

Bahai Pilgrimes Home.

Mount Carmel Haifa Syria

January 10th 1914

Dear friends!

Now it rained³, and again the thick clouds disappeared from the horizon, ^{and} the sun shining in its wonted glory, ~~but~~ only for a few minutes. The winds have brought havoc, and the sea is rough. The semi-circular strand is one white choral band of moving waves. From the high slope of Mount Carmel one witnesses a ^{strange}, wild scene of foamy, tumbling sea with three steamers anchored probably 3 miles away from the shore. These steamers ~~have~~ arrived last night and although they have passengers on board they do not dare to disembark ~~them~~. The ^{strong} ~~best~~ and experienced rowers risked their lives to ^{land the mails} ~~transfer to the city~~ ^{a westerner} the mail and charged \$25 to take him to one of the steamers. ^{board the boat like a corkle shell} The sea ~~disported with the boat~~ ^{at the point of drowning}, now it was on the top of the waves, anon it was dashed to the bottom ^{then} but after

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a few breathless moments one could see it again at the
mercy of ^{the} waves, like the ^{empty} shell of a half walnut with a
few ants in it. [hurled distractedly hither and thither].

The weather showing ^{ad} such ~~childlike~~ ^{naive} nature of being whimsi-
cal, and petulant the Master did not leave the house all
day. I went down and was caught in the grip of a torren-
tial rain, was soaked, but did not see the Master.
The next best thing that I ^{to} could do was to wade through
the water and mud and go to the Turkish bath at
the other end of the town. The Blessed Perfection as ^{well}
as the Master have frequented this bath and thus,
from my point of view, it is an interesting, historical
place. With a Turkish bath in these parts ^{on any} much
ceremonies are attended ^{out} and the most delightful
rites are prescribed to be followed scrupulously.

In the afternoon we gathered peacefully in the house
of the Beloved. There was a Haji present and he related
to ^{us} lots of the prescribed rituals in connection with the
Haji lives when they go to Mecca. During the 15 days
pilgrimage the slightest unconscious mistakes

committed, ^{by the} ~~one~~ ^{for each} ~~sacrifice~~ ^{one} sheep which cost him
^{a high} \$5 each. Thus several hundred thousands sheep are
 killed every year during those ^{days of pilgrimage} ~~few days~~, and they are
 thrown into big holes especially dug for this purpose.
 (Putrefaction follows, and these depositories, being uncovered,
 The fetid and putrid odor emanated from these
^{are largely} ~~corpses is much~~) the cause of cholera and other
 epidemic diseases.

In the evening all the pilgrims descended the
 mountain. The sky was by this time ^{un}clouded and
 the full glorious Queen of heaven flooded the watch-
 less scene with silver beams. How ^{uplifting} (transcendent)
 it was to see all these eager, earnest souls ever
 walking together, hand in hand, on this wonderful
 night, toward the Home of the King of Kings!
 When we were all ^{together} gathered he sent Mirza Jalal to take
 us into His Presence. His face was beaming with
 joy. We could easily see that he ^{was} happy. Some
 fresh news had been lately received which had made
 his heart laugh rejoicingly. The clouds had again

arisen in the sky and the rain was spattering against the
 window. With his wonderful ^{disposition} adaptability ^{adapt} to adjust his in-
 formal conversation with the spirit of the moment he
 took the rain as his topic: — "The rain does not stop.
 I have been intending every day to ^{go} ^{the mountain} come up, but I have been
 detained on account of the rain. This is the rainy season.
 If the rain does not pour down, the wind does not blow,
 if the storm and tempest do not rage, the soul-refreshing
 spring ^{will} does not appear. If the clouds do not weep, the
 meadows ^{will} do not laugh. The hurricane, and tornado,
 the cyclone and the blast, are the harbingers of the spring.
 Similarly, were there no tests and trials, no hardships
 and afflictions, the ^{attractions} of ^{the heart} ^{consciousness} ^{could}
 not be realized, the spiritual fragrances could not
 be obtained, ^{could} ^{merciful} happiness ^{could} be ^{acquired}
 and the beauties of the super-mundane springtime
 would not have been disclosed. Today I ^{have} felt
 well. Day by day I am feeling better. Through
 the bounty and favor of the Blessed Perfection I am

daily gaining back my health. From the day that I slept
 at the Holy Threshold of Beha-ollah I have felt
 stronger and healthier. Many letters have
 been received, both from the East and the West. Praise
 be to God that they contain good news. Praise be to God
 that the Cause of the Merciful is advancing, the
 Banner of the Blessed Perfection is being raised
 higher and higher, and day by day ^{the echo of} the melody of the
 Kingdom of Abha is being reverberated throughout
 the columns of the earth. In order to offer our
 thankfulness to the Beauty of Abha for this Bes-
 towal and Gift, day by day we must increase
 our effort and exertion; day by day we must add
 to our meekness and humility; we must augment
 our faith and assurance and know of a certainty that
 all these things belong to Him and not through our exertion. The
 Blessed Perfection has explicitly promised me from His own
 tongue that He will assist me. "Rest thou assured" He
 said "My Confirmations shall reach thee." This
 has ever been the cause of my consolation. Whenever
 these words are remembered my wound is healed and
 all the tempests are calmed down. Then he spoke
 about other things and after a few minutes we were
 out in the Court, the space again flooded with the rays of the
 moon.