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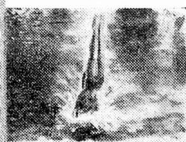
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EASTER 1959.

Easter, no less than Christmas, is — and ought to be — an occasion for rejoicing. The gospel of Resurrection does, indeed, bring joy and comfort not only to Christian believers throughout the world but to all thinking men and women as they witness once more the miracle of Nature's rebirth, the perennial wonderful phenomenon of spring following the dark and often depressing days of the winter.

We are apt to take this miracle for granted; yet it should fill us with wonder and gratitude, for without it humanity could not survive. Our daily bread depends on it, our physical well-being, our very existence. And as we see the first signs of the coming spring-time, when

Rising from their wintry tomb

Daffodils begin to bloom,

there is born in us that feeling of hope which, it was said, "springs eternal in the human breast". Surrounded as we are by ominous, sinister trends in the affairs of mankind, Hope is the one sustaining element that helps us to face the future.

At Christmas-time, falling as it does at the end of the year, our thoughts carry us into the past and we take the opportunity to review the events, happy or otherwise, of the closing year. Easter, on the other hand, is a suitable time for looking ahead. To do this, the way the outlook is shaping at present, might be almost unbearable were it not for the blessed gift of HOPE, that quality which, with Faith and Charity, is the heritage of Christianity.

For, what does the future hold? Wherever we look, especially in Eastern Europe, clouds are gathering. The average human, no doubt, wishes for nothing better than a peaceful, happy existence, but there are forces at work which make it difficult to experience the sense of security he so much longs for. The world, in fact, is passing through a period of crisis. Important events, far-reaching decisions, are in the offing. Peace in our time or disaster of unprecedented magnitude are in the balance. The outcome depends on the wisdom of our leaders.

Human nature, that curious blend of good and evil, will in the last resort influence our destinies. Security, which we all desire, hangs on the caprice, often, of one man, and therefore must remain the philosopher's Utopian dream. All we can do is to hope and pray that those who direct the policies of nations may be endowed with the wisdom that will guide them to a peaceful solution of their problems.

That compromise, patience and understanding can achieve such a solution has been demonstrated in the case of Cyprus. Is it beyond the skill of our negotiators to bring about a similar result elsewhere?

It seems strange that in the advanced state of our civilisation, with the spread of education and the marvellous discoveries of modern science, the world should still be inclined to approach its problems in terms of violence and brute force. Cannot human welfare be achieved by peaceful means? Have not History and the events of our own times taught us the utter futility of war? These are some of the questions that confront us in these troublesome days.

This, then, is our Easter message: May goodwill and common sense prevail to ensure a peaceful and happy settlement of the world's difficulties, and may coming events justify all our hopes.

The Editor.