

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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"EVERY SACRIFICE SHOULD BE MADE"

**Letter from the Guardian, dated
12th August, 1944.**

He was most deeply gratified over the way the Centenary was conducted in London and feels that it has adequately demonstrated the vitality of the faith which animates the British Bahá'í community. They may well look upon this as their major achievement since the visits to their shores of the beloved Master. He was also very pleased to hear of the celebrations successfully held by the Manchester and Torquay Bahá'ís in their respective communities.

"The Centenary of a World Faith" he found most excellently gotten out and not only well written but calculated to arouse the interest of the reader and impress him with the true stature of our World Faith. He has distributed copies among the friends and placed some in the library of the Mansion at Bahjí. He was also pleased with the programme of the London meetings—so you can see that the patient efforts and sacrifices of the members of the N.S.A., and all those who contributed to the marked success of the Centenary celebrations in England, have met not only with his approval and admiration but brought happiness to his often heavily over-burdened heart.

Regarding your question concerning Minute No. 1050: This is entirely a matter of conscience; if the individual feels for some reason justified in voting for himself, he is free to do so. Regarding your question of the proper time to celebrate or hold our meetings of commemoration: the time should be fixed by counting after sunset; the Master passed away one hour after midnight, which falls a certain number of hours after sunset; so His passing should be commemorated according to the sun and regardless of daylight-saving time. The same

applies to the ascension of Bahá'u'lláh who passed away about eight hours after sunset.

The Guardian has already cabled you regarding your Six-Year Teaching Plan, and he hopes that events in the future will be more favourable to carrying it out than they are at present. He often thinks of and prays for the English friends during these days of ordeal they are again passing through, and he feels confident Bahá'u'lláh will strengthen their work and bless their efforts for His Holy Cause.

Assuring you of his loving prayers on your behalf,

Yours in His Service,

R. RABBANI.

Dear and valued co-workers,

The Six-Year Plan which the national elected representatives of the English believers have spontaneously launched is a further evidence of their unquenchable faith and noble and unyielding determination to prosecute energetically the teaching work in the British Isles and to exploit to the full the notable advantages derived from the successful celebrations of the Bahá'í Centenary in London. Attention should be focused in the course of the opening year of the second Bahá'í century on the needs and requirements of this Plan. The multiplication of Bahá'í centres and the dissemination of Bahá'í literature should be regarded as the chief objectives of the prosecutors of the Plan. **Every sacrifice should be made, every effort should be exerted, every avenue should be explored to ensure the success of the Plan. The English believers stand identified with this Plan. The immediate destinies of the entire community depend upon it.** I will pray for its success

will watch its progress, and pledge every assistance within my power for its promotion. May the Beloved bless all those who have embarked upon it and crown their enterprise with brilliant and total victory.

Your true and grateful brother,
SHOGHI.

ANNUAL TEACHING CONFERENCE.

The Annual Teaching Conference will be held in Manchester, as usual, on 20th and 21st January, 1945. The programme will be as follows:—

Saturday, 20th January:—

2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.—General Teaching, with a report on work done.

5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.—Personal experiences in teaching, especially by pioneers.

Sunday, 21st January:—

10.30 p.m. to 1 a.m.—Six-Year Plan.

2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.—General Discussion.

Those attending the Conference who would like accommodation found for them in Manchester are asked to communicate with the Secretary, Bahá'í Centre, 39, High Street, Manchester, 4, before 1st January. The Manchester friends will be able to put up some of the friends in their homes, for others they can find other accommodation.

Relief Fund.

In case not all the friends know of it, it may be stated once more that the National Fund has a section which is devoted to the relief of distress, both amongst Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís. It was started with a gift of £100 from the Guardian and other friends have sometimes contributed. Quite a lot of help has been given to various people, which, of course, uses up the money in the fund. Friends are asked to bear in mind the needs of this fund—communities have been asked to make periodic collections for it in the same way as they did for the Save the Children Fund, and pioneers could also help it in the same way.

Centenary Photographs.

Photographs were taken of the Centenary Exhibition and also at the Convention, consisting of five different views of the Exhibition and one of Sir Ronald Storrs opening it. The Convention group does not show all the people who attended as the photographer could not attend when all were available; it shows, however, a representative crowd. Copies of the photographs can be obtained at 1s. 3d. each copy. Please apply for them to the secretary of the N.S.A.

Centenary Celebrations in Bradford.

Bradford's plan was to hold an exhibition in an empty shop and fortunately they were able to find a suitable place in one of the busiest shopping streets in the town. Such a plan involved a great deal of preliminary work. The shop was quite empty, but with furniture lent by the friends and plenty of coupon-free black-out material as a background, they made a wonderful show. Their efforts were richly rewarded, for the exhibition attracted a great many visitors, not only from Bradford but from other parts of England and from Scotland. Also many who did not come in looked at the window display. The visitors' book contains 220 names and a number did not sign. Most of them were genuinely interested, they asked many questions and a lot of literature was sold. Two Yorkshire papers sent reporters and printed articles about the exhibition. The celebrations lasted a week and finished up on the Sunday with a public meeting. Attendance at this was not so great as was hoped, as at least 50 per cent. of the visitors promised to come. However, those who came were evidently seriously interested and seem likely to continue attending meetings. The Bradford friends were helped by Miss Baxter and Miss Eastgate, who spent the week there, and Miss Baxter also spoke at the public meeting. The exhibition has done very much to make the Faith known in Bradford and results are already showing in the increased attendance at meetings in the Centre.

A small Centenary exhibition, consisting of books and photographs, was held in Nottingham on 7th October. As the only way of announcing the exhibition was in our regular advertisements in the local evening paper, since we could not put any posters, etc., outside the building where it was held, attendance was not large but it was definitely interested and a large proportion of the visitors stayed on for the meeting which was held later, and books and small literature were sold. The exhibition was intended as an introduction to the regular fortnightly meetings which will be held in future in Nottingham. The response to our Press advertising in this town has been greater than anywhere else and we hope that many will take advantage of regular meetings to study the Teachings further.

At the celebrations arranged in Baghdad by the believers in Iraq also many non-believers, including notables and officials, were present. The Iraqi National Assembly are publishing an account of their Centenary celebrations, which no doubt we shall receive later on. The Iraqi friends are also planning intensive teaching work, including the dissemination of literature in Kurdish and the establishment of a book-store in Baghdad.

The World Community of Bahá'u'lláh.

It is reported in a Persian newspaper that four Bahá'ís have been murdered in one of the smaller towns and that ten people have been brought to Tihiran to be tried for the murder; also that in another town houses belonging to some Bahá'ís were burnt.

The Persian N.S.A. has now undertaken to build tombs for the two famous Bahá'í martyrs, the King of Martyrs and the Beloved of Martyrs, who are buried in Isfahan. The Guardian has contributed towards the cost of the work and the Persian friends are also contributing whole-heartedly.

The Cause has been making great strides during the last year in India. They, too, had a Six-year Plan and by the end the number of local assemblies had grown from five to over thirty. Their roll of honour of pioneers contains no less than seventy-one names! They report the names of two isolated believers who have built up assemblies, but apart from this their success has been achieved entirely by the movement of pioneers from the bigger communities, with at Quetta in the North-West the help of some friends from Persia.

Centenary Celebrations in Australia, New Zealand, Egypt and Iraq.

The Centenary celebrations in Australia, as in other parts of the world, coincided with the Annual Convention, but the believers there celebrated also another event, the opening in Sydney of their national Hazíratu'l-Quds, their national centre. The friends were severely hampered by travel restrictions, which are very strict in Australia, nevertheless some obtained permits and together with the local believers made a good gathering. They were fortunate in finding a suitable property and by very hard work were able to get it ready for a ceremonial opening by Mrs. Clara Dunn, one of the original pioneers in Australia, on 20th May.

The Centenary celebrations in Cairo were a great success. Nearly five hundred believers of Egypt and the Sudan were present, and a small select group of non-believers. Meetings took place in the Hazíratu'l-Quds with the approval of the local authorities "who have recently become more favourably disposed towards the believers having become convinced from personal experience—as a result of attending meetings and reading Bahá'í literature—that the followers of the Bahá'u'lláh . . . are faithful and obedient subjects of their governments wherever they live." The first meeting so impressed the non-believers, that the majority asked permission to stay and attend the night meeting of commemoration. As a result of all the celebrations many more people are coming to enquire about the Faith.

NEWS.

Carol Jarrett, who was in Bristol with the American Red Cross and who accepted the Faith in this country, has returned to America.

Delegates at the Convention recommended that we continue to employ the publicity officer who helped us during the Centenary and who was instrumental in having the Faith mentioned quite a lot in the Press. This has now been arranged and he will start work in January.

The London community initiated a new kind of meeting on 14th October by inviting four societies, not connected with the Faith, to join in organising a conference on "First Steps towards a World Society." The speakers were: Prof. Flugel, Professor of Psychology at London University; Mr. Kingsley Martin, editor of "The New Statesman and Nation"; and the Rev. A. D. Belden, author of "Pax Christi." Baron Palmstierna, chairman of the World Congress of Faiths, was in the chair. Miss M. Wellby, of the London Bahá'í community summed up. The Faith was not mentioned at the meeting except when the Bahá'ís were thanked for originating the idea, but Bahá'í literature was displayed and Bahá'ís had an opportunity to tell those present about the Faith over tea, which was served in the hall by members of the organising groups. About 180 people were present.

Philip Hainsworth, who is in the R.A.M.C., has for the last two months or so been stationed in Norwich. He has been working hard for the Cause there and has introduced it to a large number of people. A public meeting was held there at the end of September at which Mrs. Brown spoke, together with Philip, and he himself has spoken at meetings of several organisations in the town. There is already one believer there, and Henry Tellerman of the U.S. Army, who is stationed in Norfolk, is able to go over frequently to help.

Sales of Bahá'í diaries for 1945 have gone extremely well and the Publishing Trust expects to be completely sold out before this Journal appears.

Peter Wilkinson, of Bradford, who is an Army glider-pilot, was with the troops who went to Arnhem. He is one of the fortunate ones who returned safely.

Ralph Naylor, of Bradford, serving in the Army, was wounded in France and has been in hospital in Oxford. He is making good progress and is now convalescent.

Donald Millar has been invalided out of the Army after illness and is now back in London.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

Mr. Hofman, who has been publishing under the name of George Ronald, has offered his whole stock of "Portals to Freedom," by Howard Colby Ives, and "A Commentary on the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá," by himself, to the Publishing Trust. This offer has been accepted and the Trust will therefore in future be the suppliers of this edition of "Portals to Freedom," as well as of the Commentary on the Will of which they already had a stock.

The following American books will be available when this issue of the Journal appears, or shortly after. Supplies are limited, as the quota we are allowed to import is small. Orders will be filled as they are received until the supply is exhausted, so write at once direct to the Publishing Trust if you want any of them. Money sent should include cost of postage.

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh	10/-
Prayers and Meditations by Bahá'u'lláh	10/-
Kitáb-i-Iqán	12/6
The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf ...	7/6
Some Answered Questions	7/6
God Passes By (The Guardian's Centenary book)	12/6
'Abdu'l-Bahá in London	2/-
The Brilliant Proof, by Abu'l-Fadl ...	9d.

New Believers.

We welcome with pleasure as members of the community Miss Ethel Bird of Norwich, Miss Stella Farnsworth of Blackburn, Miss Hilda Strong of Sacriston, Co. Durham, Miss Angela Stevens (Youth) of Northampton and Mrs. F. V. Saunders of London.

The next meetings of the N.S.A. will be 25th/26th November, in Manchester, and 6th/7th January in London.

A pair of grey suede gloves was left at the London Centre after the Centenary celebrations. They can be claimed from the secretary of the N.S.A.

IN MEMORIAM.

*With the joyful tidings of light I hail thee:
rejoice! To the court of holiness I summon
thee; abide therein that thou mayest live in
peace for evermore.*

Massiah Hakim	1st June
Susan Slade	13th July

The Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh. (5)

The supreme legislative organ of the Faith is the Universal House of Justice. According to the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, this body is to be elected by an electorate composed of the secondary Houses of Justice, i.e., the present-day National Spiritual Assemblies. The Guardian is the life-president of the Universal House of Justice. Whatever this House decrees has the same binding validity as the laws and principles expressly revealed by Bahá'u'lláh. The Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá makes it abundantly clear that the Guardian, in his domain of interpretation, and the Universal House of Justice, in its domain of legislation, are under the unerring guidance and protection of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. Through these twin institutions of Guardianship and the Universal House of Justice, the Cause of God is always kept abreast of the progressive tendencies of the age. The Guardian interprets the revealed text, prevents the incursion of a spirit alien to the purpose of the Founders of the Faith, wards off the dangers of sectarianism, and maintains the purity of the Teachings. The Universal House of Justice through fresh legislation meets the exigencies and requirements of successive periods of growth and expansion, in a smooth, orderly manner. There is no room left for unwarranted additions and subtractions, for incrustation of beliefs and practices which are out of harmony with the fundamentals of the Faith. Heresy is both extremes of orthodoxy and radicalism in matters of religious conviction. The twin institutions of the administrative order guarantee the avoidance of all extremes.

It is the first time in the history of religion that the Covenant made by the Manifestation with the people has remained firm and inviolate. In the dispensations of the past that Covenant has always been successfully breached. The result has been the multiplicity of sects, dogmatism and obscurantism. It is now with the appearance of the Lord of Hosts that the Covenant of God has come to rest on unshakeable foundations. The intrigues and the ambitions of the faithless and the self-seeking have ever ended in failure. Time and again the mighty edifice has been assailed, but it has withstood every onslaught. The power of the Covenant has triumphed on every occasion. The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh cannot suffer corruption. The Covenant and the structure of the administrative order stand guard over its integrity.