

# Sacred Ploughfield

(Address to the Friends of the Banner of Peace)

By Nicholas Roerich.

It is a real joy to learn of each endeavour for culture. We believe that in the way of such undeferrable labor much is indeed being done. But still I wish to say once more how speedily everything must be done and that not a minute may be lost, in the interest of the Common Good. Also that even the smallest signs of cultural help should be treated with the greatest attention.

Let everyone note with the greatest care all these happy manifestations, in order that in the future we may know exactly what was brought into the one Chalice of Culture and by whom. . . . Also let none of our friends belittle any activities by conventional limitations. The field of Culture is verily unlimited and countless are the useful activities which arise from benevolent discussions. Perhaps that which is inapplicable today will be very practicable tomorrow. And perhaps what was put aside today may then be for ever lost.

Therefore the discussions about Culture must be benevolently broad. Is it true that only members of organized groups can be the sources of suggestions? No. All friends of Culture will provide the unifying streams of thoughts which they will gather from everywhere and will summarize from many experiences. The main thing is to avoid the danger which so often obstructs the most useful beginnings—that of pronunciation of the formula 'Impossible'. How often does the apparently impossible change into the beautiful and accessible, if only the details and outer appearances are slightly modified. Let

us not forget that all co-workers attract new masses to the thought of Culture. In this are contained happy possibilities, and at the same time a new responsibility, for everything that enters our cultural circles should be of high quality—befitting the cultural treasury of mankind.

Of course the coworkers during their current activities will contact many important institutions. This cooperation should be based on mutual benefit. Our cultural labors are of importance not only for today. Their significance is far wider, reaching all possible branches of Culture and inspiring new masses with the conception of Culture. Among these masses will also be those who previously either were unacquainted with the understanding of Culture or limited this great concept by a purely physical understanding. How joyous it is to speak of Culture altogether, to feel that whatever is done for it cannot cover the unlimited field—the ennoblement of the human spirit. In these noble actions of course not the slightest possibility should be lost. Not an hour may be wasted, when either by actions or by an inspiring word one may speak once more of the beautification, the betterment, the elevation of human life.

I will close with the ever vital example of the conditions for enlightened educational activity—with the words of Paul, the Apostle:

'By the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.

'By honour and dishon-

our by evil report and good report as deceivers and yet true;

"As unknown and yet well-known; as dying and behold, we live; as chastened and killed,

"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet mak-

ing many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

Friends, now Mankind is facing an Armageddon of Culture. Beware of hatred and chauvinism.

Cochin Times, TRICHUR,

(16-9-1946)