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A NOBLE STRUCTURE

Dear Co-workers:

I wish to re-affirm my deep sense of gratitude and admiration for the splendid manner in which the English believers are discharging their duties and responsibilities in these days of increasing peril, anxiety and stress. Their tenacity, courage, faith and noble exertions will as a magnet attract the undoubted and promised blessings of Bahá'u'lláh. They have, at a time when the basis of ordered society itself is rocking and trembling, laid an unassailable foundation for the Administrative Order of their Faith. Upon this basis the rising generation will erect a noble structure that will excite the admiration of their fellow-countrymen. My prayers for them will continually be offered at the holy Shrines.

Gratefully

Shoghi.

CONVENTION MAY 11, 12, 13. See inside

Summer School, Cawston House, RUGBY.

July 26 - August 10th.

ANNUAL CONVENTION.

The Convention will be held over the Whit week-end, May 11th, 12th, and 13th,

Delegates have been allotted in the following numbers:-

London	8	Bradford	3	Bournemouth	
Manchester	4	Torquay	3	Group	1.

PROGRAMME

<u>Saturday 11th</u>	11 a.m.	Meeting of outgoing N.S.A.
	2 p.m.	Convention opens with presentation of reports followed by discussion.
	7 p.m.	Community Dinner.
<u>Sunday 12th</u>	10 a.m.	Election Discussion of racial and political problems.
	3 to p.	
	5.30 m.	Questions
	6.30	Unity Feast
<u>Monday 13th</u>	10 a.m.	Teaching

The Community Dinner on Saturday evening will be arranged by the London Spiritual Assembly in a restaurant near the London Centre. It is expected that the charge will be half-a-crown and every believer is urged to attend. Please communicate with the London secretary at once, saying that you intend to be present. All believers are invited, irrespective of whether they are delegates or not.

It should be remembered that delegates only have the voting right in the election of the National Spiritual Assembly, and only delegates are entitled to take part in the discussions during Convention, though this latter rule may be waived at the discretion of the Convention chairman.

There are ten believers in Bournemouth, but no application has been made for the formation of a Spiritual Assembly and the N.S.A. has not authorised an election. The Group is represented, however, at Convention.

Following swiftly upon the departure of Lady Blomfield, comes the news of the passing of Mrs. W.S. Maxwell, mother-in-law of the Guardian. 'Abdu'l-Bahá stayed in her home while in Montreal, so that her family has been uniquely honoured. She was an outstanding teacher and pioneer of the Faith, and laid the foundations of the community in France. Having responded to the Guardian's call for teachers in South America, she passed on in Buenos-Airés.

From many parts of the world letters have come, expressing grief and sympathy at the passing of Lady Blomfield. Memorial services have been held for her throughout Irán. A wonderful account of her life will appear in the next number of Bahá'í World (Vol. VIII). The Guardian has written as follows concerning Lady Blomfield and Mrs. Thornburgh-Cropper:-

"The passing away of these two long-standing believers has indeed robbed the Cause in England of two of its most distinguished members, and the English Bahá'í Community is certainly the poorer, now that it has been deprived of their ready and invaluable support".

"The departure of Sitaríh Khánúm, in particular, is to be deeply mourned, not only by the members of the Faith throughout England, but by so many of her fellow-believers abroad, and the Guardian himself feels most keenly the loss of so precious and faithful a co-worker who, in the early days following 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ascension, had proved of such invaluable assistance to him in the discharge of his heavy duties and responsibilities".

Bahá'í Institutions in England.

There is apparently some confusion in the minds of the friends, about the various institutions of the Faith in England. London is a local community with its own Spiritual Assembly, and has the same relationship to the National Spiritual Assembly as all other local communities. The London library has no connection with the Bahá'í Publishing Trust. All local communities should apply to the Publishing Trust for books.

"New World Order" is published by the N.S.A. for distribution among the public and for use in Teaching. All communications should be addressed to "New World Order" at the address shown on the paper.

Bahá'í Journal is published by the N.S.A. for the believers only, and is the official communication from the N.S.A. to the members of the Faith in England and throughout the world.

Misunderstandings will be readily overcome if the friends will stop referring to London when they mean the N.S.A. and use the terms 'London' or 'National Spiritual Assembly' to denote either the local or the national body.

Wedding.

Congratulations to Margaret Walker and Peter Wilkinson, who are being married in Bradford on April 15th. Mr. Balyuzi will officiate at the Bahá'í wedding. It is our prayer that these two young and devoted believers will achieve that wonderful life described by the Master in the Marriage Tablet.

Instruction From the National Spiritual Assembly.

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes every believer to be very strict in his or her obedience to the principle of the Faith which makes it a moral obligation to be loyal to the government of the country. They should refrain from all action which might hamper the work of the government or be in the least prejudicial to the interests of the State.

Dear Friends,

During these days of turmoil there are many conflicting influences at work. Many new societies and movements, some harmless and some, under the guise of humanitarian or religious purposes actively seditious, are coming to birth. It is the sacred duty of all followers of Bahá'u'lláh to remain aloof from all such movements, to withhold themselves from political entanglements, and to engage, with single minds and high resolve, in the dissemination of "the divine fragrances". While consorting "with all people with joy and fragrance" they should be on their guard lest they be led, however unintentionally to compromise the Faith. In all cases of doubt, the friends should consult their local Spiritual Assembly or the National Spiritual Assembly.

But while withholding themselves from these activities, there remains the obligation to uphold the principles of the Faith, chief of which is the oneness of mankind. Race and other prejudices are increasing in the society in which we live. In such matters, the friends, while not seeking argument or to increase passions, should uncompromisingly uphold the central theme of Bahá'u'lláh's Teaching. "Of one tree are ye all the fruits, and of one bough the leaves".

A session for discussion of this matter, is allotted at Convention.

Registration

There are still a number of believers who have not filed the particulars asked for by the N.S.A. This is an important matter, and it may become necessary for the N.S.A. to make it a condition of voting in the Bahá'í community.

Message from The Guardian to Miss Baxter, quoted with his permission:-

"The latest news he has received from the British N.S.A. regarding the general conditions of the Cause in England, and in particular with reference to the extension of the Teaching work has been most exhilarating, and he indeed will pray that whatever hardships and privations which our dear English believers may come to endure in the course of this war, their vision of their high and essential duties and responsibilities towards the Faith, and their zeal to further extend and consolidate its interests, may every increasingly deepen, and thereby enable them to befittingly acquit themselves of their high task".

Nottingham.

On my way back to Newcastle, I stayed a night in Nottingham, to speak to a number of people whom Esther Richardson had gathered together. This was one of the most promising and exhilarating meetings I have known. About 17 people were present, mostly young men and women from the Esperanto Society. There was one policeman, whom I called on to uphold the principle of using Force as the servant of Justice. Everybody bought some literature and seven came back to my hotel, staying until midnight. Esther Richardson is fostering this interest and will be helped by other teachers.

Newcastle.

My last report from here spoke about many personal contacts. These have been maintained and increased but the work lately has been chiefly with groups. The Theosophical Society asked me to open their new season of lectures with a talk on "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh". Following this they asked me to give a series of six lectures on Sunday evenings. They asked for professional lectures, but by foregoing my fee, I was able to arrange for the use of their hall once a week and to speak about the Faith at each lecture. These meetings were advertised in the local press, and have been well attended, numbers varying from forty to seventy. I started study meetings on Thursday evenings but these so far have not been successful.

I have spoken to the Esperanto Society again and to the International Club. At this latter meeting a young man got up afterwards and said he was from Irán, though not a Bahá'í. He paid glowing tribute to the work and behaviour of the Bahá'ís in that land, and said that the friends there were distinguished by their conduct.

The Esperanto Society has produced many good contacts, one being Dr. Mulholland, Professor of Mathematics at the University here, in whom I recognised an old school friend. Other people have asked me to their homes, and it has been encouraging to find whole families receptive to the message of the Faith. I am learning Esperanto with a view to speaking at the national and international congresses.

The situation here now requires steady and continual work. About two hundred people have heard of the Faith directly, and a regular study meeting is required.

Manchester.

Miss Ada Williams arranged for me to address a group of Scout masters and Scouts at Altrincham. There were about twenty one present and they all showed keen interest. It was the first Bahá'í meeting I have known in which only men were present. This is a splendid contact.

Bradford.

The friends in Bradford arranged a public meeting at their Centre which was attended by several newcomers, as a result of an advertisement in the local press. This community is very vital and active.

Plymouth.

Mrs. Stevens has addressed a meeting in Plymouth, which is the first extension work of the Torquay Spiritual Assembly.