

Organ of the
Ahmadiya
Anjuman
al-Ikhwan
al-Muslimin
Lahore (India).

The Light

Published
on
1st, 8th, 16th and
24th
of every month.

Vol. XII
No. 3

Monday, January 16, 1933

Annual Subscription Rs. 6
For Students Rs. 3
Foreign Countries 10s

Notes & Comments

Self-Respect Movement

From press reports, we understand that the Self-Respect Movement originally started in South India with the laudable object to fight ignorance and superstition has degenerated into an anti-God movement. The promoters of the movement are quite welcome to fight God-idea. We may well trust God to take care of Himself. What becomes a positive nuisance, however, and even a danger to public peace is when instead of argument, they resort to the cheap weapon of ridicule, scorn and even abuse. This is hardly consistent with the label they bear; for no self-respecting man would trifle with the self-respect of others. We wish we knew their arguments if they have any and show them that God in Islam stands for the highest respect of man, that in fact, He has meant man to be His vicergerent on earth, that humanity owes much of its exaltation to that God who, through that greatest man-respecter, the Prophet of Arabia proclaimed the intrinsic dignity of man as was done never before. Since however, their Tamil organ *Kudi Arasu* is a sealed book to us, we must content ourselves with this general assurance what whatever their notions of God in other religions may be, God in Islam is no task-master, no autocrat who exults in lording it over man. Faith in Him has but one significance in Islam—*viz*, the edification of man himself.

Bernard Shaw and Non-Violence

Mr. G. B. Shaw who is on a world tour touched Bombay on the 8th instant and amused the corps of press reporters who assailed him on board, with his usual wit and humour. Through the garb of wit, however, he pointed out many home-truths. Asked about disarmament he remarked: "It is nonsense. If you disarmed nations, they will fight with fists." This should give some inkling as to what he thinks of Mr. Gandhi's non-violence. What makes Mr. Shaw a prominent figure in the world of thought is, among other things, his penetrating insight into the realities of things. He does not shut eyes against the realities of life and sees human nature as it is. To suppose that warfare can be eliminated from the

affairs of man is to give too much credit to human nature. The Quran speaks of human nature in a similar strain. This is the very objection that the angels raised to the creation of man—*viz*, that he would make disturbance in the earth and shed blood. Mr. Shaw has repeated the same thing in his own way. Fight men must. If there are no arms, they will fight with fists. Islam does not, ostrich-like, shut its eyes against this trait of human nature and content itself with a sweet sermon on peace and non-violence. It lays down effective rules and regulations to meet this beast in man and at times it might even be necessary to roughly handle it. And this is where Mahatma's light seems to fail him when he shuns this stern method of dealing with evil. Perhaps it is one of the considerations, this recognition of the realities of life on the part of Islam which made Mr. Shaw forecast that within a century, Islam would be the religion of Europe. Anyway, we have asked our Bombay correspondent to interview him about his forecast.

What says the "World Teacher"

Of all the attempts that modern man has made to manufacture a religion, the most ridiculous seems to us to be the "World Teacher" crank started by that otherwise well-meaning lady, Dr. Annie Besant. As if like common shoes, World Teachers could be made to order, this eccentric theosophist caught hold of a Brahmin lad Krishnamurti and brought him up to be the future World Teacher. The World Teacher has, after all, grown up into a stripling, handsome youth but instead of a World Teacher, he has earned the reputation of a World Trotter. He goes about from place to place, not on his so-called "World Mission"—he has nothing to teach—but just to have a good time. When, however, he is pressed by inquisitive people what message he has for humanity, the poor fellow has to say something and since that something from the lips of a "World Teacher" so long advertised must be something remarkable and extraordinary, he tries to be original and in the attempt makes an ass of himself. Just imagine what he said at a lunch meeting in Bombay, when asked whether he believed in the efficacy of prayer:

"I don't. To pray to another for any-