# Baha'i Movement Seen as Hope of Religion

# Early Chicagoan

James G. Gordon, Here Since 1881, Helps **Develop Barren West Section Into Thriving Business Center** 

[Editor's Note-Don't fail to read "Chicago Yesterday, Today and To-morrow." These articles will be found not only authentic, but informative as well. They will cover a period of 50 years, dealing with political facts largely unknown by the present generation.]

> By A. N. FIELDS CHAPTER XXXVI

The state of Virginia, whose early history contributed so much to the consummation of the nation, has made a number of worthy contributions of men and women of value to our Race. No other state of the Union has been so productive either in quality or numbers, in giving to the Race characters so mature in thought and so sincere in purpose as those natives of that state who left their

business he carried on with admirable

an independent fortune Mr. Gordon

sibilities. Selling his interest in the

been an active spirit in the move-ment of the Fortnight club of the

West side and has not spared her zeal

She is a native of Indianapolis, Ind.,

the daughter of George and Emma Steveson, and prior to her marriage

In political affairs Mr. Gordon

was defeated in the election and has since sought no other office. He has been for 45 years a member of St. Stephen's church and has served in

He was a secretary and founder of West Chicago Lodge of Odd Fellows, No. 3965; this lodge is said to be the wealthlest in the state.

arious capacities.

decided in 1921 to reduce his respon-

environment in their early teaming and trucking business. This days to seek a freeman's opportunity in another land. Virginia was really the central place from which thousands wended their way after the Civil war, seeking to make for themselves and their posterity a place of happy habitation in states where the law was more unity teaming business he turned his attacks where the law was more unity teaming business he turned his attacks where the law was more unity teaming business he turned his attacks where the law was more unity teaming business he turned his attacks it deallists meet here in 1907, he was married to Miss Georgia Consultation about their purpose and encouraging to their hopes.

MRS. GORDON ACTIVE IN

They soar on wings of above the world of dust.

their hopes.

A few nights ago, in a palatial residence at 2672 Warren Blyd, it was the privilege of the writer to interview one of those native sons born in Madison, Va., in the county of Madison, and who left his home at the age at 18, settling on the West side of Chicago in 1881.

MRS. GORDON ACTIVE IN

SOCIAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS

To their union was born two girls, both of whom typify in culture and refinement their distinguished parents. Mrs. Gordon has been a distinct force in the social and civic life of the city. She has for 18 years theen an active spirit in the move-

ARRIVES IN CITY: SETTLES ON BARREN WEST SIDE

This worthy character bears the name of James G. Gordon, It was refreshing to discuss with Mr. Gordon the many advantages and disadvantages he had encountered in the past half century in this city. At the time of his arrival much of the locality in that section of the city in which he now resides was fields and woods. He toined in the task agreessively joined in the task aggressively to only to build himself but to do of not only to build himself but to do

non's part in advancing the civic,
born's part in advancing the civic,
born's part in advancing the civic,
born's and political progress of the
West side. His first occupation was
that of coachman, which position he
held for three years, using his spare
time in learning a trade. After having
perfected himself as a machinist he
obtained a position in the Caldwell
machine shops, located at 18th St, and
Western Ave., in whose employ he
spent several years, mostly as foreman in one of the departments.

In 1900 he decided to enter into the



MRS. GEORGIA GORDON

# West Side Attracts New Philosophy Wipes Out And the End Is Death! All Prejudices Based on Race, Color and Creed

## Wilmette Temple of Light a Thing of Surpassing Beauty

WILMETTE, Ill.—This beautiful village, a suburb of the great city of Chicago, brings annually together a gathering unique among the great assemblages of the earth. While the great busy world of dollars and want, bustle and traffic, business and chaos, war-like preparation, speed and accident, heedlessness and indifference to all save material values is in full swing, a band of resolute

1907, he was married to Miss Georgia | consultation about the state | able.

They soar on wings of the spirit above the world of dust. They enter the Elysian fields of divine joyousness. They greet and comfort each other with cheering words and noble deeds. They forget their private griefs and limitations in seeking light and hapiness for humanity.

This is the Baha'i annual conven-tion and present are 95 delegates, rep-resenting communities of this religion from Maine to California and from Scattle to Miami, with a greater number of visiting friends. East and West, North and South, white, yellow, brown and black are seen in friendliness and joyous array. A majority among them represent, as is litting, the majority group in American life. But these are most cordial and show no sense of separation from their comrades of a darker hue in American life. They reside in the world of unity and see no differences. Here is the East made practical and orderly in thought through the practical ideas of the West. Herein is the materialistic West spiritualized and idealized through the profound meditation and spiritual knowledge of the mysterious East.

The building in which this gather-

the mysterious East.

The building in which this gathering meets is also unique among the many structures of the world. Its architecture is strikingly different, it has nine sides, nine doors of entry, and when completed will be approached by nine walks. It will have nine fountains flowing and will reveal the mystery of the number nine. Nine being the last of the digits is the complete, all inclusive number. It represents in a morld that is full grown. A world of prejudice, ignorance and strife is immature. One of justice, freedom, knowledge, kindness and the rights of men upheld, is one that has come into its own, fulfilling God's requirements for mankind. This is the plan to which we are advancing in the new cycle of light and disnersation of the

to which we are advancing in the new cycle of light and dispensation of the cycle of light and dispensation of the day of God. And so this great temple, known as the Mashriqu'll Adhkar, or Dawning Place of the Praises of God, is its object lesson to all manwas for six years a stenographer in the recorder's office in Cook county. In political mairs Mr. Gordon always followed the ideals of the Republican party. In 1929 he permitted his name to be submitted to the voters of the 21st district for membership in the lower house at Springfield. He

HERE RELIGION AND SCIENCE JOIN HANDS

Here religion and science in their common origin support each other. Here all religions blend in their freedom from all forms of supersition, in their service to their followers in action. Here racial boundaries disappear as men gaze upon the souls and characters of their fellows and see their outward temples as but temples. their outward temples as but temtheir outward temples as but tem-porary abodes. Here is encourage-ment to all nations to learn and speak one language. Here all prejudices are cast in the dust from whence they sprang. Here women and men have the same rights and neither tries to enslave the other. Here each person must investigate and see the truth for bimself par depend upon the blind must investigate and see the truth for himself, nor depend upon the blind imitation of others. Each must think for himself to realize his own. Each must dwell in amity with his neighbors. Each must seek the good of all. All must depend upon divine insight and guidage. sight and guidance.

The specific object of the Baha'i convention is to choose the body of nine, known as the National Spiritual nine, known as the National Spiritual Assembly, which will direct Baha'l activities throughout the United States and Canada during the next year. Included in this is the plan for the completion of this unique structure now so well on its way. During the past 11 years in which this system has been in your the convention tem has been in vogue, the convention has shown its freedom from prejualses shown has freedom from projections a Colored and Jewish member of this important body and more than once an Oriental has been included it is significant that one-third of the membership is usually of the gentler

hoted as a held help and I failed help and I fai

tention to real estate operation. In idealists meet here in earnest tative and complete and inexhaust-

be most impressive. Rulers, stateswelfare workers, theologians, artists. scientists, people of all ranks, degrees all drawn inspiration from the verall drawn inspiration from the veritable sun of truth. "The proof of the sun is its own light." It is therefore incumbent upon each and all to investigate and see what food God provides for his starving children.

When Prof. Edward G. ... own of Cambridge university journeyed to the Orient and discovered its great founder, Baha'u'llah, inprison, the later, kinglike in his majesty addressed.

the sons of men should be strength-ened; that diversity of religion should

York Herald (Paris edition), praising for all of the principals to be presspeare, Sheridan, Goldsmith and in France. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," for its 1933

By some strange coincidence, last month's issue of the French maga-zine, "Visages du Monde ("Faces of matic teacher, is accompanied by two pictures. One is a scene from "Green Pastures," and the other is James B. Lowe as Uncle Tom in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Considering this fact, is seems the appropriate time to revive James B. Lowe, the celebrated, but ill-fated, Negro actor who was selected when Charles Glipin and Noble Johnson failed, to play the role of Uncle Tom in Carl Laemmle's screen adaptation

in Carl Laemmle's screen adaptation of Mrs. Harriet Beecher-Stowe's famous work, "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

But first of all let us stop to reason. The generally accepted phrase, "Uncle Tom Negro," is bitterly resented by, it seems safe to say, most all of us. To get as far away from anything pertaining to Uncle Tom is our temptation. But why? Was Uncle Tom a coward, traitor, or lackey? No! The original Uncle Tom was in every sense of the word a man, beloved and respected by all, and often referred to as the "Black God."

So human and stirring is this story of the old South that since its first dramatic version, \$1 years ago, practically every old actor or actress has at some time played some part in "Uncle Tom's Cabin." The late David Belasco at one time played the role of Uncle Tom. So did Harry Pollard (who directed James B. Lowe) in the first picture they made in 1913. The story of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," written by Mrs. Harriet Beecher-Stowe, was published March 20, 1852, by the Jewett Publishers, Boston, Mass. Translated in almost every language, it has been distributed in the most remote corners of the earth.

which played Tuesday and Wednesday at A Century of Progress, brought to Chicago four young musicians of the Race. They are, left to right, standing: James Petrum, first clarinet, and William Bailey, first trumpet. Seated, left to right: Henry B. Williams, first saxophone, and Maynard Black first trumpet. Pertum is the son of Mrs. Marguerite Spotts, 6306 Eberhart Ave., Chicago. The band came here from Ottumwa, Iowa.

Is not this what Christ prophesied? country; let him rather glory in this Do not you in Europe need this also? that he loves his kind."

Yet do we see your kines and rules:

"Abdul Baha, illustrious son of an Yet do we see your kings and rulers lavishing their treasures more freely on means for the destruction of mankind than on that which is conducive to the happiness of mankind and the peace of the nations. Yet so it shall be. These fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away and the most great peace shall come. Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his come!

'Abdul Baha, illustrious son of an illustrious son of an illustrious son. In strict we for illustrious sire, declared:

"Beware of prejudice, for light is good in whatever lamp it is burning. A rose is beautiful in whatever to the happiness of mankind and the graden it may bloom. The star has the same radiance, whether it shines from the East or West."

Both for the oppressed and the oppressor, the day of deliverance has a man glory in this, that he loves his come! Yet do we see your kings and rulers

so, Mr. Lowe, born in Macon, Ga., and depicted one of the most famous characters in American history, is working at his other profession—a tailor. His desire today is to abandon civilization, so as to forget. To become a roamer of the seas or a prospector in some distant land, would be the realization of his present dream. It is indeed pathetic, this born actor who portrays life by the change of an expression or the shading of a word, should be forced to earn his livelihood in fields other than the profession he so gracefully masters. Theater-goers the world over have not forgotten him, and are anxiously awaiting his return. Various writers throughout Europe occasionally make him the subject of their work. Many of them go to great length explaining the injustice done him. For some time I've wanted to write about him, but never would he consent. But now, since so much propaganda about James E. Lowe is circulating on this continent, if I in my small way can be instrumental in spreading same, and the results will be that Mr. Lowe will be recalled for service in the profession he is best fitted. I am sure he will forgive me for the liberties I have taken.

Murcel Thil, French middleweight champion of the world, who succeeded in "stalling" out of his return match with Kid Tunero last month, has

By JULIUS J. ADAMS

One of the first lessons in journalism is that allusions and quotations should be used only sparingly in news stories. Good reporters follow this rule religiously except in feature articles when a timely saying from some one of the old masters may make a better opening than anything we moderns can conjure. Right now I am constrained to go written by the same person who wrote a fitting beginning to this piece. It the letter to Mrs. Will Perrin and

s this:
"To be or not to be; that is the signed it, "Juanita."
question—whether 'tis nobler in mind The young woman to suffer the slings and arrows of out rageous fortune or to take up arms against a sea of troubles and—by opposing—end them?" [From memory.]

Pretty Miss Juanita Perrin must have considered the lines uttered by the sad prince of Denmark in his contemplation of suicide just before she sent a bullet through her brain in the home of her lover on May 16.

Certainly, she had some thought of what she was doing because she took time to pen a letter to her mother and to the man, on whose shoulders, if the were living today, she would doubtless lay the blame for her tragic death.

We have been here less than a say it was the old, old so guided small town gril what her big city admin what her big city admin what her big city admin town the policie of the property o

Miss Perrin, her hags packed and ready to leave her sweetheart's home, she having become an unwelcome guest, could not endure the sorrow she suffered. She sat down to her little oak writing desk and wrote her mother. Mrs. Will Perrin, route 2, Louisville, Miss. Said she:
"Dear Mama:
"I had begun to wonder what had happened to you. Sorry you keep so busy. I called Thee and Ruth up Mother's day and they were quite surprised. I talked to the kids and Thee and Ruth. Too bad about Jimmie D. I wonder whose it is. I haven't seen Roberta, but I thought she'd gone as she was supposed to, last night. I'll call her and see. There's no news here. I had a slight accident. I had three atitches taken in my side, but it's well now. It was an automobile accident. Love to papa.
"Here's some more stamps. Love to the family. Yours.
"JUANITA."

DIDN'T KNOW FACTS

The language of the note bespeaks The language of the note bespeaks intelligence, but it also reveals an impetuous nature. Flighty and frightful. The girl was worried, but like most girls who try to bear their burdens when they are sinning—sinning in the light of the orthodox code, of social ethics—she told no one of her misery

misery.

Maybe her mother didn't know Juanita was living in the home with Merkle Dean, former soldier and postal employee. The girl, therefore, couldn't tell mama just what was going on in her soul; mother hardly would understand. Strait-laced mothers, especially those in such places as garden it may bloom. The star has the same radiance, whether it shines from the East or West."

Both for the oppressed and the oppressor, the day of deliverance has come!

Sal City affair. He considers himself a "hollow shell." and goes about incognito, not wishing to be remembered as the man who became "king for a day," captured the admiration of movie fans the world over, and has been deprived of the opportunity of remaining before the public. In a cafe recently some one asked M. Lowe

would understand. Strait-laced mothers, especially those in such places as the much places as the such places as the much less countenance a daughter living under the same roof adult the state. Perhaps thousands of young women dother thousands of young women dother thousands of young men, many of them living like Miss Perrin and Dean lived, will read this article. Some will think seriously about it, while others will doubtless think nothing about it.

Then, shortly after writing her foot the same house but the for one thing and got something encome the pair becomes from the East or West."

Factor West."

Perhaps thousands of young women and other thousands of young women and the private state.

For haps thousands of young women and the other thousands of young women and ot

cafe recently some one asked M. Lowe why out.

The way out.

Written neatly in ink, folded careably. Either he feels he has been fully and tucked snugly in an enphilosophically replied: "The oppressor of the oppressed is the worst oppressor."

The oppressor."

The oppressor of the oppressed is the worst oppressor."

The oppressor. The oppressed is the worst oppressor. The oppressor of the oppressor of the oppressor of the oppressor of the oppressor. The oppressor of the oppressor. The oppressor of the oppressor

life and you've humiliated and made everything for me unbearable. You're paying and you'll continue to pay. You deserve everything you're getting and really deserve more. You wouldn't let me go when I wanted, now you suffer the conse-

The young woman, Dean said, had say it was the old, old story. A misguided small town girl who believed

Police reports said Dean wanted to get rid of the girl so that he could complete a reconciliation with his es-tranged wife. The girls note, by reftranged wife. The gives note, by reference, said as much. There was a load of information packed in the incomplete complex sentence: "You've inmiliated and made everything for me unbearable." They were the words, of someone who had been more sinned against than sinning. She had given herself to the man she loved and whom she thought loved here. It was probably her belief she was going to be his wife. But, alas!

be his wife. But, alas!

Dean and some friends sat talking in the dining room in the quiet twilight on that fine May day. It was just a little dark in the room and none of the folks observed the bulge under Miss Perrin's coat when she strolled from her room up near the front day. Miss Perrin's coat when she strolled from her room up near the front door past them to the rear bathroom. Perhaps she was taunted as she walked along and alone. Friendless! Closeted in the small room, Miss Perrin thought of her plight. She saw happiness, which had seemed so near, complete and so bright, slipping away from her. But, her mistake was that she believed she could leave a problem for Dean to solve. She must have for Dean to solve. She must have believed so because she said in con-cluding her note: "Now, you suffer the consequences." What conse-

quences?
Poor child! She might be mistaken.
Dean seemed somewhat disturbed as he chatted with police in the house before the body was removed, but there seems little consequences he had to face, as there was never any su-spicion that the death was other than spicion that the death was other than a suicide. Furthermore, his stock will probably climb. Women, sometimes rulned by curiosity, may angle for his friendship in order to learn what manner man is he, that a woman would end her life rather than go on without his love.

Except for the possibility that Dean

self. The Dean-Perrin case will not You're paying and you'll continue to be a lesson. It is just one of the few affairs of its kind that ends tragically and really deserve more. You wouldn't let me go when I wanted, now you suffer the consequences."

The note was not signed, but was living in, "common law."

### Wayland Rudd Becomes Moscow "Matinee Idol"

By HOMER SMITH MOSCOW.—From an understudy of Frank Wilson in "Porgy"

to a member of the staff of the world-famous Meyerhold theater and an idol of Moscow theater-goers whenever he appears on the stage is the record of Wayland Rudd, the American Negro actor, who this month completes his first year in the theatrical world of the Russian find myself just one of a group of

administration, exists nowhere else in the world.

Comrade Rudd now speaks Russian with considerable facility, no small feat in itself, considering the highly inflectional nature of the language.

V. Meyerhold, director of the theater and world renowned for his theater and world renowned for his theatrical genius and originality, is using Comrade Rudd at every available opportunity so that in the important roles which await him in the 1933-34 winter season he may be able fluently winter season he may be able fluently to speak the Russian language. COMPARES RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN THEATERS

"What is your opinion of the Rus-

"What is your opinion of the Russian theater as compared with the American theater?" Comrade Rudd was asked as he and the correspondent sat in a hotel in Red square.
Placing his open hand on his forehead—an idiosyperasy of his—and glancing pensively at the ceiling, he replied: "The Russian theater is much more serious than the American theater. It does not have money as its primary aim, but is more in the nature of a cultural institution. Pieces are rehearsed much longer be-

During the year Comrade Rudd has devoted himself intensely to orientation to a theater, the like of which in new methods, representation and administration, exists nowhere else in the world.

is, of course, quite different from America, where many artists are always looking for a job. On the average, artists in America work approximately three months in a year. Much of the reason for this is beause in America each theater is not permanent institution." Credit for his serious outlook o the theater in Russia, Comrade Rudd

gives to the two reasons which he spent with the Hedgerow Players of Philadelphia. Those two reasons he Philadelphia. Those two reasons he considers the most important in his previous theatrical career.

Each year at the close of the home season the Russian theaters leave for extended guest tours to other towns, which accounts in a great degree for the fact that Russian artists are never jobless. Comrade Rudd left Moscow May 29 with the Meyerhold company for a guest tour to Odessa, Kharkov, Kiev and other centers. He expects to spend two years more in Moscow before returning to America. At one time Comrade Rudd was the Washington representative of The

Washington representative of The Chicago Defender.

The March of Time

(The London Sunday Express) MONDAY IN DIXIELAND

A year ago a young Negro was condemned to death in Alabama for assaulting a white woman. At a new trial following appeal, the white woman concerned admits that she invented the story and that the assault never took place.

is the Negro acquitted? On the contrary, a jury of southern whites agein condmens him to death. Outside the court defending counsel is threatened with lynch law.

But the American churches have "Ah, that is different," he jestfully appointed a mission to investigate replied. "At the end of one year I racial prosecution—in Germany.

## Reminiscenses From an Old-Timer's Scrap Book

HILLIAM BY HENRY TEENAN JONES GIALDIAN A little personal history from the old scrap book, having to

do with some of the things in which I made an attempt to earn a living. My first effort in this city found me in the early '70s at the Grand Pacific hotel filling a position, or rather a job, as storeroom boy, the duty of which was to bring up certain articles from the hotel storeroom to the pantry.

ne on the job,
that the hotel
could get along
without the job,
or me either.
Mynextjob was
at the Tremont at the Tremont hotel as a bell hop, and I failed to hop there very long before the head clerk

Cabin" outfit and the positions offered were cook and porter.
Having developed that sporting
temperament and the fellow with me
being a bird of the same feather, we
said: "No, not for us."
He went on to Omaha. I, being
short of cash and not caring to
any farther west at that time, went
to the Judkins House, which was the
leading hotel in Red Oak, and made
myself a welcome guest.

membership is usually of the
sex.

ALL RACES WELCOMED

AS BAHA'I MEMBERS

Baha'is are made up of a
nationalities and religions.
rather impressive today to se
friend who sat at a table wit
and a Catholic at the midda
eon. Such sights are now so
that they cause not the sligh

Red Oak, lowa, to meet a private car party which was about to tour southern California and old Mexico. But when we arrived in Red Oak instead of being what he represented it was Jerome Marble's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" outfit and the positions offered were cook and porter.

# WITH 800-PIECE IOWA BAND

By LOUIS T. GREGORY

who have been illumined and guided by this great and glorious light would

ter, kinglike in his majesty, addressed him these words:

God."

In 1926, when James B. Lowe accepted the role of Uncle Tom in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," he became the object of much bitter comment through our press. He was called a poltroon and was accused of betraying his race by non-thinking individuals. But after a year's work, when the picture was completed, two directors told Mr. Lowe they didn't like his performance very much because he was not humble enough, and that within him there seems to revolt an undercurrent of defiance. Such were the true characteristics of the real Uncle Tom.

So human and stirring is this story of the old South that since its first

PREMIERE IN NEW YORK IN 1927

fom's Cabin" had its premiere showing at the Central theater, New York city. Arrangements had been made ent. All except one, Uncle Tom, or James B. Lowe, who was at that time

The record that the picture made is history. It did not turn out to be Miss Fischer's picture, as she, Mr. Laemmle and others expected. But it became the picture of our James B. Lowe. Despite the fact that his name was put up in small letters, his superb acting made him the most outstanding character in the picture. Critics and movie fans allke praised Mr. Lowe for his splendid performance as Uncle Tom. and predicted a wonderful future for him.

In December, 1927, Mr. Lowe quit France for England. He arrived in London shortly before the picture, and proved good advertising for same. The receptions that were extended him, marked an epic unique in the history of Race members. He was fetted by many notables of the social and political life of England. A banquet was also given in his honor by the European Motion Picture corquet was also given in his honor by the European Motion Picture cor-poration, and Mr. Lowe proved him-self a marvelous representative of the

Negro race. PRAISE COMES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

When his picture opened in London, his name appeared in an electric light sign 30 feet high. Soon afterwards all Europe had seen the picture; and even from distant Australia came more praise for James B. Lowe, whose sensational rise to world-wide fame was not the design of the producers of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," but was the reward of his meritorious acting ability. When his picture opened in Lon-

ducers of "Uncle Tom"s Cabin," but was the reward of his meritorious acting ability.

One year passed; two years passed; then another year passed, and the millions of movic fans the world over that had seen James B. Lowe in that that had injured his right arm other great picture soon, began to fret.

On Nov. 15, 1930 Miss Olga M. Fetter wrote from Vienna, Austria, to The Chicago Defender: "What has become of Uncle Tom"? The answer to her query is anxiously awaited by millions.

In the April, 1931, issue of the German magazine, "Mein Film," Gustav W. Herzog, writer-critic, commented over, on James B. Lowe's ability, and went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he went to some lengths explaining the mistake of telling the press he commisted to the mistake of telling the pre

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