

# 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. 18

MAY, 1939

## CONVENTION

The annual Convention was held in London over the week-end of April 30th and was undoubtedly the highest expression of our unity yet achieved. Two new Bahá'í communities were represented by delegates and many friends from various parts of the country attended. In addition one member each from the Bahá'í communities of America, Holland, India, and New Zealand was present.

From the opening session on Friday evening, through Saturday when more people arrived, and on till the last minute on Sunday it was apparent that a new and powerful spirit was at work. The discussions were vital and deep, based on the unspoken premise that we were there for one purpose, the promotion of the Faith of God. It was inevitable that such a Convention should recommend that we continue to function as a Teaching organism and that special efforts should be made to bring the Faith to the attention of the masses.

Mr. Balyuzi was elected chairman of the Convention and Miss Wellby and Miss Cansdale were appointed as secretaries. On Friday evening the annual report was read and the following cable

sent to the Guardian :

**"Convention expresses devotion  
thankfulness begs prayers guidance  
inspiration. Two new assemblies  
represented incorporation documents  
completed."**

On Sunday evening, just as the first meeting of the new N.S.A. was beginning this reply was received :

**"Delighted notable achievements  
grateful praying richest blessings  
deliberations deepest love, Shoghi."**

A cable was also sent to the American Convention which was taking place at that time. It read :

**"British Convention sends affectionate  
greetings American Convention."**

## ANNUAL REPORT

April, 1938—April, 1939

The annual Convention last year marked a new departure in the work of the Bahá'í community of the British Isles. It was recommended at that time that we should function as a teaching organism for the ensuing year with the objective of establishing new Spiritual Assemblies. This suggestion was communicated to the Guardian who replied by cable : "Delighted urge incoming

National Assembly perseverance subordinate all activities teaching objective.”

Thus, our course for the year was outlined at its very beginning.

At its first meeting the National Spiritual Assembly considered this matter and pledged itself to carry out the Guardian's wish, determining that all activities should be considered in the light of teaching. Bradford and Torquay were selected as the two most promising places for the establishment of new Assemblies. The believers in those centres were consulted and plans of campaign mapped out. We are happy to report that owing to the persistent efforts of the resident believers, to the work of visiting teachers, to the sacrifices of all who have contributed to the Fund, and to the unfailing assistance of the Holy Spirit, Spiritual Assemblies were elected in both places on April 21st. Both communities are represented by delegates at this Convention. We take this opportunity of conveying, through them, our welcome and sincere congratulations.

The experience gained through teaching in these two cities has been, and will be, invaluable. Each place presented a different problem. One is in the industrial north, the other in the residential south; climatic, occupational, and temperamental differences are clearly marked. And yet, such is the all embracing power of Bahá'u'lláh, both communities have grown and become self governing units in the national community, and therefore in the Bahá'í world. Some measure of this success must be attributed to the fact that in each case the ground was surveyed before the final plan was made. We record this procedure for future guidance.

As a reinforcement to the teaching campaign the N.S.A. welcomed the suggestion of a regular publication, which should be made attractive to the public and serve as a means of interesting people in the Faith. “New World Order” was launched as a monthly magazine and has received favourable comment from the Guardian; it has been welcomed by Bahá'ís in other countries. The English believers have supported it fairly well and its circulation is steadily increasing, but a large expansion is required to make it self-supporting. It maintains a high standard and is capable of becoming a very powerful teaching medium.

The N.S.A. which went out of office at Rizwan 1938, that is at the last Convention, had established three annual rallying points for the believers throughout the country. They were Convention, Summer School, and mid-winter Teaching Conference. Convention had already provided the soil for the new teaching campaign, and it was decided to make the other two occasions of especial service.

### **Summer School.**

Summer School was a notable success, both from the point of view of attendance and of the standard of the lectures and discussions. This was its third year and the attendance was about ninety, nearly three times as many as the first year.

The great value of this institution lies in its unifying atmosphere and in the fact that it provides the only Bahá'í community life at present obtainable in England. Local Bahá'í communities have a community life, it is true, but at Summer School, everyone lives, works

and plays together; Summer School gives physical shape to the Bahá'í community.

In addition to the morning lectures excellent talks were given in the evening by Miss Ninette de Valois on 'The Ballet,' by Captain Basil Hall on 'Peace Duties of the Navy' and by Captain St. Barbe Baker on 'The Soul of Africa.'

Plans for this year are complete and have been published. A much larger place has been taken and the N.S.A. has guaranteed an attendance of fifty during the bank holiday week-end.

### Teaching Conference.

This was a true Bahá'í occasion, marked by earnest discussion, unity of purpose, and true happiness. As a conclusion to the Feast of Sharaf (Honour) the birthday of Hosein Mukhlis was celebrated, when he declared himself a Bahá'í. At the same time the friends heard of the birth of a son to Mrs. Weeks. Believers from Bradford, London, Manchester and Torquay were present, and one isolated believer, Mrs. Cooper of Blackburn.

The Conference made the following suggestions to the National Spiritual Assembly.

1. "That the N.S.A. should communicate more frequently with the local Assemblies, in the form of a more personal letter than the Journal." This was agreed to and the chairman of the N.S.A., Miss Challis, undertook to write to each community in the intervals of issues of the Journal. Her letters have been greatly welcomed by the friends.

2. "That the Administration should be clarified in the Journal, especially with regard to the relationship of local Spiritual Assemblies to the N.S.A. A

copy of Bahá'í procedure should be sent to all Assemblies and Groups." Both these suggestions were accepted and acted upon.

3. "That a five year plan should be adopted, with the aim of having at least one believer in every county of England by Rizwan 1944." This suggestion was held over for discussion by the Convention.

Our function as a teaching organism has been further marked by the appearance of a pioneer spirit. A Bahá'í family, Mr. and Mrs. Lee with their two children, have moved from Manchester to Brighton. They advised the N.S.A. of their willingness to go to some other district, and moved to Brighton at the N.S.A.'s recommendation. Mr. Lee is making efforts to establish himself in business there, and hopes to be the means of promoting the Faith. The N.S.A. has extended practical help and is confident that Bahá'u'lláh will bless this family and fulfil its hopes.

### Incorporation.

Parallel with the teaching campaign has been a persistent effort to achieve legal status and recognition of the Faith. The Guardian has continually urged the prosecution of this task, both by letter and cable. We were fortunate in securing the services of a lawyer who is particularly interested in this type of work, and who has shown a sympathetic understanding of the position of the Faith. We wish to record our gratitude to the thorough work and interest of Mr. Drury, of the law firm of J. Hampson Fogg.

Our first attempt was a direct application to the Board of Trade for incorporation by Royal Charter. The attempt failed, but produced good re-



sults. The secretary was interviewed by officers of the Board and was able to remove many false impressions about the Faith, and a complete and authentic statement of its aims, history, and teachings, now rests in the Board's files. The chief reason for the failure of this attempt was the smallness of our numbers and the absence of any substantial increase during the past few years. Here is a challenge to every believer.

Upon receipt of the Board's refusal, Mr. Drury immediately advised us to incorporate as an unlimited company. The work of drawing up the articles and memorandum of association was begun at once and we are able to report that the document is now here, complete. It will have to be checked for technical corrections and can then be signed and presented to the Court.

The effect of this document will be to give the National Spiritual Assembly legal personality and rights. It may enter contracts, receive bequests, hold property under certain restrictions, and exercise all the rights and privileges accorded by law. In addition its constitution has been defined exactly according to Bahá'í Administration; the principles governing its operation according to the explicit commands of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá have been written into the memorandum; and its powers in relation to local Spiritual Assemblies and to the Faith in the British Isles have been defined. The method of Bahá'í elections has been preserved and provision made for the annual Convention. The enterprise is non-profit making and has no share capital. Liability is accepted by the individual members of the N.S.A. in equal proportions, and provision has been made for the transferring of this

liability when new members are elected.

This is undoubtedly one of the most important steps in the history of the Faith in the British Isles, and in spite of the primary disappointment, 'will, we know, delight the heart of our beloved Guardian, whose continual encouragement has lightened the task.

### **The Bahá'í Publishing Trust.**

The Publishing Trust is now established as the chief subsidiary of the N.S.A. and its right hand in teaching. It was started with the sum of £234 Os. 8d. specially contributed for that purpose, and in addition has taken possession of all books and literature previously held by the N.S.A. It acts as distributor for all Bahá'í literature, and publishes whatever the N.S.A. requires. The chief publications this year have been a revised edition of Dr. Esslemont's pamphlet "Bahá'u'lláh and His Message" and a brief life of Bahá'u'lláh by H. M. Balyuzi. Both these publications have been purchased abroad and have made a good impression. In addition a small calendar, showing the Bahá'í Feasts and Anniversaries has been printed.

A new prayer book will shortly be available. The manuscript is now with the Guardian. It is hoped to be able to sell it at a shilling. A new book by Mr. Townshend will soon be out, called at present, "The Heart of the Gospel." It is a startling exposition of the Bible in the light of the Kitáb'i'Iqán, and is of vital importance not only to Bahá'ís but to the whole of Christendom.

We hope to publish soon Lady Blomfield's book, excerpts of which the friends have been privileged to hear on one or two occasions. It is a compilation

from Lady Blomfield's own notes, given to her by the Greatest Holy Leaf and other ladies of the Holy Family, referring to the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, and the Master. Shoghi Effendi has approved it.

A sister volume to Mr. Balyuzi's life of Bahá'u'lláh is expected very soon; a life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. And after that a life of the Báb.

During the ensuing year the literature of the Faith should be considerably enriched.

### **Publicity.**

The International Esperanto Congress took place in London during the summer, and a Bahá'í session was held on August 1st. A number of the visitors were entertained at the London Centre and many individual contacts were made.

Attempts were made to arrange publicity in the form of a stand, an exhibition, or simply of literature, at the Glasgow Exhibition, but were unsuccessful.

An exhibition was held at Notting Hill Gate, London, in connection with the new magazine. It was kept open for a month, and although the cost was fairly high it was undoubtedly a wise and fruitful expenditure. The premises were made available through the generosity of Miss Nockold. The window was made very attractive and a large number of people came in to enquire. Many took literature, some came to the Centre, some attended fireside meetings. The properties used in this exhibition are still available and the N.S.A. recommends this form of publicity.

### **Archives.**

The National Archives have been properly organised, with each object tabulated and described. The Archives have been moved to a place outside

London for safety in case of air raids.

A robe worn by the Blessed Beauty, several original Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and various other objects of historical importance have been preserved.

The American N.S.A. has kindly agreed to retain in its archives original Tablets which were sent there by English believers, until such time as it seems advisable to have them sent over here.

The N.S.A. once again stresses the importance of entrusting articles of value to it, for proper preservation. Directly the N.S.A. is incorporated it can make legal claim to the Archives and thus ensure them for posterity. Not only original Tablets, but all articles associated with the Founders of the Faith, or with its early history, should be preserved.

### **Finance.**

At the beginning of the year the N.S.A. made a budget of estimated expenditure and published it in the Journal, with an appeal to the friends to supply the required amount. This amount was not subscribed, but fortunately expenses were kept well within the amount budgeted. Early in the year a donation of £500 was received and put to capital fund. It has been necessary to draw on this fund for publicity expenses. During the year the National Fund has received from subscriptions £114 19s. 0d. which is £63 6s. 5d. less than the amount received last year. Last year the Publishing Trust made special demands, but the Teaching campaign requires an even greater effort, and if it is to continue there must be a larger income.

### **National Service.**

Increasing tension in world affairs made it necessary for the N.S.A. to de-

fine the attitude of Bahá'ís to the various military measures being undertaken by the country. The Guardian's instruction was obtained and published in Bahá'í Journal. It was to the effect that while we should do everything to obtain exemption from active combatant service, we should volunteer for all services of a humanitarian nature, such as Red Cross, A.R.P., stretcher-bearing, etc. Within the last three days Conscription has been introduced by the Government, and it is recommended that the incoming N.S.A. should consider the position of Bahá'í Youth in relation to this.

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Two of the original believers in this country have departed to the realms of their beloved Master during the year. Mrs. Thornburgh-Cropper and Mrs. Scaramucci. May they continue to serve Him in their new life.

A word should now be said about the internal relationships of the community, as reflected in the activities already described. There has undoubtedly been a continuance of that sense of unity to the awakening of which we have called attention in previous years. The Nineteen Day Feasts have become more significant, and there is, especially among the youth, a growing sense of the significance of the Cause in the world to-day. The actual work of the administration still falls too heavily on a few people, although here the N.S.A. must express its thanks to those members of the London Youth Group who have helped in typing, addressing and mailing.

An examination of the reports of local Spiritual Assemblies indicates that there

is very often a lack of support for measures initiated by them. Some of this is due to the fact that a few of these measures have not impressed the believers as either important or useful to the Faith, and a few have not been understood. We feel that there is room for development in the relationship between the community and its Spiritual Assembly. The community is too often inclined to carry over into the Bahá'í world the traditions and sanctions of its previous background. On the other hand the Spiritual Assembly has the duty of educating, encouraging and explaining, in all matters relating to Bahá'í procedure. It should initiate new plans, and make departures from accepted methods within the framework of the Administration, but these plans should be fully explained to the community in order to enlist its full support. The Nineteen Day Feast is the proper occasion for this. The community is called to exert every effort to assist the Spiritual Assembly in its work, by frank discussion of difficulties, by endeavouring to understand the mysterious processes by which a Bahá'í community functions, and by a willingness to adopt the new kind of life which the Spiritual Assemblies attempt to foster.

The obligation, in the end, rests with each individual. To the extent to which each one penetrates the mystery of the Faith, understands its place in the history of our time, becomes impelled by love of Bahá'u'lláh to greater and greater devotion in its service, to this extent shall we become significant and be able to affect the destiny of our country and of all mankind. Prayer and meditation, study of the Writings, constant association with all the activities of the Faith,

are the food and drink for every soul who would become an active member of this teaching organism.

Our record for the year, and our outlook for the future are summarised in these words of the Guardian :

"A splendid beginning has been made. A firm foundation has been established. Perseverance is now required to bring these devoted, painstaking, and concerted efforts to full and speedy fruition. The path you are treading is beset with formidable obstacles, but the invincible power of the Faith will, if you remain faithful and steadfast, enable you to surmount them. My prayers will continue to be offered on your behalf. May Bahá'u'lláh fulfil every hope you cherish in the service of this Faith. Your true and grateful brother, Shoghi."

Faithfully,

In His Service,

National Spiritual Assembly  
by David Hofman, *Secretary*.

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On Saturday afternoon the election of the National Spiritual Assembly took place. Its membership is reported below.

The chief matters discussed at Convention were Teaching, Conscriptio, and Publicity. A statement on conscription will be found in this number of the Journal and, it is hoped, will be read carefully by all the friends. Teaching and Publicity will be considered by the N.S.A. at its meeting during the week-end of May 20th and plans published later. At the moment we record two of the recommendations made by the Convention.

1. That we continue to function as a teaching organism during this year and concentrate upon Birmingham, Bournemouth, Brighton, Leeds and Sheffield with the object of developing Spiritual Assemblies there.

2. That the N.S.A. examine the possibilities of wide publicity measures such as buying time on the radio.

## THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Immediately following the election, the N.S.A. met to elect its officers with the result that it is now organised as follows :

*Chairman* : Miss Grace Challis.

*Vice-Chairman* : Mr. Arthur Norton.

*Secretary* : Mr. David Hofman.

*Treasurer* : Mrs. K. V. Brown.

Mr. Balyuzi.

Mrs. Langdon-Davies.

Mr. Lee.

Mr. Sugar.

Miss Wellby.

The Rizwan Feast on Saturday evening was a happy occasion when the friends were entertained by Lady Blomfield at her home in Hampstead.

We hope that the spirit which permeated the Convention will be diffused throughout the country and inspire us all to greater efforts.

## ISOLATED BELIEVERS

We welcome to the Faith Miss Esther Richardson, whom many of the friends will remember at Summer School last year. Miss Richardson is the only Bahá'í in Nottingham and will be glad to hear from the friends and to receive news from local communities. Her address is 'Epworth,' Fernleigh Avenue, Mapperley, Nottingham.



Miss McWilliams has moved from Oxford and her address is now, 17 Princes Road, Petersfield, Hants.

### SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School is the next annual rallying point of the year. To those friends who have not yet experienced its unique spirit we extend a special appeal. Those who have will need no urging to come again. Programmes will be received by now, and it only remains to fill in the registration form and send to the registrar.

The N.S.A. has organised the Summer School as follows :

*Secretary* : Miss Wellby.

*Registrar* : Miss Cansdale.

*Hostesses* : Mrs. Lam; Mrs. Norton; Mrs. Cranmer; Miss Gibbs.

*Committee to look after entertainment, games, etc.* : Mr. Peter Wikinson; Miss Margaret Walker; Miss Ursula Newman; Miss Val Lavender; Miss Helen Chessel.

These officers and committee members constitute one large committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Balyuzi, and is responsible for the running of Summer School. Registrations should be sent to Miss Cansdale. Information can be obtained from Miss Wellby.

Bearing in mind our paramount object, Teaching, we quote the Guardian's message received after the first Summer School : "The institution of the Summer School constitutes a vital part of any teaching campaign, and as such ought to be given the full importance it deserves in the teaching plans and activities of the believers. It should be organised in such a way as to attract the attention of the non-believers to the Cause and thus

become an effective medium for teaching."

The Programme Committee has done its part; the rest is up to every individual. We have guaranteed an attendance of fifty over bank holiday week-end.

### NATIONAL COMMITTEES

The N.S.A. has appointed the following committees :

#### Youth.

Mr. Peter Wilkinson; Miss Helen Chessel; Mr. Louis Rosenfield.

#### Reviewing.

Mrs. Langdon-Davies; Mr. Balyuzi; Mr. Lee; Mr. Hofman.

#### Inter-Assembly.

An inter-assembly committee for Bradford and Manchester will be appointed after the N.S.A. has received nominations from the two Spiritual Assemblies concerned.

### 'NEW WORLD ORDER'

The N.S.A. asks the full co-operation of all the friends in making this paper self-supporting, and at the same time an asset to the Teaching campaign. It was pointed out at Convention that the first necessity is not money, but people who will help to distribute it. If every believer could obtain one subscription per month, the paper would be self-supporting in three months. Suggestions and material of all kind are welcome. The N.S.A. has appointed the following committees :

*Editor* : Mr. David Hofman.

*Assistants* : Miss Wellby; Miss Molly Brown.

*Business* : Mr. Donald Millar; Mr. Gerald Cooper.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

	£	s.	d.
Balance Forward ... ..	19	0	11
Transfer from minor accounts	15	9	0
Special donation ... ..	500	0	0
Contributions ... ..	114	19	0

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£649    8    11

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	£	s.	d.
To deposit account ... ..	200	0	0
Loan account ... ..	100	0	0
To Publishing Trust ... ..	100	0	0
Printing Journal ... ..	20	5	0
Teaching expenses ... ..	42	12	9
Travelling ... ..	14	16	6
Postage, etc. ... ..	7	9	1
'New World Order' ... ..	61	8	8
Burglary ... ..	12	0	0
Publicity ... ..	11	13	1
Legal charges ... ..	5	0	0
Miscellaneous ... ..	10	2	2
Balance Forward ... ..	64	1	8

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£649    8    11

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In addition a number of representatives have been appointed in each community. Their job is to bring the paper to the notice of the people and to enlist the help of the believers in increasing its circulation, as well as to encourage the sending of articles and letters to the editor. The representatives are :

Bradford : Mr. Philip Hainsworth;  
                  Mr. Ralph Naylor.

London : Miss Zara Warman.

Manchester : Miss Betty Yool.

Torquay : Mr. Hocking.

## SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

### Bradford.

Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. Peter Wilkinson, Miss Joan Wilkinson, Mr. Hurst, Mr. Norton, Mrs Norton, Mr. Stone, Mrs. Stone, Miss M. Walker.

### London.

*Chairman* : Mr. Donald Millar.

*Secretaries* : Miss Cansdale.  
                  Mr. Balyuzi.

*Treasurer* : Mrs. Brown.

*Asst. Treasurer* : Mr. Rosenfield.

Miss A. E. Baxter, Miss Wellby,  
Mrs. E. P. Cranmer, Mr. Wilkins.

Address : 46 Bloomsbury St., W.C.1.

### Manchester.

Mrs. Coulson, Mr. Coulson, Mr. Craven, Mr. A. Joseph, Mr. Nazar, Mrs. Sugar, Mr. Sugar, Mr. Yool, Miss Ada Williams.

Address : Bahá'í Centre, 39 High Street, Manchester, 4.

## Torquay.

*Chairman* : Mrs. Stevens.

*Secretary* : Mrs. Langdon-Davies.

*Treasurer* : Mrs. Ward.

Mrs. Turvey, Mr. Turvey, Mrs. Matthews, Mr. Hocking, Mr. Hansford, Mrs. Flowers.

Address: C/o Mrs. Langdon-Davies,  
6 Huxham's Cross, Dartington, Devon.

## CONSCRIPTION

The recent Bill passed by the government affects only one Bahá'í youth, but future measures may involve others, and in any case every Bahá'í has a duty to his government. Last November the instructions of the Guardian were sought as to our attitude in times of national emergency. His reply was published in Journal No. 16 but in view of the serious situation the N.S.A. feels it necessary to clarify this matter.

We are neither pacifists nor conscientious objectors; we believe in the use of force as the servant of Justice. But as there is no international body empowered to maintain Justice in international affairs we cannot be sure that force *is* employed in the interests of Justice. In addition the principles of human brotherhood which we feel and uphold, make warfare of any kind abhorrent to us. At the same time we are commanded by Bahá'u'lláh to behave towards our governments with faithfulness. In this difficulty the Guardian's instruction is like a clear light, defining our attitude and showing what action we should take.

"While the believers, he feels, should exert every effort to obtain from the authorities a permit exempting them

from active military service in a combatant capacity, it is their duty at the same time, as loyal and devoted citizens, to offer their services to their country in any field of national service which is not specifically aggressive or directly military. Such forms of national work as air raid precaution service, ambulance corps, and other humanitarian work or activity of a non-combatant nature, are the most suitable types of service the friends can render, and which they should gladly volunteer for, since in addition to the fact that they do not involve any violation of the spirit or principle of the Teachings they constitute a form of social and humanitarian service which the Cause holds sacred and emphatically enjoins."

Most of the friends have already volunteered for some form of service as suggested by the Guardian. But we have to consider the possibility of further conscription measures. The N.S.A. has drawn up a plan on the lines suggested by the Guardian and seeks the co-operation of every single believer. In the meantime the one young Bahá'í affected by the present Bill presents a particular case which is being dealt with individually by the N.S.A.

## REGISTRATION

The N.S.A. wishes to make, as quickly as possible, a complete register of all the believers. It will also issue every believer with a registration certificate stating that the bearer is recognised by the N.S.A. as a member of the Bahá'í community of the British Isles. The completion of this register will enable us to declare our aims and take action

as a united community, to preserve our identity in time of war, and will also protect the Faith against unauthorised claims. The co-operation of every believer will shortly be asked for.

### LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends,

The Annual Convention was a time of great encouragement and inspiration, never to be forgotten by those privileged to attend. During the year many new believers have been enrolled and two new Spiritual Assemblies formed. But we are deeply conscious of the vast field of service before us. Thousands of people in this country alone have never heard of the Bahá'í Teachings. Pioneers are needed to spread the message, and teachers to instruct those who are seeking help.

The N.S.A. is determined, through the grace of Bahá'u'lláh and in His strength, to go forward and to appoint teachers to carry the message to other places. But the help of every individual Bahá'í is needed. We are at a serious crisis in history when only spiritual help can avail to turn the hearts of men to thoughts of peace and good will. In the Bahá'í Teachings we have all we need of guidance and inspiration. Let us awake to the call of the hour and arise to take our part. Help is sure and un-failing for those who trust. Bahá'u'lláh has promised "We behold you from our realm of glory, and shall aid whosoever will arise for the triumph of our Cause with the hosts of the Concourse on high, and a company of our favoured angels."

In His Service,

National Spiritual Assembly.

### NEWS FROM AMERICA

The Annual Report of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States and Canada is a record of heroic deeds, of purified lives, of spiritual understanding. The American community, acting as one body, has responded with zeal and vigour to the inspired leadership of the Guardian, with the result that its achievements have immeasurably increased.

"The Bahá'í year now drawing to a close has witnessed the stage of definite crisis in human affairs, the vanishing of hopes to avert catastrophe by human power, a great progress in the achievement of the Seven Year Plan, the Guardian's inspiring action in associating the revered name of the Greatest Holy Leaf with Temple construction, his renewed and stirring call for pioneers in the teaching field, and his spiritual gift and blessing to all American Bahá'ís through the general letter dated December 25th, 1938 . . . ."

"To attain a full inward realisation of that truth, to fit ourselves, individually and collectively, for service to the Divine Will at the turning point in human history, taking our stand entirely within the spirit and activity of the Faith and leaving behind the false hopes and doomed desires of the worldly life—this indeed, constitutes the essence of the significance of the year that ends; and the historical record of that period has real value only as it may contribute to our capacity for deeper experience, purer vision and more valiant action. History, to the Bahá'í, is not a tie with past human limitations but an increasing possibility to attain a future conforming to the Will of God."

The American friends are pledged to a Seven Year Plan, under which they must, by 1944, complete the exterior work of the Temple and establish the Faith within every State of America, every Province of Canada, and every Republic of South America. It is to this tremendous task that they are now dedicated. In response to a call for pioneers to leave their homes and go and settle in places where the light of the Faith had not yet penetrated, a number of ardent souls immediately volunteered, so that all parts of North America are now opened to the Light of the New Day. We have reported previously how the Spiritual Assembly of Mexico City came into being. Its chairman, Mr. Pedro Espinosa, was the guest of the National Spiritual Assembly at the Convention. The work of establishing the Faith in South and Central America is being carried forward.

"The record of success in South America and in the West Indies reported by the Inter-America Committee is also impressive. The Bahá'í community of Mexico City is vibrant with enthusiasm, and will take an increased part in the Inter-America teaching work, not only through participation in the required Spanish translations but also no doubt through travelling teachers."

Models of the Temple have been placed on exhibition at the San Francisco Fair, and at the New York Fair. At the former an address was broadcast

from the Fair by Miss Claudia Aldridge, whom most of the friends here know. It is hoped to have Bahá'í speakers at the New York Fair.

One of the most interesting parts of the Teaching report, deals with the activities of Spiritual Assemblies which have been given responsibility for establishing the Faith in other towns. This plan has proved successful. "It has been abundantly demonstrated that this field of service is the means of the steady growth of the Assemblies themselves and causes them to become power houses of spiritual energy in ever-enlarging spheres." Sixteen Assemblies have opened fifty-nine new cities with regular study classes established in thirty-two of them. Eight new Spiritual Assemblies have been established, and two re-established. Three hundred and twenty-two new believers have been enrolled.

The National Spiritual Assembly has urged special attention to the observance of Feasts and Anniversaries. "Indeed as we pay attention to the Guardian's consummate wisdom in evoking the latent powers of the Bahá'í community, we realise the important role played by social symbolism in the formation of a new spiritual community. The successive Anniversaries and Nineteen Day Feasts, organic parts of the Bahá'í life, are themselves examples of the need for special occasions devoted to a release of the forces of ardour and consecration."