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INTER-RACIAL AMITY ACTIVITIES

The outstanding events since my last report in the way of racial amity, which in view of pressure of work must be given in very brief compass, follow:

December 9 and 10, 1932, an amity conference was held in New York City, with the local and National Committee cooperating with the Urban League of New York. An overwhelming number of the speakers and workers were Bahá'ís and there was a fine and enthusiastic response on the part of the most cultured circles of Harlem and other parts of the city.

The conference was divided into several sessions. At the first, devoted to economics, our noble brother, Mr. Samuel A. Allen, presided. Speakers were Mr. Ira De A. Reid, director of the research department of the National Urban League, Dr. Genevieve Coy of Columbia University and Miss Elsa Russell, who covered in a most helpful way the past and present, with a vision of the new economics of the Bahá'í teachings.

At the second session Mr. Philip A. Marangella presided with his usual dignity. The speakers were Mr. Louis G. Gregory, Dr. Alain Locke, Mrs. Wanden M. LaFarge and Mr. James H. Hubert. This session covered many phases of racial amity.

A musical at which Mrs. Ludmila Bechtold presided was held in the auditorium of the Harlem Branch of the New York Public Library. One of its special charms was African music. This was followed by a session de-

voted to art, at which the speakers were Mr. Saffa Kinney, who strongly advised the colored race to improve their wonderful native gifts in music uninfluenced by foreign masters, so as to make a great contribution, and Mr. Arthur A. Schomberg, director of the Schomberg collection of books about the Negro, who exhibited and explained his fascinating studies. This session was followed by an interracial social. For a number of years, in fact since the first amity convention in Washington, Dr. Alain Locke has during the years been a contributor to the work of the Cause, without formally identifying himself with it. *Perhaps the most significant feature of this conference was his strong, eloquent and beautiful address, in which he took a decided and definite stand within the ranks of the Cause.* This attitude we believe will increasingly with the years influence people of capacity to investigate the mines of spiritual wealth to be found in the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh. It will also make what has long been a grandly useful life more glorious, serviceable and influential than ever before. It is to be hoped that the friends both locally and nationally, will largely make use of the great powers of Dr. Locke both in the teaching and administrative fields of the Cause. He has made the pilgrimage to Haifa. The Master in a Tablet praised him highly and it is known that the Guardian shares his love for our able brother.

The Committee of Arrangements for this conference, led by Mr. Samuel A. Allen and including Miss Lauretta Noisette, Mrs. James H. Hubert, Mrs. E. P. Roberts, Mrs. Ludmila Bechtold and Mrs. Lois Allen, merit much admiration for their wise and proficient services. An interracial dinner was another feature.

The Bahá'í Assembly of Portsmouth, N. H., cooperated well with the Citizens Committee in observance of the commemoration of emancipation day on January 2. A dinner was followed by a large meeting of both races. The newly elected mayor of Portsmouth spent the entire evening with this occasion, as did a municipal judge. A Bahá'í served as master of ceremonies and another Bahá'í as principal speaker. Mrs. Loulie Mathews, chairman of this committee, on her amity tour has reached Honolulu. Another interracial tour is about to start for the South.

The National Bahá'í Committee for
Racial Amity,
By LOUIS G. GREGORY,
Secretary.