

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

Published by

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles

46 Bloomsbury Street

London, W.C.1

No. 15

NOVEMBER, 1938

MODERATION

"Whoso cleaveth to justice, can, under no circumstances, transgress the limits of moderation. He discerneth the truth in all things, through the guidance of Him who is the All-Seeing. The civilization, so often vaunted by the learned exponents of arts and sciences, will, if allowed to overleap the bounds of moderation, bring great evil upon men. Thus warneth you He who is the All-Knowing. If carried to excess, civilization will prove as prolific a source of evil as it had been of goodness when kept within the restraints of moderation. Meditate on this, O people, and be not of them that wander distraught in the wilderness of error. The day is approaching when its flame will devour the cities, when the Tongue of Grandeur will proclaim: 'The Kingdom is God's, the Almighty, the All-Praised!'"

"In this Day, we can neither approve the conduct of the fearful that seeketh to dissemble his faith, nor sanction the behaviour of the avowed believer that clamourously asserteth his allegiance to this Cause. Both should observe the dictates of wisdom, and strive diligently

to serve the best interests of the Faith.
Bahá'u'lláh.

LETTERS FROM THE GUARDIAN

Beloved Friends, Shoghi Effendi has recently sent a stirring and challenging letter to the American friends. We reprint part of it here, believing that its message is for the whole Bahá'í world.

"Pregnant indeed are the years looming ahead of us all. The twin processes of internal disintegration and external chaos are being accelerated and every day are inexorably moving towards a climax. The rumblings that must precede the eruption of those forces that must cause 'the limbs of humanity to quake' can already be heard. 'The time of the end, the latter years,' as foretold in the Scriptures, are at long last upon us. The pen of Bahá'u'lláh, the voice of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, have time and again, insistently and in terms unmistakable, warned an unheeding humanity of impending disaster. The Community of the Most Great Name, the leaven that must leaven the lump, the chosen remnant that must survive the rolling up of the old, the discredited,

tottering order, and assist in the unfoldment of a new one in its stead, is standing ready, alert, clear-visioned, and resolute."

And in the last few days, we have received this message : —

"I urge you, with all earnestness and with feelings of abounding gratitude to redouble your efforts and to persevere until your highest hopes and plans in both the spiritual and administrative spheres are realised and fulfilled. My prayers are always with you. Shoghi."

Beloved Friends, the gravity of these words and the magnitude of the task facing us might well deter bigger and stronger communities, communities more richly endowed with talent, material resources and numbers. Indeed the whole world, by its own strength, would be unequal to such a task. Only by dependence on God can we succeed. Our strength is in Him, and our protection is in His Covenant. Bahá'u'llah's almighty power will reinforce and energise our efforts, and 'as we have faith, so shall our powers and blessings be.' We have the Creative Word for our inspiration, we have the Master for our Example, we have the Guardian for our guidance, and we have the administrative order for our unity and consolidation. These are the gifts of God to His servants. And to each one of us severally, is given the divine gift of teaching. "Teaching the Cause is of utmost importance for it is the head of the corner-stone itself. This wronged servant has spent his days and nights in promoting the Cause and urging the peoples to service. He rested not a moment, till the fame of the Cause of God was noised abroad in the world and the celestial strains from the Abhá

Kingdom roused the East and the West. The beloved of God must also follow the same example. This is the secret of faithfulness, this is the requirement of servitude to the Threshold of Bahá."

At the convention, we pledged ourselves to the Guardian to work as a teaching organism during the year. A start has been made, but this winter will be the test of our faithfulness. Since the crisis, when humanity looked into the depths, there is seen a desire for assurance, a willingness to hear, and a recognition of the need for a higher wisdom. This gives us a great opportunity for service; the Message of Bahá'u'lláh can bring healing and peace to all individuals and to humanity. Ours is the privilege of telling it . . .

"He rested not a moment . . . The beloved of God must also follow the same example."

TEACHING REPORT

In accordance with the plan made by the N.S.A. at the beginning of the year, teaching has been arranged in Bradford and Torquay. In Bradford, Mr. Norton has given a room in his warehouse for Bahá'í meetings, and several have already been held. The plan is for a teacher to go there every two weeks. The Manchester Spiritual Assembly will send one every month and the N.S.A. will do the same. In Torquay Mrs. Stevens is holding meetings, and will be assisted by Mrs. Slade for a short while in November. The secretary of the N.S.A. recently visited Manchester, Bradford, Torquay (where an address was given to the Psychology Club) and Brighton. An invitation has been received to present the Faith to the Bournemouth Psychology Club.

The London Spiritual Assembly has

appointed regional teaching groups to work in their own districts, and several fireside meetings are held regularly. Four new believers have been declared.

In Manchester new people are coming to the meetings, and the children's class on Sundays is very popular. Three new believers have been declared.

Three new believers were declared at Summer School, and we take this opportunity of welcoming them. They were Mrs. Ward of Torquay, Mrs. Rosalind Vance of Sowberry Court, and Miss Bonney of London.

SUMMER SCHOOL, 1939

The following plans have already been made for next year's Summer School. The date is July 22nd to August 12th, and the place is High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, about thirty miles north of London. A prospectus and full programme will be published later, but in the meantime the friends are urged to try and come during the bank holiday week-end, as we have to guarantee an attendance of fifty during that period. The rates are eight shillings per day inclusive, and there are plenty of single rooms available.

A BAHÁ'Í NEWSPAPER

The National Spiritual Assembly has approved plans for the publication of a monthly newspaper. It will be called '*The New World Order*' and a design for the front page has been made by Mr. Donald Millar. It will be sold for threepence per copy or an annual subscription of three and sixpence including postage. The paper is chiefly a means of contact and publicity, and the first number will be sent to five thousand people. It will contain an editorial, short articles, quotations from the Bahá'í

Writings, excerpts from current speeches and other material which will help to create a body of opinion in favour of the universal principles of Bahá'u'lláh. It is intended to follow up the contacts which will be established by those people who respond to the first number.

The following committee has been appointed to compile and publish the paper at regular intervals : —

Central Executive.

Editor : David Hofman.

Business : Donald Millar, Gerald Cooper, Mrs. Cranmer, Miss Wellby.

Bournemouth : Mr. King.

Bradford : Mrs. Norton.

Manchester : Mr. Sugar.

Torquay : Mrs. Stevens.

Blackburn : Mrs. Cooper.

Contributing Editors.

Mrs. Basil Hall, Mr. Townsend, Mrs. Langdon-Davies, Mr. Grant.

The help of all the friends is sought in this effort to spread the Faith. Every believer can help by submitting a list of names and addresses of people to whom they suggest the first number should be sent. In places where there is a representative, please send your list to him; for instance in Manchester send it to Mr. Sugar and he will send all the lists submitted by the Manchester friends to the editorial executive in London. Isolated and London friends are asked to send their lists direct to the committee.

This is a splendid opportunity for the friends all over the country to widen the sphere of their contacts. Wherever responses are made, believers resident in those places will be advised and helped to foster the interest shown. This is one way in which we can, as a united community, fulfil our promise to the

Guardian. It is a chance for every believer to be active, and the National Spiritual Assembly is confident that full use will be made of it.

TEACHING CONFERENCE

The third annual rallying point of the year, the Teaching Conference, will be held in Manchester during the week-end of December 31st. A letter containing full details will be circulated very shortly. In the future it may be difficult to hold national conferences, and every believer is asked to make a special effort to attend the Teaching Conference. The date is a particularly happy one as all the friends will be able to unite in the Nineteen Day Feast of 'Honour.'

NEWS

The National Spiritual Assembly, acting under the instructions of the Guardian, has presented an application to the Board of Trade for incorporation.

Dr. Ali of Rangoon, a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India and Burma, is in London for a year. He is a very welcome visitor and has told us a great deal about the friends in India.

The Leeds Public Library has recently added several Bahá'í books to its reference department.

The Publishing Trust has received orders from America, Australia, and New Zealand.

THE NATIONAL FUND

Plans and programmes cannot be carried out without means. Upon the resources of the National Fund depends our ability to carry out the teaching programme, to publish the Journal, to hold conferences, and to undertake new

measures for the spread of the Faith. If we are to continue our work, if we are to fulfil our promise to 'act as a teaching organism during the year,' the National Fund must be able to bear the expense.

The condition of the Fund is an indication of our devotion and sense of responsibility. The measure of our faith is our support of the Fund.

Contributions have fallen off recently, and unless there is a considerable increase we shall have to curtail our programme. Are you willing to see this done? How shall we respond to the Guardian's latest message: —'I urge you, with all earnestness and with feelings of abounding gratitude to redouble your efforts . . . '?

We must either go back or go forward. The decision rests with every believer.

“Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope! Through the spirit of power confirm Thou me in Thy Cause, O my Best-Beloved, and by the light of Thy glory reveal unto me Thy path, O Thou the Goal of my desire! Through the power of Thy transcendent might lift me up unto the heaven of Thy holiness, O Source of my being, and by the breezes of Thine eternity gladden me, O Thou Who art my God! Let Thine everlasting melodies breathe tranquillity on me, O my Companion, and let the riches of Thine ancient countenance deliver me from all except Thee, O my Master, and let the tidings of the revelation of Thine incorruptible Essence bring me joy, O Thou Who art the most manifest of the manifest and the most hidden of the hidden!

Bahá'u'lláh.

T E A C H I N G C O N F E R E N C E

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The second annual rallying point of the year

MANCHESTER

DECEMBER 31st - JANUARY 1st.

Saturday, Dec. 31st	Afternoon	N.S.A. Meeting
	Evening	Nineteen Day Feast of Honour
Sunday, Jan. 1st	Morning	Conference
	Afternoon	"
	Evening	Public Meeting

All sessions will be held in the Bahá'í Centre,
39 High Street, Manchester 4. The friends are urged to
attend and it is hoped that a large number from all over
the country will be able to join in the Nineteen Day Feast.

Write to the Secretary, Manchester Spiritual Assembly,
for information about accommodation or other matters.