

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

Published by

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE BRITISH ISLES
158a, OLD BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON, S.W.5.

No. 64.

Bahá'í Year 104

December, 104

FROM THE GUARDIAN

24th October, 1947.

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letters to our beloved Guardian, dated May 18th and 27th; June 4th, 9th and 16th; July 5th, 8th (two of this date), 12th and 14th; August 9th and September 15th, 20th and 29th; and October 6th and 13th, have all been received, as well as their enclosures, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

As some points in these letters have already been replied to by cable, I will not go over them again.

He received a letter direct from the World Congress of Faiths, and wrote them offering full Bahá'í co-operation, and informing them he was ready to appoint a Bahá'í representative to attend any conference they may hold.

The discovery of the Master's letter to Andrew Carnegie is very interesting, in spite of the very poor translation of this Tablet, and he will be very pleased to receive a photostat of the original, or at least a faithful copy of the text in Persian.

He would be pleased to continue receiving the reports of the Assembly Development Committee.

Regarding the question you asked him: he feels that in the case of a believer who will be 21 years old on April 22nd, there is no objection, at this time, when the work of the Cause is so urgent and the workers so few, in permitting him to vote on April 21st.

In regard to your question about qualifications of delegates and assembly members: the qualifications which he outlined are really applicable to anyone we elect to a Bahá'í office, whatever its nature. But those are only an indication, they do not mean people who don't fulfil them cannot be elected to office. We must aim as high as we can. He does not feel the friends should attach so much importance to limitations—such as people perhaps not being able to attend assembly or convention meetings, because if they do, then the fundamental concept of everyone being willing to do Bahá'í service on administrative bodies will be weakened, and the friends may be tempted to vote for those who, because

of independent means or circumstances in their lives, are freer to come and go but less qualified to serve.

Regarding "Abdu'l-Bahá in London." Nothing can be considered scripture, for which we do not have an original text. A verbatim record in Persian of His talks would of course be more reliable than one in English because He was not always accurately interpreted. However such a book is of value, and certainly has its place in our literature.

He assures you all of the deep appreciation of your valiant labours and his loving prayers on your behalf.

With warmest greetings,

R. RABBANI.

P.S.—As he has just recently cabled you, he approves of Jean Court serving the Faith in England, or preferably Scotland, under your assembly's direction.

P.P.S.—He considers your reply to Soheil Afnan absolutely correct, and the loyalty and devotion of the two friends he wrote to, exemplary.

Dear and valued co-workers,

The gigantic task now being so energetically and successfully carried out by the consecrated and firmly knit British Bahá'í community, constitutes a glorious landmark in recent Bahá'í history, and will, when viewed in proper perspective, deserve to be regarded as one of the most outstanding enterprises launched by the followers of Bahá'u'lláh in the opening years of the second Bahá'í century. Alike in its magnitude and significance, this momentous undertaking is unprecedented in the annals of the Faith in the British Isles, and deserves to rank as one of the most compelling evidences of the creative powers of its Author, marking the rise and establishment of His institutions on the European continent. It is yet too early to assess the potentialities of this present Plan and those destined to follow it, or estimate their future benefits. The blessings they will confer, as the

A CRISIS STATEMENT.

At Convention the N.S.A. stated that they expected a budget of £4,000 would be needed to carry out the work of the Cause during the current year, that work being primarily the prosecution of the Six Year Plan, and the Assembled delegates thereupon recorded their belief that the needed amount would be forthcoming.

Since then we have received two very generous gifts from the Guardian totalling £1,500. These may be said to have reduced to £2,500 the amount we need to raise.

Six months have now passed since Convention and during that time contributions to the National Fund from assemblies, groups and isolated believers have totalled £465. That is all the community has contributed towards the amount of £2,500 which is needed and that means that an amount of £2,035 remains to be obtained before next Ridvan, if the first phase of the Six Year Plan is to be completed on time.

This is an extremely serious situation, which every member of the community must face squarely, and all must make a supreme effort to deal with it. The work of the Six Year Plan cannot stop, too much depends on it, both for the Bahá'í community and for the whole of the British Isles.

To help meet the deficit in the funds, the N.S.A. has taken its last reserves out of the Deposit Account and is moreover borrowing a thousand pounds from the Building Fund. Yet still a great deal more, more than another thousand pounds, is needed. The British community resolved, through its delegates, that all the money budgeted would be found. Now is the time when we must make a supreme effort to produce it.

* * * * *

forces latent within them are progressively revealed, on the people dwelling within those Islands, and subsequently, as their sphere is enlarged and their implications are fully disclosed, on the diversified peoples and races inhabiting the widely scattered dependencies of a far-flung empire, in both the East and the West, are unimaginably glorious.

A staggering responsibility rests on the shoulders of those who have been called upon to assist in the operation of the initial stages of this heroic and colossal enterprise, and to participate in the privilege of directing its course, and nursing its infant strength. Setbacks and reverses are inevitable as this mighty Plan progresses and expands. Critical stages in its unfoldment must be encountered with unswerving resolution and confident hope. Whatever hardships and sacrifices its future prosecution may involve must be borne with courage, pride and thankfulness. To ensure its speedy advancement every issue must be subordinated to its vital requirements, and every individual effort co-ordinated with the agencies designed for its execution.

Its present and pressing needs in the virgin territories of Eire, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland must be met with concentrated attention, continuous systematic effort and the utmost self-sacrifice. The goals to be achieved

in the capitals and chief cities of these newly opened territories must be relentlessly pursued, no matter how hard and stony the path that must be trodden. The prizes already won in the other goal towns in those islands must at all costs be preserved and subsequently further enriched by fresh spiritual conquests in neighbouring counties and farther afield. Indeed the steps preliminary to the formation of a Bahá'í administrative centre in every county throughout the British Isles, must sooner or later be taken as an essential prelude to the effective proclamation of the Faith to the masses. That the English Bahá'ís, aided and reinforced gradually by fresh recruits from among their Irish, Welsh and Scotch countrymen, may hasten the advent of such a glorious day in British Bahá'í history is the dearest wish of my heart, and the object of my constant supplication at the threshold of Bahá'u'lláh.

SHOGLI.

Cable dated October 11th, 1947.

Highly approve arrange Marion Hofman resume Secretaryship Teaching Committee. Urge entire community persevere united strenuous efforts ensure triumphant termination present phase plan. Status newly formed assemblies must be maintained at all costs. Attention should

moreover be focused establishment firm foundations historic assemblies Scotland Wales Eire termination current year. Cabling five hundred pounds assist Assembly vigorous prosecution mighty enterprises conferring imperishable luster divinely sustained victoriously advancing dearly beloved British Bahá'í Community—SHOGHI.

To the National Youth Committee dated September 25th, 1947.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian dated August 21st, as well as the note of your secretary, Miss Howes, dated August 29th, have been received, together with the copy of your Youth Letter, and I have been instructed to answer you on his behalf.

He is very happy to hear of the formation of the new youth groups you mention, as this will not only greatly stimulate the Bahá'í Youth, and enable them to attract many new young people to the Faith, but will also do the general work of the Cause in these cities a great deal of good. He urges your committee to make every effort to establish youth groups wherever there are spiritual Assemblies and circumstances permit.

He would like to receive five copies of your Youth Letter if this is convenient.

Your services are very deeply valued, and he assures you all of his loving prayers for the success and expansion of your activities.

With warmest greetings,

R. RABBANI.

Dear and valued co-workers,

The activities initiated and diligently pursued by the members of your committee deserve the highest praise. The devotion, the perseverance, the loyalty, the assiduous care with which you are striving to promote the interests of the Bahá'í youth throughout the British Isles rejoice my heart, and will no doubt act as a magnet that will attract the blessings of the Almighty. Persevere in your historic labours, and rest assured that the Beloved is well pleased with your splendid accomplishments. I will continue to pray from the depths of my heart for the extension of your valued activities.

Your true and grateful brother,

SHOGHI.

To the Assembly Développement Committee. dated October 9th, 1947.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian dated August 4th, has been received and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He is very pleased to see the work your Committee is undertaking and feels that it is of the greatest importance. The unity, love,

harmony and proper understanding of the Cause which exists in a community are the measure of its progress, and on them depend directly the expansion of the Faith.

He wishes you every success, and assures you of his prayers in support of your labours.

With loving greetings,

R. RABBANI.

P.S.—He has received your bi-monthly news letter and thinks it is well written and excellent in every way.

May the Almighty bless continually your valued activities, aid you to overcome all obstacles in your path, promote effectively the vital interests of our beloved Faith, and contribute, in a notable manner, to the multiplication of its nascent institutions.

Your true and grateful brother,

SHOGHI.

To the Child Education Committee, dated October 9th, 1947.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian, dated September 1st, has been received by him, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He was very pleased to see the enthusiasm and devotion with which you have entered into this important branch of Bahá'í activity, and he hopes your labours will be richly rewarded with success.

He would suggest that wherever classes for Bahá'í children are held, liberal minded parents be invited to send their children too, so that their minds may receive the broad, basic and tolerant doctrines of our glorious Faith.

He assures you of his loving prayers for the success of your activities.

With warmest greetings,

R. RABBANI.

May the Spirit of Bahá'u'lláh guide and sustain you in your highly important and vital undertaking, enable you to extend continually the range of your meritorious activities, and lend a great impetus to the consolidation of the institutions of our glorious Faith.

Your true brother,

SHOGHI.

For Meditation.

Make me ready, in all circumstances, O my Lord, to serve Thee and to set myself towards the adored sanctuary of Thy Revelation and of Thy Beauty. If it be Thy pleasure, make me to grow as a tender herb in the meadows of Thy grace, that the gentle winds of Thy will may stir me up and bend me into conformity with Thy pleasure, in such wise that my movement and my stillness may be wholly directed by Thee.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

TEACHING CONFERENCE IN PERSPECTIVE

DEAR BAHÁ'Í FRIENDS,

For about half a century, the British Bahá'í Community grew and developed almost imperceptibly, and prior to 1939 only *three* communities in England had achieved Assembly status. The two Assemblies of Bradford and Torquay were established in that year. This, together with the intermittent teaching activities which followed, almost doubled the size of the Community.

During the following five war years, our triumph was that the work done in those days of peril, uncertainty, turmoil, established "beyond doubt our right to claim to be the true upholders and custodians of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh."

In 1944, however, this tiny seed, this nucleus of a world commonwealth, reacted anew to the call of the Divine Springtime, and germination commenced.

Spontaneously, with an urgent desire to teach and expand, with an enthusiasm which was thrilling to witness, and with the success of the "greatest collective enterprise of the first Bahá'í century"—the American 7-Year Plan—before them, the Convention of 1944 resolved to dedicate the next 6 years to the prosecution of an ambitious Plan. Turning to their beloved Guardian for the goals to be set, for the guidance to achieve them, and for his prayers on their behalf, the whole Convention was conscious that a turning-point had been reached. Little did they realise that this was just the beginning of a period of intense growth, during which crisis would succeed crisis, each bringing new confirmations and a new capacity. The very act of dedicating itself to this Plan and of turning to the Centre of Divine Guidance for his prayer and counsel, in turn enabled him to shower upon this infant, war-weary community, an increasing measure of his love and care. Letters and cables of encouragement, and exhortations to "only begin and all will be well," eventually resulted in a new stage being reached. This was crystallised at the Teaching Conference in February 1946, when the Community began to be aware, not only of the potentialities of the Plan, but of the urgent need for collective action and co-ordinated work.

A cable dated 7th June 1946 initiated a new phase:—"Present year crucial concentrate five most promising goal towns." The destiny of the Cause in Britain was at stake, that "crucial" year—it was a crisis of the first magnitude. The whole Community was stirred to its depths by the urgency, the insistence of the Guardian's pleas—"All must arise"—and 22 devoted believers entered the pioneer field, and 21 teachers travelled the country.

This crisis past, a triumphant Community planned for, and pledged themselves to, further expansion and the consolidation of goals achieved, sure to the knowledge that "once we do our part, God is never failing in His."

Indicative of the growing awareness of the destiny of this Community, a wider and more glorious view was vouchsafed to us by the Guardian. A picture of the future role we have to play in the world plan was described.

To reach the masses of our countrymen at home, and plant the banner of the Faith abroad, "amidst the peoples and races of a far-flung Empire," is a later stage, but it must not be forgotten that this is absolutely dependent upon the success of this present Plan, the Initial Phase of which has to be completed before April. The Guardian is calling for this in no uncertain tones, "Vigorous prosecution" to establish "firm foundations" in the "virgin territories" and the "status of the newly-formed Assemblies must be maintained at all costs," is his urgent plea to the "entire Community." This means every single member of the Faith in Britain. Young and old, rich and poor, "neophyte and veteran"—no one must fail to rise to serve in this most critical time. Over 25% of the Community has been engaged in National Teaching work during the past two years. More is now needed. Who can lose such a glorious opportunity? Can any single one of us say "We cannot do any more"?

The immediate issue is clear—the four new goals to be won and the five of last year to be consolidated and expanded. Only "the entire Community" can do it. With the increased stature this brings, a new capacity will be found, and we shall be worthy of a Convention of 38 delegates, and when the final phase is won, and the Plan completed, we will need the even greater representation of no less than 57 delegates!

Then this Community will be a progressive, virile organism, pulsating with life and activity which will have been developed as a result of hard work, total dedication, and the maximum sacrifice.

Participation in, and attendance at, the next of our great annual events, the Teaching Conference, will indicate, no doubt, the extent of consciousness we have as members of one national Community.

Let us, then, all meet in Birmingham to dedicate ourselves as one organic whole, to the urgent and pressing tasks ahead, and demonstrate to the world that there is in this land of ours, an active lump of that leaven which must, ere long, permeate the entire human race.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

"VICTORIOUSLY ADVANCING . . ."

Sometimes we are bound to think of the Six Year Plan as an overwhelming task, as a challenge almost beyond our strength, perhaps even as a burden we feel quite incapable of bearing. There have doubtless been moments in our consultations, wherever we live, when we have felt that the "crucial year" had claimed our very best, and that we could never again equal such an effort, nor hope to raise up so many pioneers. If you have ever had such thoughts, do not be ashamed for we have all had them! But what the Committee now shares with you are actual facts of comparison between the crucial year and this. They are an astonishing reply to our darker thoughts, and a tremendous confirmation that not our puny minds, but only the Divine conception of the Guardian can truly estimate the powers within the British Bahá'í Community.

We give you first a picture of how Goal Towns are made. The prescription runs something like this: Take a virgin town where the Cause is com-

pletely or almost unknown. Begin, if fortunate, with the devoted effort of a single believer who has prayed and worked and maybe wept alone for many years. Focus upon this town the full impact of collective teaching, all the resources of the National Community acting under the Six Year Plan. Open the doors of this town to the first pioneer and then to the steadily increasing flow of pioneers from all over Britain. Watch with fascination while Bahá'u'lláh confirms new souls who have waited for this hour and their spiritual opportunity. On April 21st elect the first Local Spiritual Assembly, the first trace and the very nucleus of the Kingdom of God in this town, now claimed forever by our mighty Faith.

A. How Goal Towns Grow.

The first column shows the resident Bahá'ís living in our four Goal Towns at the time they were chosen for the Six Year Plan. The remaining columns tell what happened in the succeeding months.

	<i>Residents</i>	<i>Pioneers</i>	<i>New Believers</i>	<i>Transfers</i>
CARDIFF	...Rose Jones	Joan Giddings Fred Stahler Violet McKinley Hugh McKinley	—	—
DUBLIN	... —	Una Townshend Doris Gould Ursula Newman George Townshend	Dora Coleman Richard Tabuteau	—
EDINBURGH	Dr. Said	Isobel Locke John Marshall Jean Court Eric Manton	—	—
BRISTOL	Dora Weeks	Sheila Worrall Peter Robinson Robert Cheek George Mabbutt	Mary Lambert	Mabel Hall
TOTALS	... 3	16	3	1

B. Progress This Year.

We give you next the exact measure of our progress in this fourth year of the Plan. The first four towns listed are the ones needed to complete the initial phase, which will include the first nine Assemblies out of the total of nineteen to be formed by 1950. When Assemblies are elected in these four towns next April 21st, the British Bahá'í Community will have won the right to double the number of its delegates to Annual Convention, from 19 to 38. The remaining towns listed are subsidiary goals this year, although Belfast now has very urgent priority because of the Guardian's latest letter. Figures refer to the number of Bahá'ís in these towns at the time of last Convention, in July, and on November 1st.

	<i>Convention</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>November</i>
Cardiff	2	3	5
Dublin	2	2	6
Edinburgh ...	3	3	5
Bristol	4	4	7
<i>Sub-Totals</i>	11	12	23
Belfast	—	—	—
Blackpool	1	—	2
Liverpool	3	—	3
Norwich	1	—	2
St. Ives	1	—	2
<i>Sub-Totals</i>	6	—	9
TOTALS ...	17	—	32

C. Comparing This Year and Last.

Now comes the really surprising comparison of our work this year to that achieved in the crucial year. You will see that at Convention time our Goal Towns for this year had only about half the number of believers to begin the tasks (there was one less Goal Town). By November 1st, while our need is still greater than it was at the same date last year—we need 14 Bahá'ís instead of 10—yet our rate of progress compares most favourably. In the subsidiary or future Goal Towns (see Section B) our situation both years has been almost the same, and we have actually surpassed the rate of progress last year. In fact we have achieved our goal of a nucleus in each of these towns, except in Belfast.

But the best is saved for the last. *We have actually sent out more pioneers this year than in the crucial year!** The names of these valiant believers are listed in Section D, and there you will also see the actual number of pioneers who have served the Plan each year from the start.

*As at November 1st.

GOAL TOWNS—	1946-47	1947-48
Number	5	4
Bahá'ís at Convention time	21	11
Bahá'ís at November 1st	36	25
Bahá'ís Needed for Goals	10	14
FUTURE GOAL TOWNS—		
Number	6	5
Bahá'ís at Convention time	8	6
Bahá'ís at November 1st	10	9
Bahá'ís Needed for Goals	2	2
PIONEERS		
From Convention to November 1st	9	10

D. Pioneers in the Plan.

1st year—None
2nd year—2
3rd year—22
4th year—10
(to Nov. 1st)

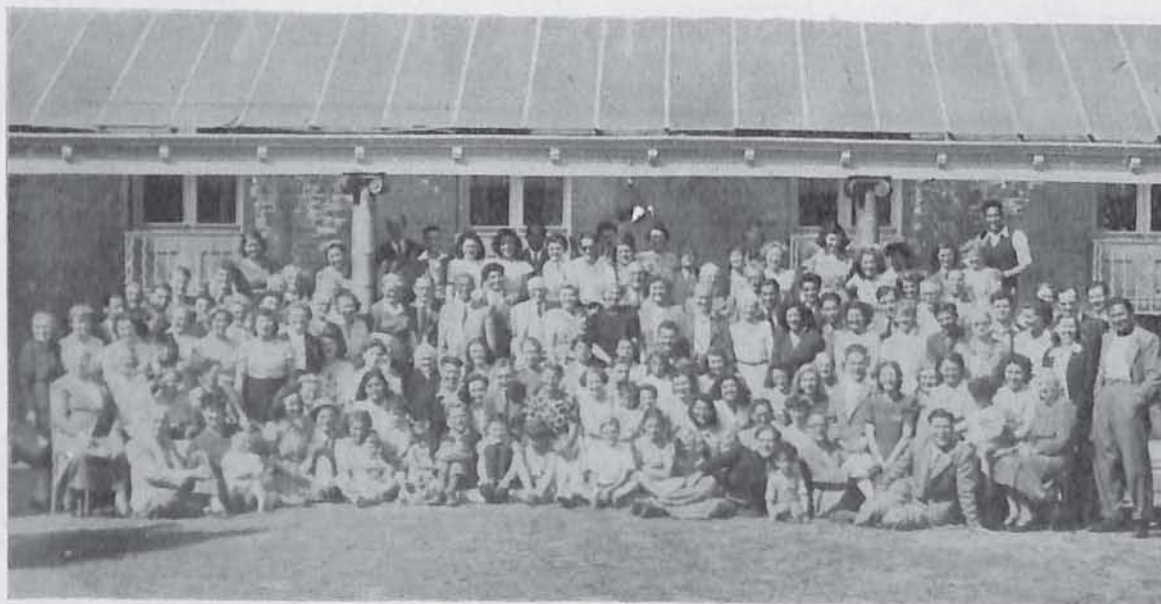
Pioneered in Fourth Year

Fred Stahler
Peter Robinson
Prudence George
Violet McKinley
Hugh McKinley
George Townshend
Robert Cheek
George Mabbutt
Jean Court
Eric Manton

Beloved friends, the Guardian in his most recent messages has used terms to describe the British Bahá'í Community which have amazed and humbled us. Perhaps, even, we have not understood his glorious confidence in our small army. "Manifold achievements virile British Community," he cabled in September. "Divinely sustained, victoriously advancing, dearly beloved" were his words in October. Here, in these schedules, we have perhaps a glimpse of the sound facts and vital accomplishments which sustain his judgment. And we have the proof of our collective capacity to fulfil every goal of the Six Year Plan.

Strengthened by such knowledge and the Divine assurance of our beloved Guardian, shall we not hasten to meet the remaining needs this year and claim the new prizes in the virgin territories and Bristol? And shall we not do this work in a new spirit, with "courage, pride and thankfulness" fulfilling the "dearest wish" of our Guardian's heart?

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.



Some of those who attended the Bahá'í Summer School at Hornsea.

“ THIS MOMENTOUS UNDERTAKING ”

Teaching Conference—Imperial Hotel, Birmingham—January 17th-18th, 1948.

Convening 2.30 p.m., Saturday Afternoon.

SESSIONS

Co-ordinated Teaching

Teaching By Example (National Spiritual Assembly Session)

Pioneering and the Goal Towns

Development of Assemblies

Reservations Secretary: Hassan Sabri,
27, Portland Road, Birmingham 16.

Beloved Friends,

The fourth year of the Plan is an hour of destiny. It is our spiritual opportunity to contribute to the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh three new countries and peoples,—the virgin territories of Eire, Scotland and Wales. It marks as well the completion of the Initial Phase of the Plan and a milestone in the administrative growth of the British Bahá'í Community.

The pivot of this year is Teaching Conference. Here in our joint consultations we can ensure

this great work. “To ensure its speedy advancement every issue must be subordinated to its vital requirements, and every individual effort co-ordinated with the agencies designed for its execution.”

We call on the friends to come to Teaching Conference to consult and plan together “this momentous undertaking.”

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

ADDITIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

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

Talieh Agah (from Iran)	.....Reading
Gladys Backwell	.....London
Deborah Coleman	.....Dublin
Tom Curwen	.....Blackpool
Patricia Davenport	.....Manchester
Noura Faridian (from Iran)	
(youth)	.....Reading
Ann Foote	.....Torquay
Beryl de Gruchy	.....London
Shapur Naimi (youth)	.....Birmingham
Violet Samandari (youth)	.....London
Mavis Sellars	.....Manchester
Ronald Sellars	.....Manchester
Anne Stacey	.....Bournemouth
Richard Tabuteau (youth)	.....Dublin

Change of Date of Convention.

In view of the fact that the Football Cup Final takes place on 25th April, it has been decided to change the date of Convention to the second week-end in Ridvan, in order to avoid the Cup Final crowds. Convention will therefore be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 1st and 2nd.

Princess Elizabeth's Wedding.

The following telegram was sent to Princess Elizabeth on the occasion of her wedding: “Bahá'í Community British Isles offers sincere loyal congratulations and prays God to encompass you with His divine grace and bounty now and for ever.”

“Vie ye with each other in the service of God and of His Cause.”

Between September 1st and November 1st, the following Assemblies have contributed to the National Fund:—

Birmingham
London
Northampton
Nottingham

A Contribution to the Cause.

We are happy to report to the friends that through the generous action of one believer in loaning £450 to be used for the purchase of a house by a pioneer, two pioneers with their families have been enabled to settle in a Goal Town. We feel there is no need to comment on how great a service this is to the Plan, but we would like to call it to the attention of believers who may be in a position to render similar service. They will be fulfilling Bahá'u'lláh's own injunction “Centre your energies in the propagation of the Faith of God. Whoso is worthy of so high a calling, let him arise and promote it. Whoso is unable, it is his duty to appoint him who will, in his stead, proclaim this Revelation . . .”

Note from the National Treasurer.

Will local treasurers and others sending contributions to the National Fund please note that cheques should be made out to “The N.S.A. of the Bahá'ís.” This is a shortened version of the N.S.A.'s full title, which is accepted by our bank.

For whom should I vote?

In the section of "Bahá'í Procedure" which deals with Convention the following instruction about voting occurs: "It is incumbent upon the chosen delegates to consider without the least trace of passion and prejudice, and irrespective of any material consideration, the names of only those who can best combine the necessary qualities of unquestioned loyalty, of selfless devotion, of a well-trained mind, of recognized ability and mature experience."

Following a recommendation from Convention, the National Assembly addressed the following queries to the Guardian: "(1) Do the qualifications for National Assembly members listed by the Guardian refer also to Local Assembly members and Delegates? (2) Are these qualifications to be considered exhaustive, or may other factors such as the difficulties which would need to be overcome to attend assembly meetings or Convention, or inability to attend, be taken into account?"

In his letter of 24th October, the Guardian replied through his secretary:

"In regard to your questions about qualifications of delegates and assembly members: the qualifications which he outlined are really applicable to anyone we elect to a Bahá'í office, whatever its nature. But these are only an indication, they do not mean people who don't fulfil them cannot be elected to office. We must aim as high as we can. He does not feel the friends should attach so much importance to limitations—such as people perhaps not being able to attend assembly or convention meetings, because if they do, then the fundamental concept of everyone being willing to do Bahá'í service on administrative bodies will be weakened, and the friends may be tempted to vote for those who, because of independent means or circumstances in their lives, are freer to come and go but less qualified to serve."

FOR MEDITATION.

The necessity and the particularity of the assured and believing ones is to be firm in the Cause of God and withstand the hidden and evident tests Anybody can be happy in the state of comfort, ease, health, success, pleasure and joy; but if one will be happy and contented in the time of trouble, hardship and prevailing disease, it is a proof of nobility This earthly world is narrow, dark and frightful, rest cannot be imagined and happiness really is non-existent, everyone is captured in the net of sorrow; and is day and night enslaved by the chain of calamity; there is no one who is at all free or at rest from grief and affliction. Still, as the believers of God are turning to the limitless world, they do not become very depressed and sad by disastrous calamities—there is some-

thing to console them; but the others in no way have anything to comfort them at the time of calamity. Whenever a calamity and a hardship occurs, they become sad and disappointed, and hopeless of the bounty and the mercy of the Glorious Lord.

TABLETS OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ.

DISCOVERY OF A TABLET.

Below is an account by Isobel Locke of her discovery of a hitherto unknown Tablet of the Master, written to Andrew Carnegie in 1913. The Guardian comments on the Tablet in his letter of October 24th, 1947, printed in this Journal.

It was early in January of this year that I met a young French-Canadian girl recently arrived in this country from Montreal at the Edinburgh International House. As I too was a stranger to Scotland, we fell into conversation and over a period of weeks became friends. On the occasion of Richard Backwell's visit to Edinburgh in March I invited her to attend our first Public Meeting and was pleased to see her face in the audience on the evening of the lecture. It was that night that she first heard the Master's name, but it was not until weeks later that I realised she had remembered it so well.

One Sunday afternoon in late Spring as we sat having tea together, my friend casually asked if 'Abdu'l-Bahá had had any connection with Andrew Carnegie, for she said she had seen a letter written by the Master preserved in the Carnegie Museum in Dumfermline, Fife, the birthplace of the famed philanthropist.

I, of course, was greatly excited at the thought of finding a Tablet of the Master and the following Sunday, together with Mr. John Marshall, my fellow pioneer, visited Dumfermline, a quaint Medieval town situated across the Firth of Forth from Edinburgh. Though the museum was closed, I was able to persuade the friendly young caretaker to let me pursue my quest to its goal. And, just as my friend had said, there safely sealed behind glass rested a three page letter in the hand of the Master with translation in full by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab. The Tablet is directed to Andrew Carnegie and, as you will read, deals almost entirely, in theme, with the distribution of wealth to the poor by the rich on a voluntary basis.

I immediately reported this find to the National Spiritual Assembly, and was requested to obtain further details if possible. So on Saturday, 19th July, in company of Hassan Sabri, visiting Egyptian Bahá'í, I again visited the museum and was this time able to copy the entire translation while Mr. Sabri took down the Persian text of the Tablet. We were also able to obtain the

Tablet to Andrew Carnegie.

He is God!

O, Thou revered Personage!

Your article entitled the "Gospel of Wealth" was read—of a truth it contains sound opinions and ideas, which if followed would lead to happier conditions in the World of Humanity. The doctrine of "Human Solidarity" is well developed in the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. Human Solidarity is greater than Equality.

Equality is obtained more or less through force (or legislation) but "Human Solidarity" is realised through the exercise of free will. The Virtue of man is made manifest through voluntary Philanthropy, based upon the idea of "Human Solidarity" is as follows:—

Rich men may give to the poor, that is to say they may assist the poor, but by their own desire. It is not well that the poor should coerce the rich to contribute to them! For such coercion would be followed by disintegration, and the organisation of the affairs of society would be disturbed. But the idea of "Human Solidarity" based upon mutual Help and Understanding would lead to the peace and comfort of the World of Humanity, would be the cause of the illumination of the World of Humanity, and the means of the prosperity and glory of the world. As an evidence of the fact—during my journey throughout the cities of America, my visits to various universities and associations, and my presence in educational circles, I witnessed the Philanthropic traces of your honour abroad. Therefore I will pray for you that incessantly you may be encircled with heavenly blessings and graces, and your philanthropic deeds may cover the East and the West, so that you may become like unto a brilliant lamp in the Kingdom of God, attain unto everlasting life and Glory, and shine as a luminous star from the horizon of Eternity.

I beg of you to accept the consideration of my highest respect.

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ ABBAS.

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab.

Dated January 10th, 1913.

address of the Trustees of the Museum to whom the National Spiritual Assembly has written for permission to obtain photostatic copies of the Tablet.

I have recently, in going through some of the early records of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to Scotland, found a newspaper clipping from the Christian

Commonwealth, dated 19th January, 1916, reporting receipt of this or a similar Tablet by Mr. Carnegie from 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

This is as closely as I can remember it the story of the discovery of the Tablet, copies of which are now on file with the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles in London.

Facsimile of the Persian Text of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Tablet to Andrew Carnegie.

شخص محترما تالیف شما بشارت غنی را مطالعه نمودم و فی تحقیق
در این بحث آسایش عالم انسانی را ملاحظه شد مختصر نیست تعلیم
بجای مساوات و این اعظم از مساوات مساوات
ایست محبوری و لکن مساوات امری اختیاری کمال انسانی
بمعن اختیار نیست نه بمعن اجباری و مساوات اختیار است و
اینست که اغیا بفرآ مساوات نمایند یعنی اتفاق بفرآ کنند و
و اختیار خویش نه اینکه بفرآ اغیار اجاز نمایند زیرا از اجاز
حاصل گردد و نظام امور مشتمل شود و مساوات که آن اتفاق
اختیار است سبب رخت عالم انسانیست بفرآیت عالم انسانی
و سبب رخت عالم انسانیست چنانکه آثار خیر اینجانب در سبب
شهرای امریک مشاهده شد در بعضی دار الفنون و در بعضی
و در ترویج معارف لهذا در حق شما دعا نمایم که بمواظبت
بالتوا در کتب اسلامی باشید و اعمال خیریه در شرق و غرب گردید

مادامکوت الهی ندمش در شن کردن و در جات بیدار باد
احضارات فاعلم قبول نمایند

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHERS

The following letter is modified from the one sent to every member of the British Bahá'í Community on the occasion of the Feast of Mashíyyat. It was suggested that the readings for that Feast be selected from the "Suggestions for Special Meditation."

Let those who meet you know, without your proclaiming the fact, that you are indeed a Baha'i.
(P.T. 11).

DEAR FRIENDS,

As long ago as October of last year our beloved Guardian warned us of the crisis that now impends so loweringly upon the Nation, when he indicated the urgency for pioneers to arise "before it is too late," and "call people to the Faith" . . . "before they become too engulfed in post-war problems, and too bitterly disillusioned by the trend of world affairs to even seek a solution." Again, in his most recent communication to the American believers, he writes of "the tragedy of Europe . . . now moving to a climax."

This crisis, both national and continental, must have the most disintegrating effects upon those who are not firm founded upon the rock of the Covenant of God. An increase of those negative qualities of disillusion, irresponsibility, selfishness, lack of restraint, inconsiderateness, excessive individualism, lawlessness and immorality is inevitable.

The National Assembly feels impelled to call upon all members of the British Bahá'í Community to take thought and resolve, through the use of prayerful meditation on the great teachings about right conduct, to display in their actions and to radiate increasingly in the deepening gloom the counter-balancing positive characteristics. Only thus can the tendency, distinct and noticeable even among the Bahá'ís, to reflect this crisis in their behaviour towards one another and to non-Bahá'ís, through lowered standards of relationship, be countered and transmuted.

Now is the time when, with the maturation of mankind to adulthood, the followers of Bahá'u'lláh must display those qualities which are the signs and attributes of man full grown to the image of God, and in their conduct towards their fellow creatures manifest that sense of moderation, of restraint, of considerateness, courtesy, tact, loving kindness, and radiant fellowship which will exemplify their recognition that these fellow creatures are also themselves made in the image of God—"Behold Me standing before your face." "Deny not My servant should he ask anything from thee, for his face is My face; be thou abashed before Me," and "all are His servants, and all are standing by His command."

The worth and dignity of man, of each man, can only be displayed when he has attained "that share of the flood of grace which God poureth forth for him"; when he realises that the potentiality of each for advancement is limitless, that none can transcend his own station yet each is integral in God's plan. Each then will display his own degree of genius in his own station through acceptance of which with "radiant acquiescence" he will ensure fulfilment of the prophecy contained in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5, 5).

Can Jesus have meant any other than radiant Bahá'ís by this saying which has puzzled so many?

Your true Brothers and Sisters
in the Fellowship of Bahá'u'lláh,
NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIAL MEDITATION.

PRAYERS.

Nos. 9, 30, 66, 79 "Some Bahá'í Prayers."

Page 1 of Bahá'í Youth Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 2.

READINGS.

(a) *Bahá'u'lláh.*

Hidden Words (Arabic). Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 68.

Hidden Words (Persian). Nos. 3, 5, 43, 44, 56, 57, 58, 66, 69.

Selections from Bahá'í Scriptures, pp. 111, 124-126 (2-5 Taraz).

Advent of Divine Justice. pp. 19-21.

(b) *Báb.* Selections from Bahá'í Scripture. pp. 327-9.

(c) *'Abdu'l-Bahá.*

Paris Talks. pp. 11-13, 66-67, 71-73, 103-104, 158-159, 167-169.

Selections from Bahá'í Scriptures. pp. 331-332, 241, 201, 202.

Advent of Divine Justice. pp. 21-22.

Passages for Special Meditation.

"The cornerstone of the Religion of God is the acquisition of divine perfections and the sharing of His manifold bestowals. The essential purpose of faith and belief is to ennoble the inner being of man with the outpourings of grace from on high. If this is not attained, it is, indeed, deprivation. It is the realization of this deprivation that is the true eternal fire. (S.B.S. p. 331).

"Let your actions cry aloud to the world that you are indeed Bahá'ís, for it is actions that speak to the world and are the cause of the progress of humanity." (P.T. 72-73).

RESTRAINT.

"Truly I say, moderation is desirable in every affair and when it is exceeded it leads to detriment." (S.B.S. 120).

"Whatsoever passeth beyond the limits of moderation will cease to exert a beneficial influence." (G.W.B. 216).

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR.

"A humble workman who commits an injustice is as much to blame as a renowned tyrant." (P.T. 141).

DIGNITY.

"Good character is, verily, the best mantle for men on the part of God; by this God adorns the temples of His friends. By my life, the light of a good character surpasses the light of the sun and its effulgence." (S.B.S. 124).

CONSIDERATENESS.

"Blessed is he who prefers his brothers before himself." (S.B.S. 121).

"Kindness will help them (strangers) to become better." (P.T. 11).

RECTITUDE OF CONDUCT.

Be generous in prosperity . . . (the whole passage). (G.W.B. 285, and D.W. 54).

"To none is given the right to act in any manner that would run counter to the considered views of them who are in authority." (P.D.C. 82, Indian edition).

LOVING KINDNESS.

"Show forbearance and benevolence and love to one another. Should any one among you be incapable of grasping a certain truth, or be striving to comprehend it, show forth, when conversing with him, a spirit of extreme kindness and goodwill." (S.B.S. 83).

"Wherever you find the attributes of God, love that person whether he be of your family or of another." (P.T. 33).

"Do not be content with showing friendship in words alone; let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path. (P.T. 11).

SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP.

"Be ye as the fingers of one hand, the members of one body. (P.D.C. 118).

"Burn away, wholly for the sake of the Well Beloved, the veil of self with the flame of the undying Fire, and with faces joyous and beaming with light, associate with your neighbour." (G.W.B. 316).

"Especially to those whose thoughts are material and retrograde, show the utmost love and patience, thereby winning them into the unity of fellowship by the radiance of your kindness." (P.T. 23).

"Wherever one finds construction, it is the result of fellowship and love." (B.P.P. 24).

"The followers of sincerity and faithfulness must consort with all the people of the world with joy and fragrance, for association is always conducive to union and harmony, and union and harmony are the cause of the order of the world and the life of nations." (S.B.S. 124).

FOR MEDITATION.

The highest faculties which the learned have possessed, and whatsoever truths they, in their search after the gems of Thy knowledge, have

discovered; the brightest realities with which the wise have been endowed, and whatever secrets they, in their attempts to fathom the mysteries of Thy wisdom, have unravelled, have all been created through the generative power of the Spirit that was breathed into the Pen which Thy hands have fashioned. How, then, can the thing which Thy Pen hath created be capable of comprehending those treasures of Thy Faith with which, as decreed by Thee, that Pen hath been invested? How can it ever know of the Fingers that grasp Thy Pen, and of Thy merciful favours with which it hath been endowed? How can it, already unable to reach this station, be made aware of the existence of Thy Hand that controlleth the Fingers of Thy might? How can it attain unto the comprehension of the nature of Thy will that animateth the movement of Thy Hand?

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

INDIA.

The following passages are taken from a Communication issued by the Indian National Spiritual Assembly on September 17th.

" The recent disturbances in Delhi have brought bereavement for the Bahá'ís as well as for others for they have taken a toll from our small community, too. Mr. Mahmud-ul-Hasan, an old and sincere believer, fell at the hand of the assassin on the 4th September, 1947

No other Bahá'í, so far as is known, suffered any bodily injury, but the majority of the local community have lost their worldly possessions and are destitute. In many cases, the clothes on their backs were the only material things left to them. The greater part of them were removed from the dangerous area in which they resided to a place of comparative safety. There, despite extreme discomfort, they are pulling on until conditions improve and they are once again able to move about with freedom.

These friends are considering settling as pioneers in other parts of the country and the task of their evacuation and their establishment in new quarters is engaging the attention of the N.S.A. For this purpose funds are necessary and this is an appeal to all our more fortunate brothers and sisters who have been untouched by such adverse circumstances to come to the relief of our distressed brethren. Amounts should be labelled "Relief," and remitted to our Treasurer, in care of the above address

It is suggested that the British Bahá'í Community may care to contribute towards the relief of their Indian brothers and sisters and a special fund is being started for this purpose. The National Assembly would be glad if the Treasurers of Local Assemblies would collect the donations to this fund and transmit them to the National Treasurer. Please give your donations to your local Treasurer for transmission.

BAHÁ'Í WORLD

ABYSSINIA. Sabri Elias has recently reported two new believers in Addis Ababa. He has also had 1,000 copies of a Bahá'í booklet printed in one of the more widespread dialects of the country.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. The great news has been received that a Six Year Plan has been drawn up in outline to establish a number, not yet fixed, of Spiritual Assemblies, to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's prophetic mission. The places selected for development are to include, among others, Brisbane, Melbourne, Hobart, Perth and Port Adelaide.

As at Ridvan the list of voting members stood at 181, of whom 12 had been enrolled during the previous year. The number of their delegates for convention was increased this year from 9 to 19.

EGYPT AND SUDAN. The President of El-Azhar University in Cairo, in reply to questions from a Moslem religious leader, issued a statement containing the following points:—

- (1) To criticise and oppose the Bahá'ís as Bahá'ís would only increase their power and fame. The attack should take the form of a repetition of their corrupt ideas without mentioning their names.
- (2) Bahá'í books do not contain any attacks on Islam.
- (3) The Bahá'í Faith is not dangerous like communism for the latter is a political system.
- (4) We cannot prevent the Bahá'ís from promulgating their Faith, for we have to trust them as we trust the Christians. If a Christian stands up to talk about Christianity, it is not possible to forbid him from doing so.

This statement has been publicly disapproved by a newspaper which appears for an organisation known as "Mohammadan Youth."

Three packages of Bahá'í books, containing latest editions of Bahá'í World for a number of individual believers, were refused delivery by the customs authorities, who advised their return as a result of a decision taken by the assembly of the religious doctors of the Moslem El-Azhar University.

The N.S.A. has put out a publication containing the contents of a pamphlet, full of misleading and false interpretation, issued by the Chief Ulama, together with their reply; this publication is receiving good appreciative circulation.

Activities are at present concentrated upon matters affecting personal status in regard to allotment of burial grounds, recognition of Local Assemblies as religious bodies, for the solemnisation of Bahá'í marriages, and freedom of Bahá'í individuals from jurisdiction by Moslem Ecclesiastical Courts.

INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BURMA. The N.S.A. addressed communications on 15th August to the heads of the Governments of India and Pakistan, conveying to them greetings and congratulations, and assuring them of the loyalty of all Bahá'ís resident in their territory.

At one of the centres earlier in the year the friends were subjected to persecution, including minor physical assaults, on account of their faith. One or two were constrained to leave the town and another is restricted in his business activities. Representations have been made to local authorities for protection.

In Delhi the old headquarters was looted during the communal turmoil and the stock of books was burnt. One of the believers, mistaken for a member of one of the rival parties, recently lost his life.

PERSIA. The most exciting news has been received about the progress of their 45 Month Plan inaugurated in November, 1946. During the first 9 months, one-fifth of the time, no less than one-quarter of the work has been achieved. Of 95 new places promised, 24 have now reached assembly status. In several areas local goals have already been completely accomplished, indeed Teheran has already surpassed theirs, and they are athirst for more work.

SWITZERLAND. A week-end Summer School was held on 27th to 28th September, in Eastern Switzerland.

Both the Bahá'í International Bureau and the European Teaching Committee have a new address together at:—37, Quai Wilson, Geneva.

U.S.A. The Chicago Bahá'í News of September and October contained some notable points. Radio publicity in early August has been given to Bahá'í teaching work in South America and in Europe. The Cause is privately reported to be flourishing in Guatemala. The National Radio Committee have arranged a series of broadcasts three times a week for 15 minute periods. A new Chicago pioneer, Margot Van der Broeck, left on 20th September for Luxemburg, and another, Jean Gates, is to leave shortly for China. A personal letter from Dorothy Gwenne Sholtis, their pioneer in Bolivia, spoke of a tour during which 12 radio lectures were given in two weeks over two stations, Bahá'í books placed in the "nicest book-store," and 600 pieces of literature given away.