

THE LITERARY DIGEST

November 23, 1929

p. 24

IS OUR FLAG AN EMBLEM OF WAR?—The display of the American flag in the public schools, says Bishop Paul Jones, of the Episcopal diocese of southern Ohio, is a "dangerous fetish worship which promises thoughts of war among school children." The Bishop was delivering a Navy Day address in Boston, and, as he is further quoted in press reports, he told his audience that this country has two religions—nationalism and the faith taught of the Church, and that "it is impossible for a man to worship at both altars." But some of the critics of this man of peace hold views quite to the contrary. They see in the flag an emblem of peace and hope, rather than an emblem of war. It is not, comments the *Boston Post*, primarily a symbol of a nation in arms. Rather it suggests peace and law and order: "It stands sentinel above our schools, and we venture to say that not one scholar in one hundred, when his eye catches the banner of his country, thinks of war at all. The world over, it speaks not of aggression and physical power, but of a moral strength that, nevertheless, is not to be trifled with." It may be a long time before any nation becomes a State in the League of Nations, or some other world organization, observes the *Worcester Telegram*.

"But internationalism is gaining. To an ever-growing degree the nations are cooperating and agreeing about various things. To an ever-lessening degree they are going their own ways in disregard of the wishes and opinions of others. If progress continues, there will be far less nationalism in the world than there is now. Then the flag will not mean quite so much as it does now. The change is inevitable, if world peace really becomes secure, if there is end of the need of fighting and sacrificing life for the nation's triumph in battle.

"But in the meantime the cause of world peace will not be advanced by sneers at the flag. Loyalty to all nations will not be promoted by ridiculing loyalty to one nation."