

"Immerse yourselves in the ocean of My words,
that ye may unravel its secrets, and discover all
the pearls of wisdom that lie hid in its depths."

(Bahá'u'lláh)

Beloved Friends,

For the benefit of you who were not able to be present at the Teaching Conference, nor yet at the memorable Feast of Sultán, next night, in London, we should like to describe however inadequately, some of the "high lights" of the Conference.

This year, the largest and most representative gathering of Bahá'ís from the cities of the British Isles - not merely the cities of England - met in Birmingham. Then as if it were not excitement enough to meet again the dear familiar faces of those to whom we had wished Godspeed as pioneers, and to encounter faces new to the Faith, we had the special privilege of meeting Dorothy Baker, Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States and Canada, en route to Europe.

We shall never forget Dorothy's personality - strong, spiritual, and yet so warmly human and humorous - and the wonderful talks she gave us. Her praise was very heartening because we have always admired the achievements of our American brothers and sisters, and yet she pointed out that our proportion of pioneers was greater.

During the course of the week-end, five more offers of pioneering were received. Most of these, however, can only bear fruit if these people who have volunteered to go far afield to the "Virgin Territories" can be replaced in their present towns, by those not able to go so far. The most moving offer came from Mr. and Mrs. Sugar of Manchester, whose youthful spirit of adventure is a wonderful thing - Alfred Sugar being over eighty.

Interesting as were the reports from Goal Towns and Communities, all faded into insignificance before these "high lights". We shall long think on Dorothy Baker's parting words: "I carry you all - collectively and individually - with me, in my heart - never to be forgotten. May Bahá'u'lláh bless you and make you one of the strongest Pillars of His Cause". Her words of praise are a strong incentive to us, to be worthy of her impressions, and live up to them.

And how can we tell those of you who were not at the 19-Day Feast of Sultán, what it was like? We were moved beyond measure and description by Dorothy Baker's shining spirit. It was not only her great eloquence and her abundant charm that transported us. Primarily it was her faithful heart that spoke to our hearts. Our grateful thanks go to her and to the National Teaching Committee that sent her to us. At the same Feast we had, once again with us, our dear friend from New York, Rafi Mottahedeh. It was indeed a great occasion.

Ever lovingly in His Fellowship,
The London Spiritual Assembly.

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Our Pioneers: In the next issue of the Bulletin, we will bring you another letter from our pioneers. They are all well and stout-hearted in the service of the Cause.

Our Community: We are most happy to extend the warmest welcome to Ataulлах Khoshbin who has come from Paris to study in this country. Mr. Khoshbin comes originally from Persia.

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19-Day Feasts

The Feast of Mulk (Dominion), Saturday, February 7th at 3.30 p.m.

Hosts: John and Dorothy Ferraby

Feast of 'Ula (Loftiness), Monday, March 2nd at 7 p.m.

Hostess: Beryl de Gruchy.

P.T.O.

Meeting at the Alliance Hall: Thursday, February 26th at 6.30 p.m.

A Dramatic Script entitled "Friend Tarry Not" will be presented, which will be followed by a BRAINS TRUST.

Wednesday Evening Meetings at the Centre: February 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th.

These meetings give us an opportunity to study the teachings of the Cause with our friends and contacts who are deeply interested.

Intercalary Days:

The first Intercalary Day, Thursday, February 26th, coincides with the meeting at the Alliance Hall. We shall serve some refreshments at the meeting, and your contributions in kind are invited. Of course we shall not make the same preparations as for the Nawruz Feast in March. These days it is not possible for the Community to give two elaborate feasts within the space of three weeks.

The second Intercalary Day, Friday, February 27th, Molly and Hasan Balyuzi will be very happy to see you at their home, 6 Cannon Place, Hampstead, N.W.3. (8 p.m.)

The fourth Intercalary Day, Sunday, February 29th, Nuran and Abbas Dehkan will be hosts at the Centre. (4 p.m.)

For the other two Intercalary Days, Friends are asked, if possible, to arrange small gatherings in their homes and invite a few in.

Study Course at Birmingham. The Birmingham Spiritual Assembly is arranging an intensive study course during February to last for a week. The subject for study will be the "Book of Certitude" (Kitab-I-Iqan). A few friends from other parts of the country can be accommodated at the Study Class. If you are interested, please write to Miss Emily Eastgate, the Secretary of the Birmingham Spiritual Assembly, at 5, Richmond Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

Letter from the Summer School Committee. Here are extracts from a letter written by the Summer School Committee: "We need a place to hold round about 80 or a little more in a district reasonably accessible from most parts of the country. It is planned to hold a smaller school for a longer period this time ... Summer school is a very important event in our Community life and the finding of a suitable place for it is urgent." It is hoped to hold the Summer School for three weeks in late July and early August. If you know of suitable premises in the country or by the sea, or if you hear of any by making enquiries from relatives, friends and other contacts, please write to Dorothy Ferraby at 35, Thornton Avenue, S.W.2.

News and Reviews

1. Our dear friend, Rafi Mottahedeh of New York gave a most inspiring talk about the early days of the Faith, at the Centre, on Wednesday, January 28th. He also addressed two Fireside Meetings at Hampstead and Ealing respectively. We are truly thankful for the excellent help he gave us, and are looking forward to his next visit in six months time.
2. Louise Baker the daughter of Mrs. Dorothy Baker spent a few days in London, prior to leaving for her pioneering post on the Continent. Louise Baker has already served as a pioneer in four countries of Latin America. It was a great joy to meet her, and will be seeing her again at our Summer School.
3. Here is the schedule of meetings at the Alliance Hall for this year:
Thursday, February 26th, Sunday March 21st (the Feast of Nawruz), Sunday May 23rd (the Feast of the Declaration of the Báb), Monday June 21st, Friday September 10th, Friday October 22nd (nearest date to October 20th, the Feast of the Birth of the Báb), Friday November 12th (the Feast of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh), Thursday December 9th.
4. The National Convention will be held in London on May 1st & 2nd at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row. The London Spiritual assembly has appointed a Committee, at the request of the National Spiritual Assembly, to see to the physical arrangements for the Convention. This Committee's membership is as follows: Gladys Backwell (chairman), Beryl de Gruchy (secretary), Nuran Delikan, Dorothy Ferraby.
5. Representatives of the National Youth Committee consulted with the London Bahá'í Youth in December. The Spiritual Assembly has now received a report from the N.Y.C. on this Consultation meeting. It is hoped to celebrate the International Youth Day with a symposium at the Centre, on Sunday February 22nd. A local Youth Committee will soon be appointed.