

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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WE HAVE NO REAL EXCUSE

Our beloved Guardian has been careful always to place the emphasis where it is most needed; should we not do well to heed that he is the appointed vice-regent of Bahá'u'lláh Himself: 'Whoso obeyeth him not . . . hath not obeyed God.'

The following extracts from the messages he has sent us through the last few years show how he calls each one of us to focus upon consolidation—however humdrum this may seem—since all expansion at home or overseas must inevitably interlock and depend directly upon the strength generated and developed at the base.

' . . . the prizes so laboriously won at home must under no circumstances be jeopardised.' (February, 1951.)

' . . . the Bahá'í Community of the British Isles, now greatly reinforced, resting on a far broader foundation, galvanised into action, qualified through its initial signal victory in its homeland—the base of its future operations overseas . . . close and sustained attention should be directed by the elected representatives, as well as the rank and file, of that community towards the safeguarding of the prizes won throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles, and the consolidation of the newly-born institutions . . .' (June, 1950.)

'Two Year Plan now officially launched demands continuous unstinted systematic support national elected representatives, all local assemblies, rank file entire community . . . Confident British Bahá'í Community will arise befittingly meet challenge now con-

fronting it, achieve three-fold purpose Plan.' (Convention cable, 1951.)

'Though the operation of the Plan is of short duration, yet it constitutes a prelude to a series of successive campaigns which a firmly knit, vigorously functioning, clear visioned, intensely alive national community is destined to initiate, direct and control from its newly consolidated administrative headquarters in the heart of the British Isles . . . This Community . . . is faced at the present hour, with a grave, a sacred and inescapable responsibility . . . Upon the discharge of this weighty responsibility now resting upon it must depend the inauguration of yet another Plan, of longer duration, of greater scope, of a still more challenging character, and of greater consequence in the effect it must have on that Community's destiny.

'Time is running short. The present hour in the fortunes of mankind is critical. The Centenary of the birth of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh is fast approaching. The British Bahá'í Community must gird up its loins, redouble its exertions, undertake further sacrifices, demonstrate greater solidarity and rise to still greater heights of consecrated devotion . . . The prizes already garnered as a result of the operation of the Six Year Plan in England, Wales, Scotland, Eire and Northern Ireland, must at all costs be safeguarded . . . So glorious a vision . . . cannot but galvanise them into action, at once swift, resolute and unrelaxing . . .' (October, 1951.)

We shall never be able to say we did not know.

CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

Convention Expenses

The National Assembly is organising a scheme whereby individuals and assemblies whose Convention expenses are comparatively small can help delegates who might not otherwise be able to come to Convention because of heavy fares. The return fare from the Scottish Communities for example is about £6 and the Irish delegates also incur heavy fares. Contributions from those able to help should be sent to the National Treasurer, earmarked for delegates' expenses.

BAHÁ'Í SUMMER SCHOOL, 1952

UNIVERSITY HALL
BANGOR, N. WALES

August 16th—30th

Registration Forms will be available as soon as possible

FROM THE GUARDIAN

The National Assembly cabled the Guardian on 14th January:

'Happy report very satisfactory interview high level officials Colonial Office. May Hands Cause be invited give talks Africa Conference. Deepest love.'

The Guardian replied on 16th January:

'Delighted. Approve talks Hands. Loving appreciation.'

To the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada

The Guardian wrote on 30th October, 1951:

'In order to establish this (the establishment of new assemblies and groups), the entire Canadian Community will have to rise to a new level of activity, conscience and sacrifice, just as did the British Bahá'í Community during their Six-Year Plan. Their success is perhaps one of the most remarkable ever achieved in the Bahá'í world because they were few in number, run down in health from the long years of suffering during the war, and poor in financial resources. Their determination, dedication and moral stamina, however, carried them through, and Bahá'u'lláh gave them the victory. He will give the same victory to everyone who shows the same characteristics. Success breeds success, and the same Community, now rightfully proud and conscious of its importance, is carrying on its African work in a brilliant manner. The Canadian Bahá'ís, more prosperous, less restricted, and equally capable, can accomplish just as much if they unitedly determine to do so.'

With reference to this, the National Assembly wishes to state that at present two-thirds of the goals in Africa of the Two Year Plan have been achieved.

The National Assembly recently enquired from the Guardian (1) Whether efforts should be made to build up a Community in Kenya, which was not one of the territories allocated as a goal of the Two Year Plan. (2) Whether efforts should be made to form Assemblies in Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam if opportunity should arise. (3) Whether consultation between National Assembly representatives should take place as part of the Africa Conference or outside of it. The Guardian replied on 29th February, 1952:

'Advise build up Kenya. Urge formation Assemblies Kampala, Dar-es-Salaam. Approve special sessions for National Assembly representative outside Conference.'

On 9th March the National Assembly cabled:

'Consolidation Committee report still twelve gaps in eight Assemblies. Beg prayers, especially for Belfast.'

The Guardian replied on 12th March:

'Owing rapid progress African campaign, advise concentration consolidation home front. Appeal united, renewed vigorous efforts. Praying fervently success.'

More Hands of the Cause

The Guardian cabled the American National Assembly on 3rd March:

'Announce friends East, through National Assemblies, following nominations raising number present Hands Cause of God nineteen. Dominion Canada, United States: Fred Schopflocher, Corinne True, respectively. Cradle Faith, Zirkullah Khadem, Shuaullah Alai. Germany, Africa, Australia, Adelbert Muhlschlegel, Musa Banani, Clara Dunn, respectively. Members august body invested, conformity 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament, twofold sacred function, propagation, preservation Faith Bahá'u'lláh, destined assume individually course time direction institutions paralleling those revolving around Universal House of Justice, supreme legislative body Bahá'í world, now recruited all five continents globe, representative three principal world religions mankind. Recently urged newly-appointed Hand Canada, occasion pilgrimage Holy Land, undertake preliminary measures conjunction Canadian National Assembly establishment national Haziratu'l-Quds similar those already founded Teheran, Wilmette, Baghdad, Sydney, Frankfurt, Cairo, New Delhi. Identical instructions given appointed Hand Africa, course just concluded pilgrimage, acquisition property Kampala serve local Haziratu'l-Quds, synchronise formation first Assembly heart Africa, be regarded nucleus national administrative headquarters Faith destined arise morrow formation National Spiritual Assembly Central, Eastern territories African Continent.'

Three Announcements by the Guardian

(Cable to the American National Spiritual Assembly, dated 8th March, 1952.)

Occasion approaching celebration ninth Nawruz second Bahá'í Century, desire share following triple announcement Bahá'í world through National Assemblies East, West. FIRST: Safe arrival Holy Land course last six months successive consignments stones remaining facades Octagon, Pinnacles; eighteen window frames belonging Drum; one hundred tons cement; thirty-five tons timber; fifteen tons steel; eight wrought-iron balustrades; stones lower section Drum, as well as completion construction Octagon, erection fifteen feet Pinnacles constituting, with ornamental balustrades, central adornment Holy Edifice. Leaded glass required (for) twenty-four windows Octagon, eighteen lancet windows Drum, ordered. Investigations initiated fabrication gilded tiles, final material necessary construction Sepulchre.

Recall, feelings humble thankfulness, intense joy, series historic landmarks progress sacred enterprise, associated first: Formal entombment, Nawruz 1909, sixty lunar years after Báb's martyrdom, His dust (in the) vault (of the) Shrine; second: Laying, forty years later, Nawruz 1949, first threshold stones Arcade Sepulchre; third: Completion, two years later,

Nawruz 1951, excavation eight piers, designed to support Dome, followed placing year later, eve Nawruz 1952, second crown same Edifice. Way now prepared erection Drum, including eighteen windows symbolising eighteen Letters of the Living, appointed transmitters dawning Light Author Bábi Dispensation, as well as rearing golden Dome constituting third, final unit triple crown destined irradiate its splendour heart God's Holy Mountain. Moved pay warm, loving tribute Shrine's immortal architect, Hand Cause Sutherland Maxwell, (and the) services Ugo Giachery, U.N.O. representative International Bahá'í Community, recently elevated rank Hand Cause, newly-appointed member International Bahá'í Council, ably discharging manifold responsibilities connected mighty undertaking.

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT: Enlargement International Bahá'í Council. Present membership now comprises: Amatulbaha Ruhiyah, chosen Liaison between me, Council. Hands Cause Mason Remey, Amelia Collins, Ugo Giachery, Leroy Ioas, President, Vice-President, member at large, Secretary-General, respectively. Jessie Revell, Ethel Revell, Lotfullah Hakim, Treasurer, Western, Eastern Assistant Secretaries.

THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT: Following upon missions entrusted Hands Cause connection establishment Haziratu'l-Quds Dominion Canada, Central Africa, (have) instructed Ugo Giachery take, conjunction European Teaching Committee, immediate steps after conclusion pilgrimage, aiming formation eve termination American Community's second Seven Year Plan, first National Spiritual Assembly Bahá'ís Italy (and) Switzerland. Advise United States National Assembly arrange, through European Teaching Committee, election occasion Nawruz 1953 nineteen delegates by all local assemblies already established both countries. Urge convocation Ridvan same year, City Florence, occasion festivities Bahá'í Holy Year, first Convention express purpose electing through delegates projected National Assembly. Appeal American Bahá'í Community, particularly Bahá'ís residing Italy, Switzerland, exert utmost ensure course coming year multiplication Spiritual Assemblies both countries, thereby broadening basis projected pillar future Universal House Justice. Advise European Teaching Committee, upon consummation glorious enterprise, issue formal invitation their spiritual offspring newly-emerged National Assembly participate, together sister National Assemblies United States, British Isles, Germany, Intercontinental Conference August same year, capital city Sweden. Anticipate entrusting youngest among twelve National Assemblies Bahá'í World specific Plan enabling it, conjunction sister National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'í World, promote course ten years separating second from Most Great Jubilee, global crusade designed hoist standard Bahá'u'lláh remaining states, dependencies, islands whole planet. Invite attendants third Bahá'í Inter-Continental Conference befittingly commemorate undreamt-of climax, brilliant victories won course second Seven Year Plan, eclipsing feats accomplished Latin American field

course first Seven Year Plan, presaging tremendous triumph to be won course third Seven Year Plan African, Asiatic, Australian continents.

With throbbing heart call mind solemn affirmations, glowing promises recorded Tablets Divine Plan, envisioning evidences everlasting dominion destined signalise inauguration, accompany triumphal progress mission vanguard Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders, champion builders His World Order European, Asiatic, African, Australian continents, islands Pacific Ocean. Advise European Teaching Committee cable text third announcement Assemblies capital cities Italy, Switzerland, urge my behalf participation Swiss believers first Teaching Conference Rome eve Nawruz this year (for) consultation Italian collaborators prosecution soul-uplifting fateful undertaking heart, south European Continent.

SAM SCOTT (1865-1951)

A Tribute by Arthur Norton

I first met Sam Scott about thirty years ago when he and his brother, the late J. W. Scott were partners as textile manufacturers' agents in York Place, Leeds. From then onwards except for a brief period when he resided at Appleton-le-Moors, and later in Norwich, I saw him almost every week. As a business-man his honesty, integrity, uprightness, were of the highest degree, and never did I hear one word from anyone in business circles which was not to his praise. His early life was fraught with difficulties, especially when working long hours as a draper's assistant, and living (as was the system) on the premises of his employer. Sickness at home also in those early days did not make life easier for him. He married, had one lovely daughter who died at the age of seven. Many times he showed me the photograph of his only child. Mrs. Scott died many years ago. And so our dear friend was left to a lonely life. One day when in my office we were talking on religion, and noticing a photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá he asked me who it was. My answer was 'A great man' and nothing more. Summer School in Buxton was near, so I invited him to come. During a devotional meeting he was asked to read from a writing by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and this reading settled matters for him. He had found (to use his own words) what he had been seeking all his life. The following year at Summer School near Warwick he became a Bahá'í. He was then 76 years old. He volunteered to pioneer in Norwich at the age of 84, and the closing years of his earthly life spent in a Bahá'í home in that city were his happiest. I received a long letter from him dated 16th December, 1951, written in his usual happy style, and on the 31st December he passed to the Abhá Kingdom. And so we bid a temporary farewell to one whom we all loved, and whose influence will be felt for all time by all who were privileged to know him.

NEWS FROM AFRICA

UGANDA, KAMPALA

Seven Africans, five Bahá'ís and five children were present at the festival of the Birthday of the Báb in Kampala. The gathering was an historically significant one in that for the first time the meeting was held in the home of a Buganda and was opened with a prayer from the newly prepared pamphlet in the language of Uganda.

The pamphlet was read aloud, and such was the enthusiasm reached that the reading was continued into the night by the light of a small hurricane lamp. The unanimous opinion of the Africans present was that the Words of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá had new meaning when heard in Luganda and that the translation was indeed beautiful.

FIRST PUBLIC MENTION IN UGANDA

On Saturday evening, 1st December, one of our contacts, who is now in charge of the newly established all-Uganda African Social Centre in Kampala, gave a twenty-minute talk about the Bahá'í Faith and its Teachings to an audience of some 300 Africans of various tribes, including two African Kings, namely the Kabaka of Baganda and the Mukama of Batoro.

At the close of a programme conducted as part of the Young Christian Conference, during a period when the floor was free for anyone to say anything thought to be of interest to the audience, he presented the Faith quite objectively and without adding his own personal feelings.

LIBERIA

William Foster states that he has accepted a post with the University of Liberia and will be head of plumbing and sanitation instruction. He is also serving on several committees for the Department of Public Works and the University in this field.

TANGANYIKA

Claire Gung tells of the only kind of Bahá'í work possible to her in Lushoto, where there are almost no educated or English-speaking Africans. Mending and patching their ragged garments, teaching them cleanliness and personal hygiene, and demonstrating the meaning of human kindness—these are Claire's teaching methods. Not by books, lectures or meetings can she work, but purely by striving to live the Bahá'í life.

In contrast to this description of primitive Africa, the Dar-es-Salaam friends tell of the well-educated and deeply thoughtful Africans who have heard of and been attracted to the Cause. Recently one such African wrote, 'Many thanks for your book *Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era*. I have enjoyed almost the whole book and the content is nothing but wonderful. I am too, keen on this Faith, although I can't in the meanwhile tell you where I am. On the whole I can now comment that if the whole of mankind belonged to this wonderful Faith, this world would turn into a paradise.'

African Language Pamphlets

The technical difficulties which have been preventing a start being made on printing these pamphlets have at last been overcome, and six translations are

ready for printing. There is, however, a danger that lack of funds might slow down the rate of publication.

The National Assembly thinks that some members of the Community may like to give donations specially for the printing of these pamphlets, or to pay the whole cost of printing one of them. On information at present available, it is expected that the average cost of a pamphlet will be about £45.

Bahá'í Africa Conference

This Conference, which is one of the inter-continental conferences announced by the Guardian, will be held in February, 1953, in Kampala, Uganda. The Committee responsible is enquiring from each national community how many of its members are likely to attend. If any Bahá'í in this country is hoping or planning to go, they are asked to communicate with the Committee, who can supply further information and may be able to help with arrangements. Please write: The Secretary, Committee for the Bahá'í Africa Conference, 49 Sandbourne Avenue, London, S.W.19.

AFRICA COMMITTEE

MARGUERITE PRESTON

'Grieved tragic loss, praying fervently behalf departed'

Marguerite Preston, who left Britain on Saturday, February 16th, full of plans for Bahá'í activity in Kenya, set off by aeroplane on the long journey home with her little son Adrian, aged 5. On the following Monday the news of the terrible accident that took the lives of all passengers, came as a great shock to all who knew her.

Marguerite Wellby first heard of the Bahá'í Faith from George Spendlove, to whom she always felt most indebted. Her declaration in 1936 was followed by a steady deepening in the Faith and increasing activity. With Dorothy Cansdale (now Ferraby) she not only shared a flat but also regular and happy fireside meetings. Later she was elected member of the London Assembly and the National Assembly.

In 1945 she married a girlhood friend, Terence Preston, and went with him to Kenya, where for six years she was the only Bahá'í in a virgin territory. When the Africa project started Marguerite's old enthusiasm for her beloved Faith was kindled into a brighter flame. She had never lost touch with the activities in Britain but now that the field was opening in Kenya she was anxious to do all in her power to help.

Only last year her husband was taken from her suddenly when he died following an operation for appendicitis, leaving Marguerite with three small children to care for. As a preliminary to further activity she returned to Britain for a few weeks where she renewed many old friendships.

She was able to supply the British Africa Committee with much valuable information about conditions in Kenya and showed such an eagerness for the work of the Two Year Plan that the National Assembly told her they considered her a pioneer. As her return to Kenya was largely influenced by her desire to teach the Cause she fully justified this title. Her sudden death deprives the Faith in Africa of a devoted servant.

THE ONLY CREED OF THE PROPHETS IS LOVE AND UNITY

‘ . . . The disease which afflicts the body-politic is lack of love and absence of altruism. In the hearts of men no real love is found, and the condition is such that unless their susceptibilities are quickened by some power so that unity, love and accord may develop within them, there can be no healing, no agreement among mankind. Love and unity are the needs of the body-politic to-day. Without these there can be no progress or prosperity obtained. Therefore, the friends of God must adhere to the power which will create this love and unity in the hearts of the sons of men. Science cannot cure the illness of the body-politic. Science cannot create amity and fellowship in human hearts. Neither can patriotism or racial allegiance effect a remedy. It must be accomplished through the Divine bounties and spiritual bestowals which have descended from God in this day for that purpose. This is an exigency of the times and the Divine remedy has been provided. The spiritual teachings of the religion of God can alone create this love, unity and accord in human hearts.’

GOD'S REMEDY

‘ The unity which is productive of unlimited results is first a unity of mankind which recognises that all are sheltered beneath the overshadowing glory of the All-Glorious; that all are servants of one God; for all breathe the same atmosphere, live upon the same earth, move beneath the same heavens, receive effulgence from the same sun and are under the protection of one God. This is the most great unity, and its results are lasting if mankind adheres to it; but mankind has hitherto violated adhering to sectarian or other limited unities such as racial, patriotic or unity of self-interests: therefore no great results have been forthcoming. Nevertheless it is certain that the radiance and favours of God are encompassing, minds have developed, perceptions have become acute, sciences and arts are widespread and capacity exists for the proclamation and promulgation of the real and ultimate unity of mankind which will bring forth marvellous results. It will reconcile all religions, make warring nations loving, cause hostile kings to become friendly and bring peace and happiness to the human world. It will cement together the Orient and the Occident, remove for ever the foundations of war and upraise the ensign of the Most Great Peace. These limited unities are therefore the signs of that great unity which will make all the human family one by being productive of the attractions of conscience in mankind.’

‘ The great mass of humanity does not exercise real love and fellowship. The elect of humanity are those who live together in love and unity. They are preferable before God because the Divine attributes are already manifest in them. The supreme Love and Unity is witnessed in the Divine Manifestations. Among them unity is indissoluble, changeless, eternal and everlasting. Each one is expressive and representative of all. If we deny one of the Manifestations of God we deny all. To inflict persecution on one is to persecute

all. In all degrees of existence each one praises and sanctifies the others. Each of them holds to the solidarity of mankind and promotes the unity of human hearts. Next to the Divine Manifestations come the believers whose characteristics are agreement, fellowship and love.’

‘ From the heaven of God's will, and for the purpose of ennobling the world of being and of elevating the minds and souls of men, hath been sent down that which is the most effective instrument for the education of the human race. The highest essence and most perfect expression of whatsoever the peoples of old have either said or written hath, through this most potent Revelation, been sent down from the heaven of the Will of the All-Possessing, the Ever-Abiding God. Of old it hath been revealed: “Love of one's country is an element of the Faith of God”.’

‘ Though the world is encompassed with misery and distress, yet no man hath paused to reflect what the cause or source of that may be . . . The evidences of discord and malice are apparent everywhere, though all were made for harmony and union. The Great Being saith: O well-beloved ones! The tabernacle of unity hath been raised; regard ye not one another as strangers. Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch . . . ’

‘ If any man were to meditate on that which the Scriptures, sent down from the heaven of God's holy Will have revealed, he will readily recognise that their purpose is that all men shall be regarded as one soul . . . If the learned and worldly wise men of this age were to allow mankind to inhale the fragrance of fellowship and love, every understanding heart would apprehend the meaning of true liberty, and discover the secret of undisturbed peace and absolute composure.’

APPLYING THE REMEDY

‘ When a man turns his face to God he finds sunshine everywhere. All men are his brothers. Let not conventionality cause you to seem cold and unsympathetic, when you meet strange people from other countries. Do not look at them as if you suspected them of being evil-doers, thieves and boors. You think it very necessary to be careful not to expose yourselves to the risk of making acquaintance with such, possibly, undesirable people . . . Let those who meet you know, without your proclaiming the fact, that you are indeed a Bahá'í.’

‘ Put into practice the teaching of Bahá'u'lláh, that of kindness to all nations. Do not be content with showing friendship in words alone; let your heart burn with loving-kindness for all who may cross your path.’

‘ Pray to God that thou mayest become . . . a lover of men and well-wisher of humankind.’

Compiled by Consolidation Committee

THE STATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

The purpose of this series of articles by George Townshend is to indicate briefly by quotation and comment some main features of the Station of Bahá'u'lláh, that we may be the better able to appreciate the significance of the Holy Year we are about to enter.

The Era in which we now are living is believed by the Bahá'ís to be in a unique sense the Age of Truth. Bahá'u'lláh sets forth its pre-eminence in these words:

'It is evident that every age in which a Manifestation of God hath lived is divinely ordained, and may, in a sense, be characterised as God's appointed Day. This Day, however, is unique, and is to be distinguished from those that have preceded it. The designation "Seal of the Prophets" fully revealeth its high station. The Prophetic Cycle hath, verily ended. The Eternal Truth is now come. He hath lifted up the Ensign of Power, and is now shedding upon the world the unclouded splendour of His Revelation.'

Gleanings, p. 60

In the *Tablet of Ahmád* again He speaks of Himself as 'That Most Great Beauty through whom truth shall be distinguished from error and the wisdom of every command be tested.'

This age is likewise the Age of Life, when creation reaches completeness in the emergence of the human race as a single spiritual organism operating as a unit — 'the Oneness of Mankind.' The Long Obligatory Prayer keeps this fact in remembrance when it testifies of Bahá'u'lláh that 'He who hath been manifested is The Hidden Mystery, The Treasured Symbol through whom the letters B and E ('Be') have been joined and knit together.' *The Tablet of Ahmád* keeps in mind the same thought in another figure — 'He is the Tree of Life that bringeth forth fruits of God, the Exalted, the Powerful, the Great.'

Furthermore, this is the Age of Reunion when Man, 'The Son of Being' obeys at last the Great command given in *Hidden Words* — 'Love Me, that I may love thee . . . Thy Paradise is My love; thy heavenly home, and union with me. Enter therein and tarry not.' (*P.H.W.*, Nos. 5 & 6.)

There is no place now for separation between God and Man! He, 'by the fire of whose love the whole world hath been set aflame,' has come among men, and will not be gainsaid by His creatures.

Bahá'u'lláh calls to mankind:

'Announce unto yourselves the joyful tidings: "He Who is the Best-Beloved is come! He hath crowned Himself with the Glory of God's Revelation, and hath unlocked to the face of men the doors of His ancient Paradise".'

'Proclaim unto every longing lover: "Behold, your Well-Beloved hath come among men!" and to the messengers of the Monarch of love impart the tidings: "Lo, the Adored One hath appeared arrayed in the fullness of His glory!"'

'Behold how the manifold grace of God, which is being showered from the clouds of Divine glory, hath, in this day, encompassed the world. For whereas in days past every lover besought and searched after his Beloved, it is the Beloved Himself Who now is calling His lovers and is inviting them to attain His presence. Take heed lest ye forfeit so precious a favour; beware lest ye belittle so remarkable a token of His grace.'

Gleanings, pp. 319-320

All through past ages, from the earliest beginnings, mankind has mysteriously been taught to work expectantly towards this all-comprehending consummation. As Bahá'u'lláh proclaims:

'The Revelation which, from time immemorial, hath been acclaimed as the Purpose and Promise of all the Prophets of God, and the most cherished Desire of His Messengers, hath now, by virtue of the pervasive Will of the Almighty and at His irresistible bidding, been revealed unto men. The advent of such a Revelation hath been heralded in all the sacred Scriptures.'

In the Bible the first vague promise of a Redeemer is given in the story of the Fall (Gen. iii, 15), 'it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel.' The promise becomes more definite in God's words to Abraham, still more so in Moses' prophecy of the Lord of Hosts (Deut., ch. 28; 30); and thereafter is repeated a hundred times by the Psalmists and the Prophets of Israel to the last book of the Old Testament. Isaiah explicitly foretells the birth of a child who shall be called by titles that Christ never claimed and that can only apply to Bahá'u'lláh — 'the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace,' of the increase of whose Government and peace there should be no end to order and establish it for ever (Isaiah ix, 6 & 7). Jesus stated he did not come to bring peace but a sword; he did not bring the Kingdom but instructed his followers to pray to the Father for its coming. He contrasted his revelation with that of the Spirit of Truth who would come in a maturer age and speak not in parables but in plain terms and guide mankind into all truth (John xvi, 12-13). The prophecies of Jesus and of the whole New Testament are all concerned with the Kingdom and the coming of Bahá'u'lláh, 'the Father'; and the ethical teachings are all designed to prepare mankind for the glories and the dire tests of His appearance.

In the *Qu'rán*, Bahá'u'lláh is referred to as 'The Great Announcement' and the book is replete with references to His coming and His Day.

He is 'the Buddha of Universal Fellowship' coming in 'boundless glory' whom Buddha foretold; the Tenth Avatar of the Hindus, the Shah-Bahram of the World Saviour of Zoroaster.

(To be continued)

FOR BAHÁ'Í PARENTS AND TEACHERS

'Let us look at the Bahá'í Calendar in relation to our children . . .'

'An additional advantage is the fact that the child will develop the habit of thinking in Bahá'í terms relative to time. There needs to exist no confusion between the Civil and the Bahá'í calendars, no more than a child's language is handicapped if he learns another language as well as his own provided of course that he is well grounded in his own language before he is taught another. Similarly, when a child is capable of grasping the idea of a month he will have no difficulty in recognising the difference between the two calendars. It would be interesting to him. The more he thinks in terms of the Bahá'í Calendar the more familiar he will become with it.

When the child has celebrated all the Bahá'í months at the end of the year and begins all over again he will better grasp the idea of a year and its possibilities. Then as the years go by he will be prepared to think in terms of cycles and particularly spiritual cycles. Great then will be his appreciation of the fact that he is living in the Greatest Spiritual Cycle of all time.'

B.W., vol. ix, p. 548

'Two Kinds of Bahá'ís'

The following statement was written by the Guardian, through his secretary, in a letter addressed to an American believer:

'There are two kinds of Bahá'ís, one might say: those whose religion is Bahá'í and those who live for the Faith. Needless to say if we can belong to the latter category, if we can be in the vanguard of heroes, martyrs and saints, it is more praiseworthy in the sight of God.'

Daily Obligatory Prayers

The Guardian's Statement

The daily obligatory prayers are three in number. The shortest one consists of a single verse which has to be recited once in every twenty-four hours and at mid-day. The medium (prayer) which begins with the words: 'The Lord is witness that there is none other God but He,' has to be recited three times a day, in the morning, at noon and in the evening. The long prayer which is the most elaborate of the three has to be recited once in every twenty-four hours, and at any time one feels inclined to do so.

The believer is entirely free to choose any one of those three prayers, but is under the obligation of reciting one of them, and in accordance with any specific directions with which they may be accompanied.

These daily obligatory prayers, together with a few other specific ones, such as the Healing Prayer, the *Tablet of Ahmad*, have been invested by Bahá'u'lláh with a special potency and significance, and should therefore be accepted as such and be recited by the believers with unquestioned faith and confidence, that through them they may enter into a much closer communion with God, and identify themselves more fully with His laws and precepts.

THE GREATEST NAME

Dr. Lotfullah Hakim has pointed out that in photographs in which both the Greatest Name and a picture of the Master are exhibited, the Greatest Name should have the greater stress, and should appear above rather than below the picture of the Master. The National Assembly asks all Local Assemblies to ensure that proper respect is paid to the Greatest Name in this manner whenever occasion arises.

GOD LOVETH THOSE WHO WORK IN GROUPS

'O ye friends of God! To-day is the day of union and this age is the age of harmony in the world of existence. Verily, God loveth those who are working in His path in groups, for they are a solid foundation . . . When the holy souls, through the angelic power, will arise to show forth these celestial characteristics, establishing a band of harmony, *each of these souls shall be regarded as one thousand persons* and the waves of this greatest ocean shall be considered as the army of the hosts of the Supreme Concurrence.'

—'Abdu'l-Bahá.

YOU have potential control over the power of one thousand persons!

The Guardian on Giving

The following passage is cited from a letter written by the Guardian through his secretary to an American believer:

'As to the idea of "giving what one can afford," this does by no means put a limit or even exclude the possibility of self-sacrifice. There can be no limit to one's contributions to the national fund. The more one can give the better it is, especially when such offerings necessitate the sacrifice of other wants and desires on the part of the donor. The harder the sacrifice the more meritorious will it be of course in the eye of God. For after all it is not so much the quantity of one's offerings that matters, but rather the measure of deprivation that such offerings entail.'

Sales for the Fund

Vida Backwell is unable to continue helping to sell goods in aid of the Fund for the Sales Committee, and the Committee has been transferred to the Manchester area. Anyone having articles they wish to sell in aid of the Fund, who does not feel able to do this without assistance should send the articles to Mrs. Pauline Senior, 15 Oaklands Road, Swinton, Lancs.

Changes of Address

Bristol Secretary: Mrs. Dora Weeks, Sunnyside Farm, Wick, Glos.

Leeds Secretary: Walter Baines, 200 Belle Isle Road, Leeds 10.

'IN THE SOUTH ...'

TORQUAY were happy to have a visit from Betty Reed during 25th—27th January, when her work took her to the West Country and she was able to speak at their Sunday meeting.

BRISTOL. The cycle of five public meetings was completed by visits from Mrs. G. Backwell and Muriel Matthews; Ralph Crates spoke at the last one on 19th February. These meetings have aroused fresh interest, spread knowledge of the Faith through the publicity used, and produced a number of interested contacts.

CARDIFF reports close contacts regularly attending a weekly study-class; they have plans to put on the Covenant Course in March. We share their disappointment that they could not find accommodation for the Bahá'í Exhibition.

BIRMINGHAM, venue of this year's Teaching Conference; this was preceded by a large public meeting addressed by Dick Backwell and Alma Gregory and chaired by Louis Ross-Enfield. All the friends who attended the Conference are deeply grateful for the exertions of the Birmingham friends to provide for all their needs and make them welcome.

NORTHAMPTON report a thrilling experience of the power of Bahá'í consultation: they have disbanded their local Teaching Committee and the Assembly itself makes all teaching plans, discussing these with the Community at each Feast. They recently instituted united prayers for more contacts, and within a few weeks several more attended their Thursday meeting — some of them seemed dissatisfied with the type of programme, and at the next Feast, the Community consulted, decided on a marked change in the programme and put this on the following week, with tremendous success and both Bahá'ís and contacts radiating a wonderful spirit of unity and love; this was so overpowering that one of the newest believers volunteered to give a series of talks, having never spoken a word in public before. As their faith is, so are their blessings!

NORWICH had their bi-monthly public meeting on 2nd February, Vivian Isenthal speaking to the title 'Can Man find a Solution?' The friends are enthusiastic about the success of this meeting, and we congratulate them on their total activity.

OXFORD Community held a very successful Africa Night at the British Council early in February; regular firesides are held in the believers' homes, and a tremendous amount of unspectacular teaching work is being done in spite of the heavy national commitments undertaken by members of this Community.

BRIGHTON. The friends here are hoping to start weekly meetings in March, and their numbers have been augmented by the arrival of the McKinleys who have moved from London.

LONDON. Regional gathering in localities where several of the friends live sufficiently close together have proved highly successful; more were held during the Intercalary Days. At the Feast of Mulk the friends were thrilled to meet Dr. Sorayah who had just arrived

from Persia *via* Haifa, and brought news that the beloved Guardian was in good health. Through the move noted above and others forthcoming, this Assembly will almost attain its pioneer pledge of five believers.

BOURNEMOUTH. Weekly 'firesides' are held for close contacts. Mrs. Backwell, London, is to be the first Bahá'í speaker at a meeting organised by the Bournemouth Unity Group — a 'get together' of progressive societies in the town. At an initial meeting to organise the function, E. Cramer gave a brief outline of the Faith to over fifty people.

SOUTHERN TEACHING COMMITTEE will shortly be producing a study-outline based on the 'Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh' by Shoghi Effendi. This is intended to give close contacts a deep knowledge of, and familiarity with, the three Central Figures of the Faith, as well as of the Administrative Order, and can be used as a confirming course; the references demand a complete Bahá'í library so as to make the best use of the material provided. Change of address: the Secretary's new address is 37 Brunswick Road, Hove, Sussex.

'FROM THE EMERALD ISLE ...'

BELFAST. We are launching a determined campaign here and experimenting in new ways of finding and keeping contacts. A public meeting was held in the Kensington Hotel on the 22nd February, with our dear and distinguished George Townshend as speaker, who stayed on in Belfast for a few days afterwards. Following this we are continuing with our fortnightly meetings, helped by Dublin, with our prayers and with giving everything we possibly can towards the maintenance of this key Assembly. Not by our power was it won originally, and not by our power will it be safeguarded in the weeks to come.

DUBLIN has gained several new contacts during the last weeks and teaching work progresses. A public meeting held recently brought new faces and we plan to hold another in early April, with, if possible, a speaker from another Region.

IRISH WEEK-END SCHOOL. The I.T.C. has reluctantly decided to postpone this until a later date, possibly in the summer, since it was found that very few from Ireland could attend and also that all our energies will be needed to concentrate on increasing the teaching tempo.

Loving greetings to you all.

IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE

National Fund

Cheques for contribution to the National Fund should be made payable to *The N.S.A. of the Bahá'ís*.

Additions to the Community

Since the last list was published in *Bahá'í Journal*, registration cards have been received from the following:

Betty Belevitch, Manchester
Geertruida Ankersmit, Brighton
Leslie Allison, Northampton
Joseph Burrell, Northampton

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHAI'IS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

49, Sandbourne Avenue,
LONDON, S.W.19.

28th March, 1952.

To the Baha'is of the British Isles.

Dear Baha'i Friends,

The Guardian has cabled the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States on March 16th:-

"Inform United States, British, Persian, Egyptian, Indian National Assemblies imminent purchase Haziratu'l-Quds Central Africa. Have forwarded my contribution 6,000 dollars towards historic enterprise. Appeal five co-operating National Assemblies participate through contributions meritorious purchase. Purchase price 5,500 pounds. Advise forward contributions Banani, Kampala."

The British National Assembly has opened a special fund to which Bahai's in the British Isles are invited to send contributions as quickly as possible. Only generous contributions to this fund sent quickly will enable the British Community to contribute fittingly to the cost of the first Haziratu'l-Quds in the countries of the Africa project. Please send your contributions to Mrs. Langdon-Davies, Gorselands, Boar's Hill, Oxford, who has kindly consented to act as treasurer of the fund.

Baha'is in Africa are also invited to contribute; their contributions should be sent direct to Mr. Moussa Banani, Pioneering Private Bag, Kampala, Uganda.

With loving Baha'i greetings,

John Ferraby
Secretary