

THE REASONABLE DIRECTION OF FORCE

THERE are three great instruments for living the common life—love, reason, force. All three are liable to misuse, and all three have been in turn over-valued and in turn neglected ; but the consequences from the misuse of force are so appalling that there are men, and these among our greatest, who have refused to recognize it as an instrument in any sense. None the less, its use continues, alike between individuals and between nations. Only it is vital to notice that between individuals, in civilized countries at least, its use is rare and strictly regulated ; between nations, even highly civilized nations, its menace is perpetual and its use scarcely regulated at all.

Why is this ? Doubtless in part because the problems between individuals are simpler, and in some ways much easier to adjust. There are, it is true, sound analogies between the life of individuals and the life of nations, but there are also important differences, which are often overlooked.¹ (a) The life of a nation is continuous over a long stretch of time, but individuals incessantly replace each other by the processes of life and death, and death, though it is no solution of injustice, constantly puts an end to an unjust situation. (b) Other ways of escape

¹ For the following section see Mr. Bradley's lecture on *International Morality in The International Crisis in its ethical and psychological aspects* : Oxford University Press.