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Bahai Pilgrims Home
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
January 11th 1914

Dear friends,

The weather being gloomy and rainy we did not go down ^{the mountain} except toward the evening and ^{then to remain} that only for half an hour. I met the Beloved in the vestibule ^{of his home}, a Landean was at the door waiting to take him away. He looked very well. He gave me a number of letters just received ⁱⁿ by the mail. I delivered, in turn, into his hand the translation of an article in the Sind Gazette of December 24. 1913 purporting to be the report of the address by Mrs J. Stannard delivered in the Theosophical Hall, Karachi, India. The substance of her lecture is so comprehensively reported that the Master was most pleased with it and copies of the same will be circulated amongst all the Eastern Assemblies. Editorially the paper writes:- "A rather remarkable visitor to Karachi - far more remarkable than any of the Congress and Conference Dignitaries - is Mrs Stannard, the Bahai missionary. This gifted lady, who has

studied all the religions of the world and all the philosophies, and has come to the conclusion, not that they are all wrong, but that they are all right, has a new gospel to preach — not her own but that of her master, Abdul Baha, the prophetic head of the Bahai religious movement." The article is a full column. The following sentences are typical:—"The world in its diversity ~~is~~, if properly understood, like a garden in which grows flowers of every ^{shade}, size, form and colour, but the whole result ~~is~~ ^{is} harmonious and beautiful. It ~~is~~ ^{is the} mission of Bahais to bring the world to realize this." "I have found a better apprehension of the Bahai teachings among the illiterate people in the poor parts of London than among the learned of the Universities of Egypt." "Unity is the object of the Movement, a Unity not of the religions but of races." "Religion is ~~not~~ ^{is} ~~a~~ matter of the intellect but of the emotion, i.e. of the heart. It is a feeling akin to love. It requires no erudite scholarship for its attainment ~~and~~ is within ^{reach} of all." The whole article after its historical outline is interspersed with such Bahai thoughts.

A most interesting and valuable letter is also in hand from Mrs Stannard. In order that all ~~the~~ friends may become informed of her splendid work I may quote herein a few extracts from it. She says: " The dear old brother Mahamad Mostafa from Calcutta accompanied me, otherwise I must have come alone and yet it was greatly necessary that the Bahai Cause ^{be} represented in this Center during the great time of many Congresses. I believe Our Lord has been made aware of this visit of ours which has nothing to do with the great Indian Congress, but for the sake of the Brahma Samaj - Social Congress and All India League of India. When Mirza Shirazi heard through the meeting of Dr Getzinger that I had come from Egypt he wrote with great warmth and invited me to come and help ^{with} ~~over~~ some work. I saw at once the importance of meeting delegates who would be coming from all parts of India and ^{would} provide us with means for communication to many places I am glad to come here and put in all the lectures I can and we will work through every possible channel. I find Shirazi as quick or even

much quicker than myself in everything, so between^{us}
 we should create a "hustle" as the Americans call it.

..... I am happy to learn also that Prometho
 Lall Sen may come from Calcutta, also the good old
 man Bannerji. Shirazi has most courageously done
 much good lecture work in India and therefore can give
 us much useful information. When we go back to
 Bombay we shall set to work in earnest and make a
 public movement by lectures in different Halls.....

I have already given here two public Lectures which
 drew fairly good audiences. Mr Temple, the Editor of the
 Sind Gazette brought his young wife and they are ^{going}
 to fix up a drawing ^{room} lecture for me at their house
 and ask all the English people who are interested....

..... Some of the Theosophic Parsees will, I believe,
 come to us for they have been trained into this ^{of the} School
 of thought and it has failed them. The whole Parsee
 community and many unattached souls will
 grasp at the Bahai Revelation. I am being told
 that just now there is so much religious

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unrest that it is the moment to ~~teach~~ our Cause. yesterday in my 2^d lecture I went through the list of the Great Reform, social and Ethical that Baba-Allah laid down. I spoke for quite an hour and half and when I finished and gave them leaflets and literature the people flocked to the platform and snatched at all the papers and it was pathetic to see the serious anxious faces as if something quite unexpected had been revealed. There were some English people present at each lecture I went to the group of Calcutta Brahmo Somaj people and had a beautiful, peaceful hour with them and they asked me to speak of my message and seemed greatly attracted. The President of the All Theistic League was present and he asked me then to be one of the speakers at their Congress in a few days. My name is now on their list of speakers (some great philosophic and religious names) and as I am the only lady and an English woman I feel greatly pleased. This will give me and others opportunity. From here on my way back to Bombay I am hoping to arrange to stop

88 at Hyderabad for a lecture as there is an Indian gentleman who lives there and he has said he will arrange to advertise it there and go with me. Of course Sherazi and Mustafa will accompany me. I trust that I shall be able to fix up also for Calcutta something as I feel it will be quite as important as Bombay " Let every one of us pray that the spiritual work of this our sister, solely for the uplift of the people, may be crowned with eternal success; that many people in India may become awakened out of the deep slumber of inertia and sectarianism and religious prejudices.

In the evening the Mashrek al Azkar was discussed and the Ashkadeh Baha'is who are here told me that exclusive of the cost of the land, up to this time, conservatively speaking, they have expended five hundred thousand dollars ^{on} the construction of the building. They were glad to know that the debt ^{land of the} on the Mashrek al Azkar of America is cleared.