From the Editor's Pen

This issue of Vaiharai is a harmonious blending of unity in diversity. The first article "Dalit Vision of a Just Society in India" by Dr. S. M. Michael SVD (Institute of Indian Culture, Mahakali Road, Andheri East, Bombay 400 093), is a historical and systematic study on the great pioneers of the Dalit liberation movement, namely Phule, Periyar and Ambedkar in which the author points out that the unfinished revolution initiated by these men needs to be followed by a good and an able leadership and a sustained and united fight by the Dalits themselves inspite of opposing forces both internal and external.

Dr. Francis Xavier S. J. (Loyola College, Madras 600 034) a scientist of repute, analyzes in his article: "Science and Theology: Are they at Cross-Purposes?" the apparent polarization between science and religious faith and points out that the differences between them are complementary and not contradictory and each of them overlaps one another in so far as the former seeks knowledge, the latter wisdom, the former informs, the latter reforms, the former operates on the I - It plane, the latter on the I - Thou plane. The author contends that both sectors can be brought to a meeting-point in the context of working for the common good and service of human beings and in this way both the "Scientific" West and the "Religious" East can be made to interact mutually to bring about "a new heaven and a new earth".

In his very nuanced article on "New Marriage in Hosea: An Indian Look : (Hos. 2:8—25—Heb; 2:16-23—Eng.), Dr. Devadoss Ambrose a biblical scholar (St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Malleswaram West P. O., Bangalore 500 016) argues that in the whole of the O. T. it is Hosea who has used the marriage symbolism for the first time positively to explain the free and gratuitous love of YHWH

for Israel. From this the author works out the consequences for dialogue, sacrament of marriage and liberation of the oppressed in the Indian context, since all irrespective of caste, creed and colour are God's partners in love.

The article "Theological Basis for Religious Harmony in India According to Subramania Bharati" by Dr. Joseph Sebastian (St. Paul's Seminary, P. B. 36, Tiruchi-620 001) is a study on the works of Bharati a freedom fighter and a great Tamil poet, from the point of view of Religious Harmony. The author dwells on the concept of God and of Religions from the writings of Bharati and concludes that Bharati is one who stood for national integration as well as harmony among the different religions of India.

The unity that runs through all these articles is service of love. Commitment to the down-trodden, a healthy collaboration between science and religion, primacy given to the unmerited love of God and harmony between religions are all different ways of looking, dreaming and working for "a new heaven and a new earth" which have been promised by Jesus as first-fruits in and through his resurrection.

The editor wishes all the readers a very happy, love-filled and service-minded Easter!

R. J. Raja, S. J.