

## `Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to Edinburgh



`Abdu'l-Bahá visited Edinburgh in January 1913. He was invited to stay with a Christian minister and his wife at 7 Charlotte Square. They were called Dr and Mrs Whyte.

Mrs White had visited `Abdu'l-Bahá in `Akká in 1906 and admired Him very much. She describes how, in the Spring, she walked ankle-deep through fields

of red anemones on her way to the beautiful Ridván

Garden where Bahá'u'lláh used to go for picnics with His grandchildren. This Garden is full of orange trees and flowers and has a sparkling pool and fountain in the middle. Mrs Whyte also went to the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh to pray. She said:

"I spent two days in the prison-home of `Abdu'l-Bahá.... During the visit to the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh, the figure of a boy was kneeling in rapt adoration and the thought passed through my mind, 'What destiny lies before this boy?'"

The young boy was Shoghi Effendi, who later became the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. When Mrs Whyte saw him praying in the Shrine, he was about nine years old.



`Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to Edinburgh was a great success. Hundreds came to hear Him speak about the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. At one meeting, the hall was so full, 300 people had to stay outside. At a meeting in the home of Dr and Mrs Whyte, students from Egypt,

India and Japan were among those present. Dr Whyte was very moved to see so many people from different countries. He said to `Abdu'l-Bahá:

“Dear Master! In my time I have had many meetings in this house, but never have I seen a gathering like this. It reminds me of ... the words of Christ: ‘...they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the Kingdom of God’.”

In January this year, the Bahá'ís of Edinburgh arranged little pilgrimages for the friends to visit the places where `Abdu'l-Bahá gave talks, and to see the home of Dr and Mrs Whyte, where He stayed. The house is now owned by the National Trust, which is an organisation which looks after interesting and important houses and allows the public to visit them.



“...the unity of all mankind can in this day be achieved. Verily this is none other but one of the wonders of this wondrous age, this glorious century.” (From a letter by `Abdu'l-Bahá written to Mrs Whyte)