

BAHA'I JOURNAL

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"However great and sinister the forces with which they may have to battle in future, I feel confident that they will befittingly uphold the torch of Divine Guidance that has been entrusted to their hands and will discharge their responsibilities with STILL GREATER TENACITY, FIDELITY, VIGOUR, AND DEVOTION".

"The various and compelling evidences of the unquenchable enthusiasm, the unbreakable resolution, and the inflexible purpose of the English believers, in these days of stress, of turmoil, and danger, have cheered my heart and fortified me in the discharge of my arduous and multitudinous duties and responsibilities. I feel truly proud of them all, and will, with increasing gratitude and redoubled fervour, supplicate the Beloved, Whose Cause they are so valiantly serving, to bless, sustain, guide and protect them under all circumstances, and aid them to establish firmly the institutions of His Faith throughout the length and breadth of their country".

"The news of your persistent activities, your safety and protection and above all of your unyielding resolve and undisturbed confidence in the face of the uncertainties and perils that face and surround you, have greatly cheered and heartened me in my duties and responsibilities which are now heavily pressing upon me. You are often in my thoughts and prayers at this grave hour. I cherish the brightest hopes for you, and will continue to supplicate the Almighty on your behalf. Be assured, persevere and be happy".

Beloved Friends:

These generous and inspiring messages from the Guardian must surely evoke in the heart of every believer, a response which will prove us worthy of his confidence and praise. "The time of the end is at long last upon us" he has written, and now, under his inspired guidance, fortified with the power of the Holy Spirit, we are called upon to render that service which we promised, when we called ourselves by the name of Bahá'u'lláh. Let no one hesitate, but let all arise to accomplish the task to which we are committed--the establishment of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in the British Isles. Teach the Cause! Teach the Cause! Teach the Cause!

IN MEMORIAM

Lady Blomfield passed away on December 31st 1939, which was, in the Bahá'í calendar, the Feast of Honour. Her association with the Master, with the Holy Family, and the part she played in influencing the British Government to protect Their lives in 1918 are indicated in her book and will be recorded elsewhere. These things of themselves assure her the admiration of posterity, and her book its everlasting gratitude.

On receiving the sad news, the Guardian sent the following cablegram to the National Spiritual Assembly:- "Profoundly grieve passing dearly beloved outstanding co-worker Sitarih Khánum. Memory her glorious services imperishable. Advise English community hold befitting memorial gatherings. Assure relatives my heartfelt sympathy, and loving fervent prayers".

We, at the present time, remember a dear and gracious friend, a pleasant companion at the Summer Schools, a loyal servant of the Master, and an unfailing helper at all times. She manifested so many saintly qualities that it would be difficult to say which was most outstanding. Perhaps it was her unassuming, quiet dignity, perhaps the kindly consideration which she always gave to every human being who came in contact with her. She centred her life on the Master, and became like Him to a degree which few have attained. It was through Sitarih Khánum that we learned of Him, for it was her unending delight to speak of Him and to recount what she had seen and heard "in the path of her Lord". She was truly "a light shining in the firmament of her generation". May her spirit be with us as we try to follow her example.

The Chosen Highway.

Lady Blomfield, true to herself, did not leave this world until she had accomplished her work. During the last few years she had been engaged on the compilation of a book which is unique in the history of mankind. She spent much time in the Master's house, and heard from the lips of The Greatest Holy Leaf, Munirih Khánum ('Abdu'l-Bahá's wife), and Tuba Khánum (His daughter) their own stories of the heroic days of the Faith. These she recorded and they form a large part of her book. In addition there are accounts of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in war time, of His visits to London and Paris, and of many incidents which are of supreme interest. Lady Blomfield had discussed the publication of the book before her passing, and left the manuscript complete. It is now being arranged and edited, and will shortly be ready. The title is taken from a saying of the Master's:- "I am walking my chosen highway: I know the destination".

The Chosen Highway will be published by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust at five shillings, paper cover, and six shillings cloth cover.

Correction.

IMPORTANT! In Bahá'í Journal No. 20, on the second page under the heading 'Bahá'ís and War', the last line of that section reads:-
"!.....should apply under the second category". Please alter this to read THIRD category.

A further message from the Guardian has been received about this matter. "In connection with your application for exemption from active military service, the Guardian trusts that the authorities will give careful consideration to this matter, and will find it possible to relieve the friends from the necessity of serving in the army in a combatant capacity. Should they, however, refuse to grant such exemption, the believers should unhesitatingly assure them of their unqualified obedience, and of their readiness to join and serve in the army in whatever manner the government deems best".

The American "World Order"

In view of the difficulty of obtaining foreign exchange, friends who wish to subscribe to the American N.S.A.'s periodical should communicate with the National Spiritual Assembly.

Registration

There are still a large number of friends who have not sent in the required information and photographs. By delaying in this you are holding up the work of the N.S.A., and are not helping the Faith.

Teaching Conference

The friends will already have received the report of the Conference, together with reports of Summer School, Teaching, and the statement about Bahá'ís and War. It should be reported that an exchange of cables was made between the Guardian and the Conference.

"Teaching Conference resolves achieve high standard devotion teaching campaign called for your recent messages. Deepest Love English friends".

"Welcome noble resolve prosecute energetically teaching campaign praying ardently signal success. Shoghi Rabbani".

The Shrines on Mount Carmel

Following the Guardian's cablegram to the effect that the remains of the Purest Branch and of Asiyih Khánum (the brother and mother of 'Abdu'l-Bahá) had been permanently laid to rest on Mount Carmel, a long letter explaining the significance of this event has been received from Shoghi Effendi. As soon as possible the N.S.A. will make arrangements for its circulation.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Local Spiritual Assemblies are notified that arrangements must be made for the election, on April 21st, of the new Spiritual Assemblies.

Local secretaries are requested to send immediately to the National Secretary, a complete list of the believers in their communities. Names of Friends who have been evacuated, but are still 'attached' to their home Assembly should be clearly separate from the names of those friends still resident at home.

New World Order

Spiritual Assemblies have already been advised of the N.S.A.'s request for regular purchases of our periodical by each community. It is suggested that each and every believer should buy a few copies every month (the new price is one penny) and use them for teaching purposes, and especially for introducing the Faith to new people.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust

Bahá'u'lláh & His Message by Dr. Esslemont reduced from 6d. to 3d.

Bahá'u'lláh and The New Era By Dr. Esslemont. New, revised edition, now available at half a crown. A library edition, bound in cloth, with gold lettering on the back cover, may be had for six shillings.

New Penny Leaflet. A new leaflet, based on the December number of New World Order, will be available by March 10th.

Addresses

Kindly note the new addresses of the National Treasurer:-
Mrs. K.V. Brown, 40 Pensford Avenue, Kew Gardens, Kew, Surrey. The National Secretary has returned to Newcastle to continue teaching.

"I wish to re-affirm, clearly and emphatically, my deep sense of gratification and gratitude for the recent and truly remarkable evidences of the devotion, courage, and perseverance of the English Bahá'í community in the face of the perils that now confront it. Its members have abundantly demonstrated their profound attachment to their Cause, their unshakeable resolution to uphold its truth and defend its interests, and their unfailing solicitude for whatever may promote and safeguard its institutions. However great and sinister the forces with which they may have to battle in future, I feel confident that they will befittingly uphold the torch of Divine Guidance that has been entrusted to their hands, and will discharge their responsibilities with still greater tenacity, fidelity, vigour and devotion".