

Ramleh, Egypt
October 7th 1913

Dear friends!

Today mankind is more in the search of Peace than any other time in the ^{course} of its history, but three things have impeded its realization. First mistrust, second jealousy and third misunderstanding. Nations having no confidence in the protestations of friendship by their neighbours increase yearly the means of defense. This breeds jealousy and ends in misunderstanding which in turn is transformed into war and bloodshed. Arbitration Conferences, Peace meetings, Conciliation Congresses are yearly organized and thousands of men and ^{women} attend them and in their last sessions excellent Resolutions are presented and unanimously adopted but the tangible results are wanting. We may depict most vividly the horrors of wars or describe in great rhapsody the victories of Peace but after all we have not gone beyond the realm of words.

We may discourse eloquently on the burden of
 Armaments but on the other increase in
 at geometric ratio the frightful annual mi-
 litary and naval budget. The Permanent
 Court of Arbitration before which all the
 governments may settle their disputes is a
 grand and noble Ideal for the realization
 of which we are all striving but the difficulty arises
 from the fact whether these nations are
 altruistic and unselfish enough to present
 all their cases - boundary line, commercial
 disputes, national honor - to the arbitrament
 of the international Court. So far there
 have been certain questions which the nations
 of the West are not yet willing to yield
 to the decision of the Court, no matter how
 impartial, or to a joint-commission no
 matter how representative. They fear
 each other's designs or amicable dealings.
 Jealously they hug to their bosom their hard-
 won or inherited independence, suspecting
 that their neighbors will trample it under
 the hoofs of their cavalry horses as soon

as they are exposed to outside attack. Outwardly all the nations are committed to the principle of arbitration with or without reserve but how are they going to establish the Court of Arbitral Justice on a permanent basis of national representation and international dignity? These nations do not want to have Peace at any price but they like to have Peace tempered with justice. It is heard from many quarters that the third Hague Conference will be inaugurated within two years and that from now the diplomats and statesmen of Europe and America are preparing suitable proposals to be submitted to the Conference. It is hoped that when the delegates of the governments are gathered together in that august Assemblage of the Parliament of Man, they will not only discuss how to minimize the horrors and cruelties of war but how to bring about either limited or total disarmament, how to constitute the various functions of the Permanent

Court of Arbitration, how to devise a plan ^{whereby} all the nations may be willing to enter into a general agreement and how to create an international naval police force to protect the commerce on the high seas. If they are assisted in carrying out even partially these matters which are seething in the minds of the pacifists they have rendered an enduring service to the world of humanity and their names will shine through the history of mankind like unto the brilliant stars from the horizon of eternal glory.

For the last 20 yrs the cause of Peace has been greatly accelerated, Peace Societies have sprang up everywhere and the followers of Peace are increased. The Pacifists of all countries and of all nations have carried a vigorous campaign of public education and face to face with the legions of war we have the legions of Peace. Here there may be an army of death but there is an army of life. Governments may drill

hosts of destruction and inveterate engines of slaughter, God is teaching the cohorts of Constructions and bringing into the field artillery of love. The former lies his trust in the brutal force of Dreadnaughts and indomitable phalanxes of men; the latter puts his Confidence in the Power of the Holy Spirit and the Confirmation of the Supreme Kingdom.

X These present day nations are like unto so many armies of Peace. They need a wise Commander-in-Chief in this struggle. As soon as the supreme general with undaunted courage and universal conception appears he will bring all these scattered armies under the Flag of Eternal Peace. It is said that once the rats made pathetic complaints against a big cat whose nightly attacks upon them decimated their rank and file. They organized a meeting and deliberated upon the means whereby they may stop the murderous ravages of the cat. All the delegates expressed their opinions individually but they did not hit ~~the mark~~ ^{upon any plan}. Finally

an old rat, well-known for its sagacity and insight arose from its seat and said: - "I have found a way, and that is by tying a bell around the neck of the cat. Then whenever it approaches us from afar we will hear the ~~noise~~ ^{sound of the bell} and fly away." Everybody thought this was the best suggestion but their heated enthusiasm cooled down when they began to think who will have courage enough to take the bell and tie it around the neck of the cat.

Now, the principles of Peace and arbitration are very good and beneficial but which one of the governments of the world will arise to practice it first, and then by this example teach other nations to follow? It is hoped that America - the home of the brave and the free ~~and the peace-loving~~ - will be the first government to hoist this flag, to let the dove of Peace fly out of the cage of human egotism and selfishness and brutal materialism and to lead all mankind in the arts of love, friendship and conciliation. X May the

American delegates at the third Hague Conference show forth this statesmanship and far-sightedness! May they constitute themselves the Champions of Peace without limitation of arbitration without restrictions! May they raise their voices in behalf of the oppressed amongst mankind! May they lay the foundation of the Glorious Palace of the Permanent Court of Arbitration or the Parliament of Man — thus their names and fame may shine throughout all future ages and cycles!

Today the Beloved was not feeling well. He was in bed all the morning. In the afternoon we met him only for a few minutes in the Victoria Hotel. He was weak and did not speak but a very few words. He told us he is going to rest. One of the Arabic papers of Alexandria called "El-Ahali" of today contains an interesting article on the cause and gave a wonderful eulogy to the Master and his work.