

ELECT LOUIS GREGORY TO B'HAI BOARD

Convention Takes on New Attitude

Montreal, Canada.—The spirit of racial amity existing among members of the Baha'i cause was once more attested at the 19th annual convention of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada, held here recently, when the delegates elected Louis Gregory to membership on the National Spiritual assembly, the central committee of nine holding supreme authority in the administration of Baha'i affairs in America.



Louis Gregory

Long prominent in the Baha'i movement, Mr. Gregory is a graduate of Fisk university and holds the degree of LL.B. from Howard university, and for some time practiced law in the District of Columbia. In 1911 he visited Egypt and the holy land on account of his interest in the Baha'i teachings of racial amity, religious unity and world peace. While there, Mr. Gregory received important information and instructions from Abdu'l-Baha concerning the urgency of effort for racial accord in the United States, and from that time has dedicated himself exclusively to the Baha'i ideals.

HAS TRAVELED MUCH FOR BAHAI GROUP

During the past 18 years Mr. Gregory in his capacity as a Baha'i teacher and lecturer has journeyed constantly in the United States, and has appeared before innumerable audiences in universities, churches and liberal centers. He is recognized by his Baha'i associates as one of the most effective speakers and scholarly thinkers among the American followers of the cause, and has frequently been placed on the program of Baha'i congresses in the larger cities.

Mr. Gregory was elected member of the National Baptist assembly by delegates representing Baha'i groups in 42 cities of the United States and Canada, by far the greater proportion of whose members are of the white race. The convention devoted much time to consideration of the inter-racial problem in America, Abdu'l-Baha before his ascension having warned his followers that this constituted the gravest situation confronting the American people, stating that any outbreak between the various racial elements in the United States might be seized as an opportunity by hostile nations, with the result that the country could be plunged into real disaster.

WOULD FURTHER RACIAL AMITY

Abdu'l-Baha spoke in public on this subject while visiting the United States in 1912, more especially at Howard university and at the annual congress of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which was held that year in Chicago. The principal effort made by American Baha'is to further racial amity has been through a series of interracial amity congresses held since 1921 in Washington, D. C., New York, Springfield, Mass., Philadelphia and Dayton, Ohio.

The Baha'i attitude toward the general racial problem of the world is based upon the fundamental principle promulgated by Baha'u'llah of the oneness of mankind. Two conditions were laid down by Abdu'l-Baha in his address at Howard university as requisites leading to this ideal in America: justice and cordiality upon the part of whites, and gratitude on the part of the Colored race for participation in a civilization which has permitted them to develop with a rapidity scarcely paralleled in history.