

1918

10/19/1918 Letter from MAS

Subject Thompson papers, Box 3-4 (A)

11/19/1918 Crime Time (Robb B7) **

1918 Letter from W. Tucker-Pole (Parsons B20 F46) ***

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Tomb of Baha'ollah, Acca, Palest in
October 19th, 1918.

My very dear Juliet:

The contents of the letters I have written so far, since September 26th last, is based upon my meagre knowledge of the situation of the Cause and the names of the believers up to four years ago. Surely during this long interval much teaching has been done and new souls have entered the Cause of God, with whose names I am not acquainted. One of those friends who must have been very active in delivering the Message to eager inquirers is your dear self. This long separation must have thrown the believers back on their own resources, - to solve their own problems, to walk in the path without any outside help except the light of the Words, and to trust on God for assistance and confirmation. No doubt this has been the case, but we are waiting to receive the details and to know the present status of the Cause in the United States.

Just at this moment the Master entered my room, which is next to His at Behje. Seeing me writing, He asked: "With whom was I corresponding?" I answered: "With Miss Thompson." Immediately His face was smiling.

"It is a long, long time" He said, "that we have not heard from her. She is very pure and faithful. What spiritual meetings we had in New York, where she was always present. Often she would bring new souls, so that I might speak with them about the principles of the Cause. What a happy time we had in Green Acre! She was ever active, ever attached to the Cause. Lua, Juliet, May (Maxwell), Mariam (Haney), Ela (Goodall) - how attached to each other they are! Poor Lua - she is no more! She is very happy in the Kingdom of God! She was one of the best teachers of the Cause. An eloquent tongue, a severed soul, a detached heart were hers. Although she passed away from this material world, she is living in her spiritual children. Their love for her must increase. I loved and taught her.

"I hope that the war may soon come to an end, so that I may again look into the faces of the believers. It will be a great joy to me. This war lasted very long, but it had to come. The corrupt world needed such a purification. The war was not an act of God, but rather, the results of the accumulation of our own evil deeds. Because peoples and nations did not act in accordance with justice, and tyrannized innocent men, this war had to sweep away all the remnants of autocracy, absolutism and militarism, and usher in an era of democracy, equality before the law and international peace."

He spoke about other interesting subjects, but I have to bring my letter to a close, expressing the hope that you are well, and that I shall soon have the pleasure to hear from you.

Your sincere brother

(signed) Ahmad (Sohrab.)

Some Words referring to 'Abdu'l-Baha and life in the Holy Household, taken from a letter written by Mrs. Corinne True, Chicago, to Mrs. Goodall, San Francisco., January 27th, 1919.

My dear Mrs. Goodall;

On November 19, 1918 Shoghi Effendi wrote that Cap't. Tudor-Pole had surprized and gladdened them with an unexpected visit coming from Egypt. I quote "My grandfather, the Master, was so glad to look at his radiant face and feel from shaking hands the fresh fragrance of the ablazed Baha'is of England." Also quote "The Beloved has been sojourning for a month and a half at Acca, visiting almost daily the Tomb of His Heavenly Father and offering His thanksgivings for the bounty, care and protection of the Blessed Perfection. Today Cap't Tudor Pole accompanied Him to the Holy Shrine and tomorrow the Beloved will drive with him to the Rizwan."

Mr. Tudor-Pole wrote on December 3rd that he had just returned from a most interesting visit to the Master in Acca and Haifa and that he had written out a full report of it and sent to his sister. I quote from Major Tudor-Pole "The Master is vigorous and more healthy than when he was in London. He sent His loving greetings to all friends in England and America."

Major Tudor-Pole wrote "I took a warm Persian cloak to the Master and am so glad I thought of it because He has no cloak at all."

(Signed) Corrine True.

Believing the friends would be interested in the details just received from Miss Hiscox, am sending you the following copy of her letter. With Abha Greetings,

Roy.

September 25th, 1918.

Dear Miss Hiscox:

I have returned from the Front. The Master is well and being fully protected and looked after by the British military authorities. I arranged for funds and relief stores to reach him and shall go to Haifa directly I can get away again. I have cabled London and seen Yazdi. Please inform the Cairo friends. In great haste,

Yours,

W. Tudor-Pole.

I saw the authorities at G.H. and fixed up every possible arrangement for his comfort and that of those around him.

W.T.P.

---c(O)o---

Mr. Roy C. Wilhelm.

Dear Bahai Brother:

Capt. W. Tudor-Pole is an old English Bahai and he entertained Abdul Baha at his home in England. He joined the forces in Palestine, was wounded last December during the attack preceding the capture of Jerusalem, was sent to a hospital in Cairo. After recovery, he was given a very important position here in Cairo at General Headquarters, at the head of the O.E.T.A. (~~Oriental~~ Occupied Enemy Territory Administration), which has necessitated his taking frequent trips to Jerusalem. He was able to do a great deal to interest the Foreign Office at London and Gen. Allenby here at Headquarters in Abdul Baha and followers, and complete protection for them was authorized by the military officials before the attack on Haifa. Capt. Tudor-Pole has sent on 200 lbs., \$1000, to Abdul Baha and ordered food sent on. He has also written to him that any time he would like to leave Haifa, and come to Egypt he (Mr. Tudor-Pole) will make all necessary arrangements to have him brought here. He has sent on a friend and junior officer, whom I also know and who is much interested in the Bahai Teachings, to remain permanently at the Military Office at Haifa and he will see Abdul Baha frequently and look out for his welfare and comfort. Mirza Mohamed Taki (one of the old Persian Bahais of Cairo) has sent 50 pounds, \$250, and many of us have sent letters to Abdul Baha through Mr. Tudor-Pole. We know that you have all rejoiced in America to read in the papers of the capture of Haifa and Acca by the British. Capt. Tudor-Pole got transferred (last year) from his regiment in England to the Palestine forces in order that he might be of service to Abdul Baha. He has indeed been of the greatest service! I feel he was sent by God. Notify all other Bahai centers. Let me know if this reaches you in safety.

c/o Thos. Cook & Son,
Cairo, Egypt.

Faithfully yours in the Cause of God,
Elinor Hiscox.

Later, September 29th.

Capt. Tudor-Pole has just received a message from Col. Storras, now Military Governor of Jerusalem, who had just returned from a trip to Haifa, where he saw Abdul Baha, and gave him the money sent by Mr. Tudor-Pole. Abdul Baha is very well and all the family and have had plenty of food to eat - not luxuries of course - but they have not suffered in that part of the country from lack of necessary food. Abdul Baha said he did not need the money for himself, but he accepted

it to give to the poor. He sent greetings and love to all. He wishes to remain at Haifa for the present. Before the war, Col. Storrs was Oriental Secretary at the British Residency in Cairo; he studied Arabic for a long time with our Bahai Brother Hussein Rouhy, and he saw a great deal of Abdul Baha when the latter was in Egypt, drove him out to the pyramids in his automobile, etc. So it was a mutual pleasure for them to meet now at Haifa after these long years of warfare and separation. Praise God! The worst is now past.

Yours in El Abha,

Elinor Hiscox.