

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

Published by

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

46 BLOOMSBURY STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

No. 28

APRIL, 1941

"EARNESTLY AND RESOLUTELY ENDEAVOUR"

"Notwithstanding the storm and stress raging around them, the friends in England should more than ever, firmly united behind their National Assembly, and strengthened by an unshakeable conviction in the ultimate triumph of their Faith, earnestly and resolutely endeavour to foster the cause of teaching. The trials and tribulations facing them should but serve to steel their resolve to leave no stone unturned until their goal has been fully accomplished. The Guardian's prayers are being ardently offered that whatever the immediate repercussions of the war may be on the British Bahá'í community, its members may, through the Divine aid and protection of Bahá'u'lláh, receive such guidance and strength as would enable them to face confidently and courageously the sufferings and vicissitudes of the present hour, and to arise as one body for the promulgation and wider establishment of the Faith throughout Great Britain."

"I was greatly relieved to learn of the safety of the English believers and was filled with admiration, through the assurance you have given me of their steadfastness, their unwavering determination to labour for the spread of our beloved Faith and the defence and protection of its interests in spite of the unprecedented calamities and confusion that now afflict their country. Bahá'u'lláh from His station on high is watching over them, is pleased with them and will, I feel certain, guide their steps, cheer their hearts, bless their efforts, protect their lives and fulfil the desire of their hearts. Gratefully and affectionately Shoghi."

Dear Friends,

These messages from the Guardian should receive our deep attention. It is no use to accept his praise complacently, or to think that the things he indicates will happen just because he says so . . . he makes a condition which we have to fulfil, he tells us plainly what we must do to succeed; "firmly united behind their National Assembly"; "strengthened by an unshakeable conviction in the ultimate triumph of their Faith"; "earnestly and resolutely endeavour." It is "through the divine aid and protection of Bahá'u'lláh" that we may receive "guidance and strength" and "arise as one body." We have to seek that aid and protection, through prayer and the condition and character of our lives, through a turning of the whole being to God and placing ourselves entirely in His hands, knowing that if we do our duty He will look after the rest.

Other points from the Guardian's letters are that at present no slides of the shrines on Mount Carmel are available. The friends will remember that this matter was raised at Convention last year.

The Guardian has placed one copy of "The Chosen Highway" in the library of Bahá'u'lláh's mansion in Bahji.

In addition to this letter the following cable was received from Haifa a day before the last N.S.A. meeting on March 1st.

"Letters—June, July, August, enclosing minutes arrived stop answer mailed November stop letter December ninth just received also Blomfield's books stop cabling hundred pounds my contribution relief believers incessantly praying deepest love, Shoghi Rabbani."

At the conclusion of the meeting the N.S.A. cabled the following message to the Guardian: "Letters cables joyfully received, Assembly in session inspired (by your) message plans intense teaching, all safe deepest love."

A special account in the N.S.A.'s books has been opened for relief, with the Guardian's contribution, and the following minute has been recorded by the N.S.A. "Local Spiritual Assemblies should deal with distress as far as they can themselves, but in difficulty they should apply to the N.S.A."

CONVENTION

Date: April 25, 26, 27.

Place: One of the houses of the "Convalescent and Holiday Homes" has been booked at Great Hucklow, Buxton, Derbyshire.

How to get there:

By rail:

Miller's Dale station on the L.N.E.R. has a good train service. Conveyance from Miller's Dale to the house will be arranged for those who give notice of their arrival as below. Otherwise there is a taxi service at Andrews, Tideswell, Buxton.

By road:

We are informed that it is better to come by bus from Yorkshire, via Sheffield. The Buxton bus calls at both Sheffield stations, 9.25 a.m.; 1.25 p.m.; 5.25 p.m.; with extra services on Saturday and Sunday; stops at Great Hucklow.

Terms:

8/6 per day all included.

The N.S.A. hopes that all the friends, in addition to the delegates, will make a special effort to come, as this will be the first national gathering since Summer School, 1939. If you are coming, please write to Miss Dorothy Cansdale, Bahá'í Centre, 46, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1, and say when you will arrive. *We must know in good time* so that the proprietors can arrange for food.

Three days is a very short time for Convention, and it is hoped that some of the friends will be able to arrive on Thursday, April 24th, and others will be able to stay until Monday, 28th. The programme will be definitely arranged when it is known how long the majority of the friends will be there, but it will include a Unity Feast, Teaching Discussion, Reports and Consultation, Election of N.S.A., and a talk on "The Spiritual Basis of Bahá'í Administration."

Delegates have been apportioned as follows:

London 7, Manchester 6, Bradford 3, Torquay 2, Bournemouth 1.

DECISIONS OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Personal Problems

"Individuals wishing to discuss personal matters should go first to their local Spiritual Assembly, though they have the right to ask for reference direct to the N.S.A. Believers should, however, be encouraged to seek advice and help from their local Spiritual Assembly."

This ruling was made at the recent meeting of the N.S.A., and covers an important administrative principle. The local Spiritual Assembly is not only the administrator of the community but the trustee, the helper, the House of Justice from which spiritual help should be sought. At the same time any believer can ask to be referred directly to the National Spiritual Assembly, by the local Spiritual Assembly, without presenting his problem to the latter.

For the guidance of local Spiritual Assemblies, the N.S.A. has adopted the procedure of not recording personal problems in the minutes, beyond the fact that Mr. Blank brought a personal matter to the Assembly for discussion. Details of the subject should be kept confidentially.

Bahá'í Names and Terms

A Torquay friend suggested that a list of names and words used in Bahá'í literature should be published, giving the explanation of each. It has been decided to make a glossary on these lines, at the end of Mr. Balyuzi's Outline of the Administrative Order which it is hoped to publish soon.

New World Order

We are grateful to the Bradford friends for a suggestion that when this paper is discontinued, a single sheet, suitable for sending to interested non-Bahá'ís should be printed with each number of the Journal. The suggestion has been adopted and after the next two numbers of New World Order, Bahá'í Journal will contain an insert for sending to friends and interested people.

PRAYER

Lauded and glorified art Thou, O my God! I entreat Thee by the sighing of Thy lovers and by the tears shed by them that long to behold Thee, not to withhold from me Thy tender mercies in Thy Day, nor to deprive me of the melodies of the Dove that extolleth Thy oneness before the light that shineth from Thy face. I am the one who is in misery, O God! Behold me cleaving fast to Thy Name, the All-Possessing. I am the one who is sure to perish; behold me clinging to Thy Name, the Imperishable. I implore Thee, therefore, by Thy Self,

the Exalted, the Most High, not to abandon me unto mine own self and unto the desires of a corrupt inclination. Hold Thou my hand with the hand of Thy power, and deliver me from the depths of my fancies and idle imaginings, and cleanse me of all that is abhorrent unto Thee.

Cause me, then, to turn wholly unto Thee, to put my whole trust in Thee, to seek Thee as my refuge, and to flee unto Thy face. Thou art, verily, He Who, through the power of His might, doeth whatsoever He desireth, and commandeth, through the potency of His will, whatsoever He chooseth. None can withstand the operation of Thy decree; none can divert the course of Thine appointment. Thou art, in truth, the Almighty, the All-Glorious, the Most Bountiful. (Prayers and Meditations, page 255).

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

"This day the most necessary duty is to purify your morals, to correct your manners, and to improve your deeds" 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Dear Friends,

In the present distressing circumstances when it is almost impossible to get large numbers of people together for teaching purposes, the above challenging words of the Master point clearly to our immediate and urgent duty. At the same time we must deepen and widen our knowledge of the Faith, and as occasion presents, and wherever we can make an opening, we must assuredly present the Message to individuals as well as to groups. The closest association among the believers themselves is also of the utmost importance, both for the sake of encouraging one another and of deriving spiritual sustenance, charging, as it were, the dynamo which drives and controls our energies for the advancement of the cause and the betterment of mankind. When meeting is impossible, correspondence is a second best. Please refer to Journal No. 27 for addresses of scattered believers, and add the following omissions and corrections.

Mrs. Cooper	Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, Blackburn, Lancs.
Mrs. Naylor	Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, Blackburn, Lancs.
Miss Claire Gung	"Hazelwell," College Road, Cheltenham.
Miss MacWilliams	17 Princes Road, Petersfield, Hants.
Miss Doris Lovell	The Cottage, West Amesbury House, Amesbury, Wilts.

SUMMER SCHOOL

A brief Summer School of a week has been decided upon and the date chosen is July 25th—August 1st. This is from Friday to Friday and misses out the normal bank holiday week-end. The place has not yet been decided upon, and accommodation will be limited because of the war, but it is hoped to find somewhere in the north midlands where we can be by ourselves. Any suggestions from the friends will be welcomed. The N.S.A. hopes that every believer in the country will make a great effort to attend, if not for the whole week, at least for a few days. We have had no national gathering for a year and there are important matters to discuss and our close friendships to sustain. Try to arrange your holiday, if you get one, for that time, and come to Summer School.

Remember the date: July 25th—August 1st.

Mr. Bernard Leach	The Pottery, St. Ives, Cornwall.
Miss Yelva Burnett	182 Seaborne Road, Fisherman's Walk, West Southbourne, Hants.
Torquay Assembly	Bahá'í Centre, 14 Market Street, Torquay.
Mr. Arthur Cole	44, Wingrove Road, Fenham, Newcastle-on-Tyne
<i>Corrections.</i>	
Trooper J. Lee 7928007	"A" Squadron, 24th Lancers, Boroughbridge, Yorks.
Mrs. J. Lee	White Horse Hotel, Builth Wells, Brecon.

REPORT

Now that Torquay again has a Centre, the work of maintaining and spreading the Faith is carried on in the four Centres where meetings for teaching, and Bahá'í Feasts are held at week-ends. Besides the Assemblies, Study Classes and Fireside meetings are held at Bournemouth, Newcastle, Cheltenham and Amesbury. We need to keep in mind our specific goal of the Four Year Plan for which object the wide-spread dissemination of the Message in the first years is of utmost importance, so that new believers may play their part with vigour and enthusiasm.

We are very happy to welcome two new believers, Miss Burnett and Miss Lovell, whose addresses are given above. Miss Burnett attended the study classes held in Bournemouth, and Miss Lovell has been to the meetings at Amesbury, where she is staying with her aunt, Mrs. Rideout.

Torquay

During the week-end of March 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the N.S.A. held its business meetings in the new Torquay Centre. The friends have found a very nice room, in a central part of the town, above a chain library. They have a good entrance with two notices about the Faith and a small box for free literature just inside the outer door. The members of the N.S.A. were entertained by the Torquay friends, and greatly enjoyed their visit. The Nineteen Day Feast of 'Ula was held on the Saturday, and on Sunday evening the Centre was opened with a public meeting, at which the attendance was very encouraging.

Due to the departure of many believers the Torquay community is very small in numbers, and the N.S.A. decided to help with teaching. Mr. Sugar stayed on for two weeks and spoke in the Centre, and was there every day to talk with enquirers and to help the friends. Mr. Hofman is now down there and it is hoped to hold a big public meeting in the town which will attract some new people.

Amesbury

Miss Bridget Hill and Mrs. Rideout arranged a very good meeting on March 5th, and invited a number of their friends. It was after this meeting that Miss Doris Lovell declared herself. It is hoped that another meeting will be held here soon.

Manchester

The N.S.A. has decided that after Convention, Mr. Hofman shall go to live in Manchester for a considerable time, to help the teaching work there and in the north.

ADMINISTRATION

Bahá'í Elections

The method of election to Spiritual Assemblies is the same throughout the world. There are two kinds of representation, direct and indirect. The former applies to the election of local Spiritual Assemblies, and the latter to the election of the National Spiritual Assembly, that is by the intervention of delegates. The number of delegates is fixed for each country by the Guardian, and these are in turn apportioned by the National Spiritual Assemblies, in proportion to the number of believers in each community. Hence, isolated believers do not take part in the election of delegates, but may, on the other hand, be chosen by the delegates to serve on the National Spiritual Assembly.

"The beloved of God must be as firm as a mountain, and must not quiver under the most violent shock, nor grieve at the greatest calamities; but must be as a solid foundation. They must cling to the hem of Glory and trust in the Beauty of the Most High. They must lean on the help and assistance of the Ancient Kingdom and confide in the care and protection of the Generous Lord. They must at every instant nourish and refresh themselves through the waves of the Holy Spirit, raise themselves to serve the Cause of the Supreme, and endeavour their utmost to diffuse the breath of God. They must be as a strongly fortified fortress for the defence of the blessed Cause, and as a well-made fortification for the protection of the hosts of the Pre-Existent Beauty." 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is the difference between the Bahá'í Administrative Order and Aristocracy, Monarchy and Democracy?

What are the functions of Delegates to the Annual Convention?

What are the chief duties of the Local Spiritual Assemblies?

Reference:

Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 60 - 62.

Bahá'í Administration, pp. 69; 77.

Bahá'í Procedure, Section 3, Sheets 5 and 6.

Bahá'í Procedure Section 2, Sheets 1; 2; 8.

COME TO CONVENTION

GREAT HUCKLOW, DERBYSHIRE

APRIL 25th, 26th, 27th

(see inside)

Delegates who cannot attend must send their vote by mail to the National Secretary or by telegram.

MARRIAGES

Two marriages have been arranged to take place shortly.

Miss Molly Brown and Mr. Balyuzi.

Miss Margaret Savile and Mr. Cyril Jenkinson.