants all nations in His kingdom." You know God made this world for all men to live in and all His prophets have preached in their day of the Love of God, but somehow some of the present-day churches seem to have misinterpreted their teachings and the result is fear, suspicion and hatred among men.

But love conquers hate and good triumphs over evil. 'Abdu'l-Bahá tells us that Heaven is the conscious realisation of God in this life, which is gained by love, kindness and good deeds. We must not always be talking of love, it is not sufficient. We must love in our hearts, which reminds me that although we bestow all our goods to feed the poor and have not love, we are nothing, having become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal, empty like the hypocrite in the synagogue who boasted about the good deeds he did. If we possess the true spirit of Love we do not boast about our kind actions and good deeds, but keep them secret and act in a meek and humble manner that men might behold the flame from the fire of the Love of God which dwells within us.

By love alone can a man approach God, and love for God is no other than love for man. Boast not of love for your own people but of love for your fellow creatures. Glory not in loving your homes but in loving the whole world. So when it seems difficult to be brotherly let us remember that love is kind and forgiving and if we could only forgive those who wrong us and be kind to them as 'Abdu'l-Bahá showed kindness for about twenty-four years to an enemy, and so overcame him, we should be indeed blessed, for "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

In commanding us to love our enemies God's prophets set us, I think, the most difficult task of all and seeing how human we are, if we find it absolutely impossible to be on very friendly terms with some of our fellowmen we can at least be tolerant and not so quick to judge them if their ways be different to our own, for we who have caught the Bahá'í spirit are indeed rich beyond compare and can afford to pity those unfortunate ones who are so puffed up with pride and prejudice.