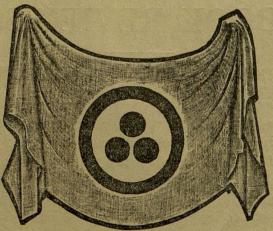
A MESSAGE.

Advisored Regulated

H. E. PROF. NICHOLAS DE ROERICH,
Supreme President of The World League of Culture,
HIMALAYAS,



THE ROERICH BANNER OF PEACE SIGN.

In my capacity as Supreme President of the World League of Culture I consider it my pleasant duty to patronize and render moral support to all associations, societies and institutions dedicated to the great cause of Culture. On my part I shall consider your Association as a member and coworker of this World League of Culture, which is incorporated in New-York. I know that all our friends will be glad to hear of your new undertaking and that you will always find their moral and friendly understanding. My hearty greetings and wishes to your Association for prosperity and success.

No doubt you know already of the great success of the Washington Peace Banner Convention, to what I may add the latest news that the Pan-American States Congress in Montevideo has unanimously adopted our Pact. It will further be of interest to you to hear that the Madanapalle College has unfurled the Peace Banner. Your Association, being now in co-operation with our World League of Culture, has the same possibility.

BOOK REVIEWS.

ROERICH-FRAGMENTS OF A BIOGRAPHY, by Jean Duvernois, Hall Estate, Naggar, Punjab.

This is a fascicle of interesting information fascinatingly compiled, with the running and not infrequently rapturous comments of the author. It may not without reason be supposed to be the preliminary draft of a biographer, who has not yet integrated the whole into a continuous picture. It is a succession of fleeting impressions. The light is now turned on one and now on another aspect of the master-artist's life and career; the account closing beautifully with an eloquent appraisement of his achievements in art and culture. These pastels are executed with some skill. We wish the fragmentariness away, but that is probably one of the charms of the book. The complete epic—for that is what it would be—of the life and doings of this international leader of light and culture, will be a thing devoutly wished for by many.

What ever may be said of the impressionistic method of the biographer, which has its own merits, there is no doubt he has interpreted the message of the master very clearly. Rapid though the delineation be, the magnificent personality of the artist and his equally magnificent appeal to the best in humanity are unmistakably brought home to us. There is a pleasant feeling as we come to the end of the book that we have travelled much in realms of gold, "And many goodly states and kingdoms seen." The conclusion is subtly romantic with a legendary glow, invested as it is with the light of other worlds or the refulgences from that Realm of Light opened unto us by the genius of the master.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE GRACEFUL ARTS, by T. K. N. Trivikraman, B. A., Artist, Quilon.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE GRACEFUL ARTS, may be the approximate translation of the title (elalocheldas momello) of a malayalam book recently published by Mr. Trivikraman Tampy, the talented Travancore artist. Mr. Tampy after his long and beautiful labours at the palette, has now entered the difficult field of art-criticism. He has the great advantage, denied to many others, of an innate understanding of the graceful arts of which he speaks here. His views on poetry, painting and music bave, therefore an unquestionable value. The essays in the book judged by themselves, can certainly rank with the best literature in present-day art-criticism.

The first study is on the personality of the artist, who following the mystic light of Truth and Beauty, shapes his conduct and his works in a manner that people scarcely understand, nay very often misunderstand. It is an impassioned defence of the baffling multi-personality of the artist. The second study on the comparative merits of Ravi Varma and the Bengali School of Painters is shrewd but has only one idea which could have been elaborated further, as that subject has latterly come into some importance. A few modern bigots seeing more beauty in eyes that reach up to the ears and fingers long as drumsticks than in the classic perfection of the master, have beaten up the dust of controversy. The last treats of poetry and the source of its charm, the discussion being neither academic nor ponderous.

Originality is the outstanding quality of Mr. Tampy's work. The language of parable that he uses and the many shining epigrams struck out in the course of discussion bear witness to the profound thought and imagination of the writer. The author may be congratulated on the distinct success of his maiden attempt in art-criticism.

76 CULTURE.

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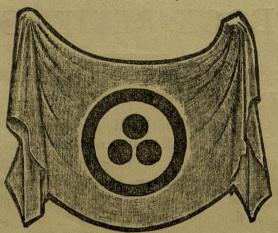
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