

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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SIX YEAR PLAN

Beloved Friends.

By the time this Journal reaches you you will have had our circular letter of September, setting out the position in the four Goal Towns. Regular work is being pursued in all of them as intensively as possible, although the lack of pioneers in Edinburgh is a serious handicap.

While these four goals are the most important and urgent aspect of the Plan this year, we must not, of course, neglect the other towns which are being developed now for greater attention later on. At the beginning of the Bahá'í year the National Assembly gave us the task, in addition to establishing these four assemblies, of maintaining the six assemblies developed last year and of establishing nuclei, *i.e.*, two believers, in each of the following towns: Belfast, Blackpool, Exeter, Liverpool, and St. Ives. The following progress has been made:

BELFAST: Nil. Here is a virgin field for any believer who will claim the honour of pioneering Northern Ireland. Such a believer will be the spear-head of the Cause in that district, and will win everlasting honour. In the original terms of the Six Year Plan outlined for us by the Guardian, Northern Ireland was clearly outlined as one of the areas in which a Spiritual Assembly must be established.

BLACKPOOL. Alice Curwen is the resident believer here, and her daughter, Prudence, is the Youth Group. We have asked Blackburn Spiritual Assembly to undertake extension work here with a view to establishing the nucleus by Convention, a task which they have joyfully accepted. In addition we have arranged with the National Youth Committee to hold a Meeting during October in co-operation with Prudence.

EXETER. There is no resident believer here. The Torquay Assembly has conducted some teaching work and has good contacts, especially with the International Club.

LIVERPOOL. Truly remarkable work has been done here by Margaret Shanks. We have given her full support in organising regular public meetings, and in the holding of a Study Class. This is a new venture which we are hoping will prove very successful. Margaret reports that there are at least five non-Bahá'ís attending, and that this is only a start. A picnic was held during the weekend of August 3rd, and friends from Manchester and Blackburn joined with the local believers and their friends. One interested friend, Mrs. Fyles, attended Summer School. There is every reason to feel happy and confident about the work here, and we extend our warmest congratulations and love to Margaret, who has declared her intention of having a Spiritual Assembly there by next April, whether it is a Goal Town or not.

NORWICH. Prudence George and Patsy, our two pioneers, are settling down here after having been at Summer School. Mrs. George reports

FROM THE GUARDIAN.

September 12th.

Delighted Townshend settlement, magnificent success Summer School. Beloved Master Abhá Kingdom well pleased constructive, historic, manifold achievements virile British Community. Praying increasing fervour Divine guidance surmount obstacles, resolve problems, win still greater victories. Heartfelt gratitude, abiding love.

This was in reply to a cable from the National Assembly, dated 9th September:

Arrangements Townshend settlement Dublin completed. Summer School attendance exceeded 200. New pioneers Hugh, Mrs. McKinley to Cardiff, Robert Cheek, George Mabbutt to Bristol. Assembly feels British Community passing through critical period faced with grave spiritual problems. Earnestly begs your prayers, entreats guidance. Deepest love.

that there are good contacts and as soon as she has been able to find suitable accommodation and work regular teaching will be initiated. Prudence and Ethel Bird form the nucleus, while Patsy is the Youth Group.

ST. IVES. The news here is that the St. Ives Community went to Summer School as a single believer, and returned as a nucleus. Mrs. Marion Hocken declared her intention at Summer School of becoming a Bahá'í, so that she and Bernard Leach will form the Local Group and carry on the good teaching work which has been done there.

It can be seen, dear friends, that the goals for this year are a long way off. In the four cities for Spiritual Assembly status seventeen believers are still required. In the six towns to be developed to nuclei five new believers are required; Liverpool, Norwich and St. Ives have already achieved two believers each. There is need for a pioneer in Belfast.

TRAVELLING TEACHERS. Teaching work by visiting speakers has inevitably been curtailed during the last month because of Summer School, but there are some items to report.

The Leeds Assembly has organised a series of regular public meetings on Wednesday nights, which was inaugurated on September 3rd, when Richard Backwell was the speaker. He reports an attendance of 23, equally divided between Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís, and that there were some very interesting questions. Any friends who are visiting Leeds should be notified of these meetings, which are held in the Municipal Building.

Manouchehr Zabih undertook a very successful and welcome tour prior to Summer School, visiting Nottingham, Bournemouth, Torquay and Liverpool. He has now gone to Dublin for a month, where it is hoped he will be able to follow up the many contacts made by Doris Gould and other members of the community.

We are very happy to report that our dear friend Miss Pinchon is again able to undertake teaching work away from her home Assembly, and she is addressing the regular Fireside in Bristol on September 18th.

Mrs. Slade has undertaken to go to Edinburgh for about a month later in the Autumn. Extended teaching trips such as this can be of immense value to the work of the Six Year Plan, as they ensure a continuity of contact in the Goal Town concerned.

Walter Baines, Mary Coulson and Peter Wilkinson have all visited Blackburn as teachers, and friends from Manchester have helped with the regular meetings in Liverpool.

Dear Friends, while these secondary goals are of great importance, nothing should be allowed to distract in any way from the four major goals of the year. Following a well-known precedent, it may well be possible that the members of the Teaching Committee will have engraved on their hearts "Bristol, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh." The need is great, particularly in Edinburgh.

With loving greetings to you all,

Faithfully,

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

FOUR THOUSAND POUNDS

Dear Friends,

At this stage of the progress of the Six Year Plan, the National Spiritual Assembly feels impelled to present to you a statement on the financial situation.

This statement has been prepared to show an assessment of need, in the knowledge that the proportion of a believer's contribution to the Bahá'í Fund is a true measure of his faith, and that the members of an active Bahá'í community have only to become conscious of the size of that need and the degree of their own individual responsibility, for the necessary funds to be forthcoming at a commensurate rate.

At Convention, the delegates of the community accepted on your behalf the moral responsibility for the finding this year of £4,000, the target figure given us by last year's National Assembly. The Guardian has sent us £1,000, so that the target for the British Bahá'í Community is £3,000.

This figure, £250 per month, represents approximately £14 per head, or 15/- each at every Nineteen Day Feast.

For some, this figure will seem immense—for others, very little, to contribute for the privilege and right of participation in the "thrilling task, the awe-inspiring obligation" of promoting the Word of God and the establishment of those basic institutions upon which the future Most Great Peace must be founded.

Comparison with some other expenditure may serve to put this need in full perspective. For those who smoke, this sum is the equivalent of about 5 cigarettes per day or just over two standard packets of 20 per week; for those who regularly visit the cinema, it is the weekly equivalent of three 1/9d. seats; it is about half the average house rent for this country; it is about equal to the present cost of a new bed; it is the equivalent of no more than at most two restaurant meals per week; it is a little larger

than the weekly National Insurance contribution payable by an employed man earning more than 30/- per week.

As has so often been pointed out, "the supply of funds in support of the National Treasury constitutes the life-blood of the nascent institutions" we are striving to erect. It is less well realised that "to dissociate the administrative principles of the Cause from the purely spiritual and humanitarian teachings would be tantamount to a mutilation of the body of the Cause, a separation that can only result in the disintegration of its component parts, and the extinction of the Faith itself." "The bedrock on which all other institutions must necessarily rest and be established" is the National Fund.

In one community it has been voted to give to the National Fund half of every sum contributed by each member. This is an example most highly to be commended, since it demonstrates a consciousness of integral organic unity and interdependence with the whole body, which is the healthy attitude proper to any limb.

It is indeed "of the utmost vital importance that individuals as well as Local Assemblies throughout the land should endeavour to contribute freely towards the upkeep and the increase of the National Bahá'í Fund." The key word here is "vital." The very life of the community, with all its vigour, health and strength depends upon regular, ample and adequate contributions from each and all to the limit of individual capacity; only thereby can true membership be fully felt and consciously sustained in the Cause of God.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

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

Between July 12th and September 1st the following Assemblies have contributed to the National Fund:

Birmingham
Bournemouth
London
Nottingham
Torquay

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Below are printed up-to-date figures of Expenditure and Income for the National Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Contributions— March 21st			
September 15th	634	17	7
Expenditure during same period ...	1856	6	3

This means we have spent £1,221 8s. 6d. more than we have received. This increasingly heavy call on our funds is a natural sign both of a larger community and of ever wider activity. A bigger

community has of course to provide an income commensurate with its expanding responsibilities. At the moment, to meet the deficit, we have used the whole of the £1,000 gift received from the Guardian in April and have transferred to the Current Account the reserve money held in the Deposit Account and in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Convention, Year 105

Convention in the coming year will be held in London on April 24th and 25th. An announcement regarding the booking of accommodation will be circulated to the friends later.

Teaching Conference

Teaching Conference this year will be held in Birmingham on January 17th and 18th. An announcement regarding the booking of accommodation will be circulated to the friends later.

ASSEMBLY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

Summer School "Laboratory of New World Order" course provided a wonderful opportunity, in its demonstration of a National Convention session, for constructive discussion of the function of the Assembly Development Committee. We are deeply grateful for the privilege extended to our Committee and the useful and fruitful consultation with the Community which followed the reading of our report of activity up to date.

At the time of writing the second issue of the Newsletter of the A.D.C. is pending and it might be well to reiterate that the primary purpose of the articles on general administrative matters and the function of various Bahá'í Institutions, is to aid in the establishment of correct procedure in the communities through the medium of their elected representatives. This is, obviously, of paramount importance where Assemblies are composed of comparatively new, often youthful, and in many instances, inexperienced Bahá'ís. The primary aim of the Assembly Development Committee is to present and to preserve the fundamental principles of the Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh, and thereby aid in the effective development of the various communities.

Replies to the Assembly Development Committee Questionnaire, one form of quarterly report which has been adopted by the Committee, has brought to light specific and diverse problems related to:

- (a) Inactivity on the part of members of the Community.
- (b) Effective use of manpower in the Community as shown by the number of committees appointed.
- (c) Attendance at celebrations of Feasts and Anniversaries.

- (d) Proportion of the Community contributing to the Local Fund.
- (e) Size of lending library and the value of sales stock of literature.
- (f) Use of public libraries.
- (g) Holding of public meetings.
- (h) Initiative in following up contacts.
- (i) Association with other organisations.

It is interesting to note the large number of organisations and associations with which the various Bahá'í Communities have contact, of both local and national character.

It may be necessary to arrange consultation meetings with particular Local Spiritual Assemblies to endeavour to solve specific problems and to promote sound and healthy administrative practice. The Committee suggests, however, that such meetings be arranged only in response to:

1. Direction by the National Spiritual Assembly.
2. Invitation by the Local Assembly in question.

The Committee plans to advise all Local Communities that its members are available to pay visits for consultation on request by the L.S.A.'s provided adequate reason is submitted and a properly organised consultation meeting is called with a *mutually agreed* agenda.

In the preliminary laying of a foundation upon which the work of the three-fold task entrusted to it by the National Assembly might be established, the Committee is greatly encouraged by the ready response from Local Assemblies, and a warm welcome expressed in writing.

In conclusion we would like to say that the Assembly Development Committee is to work in close conjunction with the National Teaching Committee. An illustration of this is a plan which has been made to hold a joint meeting of the two Committees early in October.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE.

The last report of the National Youth Committee was mainly of plans for the future; we are very happy to be able to tell you that these plans have now been carried out—or at least carried a stage further—and we have others on foot.

Firstly, with regard to Local Youth Committees: Birmingham, London and Northampton have all, since Convention, carried out the N.Y.C.'s recommendations and formed L.Y.C.'s, bringing the total to 4—(Manchester formed its L.Y.C. last year). The Committee looks forward to co-operating closely with these Friends, in carrying out a co-ordinated programme of Youth activities in the Country.

Space last time only permitted a brief outline of the programme of Youth Day at Summer School; we are now able to give further details.

"Youth in the Modern Age," a symposium of Youth Speakers, was preceded by a prayer chanted by Vajdieh Motadih. After a brief introduction by the Chairman of the N.Y.C., the theme was divided into three sections:

MODERN AGE (speakers Betty Reed, Brian Townshend and Florence Bladon—on disunity in the social, religious and political fields).

THE PLAN (introduced by Una Townshend reading 'Abdu'l-Bahá's talk—"Do you know in what Day you are living?" and followed by Gerald Lee-Hill on the principles, and Isobel Locke on the application of the principles).

BAHÁ'Í YOUTH (Hugh McKinley—qualities of Bahá'í Youth, Janet Howes—summary of Youth activities, Philip Hainsworth—summary of the whole theme).

The speakers began and ended their talks with quotations from the Bahá'í writings; and the programme ended with Hassan Sabri reading 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Prayer for All Nations.

The second session commenced with the reading of the latest letter from the Guardian to the N.Y.C., and continued with the report of the N.Y.C., L.Y.C.'s and Youth Correspondents—many were able to present them in person, and others had sent them to be read. Then followed an hour's session "Functioning of the Youth Committee"—an actual session of the N.Y.C., the unusual feature being the audience.

Races, games on the beach, and swimming occupied many of the young people for the whole of the afternoon; the evening programme consisted of a Dramatic Script "Son of Earth" by Mary Basil Hall, and a brief piano recital by Gerald Lee-Hill. At 9.30 approximately, 50 of the Friends showed tremendous ingenuity in the fashioning of fancy dresses, and the day ended with a dance.

The Regional Youth Conference for the Northern region, including Blackpool, Blackburn, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield and Edinburgh, will be held in Manchester on November 29/30th, the programme to include Devotional Meetings, a Social and two sessions of discussion. We look forward to a record attendance of Youth there.

The 5th issue of the Bahá'í Youth Bulletin is now on sale. A total of over 2,000 copies of the first four issues was sold: commencing with this issue, we want a substantial increase in this number! The Guardian himself has referred to it as "an important new undertaking . . . He hopes it will gradually become the means of interesting and attracting many new souls to the Faith." May we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you use it as an introduction to the Faith amongst young people?

BAHÁ'Í SUMMER SCHOOL, GRANVILLE COURT

Impressions by Isobel Locke

We have gone from the sea, the sand, and the cliffs, from the quiet village lanes in the twilight, from the mere, and the gently rolling Yorkshire countryside. The sounds of activity have ceased. The happy echoes have faded away. Summer School, 1947, is ended.

Though past is this happiest of Bahá'í times, the weeks and miles have only served to blend the many fragments into a perfect whole and make more vivid still the wonderful success with which our united efforts have been blessed.

Early, we had cabled our beloved Guardian: "JOYFULLY ANNOUNCE SUMMER SCHOOL HORNSEA 16 TO 30 AUGUST RECORD ATTENDANCE OPENING WITH 138 INCLUDING YOUTH AND CHILDREN 53 SUBSTANTIAL CONTINGENTS VIRGIN TERRITORIES SCOTLAND EIRE REPRESENTATIVES ALL GOAL TOWNS EXPECTED NATIONALITIES AMERICAN EGYPTIAN ENGLISH INDIAN IRISH PERSIAN SCOTTISH ENTREAT PRAYERS RENEWAL STRENGTH GUIDANCE FRUITION EFFORTS BRITISH COMMUNITY."

And swiftly had come his reply:

"OVERJOYED MAGNIFICENT PROGRESS SUMMER SCHOOL ASSURE ATTENDANTS LOVING PRAYERS GRATEFUL ADMIRATION CONGRATULATE ENTIRE BRITISH COMMUNITY ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS BAHÁ'ÍS WORLD PROUD UNFORGETTABLE VICTORIES BRITISH ISLES. SHOGHI."

So undeserving, so humble do we feel at such words of praise—so dependent on their constant encouragement, their revitalizing strength and power.

Our day at Summer School began as our most perfect days begin—with meditation and prayer. The Devotional Programmes opened with music by one of the Bahá'í pianists present, followed by prayers and excerpts from the Holy Scriptures in English and by the beautifully rhythmic inflections of Persian and Arabic chanting. The selections were skilfully chosen as spiritual preparation for the sessions to follow—the "Address to the Letters of the Living" having been read just prior to the lecture on the Báb.

"The Covenant of God" was the theme and essence of the entire Summer School programme; and to the study of the unfolding of that Covenant throughout religious history, the first morning sessions were devoted. An hour was allotted for the lecture and 30 minutes for questions from the audience. Hasan Balyuzi in opening this course defined the three types of Covenant implicit in the nature of existence, established adherence to the Covenant as the true source of the progress and elevation of men and society,

and demonstrated that violation of the Covenant has been the cause of the evident decline and corruption of civilisations from age to age.

The succeeding eight lectures provided historical evidence that only mature mankind is capable of keeping God's Covenant. The speakers painted historical background of the religion under discussion in some detail of the appearance of the Prophet, the establishment and violation of His Covenant, and the consequent development of the civilisation.

There can be little doubt that this session reached a new high level both in the theme of the lectures and the consistent quality and depth of presentation of the speakers.

The second course, Laboratory of World Order, was an experiment designed to combine instruction in the nature and purpose of the Administrative Order with actual participation in properly functioning Community organisation. The sessions ranged from creative discussions on the origin and nature of the Administration, to panels on the Formative Age, the preparation of new believers, the Feast, Bahá'í Groups, and funds, to demonstrations of the method of Bahá'í election, and procedure at National Conventions and on the Local Spiritual Assembly. The practical application of the material discussed to the problems which arise in real consultation, together with the wide participation of both experienced administrators and new students contributed greatly to the value of this course.

Following the spiritual and mental stimulation of the classes, recreation filled the afternoon hours. Bahá'ís and their friends, young and old alike, were to be seen swimming, sun-bathing, strolling the beach and cliffs, playing tennis, boating on the mere, horseback riding, or just resting. The ice-cream shops were crowded; sweet rations were consumed wholesale; and the little man with the fruit stand did a phenomenal business. As on any occasion, the Bahá'ís were enjoying to the fullest their precious days together and, in the brilliant sunshine which seemed unfailing, were demonstrating the fullness and happiness of real community life.

The evenings brought entertainment. Some were serious and beautiful like Hasan Balyuzi's symbolic drama, "The Eternal Covenant," the piano concert arranged by Hugh McKinley and Brian Townshend, the recording of the Master's voice, the films of the Shrines on Mt. Carmel, the opening Public Meeting with its welcome from the citizens of Hornsea, the programme on pioneering, and the lecture on Buddhistic Art by Bernard Leach. Some were gay and

humorous—skits by various of the local communities, fancy dress contests, and dancing.

The Abhá Hosts we know were with us on that final evening as we gathered for the Unity Feast. The Devotional Programme, including excerpts from the writings of the Guardian, was deeply spiritual and inspiring; the discussion period was harmonious and warmly fruitful of the appreciation of the Friends to the Summer School Committees and the Friendship Holiday Association for so happy and successful a session. It was a perfect conclusion for a perfect time.

And now home once more in our own Communities—in Assemblies and Goal Towns; in Groups or as isolated believers; on national and local committees; as administrators and pioneers; by our words, our activities, and our lives, refreshed, with new vigour and greater spiritual awareness, we push forward once more towards the vital Goals of our Six Year Plan.

The Shahi Martyr

In a letter dated July 14th, Dr. Lotfullah Hakim has sent particulars of the recent martyrdom of Abbas Shahidzadeh. The sad story of his martyrdom is as follows:

“At Shahi, where many of the government factories are, a friend by the name Abbas Shahidzadeh, the son of a well known martyr (Sheikh Ali Akbar Guchani who was martyred several years ago in Mashad) was the head of some of these factories. He was very much trusted and loved by the authorities of the factories. He, being a Bahá'í, was disliked by the people. Some of his so-called friends had secretly plotted against him. Some, ten days ago, asked, in fact urged, him to go out with them to Babulsar for swimming. He went, and there they knocked him down and, evidently when

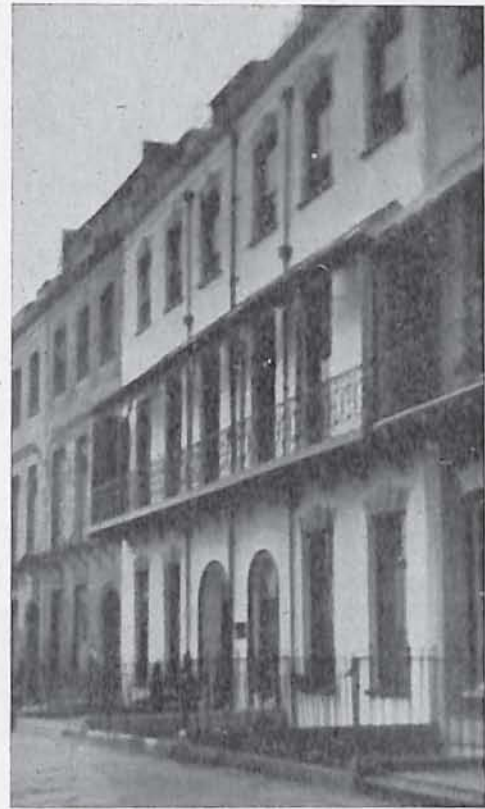
TABLET OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

A Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh to the Persian Zoroastrian Bahá'ís. Revealed in the purest old Persian language, without an Arabic word in it.

“IN THE NAME OF GOD THE PEERLESS.”

“Glory is due unto God, the Discoverer, Who, through one shower of the ocean of His Generosity, expanded the firmament of existence, begemmed it with the stars of knowledge, and summoned the people to the most high court of perception and understanding!”

“This shower, which is the Primal Word of the Almighty, is sometimes called the Water of Life, for it quickens the dead souls in the desert of ignorance with the spring of intelligence. Sometimes it is called the First Emanation which appears from the Sun of Wisdom, and when it



THE CLIFTON GUEST HOUSE IN WHICH 'ABDU'L-BAHA STAYED WHEN VISITING BRISTOL.

becoming unconscious, he was thrown into the sea and was drowned. Soon after the friends heard of it, he was taken and wrapped in cotton and put in a box and that in a casket of ice and was brought to Teheran. Here he was thoroughly examined and found many blows on his sides and near the heart. It showed that evidently he was martyred.”

began to shine, the first movement became manifest and known, then phenomena stepped into the arena of existence and these appearances were through the generosity of the Incomparable, the Wise One.

“He is the Knower, the Giver! He is sanctified and holy above every statement and attribute! The seen and the unseen fail to attain the measure of His understanding. The world of being and whatever has issued from it bears witness to this utterance.

“Therefore it has become known that the first bestowal of the Almighty is the Word. The receiver and the acceptor of it is the understanding. It is the First Instructor in the University of Existence and it is the Primal Emanation of God. Whatever has happened is through the reflection of its Light and whatever

is manifested is the appearance of its Wisdom. All the names originate in His Name, and the beginnings and endings of all affairs are in His Hand.

"Your letter came to this Captive of the world in this prison. It brought happiness and increased friendship; it renewed the remembrance of former times. Thanks belong to the Possessor of the universe, Who permitted us to meet in the land of Persia. We met, we conversed, and we listened. It is hoped that no forgetfulness shall follow that meeting, that the revolving of the wheel of time shall not take away its remembrance from the heart, and that the plants of love shall grow out of that which is sown and become green, verdant and imperishable."

"You have asked regarding the heavenly Books. The pulse of the universe is in the hand of the skillful Physician. He diagnoses the illness and wisely prescribes the remedy. Every day has its own secret and every tongue a melody. The illness of to-day has one cure, and that of to-morrow another. Look ye upon this day: consider and discuss its needs. One sees that existence is afflicted with innumerable diseases compelling it to lie on the bed of suffering. Men who are intoxicated with the wine of self-contemplation prevent the wise Physician from reaching it. Thus have they made the world and themselves to suffer. They know not the ailment nor recognise the cure. They take the wrong for the right, the crooked for the straight, the enemy for the friend."

"Hearken ye to the melody of this Prisoner! Stand up and proclaim. Perchance those who are asleep may awaken! Say, O ye dead ones! The generous Hand of the Almighty is passing round the Water of Eternal Life. Hasten ye, and drink! Whosoever shall become alive in this day, shall never die, and whosoever dies in this day can never find Life."

"Ye have written regarding the language: Both Persian and Arabic are good, for that which one desires to gain from language is to attain to the meaning of the speaker and this can be accomplished in both. As in this day the Sun of Wisdom has appeared and shone from the horizon of Persia, the more you respect that language the better it is."

"O Friend! When the Primal Word appeared in these latter days a number of the heavenly souls heard the Melody of the Beloved and hastened toward it, while others, finding that the deeds of some did not correspond with their words, were prevented from the Splendours of the Sun of Knowledge."

"Say, O ye sons of earth! The Pure God proclaims that which in this glorious day shall purify ye from the stains of desire and enable ye to attain to tranquillity in My straight path, and My manifest road. To be severed from

attachment means to be separated from those things which occasion loss and lessen the grandeur of man. If the people of the world should attain to the Heavenly Utterances they would never be prevented from the ocean of Divine Generosity."

"The Heaven of Righteousness has no star, and never shall have one, brighter than this. The first Utterance of the Wise One is this: O ye sons of earth! Turn from the night of foreignness and turn to the Sun of Unity. This is that which shall benefit the people more than aught else."

"O Friend! The tree of the Word has no better Blossom and the ocean of Wisdom shall never have a brighter Pearl than this: O ye sons of Intelligence! The thin eyelid prevents the eye from seeing the world and what is contained therein. Then think of the result when the curtain of greed covers the heart."

"Say, O People! The darkness of greed and envy obscures the light of the soul as the cloud prevents the penetration of the sun's rays."

"Should one listen with the ear of intelligence to this Utterance he shall spread the wings of freedom and soar with great joy towards the Heaven of Understanding."

"When the world was environed with darkness, the Sea of Generosity was set in motion and Divine Illumination appeared so that the deeds were disclosed. This is the same Illumination which is promised in the heavenly books. Should the Almighty desire the hearts of the people in the world, He will purify and sanctify them with the power of the Word, and will pour forth the Light of the Sun of Unity upon the souls to regenerate the world."

"O People! The word must be demonstrated by the deed, for the righteous witness of the word is action. The former without the latter shall not allay the thirst of the needy nor open the doors of sight to the blind."

"The Heavenly Wise One proclaimeth: A harsh word is like a sword, but gentle speech is like unto milk. The children of the world attain to knowledge and better themselves through this. The tongue of Wisdom says: Whosoever possesses Me not has nothing. Pass by whatever exists in this world and find Me. I am the Sun of Perception and the Ocean of Science. I revive the withered ones and quicken the dead. I am that Light which illumines the path of Insight. I am the Falcon of the Hand of the Almighty; I bear healing in my wings and teach the knowledge of soaring to the Heaven of Truth."

"The Peerless Beloved says: The way of freedom is opened! Hasten ye! The fountain of knowledge is gushing! Drink ye! Say, O Friends! The Tabernacle of Oneness is raised; look not upon each other with the eye of strangeness. Ye are all the fruits of One Tree and the leaves of one Branch. Truly, I say, whatever

lessens ignorance and increases knowledge, that has been, is, and shall be, accepted by the Creator."

"Say, O People! Walk ye under the shade of the Tree of Righteousness; enter ye under the protection of the Tent of Unity. Say, O Thou Possessor of Sight! The past is the mirror of the future; look and perceive. Perchance, after the acquirement of knowledge, ye may know the friend and attain to his good pleasure. To-day the best fruit of the tree of Science and knowledge is that which benefits mankind and improves his condition."

"Say the tongue is the witness of My Truth; do not pollute it with untruthfulness. The spirit is the treasury of My mystery; do not deliver it into the hand of greed. It is hoped that in this Dawn the universe shall become illumined with the rays of the Sun of Understanding and Knowledge, so that we may attain to the good pleasure of the Beloved and drink from the Ocean of Divine Recognition.

THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. The tenth session of the Yerinbool Summer School held during the first fortnight of the year attracted a total of 54 persons of whom approximately one-third was non-Bahá'í. Three declarations resulted. The sixth New Zealand Summer School was held at the Centre in Auckland in February.

AUSTRIA. There were 60 present to hear a talk on the Bahá'í Faith which was first in the programme of an evening given by a Vienna artist.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. A Czech delegate to the World Esperanto Congress, who for over a year had been studying the Teachings at firesides of Vuk Echnér, declared herself a believer after meeting other Bahá'ís and seeing they were all "as kind and warmhearted as he, from whichever country they come."

FRANCE. Reinhold Leidinger, still a prisoner of war in France, has been responsible for the following tribute from his former camp chaplain. "You have in me a warm friend of the Bahá'í religion."

HOLLAND. Jan de Borst has been enrolled at Rotterdam as the first Dutch believer under the Plan. He was in prison and concentration camp for two years during the war.

INDIA AND BURMA. As reward for prompt and harmonious and united response to appeal for purchase of Hazira, the following extract from a cable from the Guardian may be quoted:—"Convey friends decision celebrate this occasion through initiation of negotiations by me with authorities Holy Land aimed secure authorisation transfer portion Bahá'í international endowments precincts shrine Mount Carmel to Palestine Branch Indian National Assembly already incorporated religious association Palestine stop Praying successful outcome entitling Indian National Assembly unique distinction throughout Bahá'í world of sharing with sister assembly

"O Friend! As there were few ears to hear, so for some time the Pen hath been silent in its own chamber and to such a degree that silence has preceded utterance. Say, O People! Words are revealed according to capacity, so that the beginners may make progress. The milk must be given according to the measure, so that the childhood of the world may enter into the realm of grandeur and be established in the Court of Unity."

"O Friend! We have seen the pure ground and cast the seed of knowledge. Now it depends upon the rays of the Sun whether it is burned up or is caused to grow. Say to-day through the greatness of the Peerless Wise One, The Sun of Knowledge has appeared from behind the veil of the Spirit and all the birds of the meadow of oneness are intoxicated with the wine of Understanding and are commemorating the Name of the Beloved. Happy is the one who finds this and becomes immortal."

America honour ownership property permanently dedicated Báb's holy Shrine."

A directory of Bahá'í addresses recently received lists 32 assemblies and 18 groups.

ITALY. A fifth declaration raises the number of believers to nine, of whom six are in Rome. The new believer, the first in Florence, spent nine years in North Africa where he met Moslems and studied the Qur'an.

POLAND. A friend of the Bahá'í Cause who had offered to hide Lidia Zamenhof has written quoting her last words to him before she was sent to the extermination camp: "Do not think of putting yourself in danger. I know that I must die, but I feel it my duty to stay with my people. God grant that out of our sufferings a better world may emerge. I believe in God, I am a Bahá'í and will die a Bahá'í; everything is in His hands."

With Dr. Wanda Zamenhof Geneva Bureau has nine correspondents in Poland, all studying the Faith, and all but one corresponding in Esperanto.

SPAIN. With nine declared believers in Madrid (including two pioneers), Spain has been first of the European countries to achieve the first stage of development under the Plan.

SWEDEN. Ake Norgren, who first learnt about the Cause from a newspaper article at the time of Mason Remey's visit, is the first Swedish enrolment.

SWITZERLAND. Bahá'ís representing 9 different countries, America, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, England, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Russia and Spain attended the World Esperanto Congress at Berne at the end of July. A special Bahá'í session was attended by 35 people. The Bahá'í Exhibition was favourably placed in the foyer where the hundreds who came could not but see it. Special features were 49 translations of Dr. Esslemont's book and a huge nine pointed star announcing "Bahá'ís in 89 countries."