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AMERICA

Babism in New York

The followers of Babism lately held their annual meeting for election of officers, in Tuxedo Hall. They call themselves "The Believers." They meet Thursdays and Sundays, not only in New York and Brooklyn, but in Chicago, San Francisco, etc. This cult, introduced four years since, boasts a large following, and proposes a vigorous propagandism.

Babism, or Behaism, is one of the many sects springing from Islam—a sort of reformed Mohammedanism. The prophets are Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ, Mahomet and Beha Ullah. The last was announced as to make his appearance by the *Bab* (meaning *gate*), who in 1844 began his ministry in Persia by declaring himself the forerunner of one whom God would manifest. Bab was killed in 1850, and two years later Beha Ullah announced himself as "the Glory of God." He in turn has been succeeded by Abdul Beha Abbas (the great Branch), whom the Babists accept and worship as the Incarnation of the Word of God, the Spirit of Christ and the *second coming of Christ*, which He foretold. Says the author of one of the books, sent forth to convert people to Babism, "Some million of people on earth believe that the Word of God has with power and glory manifested itself in our day and that fuller revelation for the new age has been received of Him, who alone can speak as one having authority and not as the Scribes and Pharisees."

A. P. Dodge, chairman of the New York Babish counsel and founder of the *New England Magazine*, writes:

Abdul Beha Abbas has never made a claim of being the second coming of Christ, but he is known by his works, the believers well knowing that he is *literally* continuing the works of Christ, and *actually* fulfils all of the prophecies and revelations respecting the second coming of Christ "at the right hand of the Father." The Blessed Perfection (Beha Ullah) said: God came through a murderer (Moses); through the messenger without a father

(Christ); through a camel driver (Mahomet): and then through myself, etc.

A wealthy American woman who is a Babist has given thousands of dollars to spread the new religion, and some followers have frequently visited Abdul Beha Abbas, who lives in Syria and whom they term "*our Lord*." Both at Brooklyn and New York meetings are held where Abbas is worshiped as the Savior.

SOUTH AMERICA

A Horrible Deed

A Portuguese meat dealer in Buenos Ayres, Jose Modiry, has been doing a flourishing business in murdering human beings, and selling their flesh as pork. When he was found out and the law laid hold of him, the remains of fourteen bodies were actually in his butcher shop. Nothing but a police force prevented his being lynched by an infuriated populace when the awful crime was known.

EUROPE

The Opium Crime

Mr. Benjamin Broomhall, in a pamphlet on "The Opium Question from a New Point of View," looks at Britain's old crime against China in the light of the present situation. He contends that the weakness which in recent years has made this Oriental Empire an easy prey to spoilers, is due mainly to the opium habit, practically forced on China by Britain in the interests of the Indian revenue. Now, however, China is looking largely to Japan for guidance, and is likely to deal as drastically with the opium curse as the Island Empire has done, where opium is allowed only as a medicine. It is one sign that, in the new Chinese army, *no opium smoker is accepted*. Mr. Broomhall pleads that the British government should take the first step, and to the eternal credit of the new government resolutely abolish the traffic, and thus forever correct one of the darkest dealings in the annals of the nation.

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