

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## "A DAY OF VERY GREAT THINGS."

**"Cabling 200 pounds care Cooks thanksgiving protection community believers British Isles and furtherance all important teaching activities Praying continually epoch making victories."**

This cable was received from our beloved Guardian on the 14th of November, just before the meeting of the National Spiritual Assembly, which sent the following reply on behalf of the community:

"Assembly in session thrilled your gracious message, joins thanksgiving. Only extent our service can demonstrate depth our gratitude. Devoted love.

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are called to a very high, an immensely high level of devoted service. It is no longer time just to talk of teaching plans, no longer time just to draw up agendas, circulars and appeals, no longer time just to elaborate methods and programmes. Important as all these may be, that which is now required of us dwarfs them beyond all measure. No, we are not asked to ride on a wave of emotional enthusiasm. Such enthusiasm is here today and gone tomorrow. It is very ephemeral. It has never done anything, and will never do anything. On the contrary, we are summoned to our everlasting, ever-abundant heritage, which is none other than acquiring that quality of radiant faith which sheds its lustre everywhere, that quality of all-conquering, all-pervading devotion which brings everything in homage, in adoration, in gratitude to the Threshold of God, and asks for nothing in return.

Those whose lives bear the mark of this quality, find themselves immeasurably enriched, immeasurably blessed. Should we rise to this summit of attainment, we would in the field of Bahá'í service achieve what the Guardian terms "Epoch-making victories." But should we fail, God would assuredly raise others to fulfil His purpose, because the fulfilment of His purpose is inevitable, and should we fail, "great will be our deprivation and grievous our loss," because in the "Day of God" we were found hesitant, weak and unmindful.

Ours is now to meditate humbly on what the Master wrote in His last Will and Testament. He who was "the embodiment of every Bahá'í ideal, the incarnation of every Bahá'í virtue," He who lived for seventy odd years in unbroken service to God and to man, He who wove in His own suffering life the pattern enjoined by His glorious Father, said:

"The disciples of Christ forgot themselves and all earthly things, forsook all their cares and belongings, purged themselves of self and passion and with absolute detachment scattered far and wide and engaged in calling the peoples of the world to the Divine Guidance, till at last they made the world another world, illumined the surface of the earth, and even to their last hour proved self-sacrificing in the pathway of that Beloved One of God. Finally in various lands they suffered glorious martyrdom. Let them that are men of action follow in their footsteps!"

Dear Friends,—At this awe-inspiring moment, when a re-dedication of our lives is our need,



let us resolve to work on with our combined talents, gifts and energies to the beacon light of our destiny, and prove worthy of God's trust in this hour of world redemption.

In Bahá'í Service,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

#### **Extracts from a letter from the Guardian to Miss Baxter.**

"At present people are too engulfed in hopes, events, desires, and various partizanships, to realize that there is no way out for humanity except to accept the Divine Plan for this Day, and put its healing principles and laws into practice. But gradually their eyes will be opened and it is for this time that the friends must labour to bring the knowledge of the Cause before as wide a public as possible.

"The news of the Teaching Conference held in Manchester was most welcome to him. It shows that the power of God is ever there, ready to flow into and confirm the efforts of the believers.

**"They must learn to ever increasingly lean on the strength of the Faith; it is capable of working miracles for them, and the more they draw upon it, the more they will find their efforts fruitful and blessed."**

#### **ANNUAL TEACHING CONFERENCE**

As previously announced, the Conference will be held in Manchester on Saturday and Sunday, January 16th/17th, 1943. Mr. A. Norton will be chairman of the Conference. The following programme has been arranged:

##### **Saturday, January 16th.**

Afternoon, 2.30 p.m.: First session of Conference. Opening speaker, Mr. H. M. Balyuzi.

Evening: Public Meeting, arranged by the Manchester Spiritual Assembly.

##### **Sunday, January 17th.**

Morning, 10 a.m.: Conference session, opened by report of National Teaching Committee.

Afternoon: Conference Session.

It is hoped that every believer who possibly can will be present at the Conference. Those requiring accommodation, should write to the Secretary, Bahá'í Centre, 39 High Street, Manchester 4, not later than January 7th.

##### **N.S.A. Meeting.**

The next meeting of the National Spiritual Assembly will be in London on January 30th and 31st.

We are pleased to report that Mr. Robert Yool of Manchester, who is serving with the Army in Libya, has been awarded the D.C.M. for rescuing a comrade from a burning tank.

##### **New Believer.**

We are very glad to welcome Mrs. Alma Gregory of Cheltenham, daughter of Madame Charlot, as a member of the community.

##### **Publicity Committee.**

The N.S.A. has decided to undertake the publicity work itself. Mrs. Langdon-Davies will act as Publicity Secretary.

#### **ELIZA P. KENWORTHY, 1858-1942**

(A Tribute by Arthur Norton.)

Eliza Pickard Kenworthy passed peacefully to the Abhá Kingdom on August 30th at the home of her only surviving brother in Headingley, Leeds. On September 2nd a small company of her friends assembled at Adel to pay a last tribute to a brave soul. Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. Hurst, and myself represented the Bahá'í Community.

I am indebted to her brother (Joseph F. Pickard) for details of her early life. He writes: "Hers was a rather remarkable career. Brought up in a staunch Quaker's family, she developed not only the love for profound literature and poetic art, but worthier still, an intense loyalty to what she believed to be her best calling in life. She cared for the welfare of others much more than for her own lesser needs. Keenly alive to her father's work in the cause of Quakerism, but quite as much with her own feeling of concern, she laboured for the Quaker cause in Scotland, and the Yorkshire Dales." A school friend (Mary L. Whiting) writes: "Her sincerity, her deep spirituality, her devotion to her ideals throughout her life always impressed me, and I have been thankful for her life and friendship." On the 10th October, 1911, we find her in Paris. Writing to her brother, she says: "Both this morning, and yesterday morning I have had the privilege of an interview with 'Abdul-Bahá who is spending a little time in the French capital. He receives visitors with the words, 'You are very welcome'." In December of the same year she made the journey alone to Haifa. She writes: "I have visited the wife and daughters of 'Abdul-Bahá, found them very dear people, simple hearted and true, very tender and responsive to spiritual perception." And so I might continue relating interesting experiences of her full and wonderful life, but I must say a word about her interest in the Bahá'í Faith and especially her love and efforts for the Bahá'ís

of Bradford. The Bradford community will miss her sweet and helpful presence. Although almost blind, she was a constant visitor to our Centre, thanks to Mrs. Wilkinson who was always ready to entertain her, and to Peter who (when petrol was available) saw that she did not walk an inch more than was necessary. Our friend had the faculty of wide vision and wide human sympathy, and her talks to us were always encouraging and inspiring. Bradford is, indeed, the poorer for her departure. To close with a personal experience, if I may be allowed. It was my joy to accompany her to the Convention at Great Hucklow, and the happiness she experienced in meeting all the friends was many times expressed later. Leaving the railway station at Sheffield to cross the busy road to the bus station, I, with both hands full of luggage, coats, etc., said, "Now you hold tight to my coat tail, I cannot take your arm." Alright came the reply, "You are my guide, where your coat goes, I go." The early believers had this same faith in Bahá'u'lláh. May it be our experience today.

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### **The World Community of Bahá'u'lláh.**

The following is an extract from the latest Bahá'í Newsletter from Haifa:

It is with deep sorrow that we have to report to you the sad news of the passing away, in Egypt, of 'Abdu'l Jalil Bey Sa'd, one of the leading and fearless exponents of the Bahá'í Faith in that country. The following cable sent by the Guardian to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, brings out very clearly the high station and noble rank of the deceased.

"'Abdu'l Jalil Bey Sa'd, Abu'l Fadl's most renowned disciple, foremost champion Faith Egypt, outstanding Bahá'í administrator, brilliant author, indefatigable teacher, ascended Abhá Kingdom. Loss irreparable, hearts grief-stricken. Advise hold befitting memorial gathering Temple to associate American believers universal mourning distinguished hand Cause Bahá'u'lláh."

'Abdu'l Jalil Bey Sa'd was one of the outstanding students and "the most renowned disciple" of Mirza Abu'l Fadl. He was for many years chairman and a zealous and active member of the N.S.A. of the Bahá'ís of Egypt. He was a staunch defender of the Holy Cause, the promoter of its Teachings and the spokesman of the Bahá'í Community in the official and historical negotiations which were undertaken with the authorities in that land. He also undertook the translation into Arabic of Bahá'í literature, including the translation of "The

Dawnbreakers," and compiled a most valuable booklet concerning the personal status of the believers based on Bahá'í laws and principles.

... Lately, he made great efforts—which were crowned with success—for the purchase of a plot of land for and the building of the Hazirat-ul-Quds, in Cairo. The acquisition of a cemetery for the believers and the transfer of the remains of Mirza Abu'l Fadl from a Moslem burial ground were largely due to his assiduous exertions.

"This noble soul served the Cause by day and night with an indefatigable energy, a sincere devotion and an extraordinary perseverance. There is no doubt that his will be an imperishable glory in the Abhá Kingdom."

The Bahá'ís in Switzerland report having held a short but very successful summer school near Zurich this year, at which almost every believer was present, consisting of five different nationalities. A little earlier they were glad to receive a visit from a French Bahá'í, who was able to obtain permission to spend a fortnight with them.

### **The Bahá'í Fund.**

The two recent donations from the Guardian, and especially his last one given as a thank offering for our protection, gives the Bahá'í Fund a new significance, in so far as we can all feel co-partners with the Guardian in the important field of activity which lies before us. "Epoch-making Victories" can, and will only be achieved when every Bahá'í is fully conscious of the supreme effort (perhaps never so essential as now) expected of us all. The Guardian's message therefore comes as a challenge. Can we all meet that challenge? Do not let our minds relax now that we have a little more money in the Fund (this is the easy way) rather should we all contribute to the best of our ability both in money, and service. We have already embarked upon an extensive Publicity Campaign, and this will take much from the Fund, and our programme for the near future will necessitate the utmost help every Bahá'í can render. Let our watchword be "Service." The all pervading power of Bahá'u'lláh is with us. We must not fail at this crucial hour.

*Your Treasurer.*

### **"New World Order."**

It is proposed, paper supplies, etc., permitting, to revive this magazine as a quarterly. An Editorial Committee has been appointed, which will try to produce the first number for Nawruz.

## THE BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

The establishment and growth of our Publishing Trust show what can be accomplished with perseverance, faithfulness and devoted service. When the National Spiritual Assembly, in the far-off days of 1937, broached the idea of the creation of a publishing agency, grave doubts were expressed as to its possibilities at that particular time. The Publishing Trust had to start with the paltry sum of thirty pounds. And that was all that the National Funds could afford. Previously this sum was earmarked as the Literature Fund. This particular fund was used for buying books from Bahá'í publishing agencies abroad. Today the Publishing Trust has approximately a thousand pounds worth of stock, and has acquired some valuable copyrights as well.

The Publishing Trust, at its very inception, made an immediate call on the devoted support of the friends. It gave us a hard job to do and focussed our talents and resources on a point, thereby unifying them in one aim. It helped us to grow as a community, in fact such a task was essential.

The objective reasons for establishing the Publishing Trust were three (1) to acquire for the Faith the benefit of Mr. Townshend's scholarship and literary ability. (We were able to give considerable help in the publication of his book, "The Heart of the Gospel.") (2) To centralise the distribution of Bahá'í literature and build an efficient organisation which would keep pace with the growth of the Faith. (3) To publish Bahá'í literature in Great Britain at a modest selling price.

At that time the National Spiritual Assembly was continually facing the problem of supplying literature to the community. So it was decided that if the Guardian would give his approval, we would launch the Trust. Shoghi Effendi's response was instant and magnificent. He sent us fifty pounds, and likened our task to that other great building effort, that of the House of Worship at Wilmette, which the American believers have now so heroically brought to its successful completion. Next we asked the help of the friends in other parts of the world, and received donations from India, Egypt, Australia, New Zealand, China, and Palestine.

The problem of establishment proved a little difficult. This was before the National Spiritual Assembly was incorporated, and the difficulty was to vest the control of the Trust in an unincorporated body whose membership was liable to change. Eventually three trustees were chosen to hold the funds, and the management and control was given to the nine members of the National Spiritual Assembly. The Trustees were: Mrs. K. V. Brown, Mr. Albert Joseph,

and Mr. Arthur Norton. Later, in 1939, when the National Spiritual Assembly was incorporated, provision was made in the Articles of Association to take over the Publishing Trust. Thereupon the Trustees resigned, and the N.S.A. became its trustee and controller. This is the position today.

Mr. David Hofman was the first manager of the Publishing Trust, and Mr. Louis Rosenfield its first accountant-treasurer. Storage room, which has since proved inadequate, was provided by the London Centre, which was a very helpful contribution from that community. Today the Publishing Trust has stocks in different parts of the country. Here mention must be made of the excellent services rendered by both David Hofman and Louis Rosenfield to the Trust. David put the Publishing Trust into shape, and Louis' particular contribution was opening a set of books and establishing the accounts, which have since earned the compliments of the auditors. When Louis was called up for military service, no new appointment of an accountant-treasurer was made, and the manager undertook that work as well, being assisted by a dispatch clerk.

This year the National Spiritual Assembly appointed a Committee composed of Mrs. K. V. Brown, Mrs. Langdon-Davies, Mr. John Ferraby and Mr. David Hofman, to supervise the work of the Publishing Trust, under the direction of the Assembly. John Ferraby was made the manager of the Trust, and he is also in charge of the accounts.

The first publication was a revised edition of Dr. Esslemont's pamphlet, "Bahá'u'lláh and His Message." It looked well, and was well done, but the print was rather small, and the price was rather high. Later, the price was reduced, and it is now a fair seller.

At the very beginning the Trust determined that only work of the highest quality should be produced, and with one exception it can be said that this principle has been adhered to. In the case of the exception, quality of work was sacrificed for a very low selling price.

A number of other publications followed, during the five years of the Trust's life, and in addition to these we have stocks of books taken over at the time of forming the Trust. We have also received generous gifts of books. Lady Blomfield left us a large number of "Paris Talks," Mrs. Basil Hall gave many copies of "The Drama of the Kingdom," Mr. Asgarzadeh presented a large stock of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" and "The Book of Certitude" both in Russian. These latter are not included in our capital account, though they will doubtless be of great service to the Cause. Added to these there are the different books which we have imported from America.



But our assets are actually more than these. We hold some valuable copyrights, as well. Full ownership of "The Chosen Highway," full rights in H. M. Balyuzi's "Bahá'u'lláh," in "Paris Talks," "Security for a Failing World" (British edition), also the moulds of "Paris Talks" from which new editions can be printed, are assets which cannot well be estimated at present.

So, the Publishing Trust, with an original capital of only thirty pounds, has through its five years of life reached its present status, with great, very great, possibilities still in front of it. Its literature is not as yet as varied as we would like, but it has produced the most necessary publications for teaching the Faith. Its rapid development in the face of many difficulties proves the efficacy of service in the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh. Let us look at the very limited prospects of its success in 1937 and look at its position in, and achievements by, 1942, and be assured that in serving Bahá'u'lláh, one receives blessings in abundance.

The Guardian likened our task of establishing the Publishing Trust to the sacred work of Temple-building by our American brethren. That is why the Publishing Trust will need now and in the years to come, the whole-hearted, unstinting, devoted support of the believers of the British Isles.

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As an example of the wonderful spirit in which help was given us by communities abroad, we quote below the letter sent, in July, 1937, by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'is of Poona, which will surely inspire us here to greater and greater efforts:

"Your Assembly's resolve to institute a Publishing Committee despite the obstacles which confront you is a remarkable evidence of the zeal that animates you and the unwavering faith that upholds you in the service of the New World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. The Lord of Hosts is with you; how can you not conquer? Our gracious Master blesses you from on High, how can you not succeed? Our inspired Guardian's guidance leads you on, how can you not attain?"

"The believers of Poona, longing to demonstrate their love for the friends in those regions and their co-operation with the excellent plan your Assembly had devised, gathered on the 9th of July—the sacred day when the Bahá'í world commemorated the Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Báb—and in their humble way, but with all love and affection, offered their mite for this cause. The sum, as represented by the enclosed draft, was bound to be modest, but it welled from the heart. It was not, in any instance, a parting with a surplus

which they could not put to use; it was, as usual, a depriving themselves of some necessity that the activities of the Faith they so dearly loved might prosper.

"The letter you had written to the Youth Committee of this centre was read at that meeting and it profoundly impressed the friends. Your close association with this city particularly touched us and served to strengthen the bonds that bind our hearts together. We, too, yearn that the day may soon dawn when we can behold in person such devoted Bahá'is as those in those blest Isles—loved ones in whose pathway we pray we may be made as dust."

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE CAUSE

The Publishing Trust has recently had printed a catalogue of Bahá'í books published in this country. Unfortunately the new Paper Control Order prohibits the free distribution of these catalogues, which may only change hands on the payment in advance of 1d. This applies also to the new leaflets, "The Bahá'í Faith," as the Ministry of Supply consider that these must be classed as advertising circulars, owing to the list of books at the end.

It was intended to distribute both the catalogues and the leaflets to suitable booksellers and libraries, asking them to file them for reference. So long as the present Paper Control Order is in force, however, this is prohibited, unless the library or bookseller pays 1d. in advance for each of them. An opportunity for service is thereby presented to Bahá'is in all parts of the country. The Publishing Trust appeals to you to buy some of these catalogues, and to try to dispose of them to booksellers, libraries, or individuals, at the price of 1d. Everyone can do this, thereby rendering a service to the Cause. If you can get the booksellers and libraries to buy some Bahá'í books at 33⅓% discount, that would be better still; just let the Publishing Trust know where to send them.

It is only the catalogue and the new leaflet which it is prohibited to give away at present. All other pamphlets and leaflets may be given away. But to give the catalogue or leaflet away would be breaking the law, and would cause trouble with the Paper Control authorities. On the other hand, each one sold to a bookseller makes the name of the Cause better known, and the more books sold, the more new ones can be produced. The success of the Publishing Trust depends on the service of us all, and great things are hoped for from this community effort.

## NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

When the production of a new machine is under consideration, for distribution on a large scale, there is a Production Conference. The men invited to this conference are not only the men who designed the model on paper, and who worked out what the machine would do, along purely theoretical lines, by means of mathematics. A great deal of importance is attached to the report of the chief mechanic, who has built the trial model, and knows from *experience* what are the limitations of the machine, and the difficulties that are met with under actual working conditions, which could not be foreseen by the theorists. Only then, can suitable modifications be suggested, to perfect the efficiency of a machine to be used under all kinds of existing conditions.

From factory production to the teaching of the Cause seems a far cry, indeed; but the comparison becomes clear when we look forward to the Teaching Conference in January, when we shall be discussing what we have done and what we are planning to do. There is still a little time before then to add to our experiences in teaching the Cause and much could be achieved by a special effort. Surely that effort is possible when we have such inspiring directions.

"And Moses said unto the Lord, "Oh Lord! I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since Thou hast spoken unto Thy servant; for I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." And the Lord said unto him, "Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh a man dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt speak."—Exodus IV.10.

"The Lord God hath given me the tongue of them that are taught that I should know how to sustain with words him that is weary. . . I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me; therefore have I not been confounded; therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. He is near that justifieth me: who will contend with me? . . . Behold the Lord God will help me."—Isaiah L.4.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"—Isaiah LII.7.

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were distressed and scattered, as sheep not having a shepherd. Then saith He unto His disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth labourers unto his harvest."—Matthew IX.36.

"They whose hearts are turned towards Him who is the Object of the adoration of the entire creation must needs, in this Day, pass beyond and be sanctified from all created things, visible, and invisible. If they rise to teach my Cause, they must let the breath of Him who is the Unconstrained, stir them, and must spread it abroad on the earth with high resolve, with minds that are wholly centered in Him, and with hearts that are completely detached from and independent of all things, and with souls that are sanctified from the world and its vanities. It behoveth them to choose as the best provision for their journey reliance upon God, and to clothe themselves with the love of their Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious. If they do so, their words shall influence their hearers."—Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

"Raise the melody of the Kingdom, and spread the teachings and ordinances of the loving Lord so that the world may become another world, the darkened earth may become illumined, and the dead body of the people may obtain new life. . . . Oh! Friends of God! Strive ye so that this darkness may be utterly dispelled, and the Hidden Mystery may be revealed and the realities of things made evident and manifest."—Abdu'l Baha, from Tablet to the Hague.

"Try with all your hearts to be willing channels for God's bounty. For I say unto you that He has chosen you to be His messengers of love throughout the world, to be His bearers of spiritual gifts to man, to be the means of spreading unity and concord on the earth. Thank God with all your hearts that such a privilege has been given unto you. For a life devoted to praise is not too long in which to thank God for such a favour."—Wisdom of Abdu'l Baha.

"Be unrestrained as the wind, while carrying the Message to Him Who hath caused the Dawn of Divine Guidance to break."—Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.