

48 P

The Red-Locust.
51, PALACE COURT, W.2.
BAYSWATER N26.

20th October 1939

Dear Dr. Cronbach,

Our mutual friend, Rabbi Levine, sent me your letter and suggested that I should answer direct. I am glad to renew correspondence with an old acquaintance, and to send you at the same time my best wishes and regards.

Regarding the statement which you quote, I think the argument put forward is one that I have only heard very seldom, and from which I should always completely dissociate myself. It would be a sorry time for Jews, or any other group of believers, if they hesitated to enunciate their opinions because of possible prejudice which might be incurred.

There has been in existence for many years in England a Jewish Peace Society. Within that group a few people who were whole-hoggers, i.e. real pacifists, tried to form a special section of what was called extreme pacifists. We did not make much headway because the majority of Jews belonging to the Society believed that in certain circumstances it might be necessary to go to war until a higher degree of civilisation was reached by all the countries of the world. We of the extreme party felt it to be part of our religion to hold that the methods of war were contrary to the will of God, and, therefore, at no time justifiable. I should like to say that I had no part in the formation of this Jewish Peace Society, although when it was formed I associated myself with the small extreme pacifist section, but as in time it became clear to me that the other members did not share my reason for complete pacifism, that of religion, I and others felt it better to become Jewish members of interdenominational societies, and I have been able to follow this policy for a number of years.

I am finding today that the vast majority of Jews in England, like their fellow citizens, hate war as much as I do. There is no glamour about war today as there was in 1914. We of the inner group still hold that God challenges us to find another method, but, for the time being, we have failed. This may be because our lives as a whole are lacking in strong religious faith. We were forced to confess, to our