ledge should tie all the nations together in appreciation of a common human purpose, however separate their apparent paths may be, has been of profound interest to the enlightened people over the entire world for several years. It is appropriate that you should have a meeting in Washington next fall to consider the things for which the Banner of Peace stands...... I believe so profoundly in the things for which the Banner of Peace stands that I am only too happy to offer you any co-operation in my personal capacity to help make your efforts along this line successful."

Amongst the latest expressions of sympathy with our Pact, I cannot omit mentioning the powerful statement of the Italian Ambassador at Washington, Signor A. Rosso, to our delegation. He said: "I feel no one can be against such a great idea. Whoever would go against the Roerich Pact will have the sanctuary of public opinion to deal with."

Verily, humanity is tired of destructions, vandalism and negation. Positive creativeness is the fundamental quality of the human spirit. In our life everything that uplifts and ennobles our spirit must hold the dominant place. The milestones of the glorious path must since childhood impel our spirit to the beautiful future. Believe me this is not a truism to speak about the underferrable and urgent strivings to culture. If some ignoramus would find this idea superfluous and needless, we shall tell him; "Poor ignoramus, thou art outside of evolution, but remember that we are a legion and in no way shall we abjure from our idea of a Peace Banner. If thou wilt be an obstructionist, we shall transform thy obstacles into possibilities."

The Washington Convention gathers under good signs. Let once more sound the mighty prayer for peace of the whole world. If the Red Cross affirms physical health, then may the Banner of Peace establish the spiritual health of mankind!

Banner of Peace

By Nicholas Roerich

The whole world ponders about peace. Everyone in his language, within his possibilities, pronounces this great conception, which leads humanity to self-perfectioning.

It does not matter if everything cannot be done at once. But let space be cemented with this mighty call. May our age bear the seal of peace, creative labour and true co-operation.

On November 17th the Convention of the Banner of Peace in Washington will discuss measures for introducing into life our Banner Protector, which like a watchful guardian should be unfurled over all treasure stores of art and knowledge. It will wave over monuments of religions and culture, calling for preservation of the real treasures of mankind. Let all friends of peace, all friends of the preservation of treasures of human genius, be with us on that day.

I am fully convinced that this idea will enter into life. The thought of protection of cultural treasures of humanity preoccupied me for several decades, and the sad events of life itself still more strengthened my project. Already in 1904 addressing the Society of Architects and Artists in St. Petersburg, I outlined this idea, calling the attention to the tragic condition of many state architectural monuments. My extensive travels to ancient monasteries and historical cities, also the archaeological excavations in such important places as Novgorod and other regions linked with most ancient traditions, gave me rich material to affirm the underferrable necessity for urgent measures to protect cultural treasures. Later in 1914 after the
destructions, when many irreparable historical monuments perished, I made a similar report to the late Emperor Nicholas II and to the late Commander-in-Chief Grand-Duke Nicholas. Both reports were met with great sympathy and only such an extraordinary havoc as the War prevented its immediate development. Then, as President of the Exhibition of Allied Nations where Flemish, French, British and the arts of other allied nations were beautifully represented, I again had a happy opportunity to propound this idea and was convinced that sooner or later the protection of cultural treasures will become a sacred reality in the world.

With new ardour these thoughts preoccupied me when we had to witness not any more the vandalism of warfare, but the vandalism of times of peace. For an untrained eye it is even impossible to imagine how many irreparable cultural treasures are exposed to danger and perish without leaving any traces. One of our foremost duties is to apply all our efforts to direct the public attention to their real treasures. Each day brings news of some new destructions. We are already imbued with the idea that precious monuments must not be carried away and must be safeguarded on the places, the more so because the traffic possibilities make even the remotest places accessible. I am deeply convinced that a universal attention will be paid to cultural treasures and as its symbol, the universally unifying Banner, will bring a profound and absolute usefulness to the cultural development of peoples.

I am not astonished that we receive so many enthusiastic responses to our Banner of Peace. The past is filled with deplorable, sad and irreparable destructions. We see that not only in times of war but also during other errors, creations of human genius are destroyed. At the same time the elite of humanity understands that no evolution is possible without the accumu-

lations of culture. We understand how difficult are the ways of culture, hence more carefully we must guard the paths which lead to it. It is our duty to create for the young generation traditions of culture. Where there is culture, there is peace, there is achievement, there is the right solution for the difficult social problems. Culture is the accumulation of highest bliss, highest beauty, highest knowledge. And humanity can in no way be proud that it did sufficiently for the florescence of culture. For, after ignorance, we reach civilization, then gradually we acquire education, then comes intelligence, then follows refinement and the synthesis opens the gates to high culture.

We must admit that our precious and unique treasures of art and science are not even properly catalogued. And if our Banner of Peace shall be that impetus which will urge such a manifestation for the universal treasures, then this alone would be the fulfilment of a colossal task. How much of the useful and beautiful could be easily attained. Let us imagine a universal Day of Culture, when simultaneously in all schools of the world will be extolled the true treasures of Nations and Humanity.

Amidst the varied works of enthusiasm must be pointed out the great sympathy of the women of America. At a celebration dedicated to the Banner of Peace, the representative of 3,000,000 women, Mrs. W. D. Sporborg, pledged their support for the Peace Banner. Vast is the list of organizations, societies, libraries, museums, schools, statesmen, who have expressed the great hope that this project will enter into life. Several organizations have already hoisted the Banner of Peace. The Museum Commission of the League of Nations under the presidency of M. Jules Destre, Belgian Minister, have unanimously accepted this project. In 1931 the first special Conference was held at Bruges. Mr. C. Tulpinck, Presi-
dent of the Union International pour le Pacte Roerich, presided and the Marquis Adatci, President of the Permanent Court of International Justice, was Protector of the Conference. In connection with this Conference there was one thing of great interest: the proposed League of Cities united under the same Banner of Peace. Our friend, the poet Marc Chesneau, represented the old city of Rouen. Dr. Georges Chklaver's article, "Le Pacte Roerich et la Société des Nations," highly recommended the Pact from the point of view of law. Verily the protection of treasures of culture belongs to those all-unifying foundations upon which we can gather in a spirit of friendliness without any petty feelings of envy and malice.

In 1932, on August 9th, the Second Conference in Bruges was called together by the Union International pour le Pacte Roerich for introducing into life the defence of artistic and scientific treasures. The Conference took place under great enthusiasm and was concluded with a series of projects for introducing our Pact in the whole world. Besides the already existing Union, the City of Bruges placed at the Union's disposal a separate building for the inauguration of a Roerich Foundation for Peace, Art, Science and Labour. For this museum many valuable exhibits have been donated. Thus the city of Paris presented an artistic collection and several private collectors have also expressed their desire to donate collections to this museum.

Amongst the people, who took a close participation in the discussions of the Conference, have to be mentioned the President of the Union, C. Tulpinck, the representative of the City of Paris, Councillor Brunesseaux, the Consul-General of France, the Hon. Leon Guermonprez, who had been officially delegated to represent the French Government; the Duke of Argyll, Mr. Murray, delegate of Great Britain; the well-known Professor of International Law, Baron de Taube; the Delegation of the Roerich Institutions headed by the President of the European centre in Paris, Mme. de Vaux Phalipau, and the General-Secretary Dr. G. Chklaver, Count de Rochefort, the architect Rey de Villette, the representatives(44,255),(852,859) of Czechoslovakia, Greece and seventeen other countries which took part in the Exhibition and Conference. The Conference was greeted in the name of His Majesty King Albert of Belgium with a message from the Belgian Prime Minister. Amongst the messages and greetings received there were highly sympathetic messages from Marshal Lyautey and the President of the Court of International Justice at the Hague, Marquis Adatci, letters from Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, Sir Jagadish Bose, Prof. Sir C. V. Raman, from the Principal of the School of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow, A. K. Haldar; the Maha Bodhi Society; from Maurice Maeterlinck, Senator Copeland of New York, and numerous Women's Leagues and scientific organizations and from representatives of the world of culture. Having taken a series of practical measures for the near future, the Conference closed its session with the firm conviction that our Pact will be established without delay and will find world adoption.

And now in Washington will assemble the friends of peace. President Roosevelt is open to everything positive and constructive. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt writes about our Pact: "I think the ideals represented by the Roerich Pact cannot help but appeal to all those who hope that the best in the past may be preserved to guide and serve future generations." A member of the present U. S. Government, Secretary Henry A. Wallace, in the course of a letter to me writes: "I have for several years been interested in your endeavour to create a community of feeling among all the nations concerning those things which have to do with the arts and sciences. Your endeavor to furnish a symbol for the thought that beauty and know-