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MARRIAGE OF THE GUARDIAN

On March 29th the following cablegram was received
from Haifa.

"National c/o Asgarzadeh.

Announce Assemblies celebration marriage beloved Guardian. Imperishable honour bestowed upon handmaid of Bahá'u'lláh Ruhíyih Khanum, Miss Mary Maxwell.

Ziaiyih,
Mother of Guardian".

To this great and joyful news the National Spiritual Assembly sent the following reply:-

"British Bahá'is prayerfully gratefully rejoice happy news".

The Spiritual Assemblies of London and Manchester and the Bournemouth Group also sent messages. The Guardian replied by cable to every one of them.

Miss Mary Maxwell is the daughter of Mr & Mrs Sutherland Maxwell, of Montreal. Mrs Maxwell was one of the first Bahá'is in America and was honoured by 'Abdu'l Bahá's staying in her house. Mr. Maxwell has been chairman of the Spiritual Assembly of Montreal.

We join hands with the whole Bahá'í world in rejoicing over this news, sure in the knowledge that the mighty power of Bahá'u'lláh will guide and sustain our beloved Guardian and his wife and enrich them with happiness and victory.

LETTERS FROM THE GUARDIAN

The following extracts are published with Shoghi Effendi's permission.

To Mrs Bishop, November 21st 1936.

"With reference to the absolute pacifists, or conscientious objectors to war; their attitude, judged from the Baha'i standpoint, is quite anti-
PACIFISM social and due to its exaltation of the individual conscience leads inevitably to disorder and chaos in society. Extreme pacifists are thus very close to the anarchists, in the sense that both these groups lay an undue emphasis on the rights and merits of the individual. The Baha'i conception of social life is essentially based on the principle of the subordination of the individual will to that of society. It neither suppresses the individual nor does it exalt him to the point of making him an anti-social creature, a menace to society. As in everything it follows the 'golden mean'. The only way that society can function is for the minority to follow the will of the majority".

"The other main objection to the conscientious objectors is that their method of establishing peace is too negative. Non cooperation is too passive a philosophy to become an effective way for social reconstruction. Their refusal to bear arms can never establish peace. There should be first a spiritual revitalization which nothing, except the Cause of God, can effectively bring to every man's heart".

To Miss Baxter, February 3rd 1937.

"Do not feel discouraged if your labours do not always yield an abundant fruitage. For a quick and rapidly-won success is not always the best and the most lasting. The harder you strive to attain your goal, the greater will be the confirmations of Baha'u'llah, and the more certain you can feel to attain success. Be cheerful, therefore, and exert yourself with full faith and confidence. For Baha'u'llah has promised His Divine assistance to every one who arises with a pure and detached heart to spread His holy Word, even though he may be bereft of every human knowledge and capacity, and notwithstanding the forces of darkness and of opposition which may be arrayed against him. The goal is clear, the path safe and certain, and the assurances of Baha'u'llah as to the eventual success of our efforts quite emphatic. Let us keep firm, and whole-heartedly carry on the great work which He has entrusted into our hands".

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"Every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God is endowed with such potency as can instill new life into every human frame, if ye be of them that comprehend this truth".

Baha'u'llah

CONVENTION

The Annual Convention will be held on Sunday, May 2nd, at 43 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1. Spiritual Assemblies have been instructed to elect their delegates and to send the advice to the National Spiritual Assembly, so that delegates may be properly accredited. The allocation of delegates is as follows:-

London 14	Manchester 5	Total 19
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The programme of the Convention has been arranged as follows

10.30 a.m.	Open Convention .. election of convention officers. Annual reports; consultation.
12.00 noon	Election of National Spiritual Assembly
12.30 p.m.	Luncheon...tellers to count the ballot.
2.00	Reassemble..announce result of poll; consultation.
4.00	Feast of Rizwan (details later)

Every believer is cordially invited, and indeed urged, to attend if possible. Although only the delegates may vote, the consultative part of the Convention is of great importance, and all declared believers may be admitted to this at the discretion of the National Assembly. A full report of the proceedings will be published among the friends together with a copy of the Annual Report. Friends coming to London for the Convention and desiring to stay overnight, are requested to communicate with Mrs K.V. Brown, Secretary of the London Hospitality Committee, at the Bahá'í Centre, to make arrangements for accommodation.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The election of Spiritual Assemblies will take place in London and Manchester on April 21st. Arrangements are in the hands of local Spiritual Assemblies themselves, who should be guided by the book of Administration. The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to call attention to the fact that this is a universal Bahá'í occasion; in approximately eight hundred communities, scattered throughout the five continents. Bahá'í Spiritual Assemblies will be elected on that date. They are bodies animated by the same Faith, dedicated to the same end, and trustees of communities which in the aggregate make up the Bahá'í World Order. No greater demonstration of the oneness of humanity can be found than this occasion when people of every kind unite.... spiritually, socially and politically...in action.

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"O My Beloved Friends. You are the bearers of the name of God in this day. You have been chosen as the repositories of His mystery. It behooves each one of you to manifest by your deeds and words the signs of His righteousness, His Power and glory.....Ponder the words of Jesus addressed to His disciples as he sent them forth to propagate the Cause of God". Words of The Bab to the Letters of the Living.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The National Spiritual Assembly has appointed the following Committee to be in charge of placing Bahá'í Books and literature in libraries. Mrs. Langdon-Davies, Miss Kilford, Mr. Sugar, Mr. Hofman. The Committee reports that so far copies of "The Promise of All Ages", and Baha'u'llah and the New Era, have been placed in the public libraries of Blackpool, Liverpool, and Newcastle. In Liverpool the new edition of "Talks of 'Abdu'l-Baha has also been accepted. Lady Blomfield has kindly supplied the Committee with copies of the latter, and the National Spiritual Assembly has provided the others.

Mrs. Langdon-Davies has been made secretary of this Committee, and the friends are requested to advise her about any Bahá'í books which they know to be in public libraries, other than those mentioned above. Address:- Mrs Langdon-Davies, 6 Huxham's Cross, Dartington, Totnes, Devon.

THE GREATEST NAME

The following is an extract from a letter of the Guardian to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia & New Zealand, printed in their quarterly publication of January 1937:-

"Concerning the Greatest Name; this term refers both to "Allah'o'Abhá", and to "Ya Bahá'ul'Abhá". The first is a form of Bahá'í greeting and should be used, while the other is an invocation meaning "O Thou Glory of Glories". These two words are both referred to as the Greatest Name".

VISIT OF MR. SCHOPFLOCHER

Mr. Siegfried Schopflocher was in London for a few days during March and addressed several meetings. He brought notes and reminiscences from Haifa which were of tremendous benefit to the believers. The main theme of his message from the Guardian was that humanity has now come of age. We must stress this and stress the appearance of Bahá'u'lláh. In these two factors is to be found the answer to the present day 'riddle of existence'.

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"For every one of you his paramount duty is to choose for himself that on which no other may infringe and none usurp from him. Such a thing---and to this the Almighty is My witness---is the Love of God, could ye but perceive it.

Build ye for yourselves such houses as the rain and floods can never destroy, which shall protect you from the changes and chances of this life. This is the instruction of Him Whom the world hath wronged and forsaken".

Bahá'u'lláh.

THE PUBLISHING COMPANY

The appeal which the National Spiritual Assembly sent out on March 21st has met with a good response, for which the National Assembly is deeply grateful, but only some of the friends have contributed. In close association with the spirit of the Guardian's letter, the National Spiritual Assembly is giving this undertaking its 'full moral and financial support' and is fully confident of achieving those great results which the Guardian's letter implies, provided that every believer in the British Isles gives his 'full moral and financial support'. The National Assembly feels assured of the confidence of the believers, but this must be translated into active support, which means contributions to the Fund. The friends are urged to read and re-read and ponder carefully the letter which the Guardian wrote at the time he sent his gift of £50.

The Publishing Fund has now reached £153 and it is possible to register the Company legally. The National Assembly is ready to take this step and will do so as soon as it is satisfied that the Articles of Registration are the most desirable obtainable, in the interests of the Faith. A letter to the Bahá'ís throughout the world asking their cooperation, has been approved and is now being printed, and will shortly be circulated through the proper administrative channels.

The importance which Shoghi Effendi attaches to this plan, and the far-reaching successes which he hopes for from its successful prosecution, should be constantly borne in mind. Let us never forget that he has likened it to the building of the Temple in America. This is our Temple. We are called upon to make the same sustained and strenuous sacrifices as our American brothers have done. More than a single spontaneous effort is required. It is absolutely necessary for a constant flow of contributions to be maintained, until such time as the Company is fully established and self supporting, and then the National Fund will require the same devoted support. In other words, the Faith now demands the utmost sacrifice, effort, devotion and energy which it is possible for the believers to give. Remember "this auspicious stage in the evolution of the Faith in your country". Remember too the message already quoted in this number of the Journal:—"The goal is clear, the path safe and certain, and the assurances of Bahá'u'lláh as to the eventual success of our efforts quite emphatic."

The opportunity is ours.

TEACHING

The intensive campaign which has been carried on in Devonshire by Mr & Mrs Bishop and Mr. Tobey, has resulted in the formation of a nucleus of believers who will work for the establishment of a Spiritual Assembly in that district. There are three confirmed Bahá'ís in Torquay and two in Dartington, one of the latter being Mr. Tobey who is returning for another year. The prayers of all the friends are asked for blessings and confirmations on the efforts made in this new outpost of the Faith. It is reported that the believers there have arranged a programme of study classes for themselves, with the object of deepening their understanding of the Teachings and

preparing themselves for active public work.

LONDON

Three new believers have recently been enrolled in London. A very successful meeting was held in Hornsea Town Hall, arranged by the Crouch End Study Group, at which Madame Orlova spoke. A good deal of literature was sold afterwards. Another meeting will be held there in the near future. The London Spiritual Assembly has arranged for four public lectures in Caxton Hall, during the month of May. The speakers will be Madame Orlova, Mrs Bishop, and Mr. Balyuzi.

MANCHESTER

The Manchester Spiritual Assembly has rented a hall in the centre of the city to be used as the Baha'i Centre and reading room. It will be open four afternoons a week for enquirers. The first meeting was held on April 9th when the Feast of Jalal was celebrated and the friends rejoiced over the news of the Guardian's marriage. It is felt that this is an important step forward in the Faith in Manchester. The new address is:- Baha'i Centre, Commerce House, 39 High Street, Manchester 4.

BAHA'I THEATRE GROUP

A Baha'i theatre group has been formed in London under the direction of Madame Orlova. The members are drawn mostly from the Youth group and their friends. It is proving an effective way of interesting young people in the Faith. At the celebration of Nauruz, scenes from 'As You Like It' were presented and plans are now being made for a pageant of the 'Seven Valleys of Baha'u'llah'.

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

The attention of the National Assembly has been called to the incident of a believer writing to Baha'i Communities and individuals in another country, to ask for funds for Baha'i activities. Such a proceeding is completely contrary to the spirit and form of Baha'i Administration and should never occur. All matters affecting the welfare of the Faith must be dealt with through the properly authorised channels, either a local Spiritual Assembly or, where another country is involved, the National Spiritual Assembly.

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"He is a true Baha'i who strives by day and night to progress and advance along the path of human endeavour, whose cherished desire is so to live and act as to enrich and illumine the world; whose source of inspiration is the Essence of Divine perfection; whose aim in life is to conduct himself so as to be the cause of infinite progress. Only when he attains unto such perfect gifts can it be said of him that he is a Baha'i".

'Abdu'l-Baha.