

No 8

Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrabi.

Beginning October 13th 1913

Ending October 21st 1913

Ramleh, Egypt

Ramleh, Egypt
October 13th 1913

Dear friends!

Another short period of separation from the Master is dawning upon us, thus beclouding the vista of our happiness and deprived of the rays of the Sun of his beauty. Just for the change of air and environment he left today for Aboukir, a little town half an hour away from Ramleh. Mirza Inoneer and Khosro accompanied him. Aboukir, historically is very interesting, because it is connected with the military campaigns of Napoleon in Egypt. When he invaded Egypt with his great army he did everything to enlist the sympathy and the active co-operation of the Islamic world, in his ambition of the world conquest. Thus the contemplation of Islam fascinated him. When here, he went to pray in the Mosques, dressed as an Arab and debated with keenest interest on all religious matters with intelligent Sheikhs. He sought in many ways to conciliate himself with the great Ulema of Al Azhar, in Cairo, gathering them around him and taking their counsel on all occasions, when circumstances permitted. When his troops were starting for Egypt he impressed upon them the duty of showing the greatest respect for the Koran, the mosques and the Imams. Indeed, it was said that he seriously contemplated becoming a Moslem.

In his proclamation in Cairo Napoleon said:-
"The French are the true Moslems. We became better Christians than before by becoming Moslems. By the political alliance of France with Islam

we create a military power with which the world must count. By the religious alliance of the Gospel with the Koran we will make such to shine such a light for the souls of men as they have not yet seen." And when the hopelessness of St Helena encircled him, he still often expressed his sympathy with Islam and spoke of many of its tenets with praise. "It is generally thought that the French people have - and do - always come nearer to sympathetic understanding of the Moslem people here than those of any other nation. It was, I think, only a Christian Frenchman who could have written these words of the Moslems: "We wait also the return of the Messiah, though we do not know when or how he will appear. Nevertheless, the Spirit of Jesus, who is light and love, can spread itself abroad in the hearts of men with a power and a new purity to accomplish between brothers, too long enemies, a reconciliation which is altogether beyond their own efforts. Be then Christians of Islam and Moslems of the Gospel."

I have digressed from my main subject which is the departure of the Beloved for Abaukir to stay there a few days and then be away from the rush and stress of Ramleh. All of us saw him this morning. He was dressed in long, cream robe and looked very vigorous and his eyes were shining with the mellow light of love. He left about eleven am and later on we received a letter in Persian from Mirza Momen giving the news of his safe arrival. Herein I will give you a translation: - "Praise be to God the divine Temple arrived safely in the small town of Abaukir and this locality became adorned with the Blessed feet

of the Beloved. There are hardly any signs of busy city or the progressive thrift of even a small town. It looks like a country without fertility. The only scene that strikes upon the retina of the eye is the ever-shifting Sahara of sand and the groves of palms the dates of which are beginning to be ripened. The weather is however clear and fine. About 15 minutes to eleven the Master left from Ramleh for Abouker. From the window of the train the Beloved Temple looked at the natural scenes, gardens, orchards and Palm groves and the very slight change of air reacted upon his tender constitution and he felt much better. I hope the weather will agree with him. The manager of the hotel has seen the Master in Ramleh and is very considerate and kind. The patrons have already left and everything is very quiet. I remember the dream of Seyal Jalal Sina. (it refers to a dream about the departure of the Beloved) I do not know when the Blessed Temple shall return to Ramleh. He may stay for a week." So you see for the next few days we will be deprived of his beauty, although we may receive permission now and then to go and see him. In the afternoon a number of Persian young men who are on their way to Mecca came to see the Master but they were disappointed. Now that the Beloved is away I don't know what we will do with ourselves. We are like lost children. I frequent Mirza Abdul Faghl's house every afternoon. As of old he makes his own tea and serves his guests. His historical talks are ^{interesting} interesting, now about India, again about Turkey. His religious dissertations are instructive. We all love him very much.

A few quotations from recent Tablets may not be out of place:-

"It is sometimes since that you are living in Yazd. Unquestionably you are the means ^{of good} and happiness of the friends of God. The Afrians are the cause of the ecstasy and joyousness of Abdul Baha. Continually do I remember them, and beg for those blessed souls especial Confirmations. At all time I have entreated towards the Kingdom of Abha, wishing for each infinite Protection and Grace, - so that each one of them may become like a shining star in the horizon of Reality, like like a sharp-edged sword they may divide the wrong from the right, becoming the ensign of guidance and the Flag of the Supreme Cause."

To another Believer he writes:

"Praise be to God that in every society thou didst investigated the Reality and at last thou didst attain to the Center of Reality. Those societies were like so many stages on the road but the Kingdom of Baha-Allah was the final goal and the object of the heart and the soul. Now be thou thankful to God that thou didst reached the Center of Reality and at the termination of the journey thou didst find the Palace of His Highness the Desired One. Therefore, strive with heart and soul to become firm, steadfast and unshakable in this great Cause."

To another Bahai he reveals:-

O thou beloved daughter! Thy letter was received. It became the cause of great rejoicing for it spoke concerning thy faith and thy advancement

5

toward the Kingdom of God. This light of Guidance which is enkindled in the glass of thy heart must become more luminous day unto day and illumine all directions. If thou shouldst travel to Japan for the sake of guiding the souls unquestionably divine Confirmations shall descend upon thee.

Convey on my behalf infinite Kindness to — and say to her: — The doors of the Kingdom of God are open, the Call of the Lord of the Kingdom is raised, divine Graces are infinite and the splendors of the Sun of Reality have enlightened the East and the West. Under such circumstances negligence and carelessness are not permissible. With the utmost joy and acclamation thou must proclaim the Bounties of thy forgiving Lord."

To a lovely Persian poetess he writes: —
"O thou who art attracted with the Fragrances of God! The eloquent and delightful Odes of that maid-servant of His Holiness Baha-Ollah — May my life be a sacrifice to His friends — were in the utmost sweetness and charms. Praise be to God that thou hast a poetic nature and thy tongue is inspired with exalted rhythmical thoughts. Therefore, compose then at all time songs and anthems in the glorification and praise of His Holiness Baha-Ollah who hath illumined the dark regions, hath conferred new life upon all created objects and infused a new spirit in the temple of the world."

To an Arab Bahai he says: —
"That beloved friend is always before my sight

both at home and abroad. With my heart, tongue and pen I mention thee. As regards to my vicissitude it is ease in the path of God, trouble and trials are comfort, tests are the bounties and favours of Thy Lord. Therefore be thou not sad on account of my difficulties, occupations, burning and sufferings."

To another believer in Teheran he reveals:—

"These days are like unto the days of Christ and the days of the Apostles. Unquestionably all the people, especially the leaders of religions and the missionaries shall loosen the tongue of ridicule and contumely about you and they will become the enemies of your souls on account of your love for His Holiness, Baha-ollah, and will strive to heap upon you every kind of persecution. you have, undoubtedly read in the gospel how the Jewish Rabbis oppressed and maltreated the apostles. They were scorned and derided at every turn but after awhile they defeated and vanquished and the banner of His Holiness Christ and His Apostles were unfurled. All the flags were brought down but the Flag of the wronged and oppressed Peter and Paul was up-raised. The Standard of the Roman Emperors on account of their opposition to the Cause of God was shattered to pieces. Consequently be ye not sad According to the Teachings of Baha-ollah be ye as the mercy of the Almighty to all the people of the world including the enemies. Rest ye assured that ere long the Banner of Guidance shall ~~over~~ ^{over} all the regions and the Harmony of the Bahais shall fill the Kingdoms of the East and the West." This is our duty in this glorious Cause.