

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASCENSION OF ABDU'L-BAHA.

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London, England.

November 28th, 1926.

Circular Letter.

To the Friends in El-Baha, _____ :-

Dear Co-Workers in His Holy Name and Faith and Covenant,

BAHA'U'LLAH has revealed many Tablets regarding the Station of Abdu'l-Baha, The Centre of His Covenant, The Remembrance of God amongst us, the Ransom for the souls of all who stand in His Name, whose Ascension from His earthly Temple we celebrate in love and faith and hope and gratitude and reverence on this day, His fifth Memorial.

Wherever there is a believer, wherever there is a soul aware of the greatness of this Holy Revelation and Its Mercies, wherever there is a soul seeking heavenly food, there the Bounty, which was promised when The Master should have ascended, will be felt. The Bounty is pouring upon all, who can answer the Holy Call. The radiance is illuminating the darkness of human ignorance and the mountains show forth His Glory. The Bounty of the Centre of the Covenant of God, is now only dimly realized, its importance not now known to the world and the blessing upon every believer, who prays in loving reverence on this day, is that, having heard the Holy Utterances, all with ears to hear and minds to understand, can ponder these Mysteries of God's Grace in the Light of the Holy Fire upon the Sacred Altar of each heart.

During a meeting with the Blessed Perfection (Baha'u'llah) He said to Vargha the Martyr:- "At stated periods souls are sent to earth by the Creator with what we call the Power of the Great Ether (Holy Spirit), and those who possess this power can do anything, they have all power.....Jesus Christ had this power. The people thought him a poor young man, whom they had crucified,

but he possessed the power of the Holy Spirit, therefore he could not remain underground. This ethereal power arose and quickened the world. And now look to the Master," said Baha'u'llah, "for this power is His."

To-day the significance of these words, and the promises of The Master, Abdu'l-Baha, the Centre of the Covenant of Baha'u'llah for the redemption of the world, "the Remembrance amongst us", appointed by His Supreme Pen for the guidance of all hearts give to our hope a dynamic power and to our consciousness an ever deepening realisation of the meaning of the Holy Promises which are our baptism:-

"Fear not if this Branch be severed from the material earth and cast aside its leaves, for this Branch will grow after It is cut from the earth and will ascend until it shelters the universe; its foliage will reach to the Supreme Apex and bear fruit imparting fragrance to the World."

This is the season of seed-sowing, for work that is worship, for desire that is in harmony with the Divine Plan for the Kingdom on earth when "all shall have the Law of God in the heart". In this time of trouble for the world, how great our bounty as we turn to the Revealed Word. What strength and encouragement and comfort there is in each Holy Utterance. How great is the Gift for the people of Baha:-

"Is there any truthful seeker who is excluded from the bounties of the Generous? Or any advancer, who desires with perfect righteousness the extreme Place and was barred from It?

If some of those who believe in the Unity of God, the near ones and the sincere, do not succeed apparently in that which they desire, this is owing to the Mystery of the Highest Wisdom of God. So they must not be saddened, because for everything there is a special fixed time, and when that arrives it appears in truth from the Presence of God the Lord of the Worlds.....

Blessing be upon him, who succeeds in gaining the great uprightness!"

With Baha'i love, renewed faith, and deeper reverence, may we attain to severance from all save God, then, free from the subtle serpent of the mind, the ego, we shall be of those who "desire with perfect righteousness", and with the lamp of humility

move forward to service free from self-deception, because we are severed from all save God. That which we seek in truth, we shall sow in truth. "God causes thing to grow". Abdu'l-Baha is the witness of this!

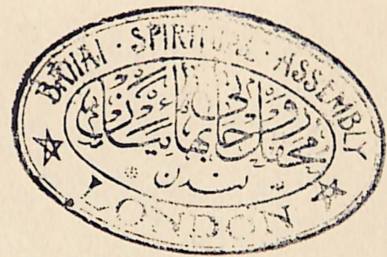
This is the Day of the King of the Covenant!

And "He shall be called Glorious!"

In His Name and faith, your co-workers,

The London Spiritual Assembly,

per Correspondence Committee
Isabel Slade
Claudia Coles.



Please address all Circular Letters in English or European languages to :-

Mr. George Palgrave Simpson,
58, North End Road, London, N.W.11, England.

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NEWS SHEET.

Our sister, Miss Martha L. Root, of the United States, (who, in her world teaching trip has been spending five months in Great Britain), assisted by Miss Julia Culver, arranged two Baha'i Conventions in Esperanto as a part of the Eighteenth Universal Esperanto Congress held in EDINBURGH July 31 - August 7. One thousand delegates from thirty-nine countries attended this Congress. Lady Blomfield went to EDINBURGH and graciously helped in meeting the Esperantists and she arranged the decorations at both Baha'i Esperanto sessions. The two Conventions took place in the same building where Abdu'l Baha spoke in 1911. Mr. Friedrich Gerstner, editor of "La Nova Tago", Baha'i Esperanto Magazine published in Hamburg, Germany, gave the two Esperanto talks illustrated with lantern slides showing the life in Acca, Haifa and Palestine and the progress of the Cause throughout the world. Miss Root spoke at both sessions, also in an oratorical contest. Professor Ernest A. Rogers, Baha'i of the Montezuma School, Los Gatos, California, U.S.A. spoke at the second Convention. Other Baha'is who took part were Miss Elizabeth Herrick, Mrs. Arthur Brown and Miss Mollie Brown, of London. During the eight days many conversations were held and fifteen hundred Baha'i Esperanto booklets were given out personally by the Baha'i group. Miss Root sends an S.O.S. to all Baha'is to learn Esperanto and have it taught to the Baha'i boys and girls in order to meet the world opportunities. The secret of success is to be READY.

En route to EDINBURGH Miss Root lectured in NEWCASTLE-on-TYNE to a small group including some Club Presidents.

Lady Blomfield and Miss Martha Root, after the Esperanto Congress, went to MANCHESTER, where the Manchester and Altrincham Baha'is had arranged for six lectures. They spoke twice in the Science Hall, Altrincham, in the Quakers' Hall, in Manchester, before the No More War Society. The three dear Persian brothers, Messrs. Joseph had a splendid meeting for all the Baha'is. One talk was given to three hundred children of the Ragged School and on Sunday evening a Church gave its platform for a Baha'i service. This little impromptu visit to Manchester was just a preliminary. A programme of lectures will be arranged there next month. "The Manchester and Altrincham Baha'is are aflame with the Holy Spirit and indefatigable workers," writes our sister, Martha Root.

Miss Herrick and Mrs. Brown, who took a circular tour trip with a party of thirty, to and from the Convention, spoke of the Baha'i Teachings and gave out literature to individuals in each city which they visited.

The arrival of Mr. Mills and the many meetings organised for Miss Root and himself, through the Friends, and through their own exertions and inspirations, made evident the confirmations of the Holy Spirit. Doors opened and difficulties became non-existent. A full report will be appended.

During the summer visitors have been many:

Miss Julia Culver came with the granddaughters of Abdu'l-Baha whom she brought from Paris to see London before returning to Haifa. These children of the Holy Household meant much to all the friends, and seeing them it was easy to realise how much promise they held for the work of the Cause in the years to come.

The arrival in England of Scheil Afnan for his post-graduate course will it is hoped mean that the friends will have his help in spreading the Cause in England and that all his endeavours may be blessed.

Mr. F. Asgarzadeh who has taken his degree in Medicine in Stuttgart spent a few weeks here with his brother M. Ziaullah Asgarzadeh, and has now returned for his work in the Hospitals in connection with his post-graduate work. Great is the field of service before a Baha'i who is a physician!

The friends everywhere will be glad to know that Mrs. George is improving in health and that her improvement has been to her heart as a direct answer to prayer in its guidance through material means. Mr. Froughi also is gaining day by day.

Mrs. Slade and Miss Ethel Rosenberg have sailed for Haifa, and Lady Blomfield is in London at present and active and inspired in her work for the Cause.

The Unity Meeting in memory of the Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha was held on Sunday, November 28th at the home of Miss Herrick, where the friends gathered for prayer and worship.

Mr. and Mrs. Romer of New York are now in Berlin, and their absence it is hoped may be short, for they became a part of the Baha'i group in London so completely, that they are deeply missed.

Mrs. Schopflocher from Montreal, Canada, spent a few days in London before joining Miss Root for her visit to WALES and PORTUGAL. Her faith and her energy carry the seeds of the knowledge of the Manifestation in this Day of God to many new fields, for she is always making gifts of Baha'i books as milestones along her way, and by her speech awaking the negligent to a realization of the need to know the Word.

Mrs. Moffitt from Adelaide, Australia is with us, loved by all, and is serving the Cause in many ways, as she spreads the Holy Message.

Mr. Joseph of Manchester with his mother and father and sister from Persia- spent a little time in London, and proved the welding power of the Cause, for though his family could not speak English, yet because they could say Allahu-Abha, they were not strangers, but friends to all gathered to meet them and their welcome was warm.

Mr. Ewart Cleaton of Montreal, is now in London, and has spoken about the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar with clarity and enthusiasm and spiritual vision. His own realisation of this Most Important work takes effect in the hearts of his hearers.

"Those who believe in God and the last day shall
build the Temple of the Lord."

Extract from a Tablet from Abdu'l Baha.

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MISS E. LEA

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Miss Martha L. Root of the United States has spent five months in Great Britain. After her return to London from the 18th Universal Esperanto Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland, she gave two lectures before the International New Thought Congress in London. Shoghi Effendi cabled Mr. Mountfort Mills in Paris asking him to lecture with Miss Root in London for three weeks. Four public lectures in Lindsay Hall were arranged by the London Spiritual Assembly. Mrs. Thornburg Cropper and Lady Blomfield arranged two World Unity Conferences in Caxton Hall. Sunday meetings were held in Mrs. George's home in Argyle Mansions. Miss Elizabeth Herrick had a meeting for fifty guests in her home. Mrs. Marcus Slade had an afternoon meeting at her home, Mallard's Court. Mrs. R.B. Knight, a Baha'í in Brighton had a meeting in her city.

The Spiritualist Church of which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is President, in London, invited Mr. Mills and Miss Root to take their Sunday Morning Service. Miss Root broadcast in London during the visit of the Dominion Premiers. She was asked to speak on the subject: "An American Woman Views the Dominions". She gave the words of Sir Abdu'l Bahá Abbas on brotherhood. One Children's meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Arthur Brown. Little Miss Molly Brown, founder of the Garden of Justice, presided. The Faithists arranged a meeting. Miss Dulcie Turnbull and Miss Root were hostesses at an evening for young people in Emerson Hall. Mr. Sohail Afnan of Haifa was the guest of honor. He spoke eloquently and with great power on what youth can do. The young people are continuing these evening talks.

Two visits were made to Manchester College, Oxford, where Abdu'l Bahá had spoken. Professor L.P. Jacks (Editor of the Hibbert Journal) and head of the college, arranged for Mr. Mills and Miss Root to speak before Manchester College students; afterwards an open forum followed. Four books were placed in the College Library.

Mr. Mills, Mr. H. Dreyfus-Barney, Mr. G. Townshend and Miss Root visited Prof. R.A. Nicholson of Cambridge University. He is the Professor of Oriental Languages since the passing of Prof. Edward G. Browne.

Mr. Mills and Mr. Dreyfus-Barney spoke at a meeting of the Religions and Ethics Committee of the League of Nations, held in the home of Mrs. Alexander Whyte. Mrs. Dreyfus-Barney spoke before the National Congress of the Council of Women and Miss Root spoke in Denmark Hill, London.

Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Marshall, Baha'is of Birmingham, arranged with the Birmingham Esperantists for Miss Root and Mr. Mills to lecture in the Birmingham Y.M.C.A. A Quaker family who had entertained Dr. Esslemont invited Miss Root to be their guest in Birmingham.

The Manchester Baha'is arranged a series of lectures for eight days. Different speakers went for two or three days each and spoke with Miss Root who remained for the eight days. Mr. Mills spoke with her Saturday evening before the Baha'is in Mr. Joseph's offices. Mr. Ahmad Yazdi of Port Said was a welcome guest. They spoke Sunday in the Adult School in Warrington and Tuesday evening, in Science Hall in Altrincham. Then Mr. Mills left for Paris, Geneva and Haifa. Mrs. Fred Schopflocher of Montreal, visiting in London, came to Manchester for two days. Miss Root and Mrs. Schopflocher spoke before the Arts Club of Rev. Mr. H.H. Johnson's Church, Manchester and the next afternoon Mrs. Schopflocher gave a tea at the Midland Hotel for friends to come and ask questions. The same day both these Baha'is spoke, at the noon hour, before the employees of the Linotype and Machinery Company of Altrincham which employs seventeen hundred men. They were guests of the Directors at luncheon. The same evening they lectured in the Adult School, Gorton. Mrs. Louis Gregory of Green Acre, Eliot, Maine, United States who was en route to her work in Budapest and Vienna spent one day with the Manchester

friends and spoke beautifully at this meeting in the Adult School. Miss Dulcie Turnbull of London went to Manchester for four days to help Miss Root.

Lady Blomfield went to Manchester for the week-end. She and Miss Root had a meeting in the Victoria Hotel Saturday evening. Sunday, Miss Root addressed two hundred boys and girls in the Unitarian Sunday School and Sunday evening both spoke in Rev. H.H. Biggs' Unitarian Church in Altrincham. After the service more than one hundred people remained for nearly two hours to ask questions.

The Manchester Bahá'is will arrange a Public Speaking Class with a special teacher, to train the Bahá'í youth to become Bahá'í speakers.

Miss Root went from Manchester to Cardiff, Wales for a few days, Miss Dulcie Turnbull and Mrs. Schopflocher came for the week-end. A few words were spoken at the Vegetarian Society. The Esperantists arranged a meeting and the Theosophists invited them to speak. They spoke before the Rotary Club, one hundred and seventeen members being present and several Rotarians from other cities. The leading newspaper had a good interview and they visited the Broadcasting headquarters. A book was placed in the Cardiff City Library and one in Cardiff College with its five thousand students. Mrs. Schopflocher returned to London. Miss Root and Miss Turnbull went to West Moors, ~~England~~ where Miss Grace Challis arranged a meeting for the patients in her hospital in the afternoon and a public lecture in the evening. The next day Miss Challis and Miss Kilford of West Moors went with Miss Root and Miss Turnbull to Southampton where calls were made on friends who knew of the Teachings.

Abdu'l Bahá said how good it would be if a Commission, a group of Bahá'is, could travel to different cities; this working together brought splendid results.

Sailing from Southampton Miss Root went to Lisbon, Portugal. In a letter received from her she writes that Mrs. Schopflocher went on the same boat and remained with her in Lisbon, four days. They spoke before the Lisbon Rotary Club where there were present University Professors, newspaper owners, Military Officers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Consul Generals. They put books in the National Library and in the Polytechnic University. Interviews were published in the two largest papers. (An Esperantist acted as Interpreter). Mrs. Schopflocher went on from Lisbon to the Canary Islands.

Miss Root will be in Madrid, Spain until December 12th, and from there will journey on to Germany stopping at various points en route. By December 17th she plans to be in Stuttgart, and by January 24th to reach Berlin after short visits to Gera and Leipsic.

"The Breeze of Life is wafting from the Rose-Garden of the Kingdom,
May all be moved thereby.

"The Rays of Light are emanating from the Most Great Luminary
May all become illumined thereby.

"From the Breaths of the Holy Spirit eternal life is manifest,
May all become quickened thereby.

"Now is the time of proclamation, and the occasion of
supplication and invocation toward the Kingdom of Abhá!"

ALLAH! U'ABHA!