

# News Letter from Baha'is of the British Isles.

March, 1930.

**"Consort with all the people with love and fragrance. Fellowship is the cause of unity, and unity is the source of order in the world. Blessed are they who are kind, and serve with love."**

**Words of Baha'u'llah.**



"The day has come when all darkness is to be dispelled and the Sun of Truth shall shine forth radiantly. The time of the world may be likened to the equinoctial in the annual cycle. For verily this is the spring season of God. Infinite bounties and graces have appeared. What bestowal is greater than this?"—ABDU'L BAHA.

DEAR FRIENDS,

In greeting one another in this News Letter, we cannot pass on a happier message than the words of Abdu'l Baha—"It is New Year, that is to say, the rounding of the cycle of the year. A year is the expression of a cycle of the sun; but now is the beginning of a cycle of Reality, a New Cycle, a New Age, a New Century, a New Time, and a New Year. Therefore it is very blessed. I wish this blessing to appear and become manifest in the faces and characteristics of the believers, so that they, too, may become a new people and having found new life and been baptized with fire and spirit may make the world a new world, to the end that the old earth may disappear and the new earth appear; old ideas depart and new thoughts come; old garments be cast aside and new garments worn; ancient politics whose foundation is war be discarded and modern politics founded on peace raise the standard of victory."

"The coming of a Manifestation of God is the season of spiritual spring. This century is verily the spring season."  
London.

London.

On February 12th Mrs. Kathleen Innes, B.A., Secretary of the Peace Committee of the Society of Friends spoke at the Baha'i Meeting. She gave a very practical talk on "Peace" and cheered every heart by her optimistic view of the trend of the times. Baha'u'llah's wonderful teachings on "The most great Peace" were cited and Mrs. Innes expressed great interest in them. The Baha'is feel a great bond of unity with the Society of Friends and hope that this marks the beginning of a closer fellowship.

On February 19th the subject at the Baha'i Meeting at Walmar House was: "When Abdu'l Baha was in England," and hearts were thrilled by reviewing the press notices of those wonderful weeks. It was especially interesting for those who had never met Abdu'l Baha to read the glowing accounts of his visits and to see how universally he was honoured, and how many congregations and audiences listened to him with reverence. One is constrained to wonder how it is that their eyes were holden that they did not recognise him for what he was, and leave all to follow him. What were the veils that clouded their spiritual sight? It is hopeful to notice that considerable publicity about the Movement is appearing in the press now, and this means that a great responsibility rests upon each one who follows Baha'u'llah, for Abdu'l Baha has said: "the Baha'is are the proof of Baha'u'llah." Which of us dares to

face that responsibility? Surely we must pray with all humility the prayer: "Make me the minaret of Thy love in Thy region, the lamp of Thy knowledge among Thy creatures."

On March 21st at 8 p.m. a devotional meeting will be held at the Baha'i Room, Walmar House, to commemorate the Feast of Naurooz, and on the following day the Young People's Group is to hold a Social evening for which invitations are being issued to as many guests as can be accommodated. It is hoped that all the friends will gather if possible on Friday, 21st, that all may join in the opening of the New Year's work.

The world around is full of unrest and forboding at home and abroad. The Naval Conference is labouring so far without success to achieve disarmament agreement, and much distress is caused all over the world by increasing unemployment, and industrial problems are hard to solve. To the Baha'is these developments are the fulfilment of the Master's words, and while they recognise this, they are able to grasp the great hope for the future, for he also foretold the solution. "The day is drawing near when these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away and the 'Most Great Peace' shall come."

On April 11th the friends have arranged to meet at Walmar House to hear reports for the year from Secretary and Treasurer, and the ballots for the London Spiritual Assembly, and delegates to vote for the members of the N.S.A. will take place.

The Rizwan Feast will be held on Saturday, April 26th.

The Baha'is were represented in the Allied religious demonstration on March 1st at the City Temple, in the march thence to Westminster Abbey, and at the service of intercession for the success of the Naval Disarmament Conference. Mrs. Elsa Tudor Leland, who knew Abdu'l Baha in 1912, and came to London recently as delegate for various organisations working for world peace during the Naval Conference, cabled to Shoghi Effendi as follows: "May I tell Naval Conference that you and Baha'is are praying for Most Great Peace"? The reply came: "Heartily consent, loving appreciation, Shoghi."

Miss Drake Wright has returned from Haifa and after a short stay in London has gone on a trip through Germany to visit the friends in that country.

Lady Blomfield has returned from Geneva and is to live in Hampstead. She and Mr. Ewart Cleaton are leaving shortly on a visit to Haifa. We pray that their journey may be a safe and blessed one.

Miss Nancy Musgrove has been staying in or near London for several weeks. It has been a great pleasure to welcome her back among us. She will shortly be returning to Broadstone where she is making her home at present.



The Manchester friends report continuous activity. Baha'i literature has been forwarded to all the "city fathers" (the aldermen and councillors of Manchester, Salford, Stretford, and Eccles) and to many other people. Mrs. Sugar has been actively introducing the Baha'i history and principles to people in Crumpsall, Blackley and elsewhere. Her enthusiasm rises above all obstacles—and truly she has been faced with many difficulties, but her faith in the greatness and importance of her mission has given her strength.

Letters from abroad have been an inspiration to all the friends. Correspondence with friends abroad is continuous; and within narrower bounds there should not go unnoticed the particularly clear and interesting review of Baha'i literature which appeared in the North British newspaper, "John O'Groat Journal," in its issue of January 17th.

A general Meeting was held in Crumpsall on the evening of February 1st, attended by about 22 men, women and children—all in a very happy and comradely frame of mind. Mr. A. Robinson, at Mr. Sugar's request, occupied the chair. After a prayer, and the Chairman's kindly introductory remarks, Mr. Hall spoke on the Ruling Power of the Universe—the Spirit of God, through which millions of people were drawn to each great prophet of God in the various ages, and which at the present time is working through Baha'u'llah (the Glory of God).

This important and interesting subject was followed by questions, and useful discussion, blended with the warm and cheerful hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Sugar.

All the friends are looking forward with pleasure to the Naurooz Meetings in March.

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#### York.

After receiving the January News Letter, Mrs. Kenworthy writes "We are much appreciating these letters, and the sense of fellowship and news they contain. There are several people interested in the Cause, in York, who have bought and read books, etc., but none prepared yet to form a group. We should welcome a visit from someone who has been longer in the Cause, who might meet a few people to confer as to what could be done, and especially to prepare the way for Mrs. Ford's next visit North. We believe there are many people in England who are Baha'i in heart without having heard the name, and others to whom the Baha'i message would be just what they want. But how best to reach them is the question."

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At Altrincham the friends though few in number, are loyally holding together, and doors of service are opening. Mr. Craven was invited to speak at a Wesleyan Brotherhood on Sunday, March 2nd, and taking for his subject "Universal Peace from the Baha'i