

never to despair of human dignity and independence nor of the majestic ordinariness of the individual man and ever to give a value immeasurable and eternal to the humblest of human lives. We often recall the saying of the French philosopher, Renan, that the good Lord has written one sentence of his thought upon the cradle of every race. In spite of our personal shortcomings and the failings of each one of us in this room, do we not represent or at least try to represent all that is best in our lands and not what is worst? For it is my faith that nearly every great teacher since the world began, every supreme artist, every wise philosopher, every great religious thinker has had a passionate belief in that mysterious union of mankind, the mystic bond of human brotherhood. And so we have gathered here in this ancient wise land, so rich in art and philosophy. For too long we of the West have been blind to the beauty of the East, unmoved by its sorrows, deaf to its teaching. If this is a gathering of glad teachers and of glad learners, I believe that we of the West can take away with us in the gifts of Eastern wisdom and patience and tolerance and humanity more than we can bring. While we are all properly and passionately anxious to see standards of education and literacy rise through the world, let us always remember that, particularly amongst nations which have known the "drip of human tears upon the centuried years" there can be found amongst unlettered men and humble tillers of the soil and village philosophers and wayside teachers a wisdom and a humanity which are part of the folklore of mankind and are amongst the most precious of heritages to us all. For democracy itself, as an eloquent American has said, is really a method of accounting for everyone, through the little works of many hands, the little loves of many hearts, the little light of many minds.

Canada has been, since the first beginning of UNESCO, an enthusiastic and faithful supporter of its objects and ideals. While we have already heard many variations on these ancient themes, it is hoped that our delegates, consulting with those of other nations, will make a modest contribution to the approval of sound and useful programmes and the insistence on efficient administration and financial responsibility. It has been our view for some years that the resources of UNESCO have been scattered over too wide a range of activities. We all know what it is to long for the infinite and to be brought to face daily with the multiplication table. But since resources are not infinite it is our view that we should concentrate on practical projects of paramount necessity, deferring or eliminating others of a lower priority. We are particularly interested in the progress of education, in the exchange of persons, especially teachers and students, and in a world where it is often said that science darkens men's minds and hardens men's hearts, we will strive to help to turn its achievements to the needs and ways of peace, and to emphasize the spiritual and moral values of scientific research. We are particularly interested also, for reasons which I have tried to indicate, in the exchange of so-called cultural activities between the East and the West. We look forward to the day when Western students will in growing numbers study in Eastern universities. I often wish that there were more