

Port Said, Egypt  
Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1913

Dear friends! Like unto the fragrant petals of the roses of the Paradise of  
Letters! letters <sup>N<sup>o</sup></sup> <sup>Abba</sup> are received from the <sup>4</sup> corners of the <sup>earth</sup>  
<sup>the Beloved</sup> I am literally buried in  
them! This morning, handed me a box containing  
more than one hundred petitions from all parts of the  
west - America and Europe. He told me to take them  
to my hotel and prepare them for his consideration.  
He had received 4 times as much from the East -  
all brought in one or two mails. What a won-  
derful thing! This chain of correspondence based  
upon spiritual principles established ~~with~~ all  
parts of the world. What is the aim of this  
continual flood of letters? The spiritualization  
of mankind. It is ~~here~~ in the Presence of Abdul  
Baha that we feel more <sup>than</sup> anything else the pro-  
gress of the Cause advancing in all parts of the  
world. In the west there is a revulsion from  
the extreme materialism of the age and every  
letter received from those parts shows clearly  
that the aspirant's objects are spiritual truths  
faith, assurance <sup>and</sup> the Love of God. There is a  
condition analogous to the time when Roman  
imperialism was degenerated, Roman religion corrup-  
ted and the unsatisfied hearts turned to Christia-  
nity for truth and light. Listen to me! Brothers  
and sisters, I am going to quote herein the contents  
of some of these letters which will show you  
more than anything else how the heart of the  
West is crying out for the knowledge of God and  
how all the seekers are turning their faces toward  
Abdul Baha knowing full well that he is the  
source of divine Love, divine faith and  
divine knowledge

The first quotation explains the condition of thousands of men and women. It comes from the far West and its appeal is so earnest. Here it is:-

"I am trying so hard to see the Light, to find the truth. The material is so strong in me that I cannot put aside the burdens of this world and think only of my spiritual needs. I have not Faith! I want it. Oh I want it, but it does not come to me! I fail in everything for lack of Faith, although I pray for it and an understanding heart - but it does not come. Will you help a searching, hungry heart to the Light? Dear Master, Faith will come with the Light. Many, many years I have been seeking. I have drifted from one thing to another, trying to find the truth and praying to be able to recognize it when it came. My sands of life have almost run and I have done so little in the Vineyard of my Father. Oh I want Truth and Faith and Light to see and recognize the Truth and strength to hold fast Faith when it comes. I am calling on you for help, dear Master, for strength and light out of this darkness." Another seeker of God writes:-

"When I was a child, owing to poor environments I was brought up heedless of God. My father did not know what was best to do for his family. He did not allow the word 'God' be mentioned in our midst unless it was with a sneer or ridicule. . . . . and then being 24 yrs old I started to want to believe in God. . . . . I then studied the Catholic religion and became a Catholic but only for a few years when I began to see that I could not go to confession and profess to confess my sins and ask absolution and say a few Hail Mary's and be forgiven; in fact know that I did not tell the truth

in the Confessional and know positively from my experience of the human nature that no one else does, because they do the things over and over again that they are confessing. After that I did not go back to the Catholic Church. . . . . Two years ago I joined a Presbyterian Church partly to become acquainted with the people. . . . . When during this time I became thoroughly acquainted with the Pastor and a few of the Elders and I found they did have the love of mankind in their hearts nor believed what they preached. . . . . I have prayed more of late for the true enlightening Light than ever before. I feel there is something within me that has never been satisfied. I am not in harmony with myself or any one else. I am tossed about like a ship which has lost its rudder. I have never really and in truth believed in God like others. My heart and soul long for Faith and religion. I am unhappy. . . . . I am very weak. My prayer to you is to show me the Right path and to give me Faith. There are times when I do not seem to have faith even in myself. Yes I feel as if I could not go on with my work another day. . . . . I am told you have the power to help me. Oh I lack Faith and Light! Please, please give me Light and Faith; show me the way to do right, live aright and for others. I ask for it on my knees, O God! I want to be right. Help me, help me Abdul Baha and I will pledge my life to help others according to God's Will." Such are the heart-rending cries of hundreds, nay thousands all over America and Europe crying out as though moved by one mighty impulse for the spiritual verities. The purposes of all the appeal are the same and <sup>very</sup> true above, I believe, are typical of the

Confused conditions of this materialistic age and the determined longing of the <sup>Western</sup> people to release themselves from its blighting effect. Most fortunately, they are on the right path and they will receive abundantly out of the treasures of the Kingdom of Abha. Their wounds will be healed through the antidote of God; their aspirations will be realized through the Power of God and their entreaties will be heard by the Lord of Hosts.

In these innumerable letters just received news abound of the progress of the Cause. A letter from Budapest states: - "Yesterday the first Budapest Bahai Assembly was held in our house. I opened the meeting with Prof. Vambery's letter addressed to your Holiness. I read, then, an excerpt of my lecture on Bahai Movement written in 1912, with comments. At the motion by Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ it was decided that a pamphlet should be published in Hungarian for Propaganda purposes and I was charged with this work. We decided to meet on the last Sunday of every month at 11 o'clock am. All present asked me to express to your Holiness our deeply felt thankfulness and our reverent devotion to you and to this enlightened movement and to pray for your priceless benediction without which we feel all our work would be in vain. The meeting was closed by reading some lines from Iqbal and the present friends were asked to bring next time other people to join our meetings. We hope, that our endeavors to spread the Bahai Teachings shall be successful and that we shall be enabled by the help of God to form a radiant center of Unity and Love in this our country which is really in

the greatest need of being opened to these blissful Outpourings of Baha-o-Elah. We feel the presence of your Spirit in our midst and this gives us courage and strength. Your Holiness has given <sup>you</sup> us from your bowl, now we shall distribute <sup>your</sup> bread among the people.

Likewise in Vienna the Cause is spreading. They have established weekly meetings and are going ahead with the diffusion of the Fragrances. One of the friends writes as follows:-

"Let me write to your Holiness that we, the Vienna <sup>people</sup> remember with great pleasure and profit the days you spent amongst us. The Bahai doctrine is sublime, in the full sense of the word. Slowly, very slowly we are climbing to the glorious Height of Baha. These <sup>people</sup> in this <sup>country</sup> comprehend your glorious message and to these you were a confirmation of things they were anticipating."

A believer from Chicago writes:-

I have heard that there is a great effort being made to go forth and spread the Teachings and bring in new souls. It has been my constant cry and endeavor for a long time. We need an inlet of new souls or new blood and this will strengthen the whole body. We are like gold fish - in water that has stood for some days. They grow listless and lie on the bottom of the tank. Put in a cyphon and let in fresh water at the bottom and pump out the old from the top and soon the fishes are swimming about full of life and energy. So must we do here. Let in new Life and Love and pump off the old stagnant waters - then all the fishes new and old will become vivified and energetic.

A full report of the Meeting at Bowery Mission April 19, to commemorate the visit of Abdul Baha of the same date last year is before me. It is most interesting and the Beloved is highly pleased with it. It says: "We had a very large attendance. All were delighted with the service. We distributed 348 twenty five cent pieces as souvenirs to the people present. The four hundred francs from Abdul Baha or \$44 in American money and the \$10 which Abdul Baha gave to me to start the fund was the total amount distributed on the occasion  $\$84.00 = 348$  quarters. We have sufficient to do likewise at the next meeting." Many speeches were delivered on that occasion and I will bring this letter to an end by quoting here part of Mr Hooper Harris' address:—

"Now there was a time, and not so very long since, when I had very little faith in this Book, (Bible) when I had become to believe it was a collection of fairy tales, and it was through the inspiration, through the life and through the teaching of Abdul Baha that I came to have absolute confidence in the Word of God, and not only I but thousands, perhaps hundred of thousands, perhaps millions in this world have come to believe in the inspiration of that Book through his teachings, because we see in him the duplicate in our own day and in our modern times, the very essence of that wonderful life that shines through this Book. From the time he was 8 yrs old, a boy orphaned with his Father who had been stripped of everything he owned, his followers disbanded and Himself banished to a foreign country. Hence this boy from the time he was 8 yrs of age knew no home, no country and he himself afterward became

a prisoner in a Turkish prison, a sword suspended <sup>over</sup> his neck every minute of the time by a man who could at any moment bleed his death. Many times in his prison he was mistreated, for years he was confined in a solitary dungeon with chains on him, and yet during these 40 yrs of imprisonment nothing could divert him from the work he knew to be done in the world for the love of you and me. Every moment was spent for other people, not for one instant did he complain of the injustice heaped upon him. So in our modern day we see the example of a man who duplicates in himself that great principle of Absolute sacrifice for the love of others and that great principle of Absolute carelessness about the things of this world so far as they relate to him. Why, Abdul Baha, if he had two coats he would give away one in an instant. Everything he has belongs to the first person who comes along and needs it. He thinks everything of this, because my dear brothers, Abdul Baha stands for the great principles which Jesus Christ taught, the great Kingdom of God upon the earth and the plan of a great institution, social and economical, which will destroy all those things that tend to drag down your souls, that tend to degrade you. When we leave this place it is not ten steps before we see the love of the things that drag us down. Now it is through the inspiration of a life like this and the principles that he stands for, the things he proposes to set going in this world, that we can help him by resisting these temptations and letting that light shine in us which is the master and conqueror of outer things, no matter what they may do with our bodies.

"Now, my dear friends, I would like to talk further with you. I could tell you many things about Abdul Baha and the things that he stands forth, but my time is limited, and I will close by simply asking you to remember that Abdul Baha stands as the Center of a great Movement in this world which will make the religion of God and the religion of Christ mean something in the way of rehabilitating manhood and making us a common brotherhood and that through practical means."

I have given you only a few drops out of the great sea of letters which rolled over me today and I have been feasting my spirit and mind. Truly it is wondrous how one is uplifted by hearing from the friends in all parts of the world. The beauty and charm of all this lies in the fact that the aim of this large volume of correspondence is not commerce and business but it is purely for the sake of the Love of God and the furtherance of the Cause of Universal Peace.

Toward the evening I called on the Beloved and as I read to him some of the most letters especially the ones sent by the Bahai Assembly of Minneapolis to the President, Cabinet officers, clergymen, women's Club, school teachers he was made very happy and commenced to dictate answers to the most urgent ones. Till eleven o'clock p.m. I was blissfully happy to put down on paper his words of light and life. I can never describe my feelings when he walks to and fro and dictates Tablet after Tablet. One is truly absorbed in a sea of rapture!