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23 Two young men from Persia arrive in
Bagdad and their sad experiences
By A. B.

No 17

Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab

Beginning January 31st 1914

Ending February 14th 1914

Bahai Nest.

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

January 31st 1914

Dear friends!

~~pure~~ air on the
The Mountain of God is filled with the delicate
fragrance of Almond ~~and apple~~ blossoms. The air pure in
itself is permeated with this sweet aroma. Many a large tree
is so completely clothed with this ^{white} garment of nature that the
trunk and the branches are hardly visible! I have often
~~stood~~ ^{stand} a long time before one of these white or pink bloss-
oming trees admiring the handiwork of the divine Creator.
Just outside of my 'Nest' there are several such
wonderful trees, and the many varieties of wild
flowers have carpeted the fields. All around my
nest these yellow, red, pink and white, and violet
flowers, have grown in great abundance and my joy
in looking at them knows no bound. In a day or
two I am going to decorate my room with big branches
of the almond blossoms and fill a few jars with these
primitive, charming ^{little} flowers. I do not believe that

there is any man or woman alive who does not love
 flowers. Flowers convey to us the unspoken messages
 of innocent love and pure affection. Their language is
^{spiritual}
~~super~~ sensual and only understood by those who love
 and tenderly care for them. Flowers are the delicately
 shaded stars of the fields and the gardens. Just as there
 are countless stars scintillating in this very night in your
 blue vault, diffusing their radiance through the immea-
 surable space, likewise these lovely flowers are
 embellishing the mountain, purifying the heart of the
 beholder and raising his ^{mundane} ~~common~~ ^{thoughts} intelligence
 to the sphere of beauty. ~~and that~~. Never there was
 a more perfect landscape Gardener than God Him-
 self. Flowers are the thoughts of God - with this
 difference; ^{of course, that} the natural flowers perish, but the divine
 Ideas are indestructible. The more a ~~nature~~ ^{nature} is
 refined, cultured, ^{and} purified the ^{nature} ~~more~~ ^{its greater will be the} ~~will be his~~
 love for flowers. The language of flowers is univer-
 sal and is understood by high and low, rich and
 poor, learned and ignorant.

When I descended the mountain this morning I heard
the Master ^{was} ~~is~~ out, but that he had ^{sent} called for me, Mr
and Mrs Halback had already ^{had} an interview with him
and were waiting in the ^{reception room} Parlor to see me. For more than
one hour we ^{talked uninterruptedly} held an uninterrupted conversation on
those ^{matters} points which would further the progress of the
Cause and make the teachings more accessible to
the public. At that time the Governor-General
of Syria was announced and we had to retire
from the ^{room} Parlor. Then ^{with the Governor} his staff came and after a few
minutes the Master arrived and he entertained
^{these few} them for about half an hour. ^{Left} When the governor
he called me in and spoke for a few minutes.
There ^{to} was an Arab lawyer ^{who was} present. As he had
^{this lawyer} composed a poem a few weeks ago, the Master
^{put in} ~~left~~ to the palm of his hand a piece of ^{small} paper
containing a few pieces of gold, and as he
^{being} was very tired he ^{then} went into the Anteroom.

In the afternoon while I was sitting in front
of my table writing I could look down and

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see him, so plainly, coming out of the house, A number of believers ^{were} standing in the garden and then entering ^{as he entered} the landau with Foroughi and his son, while they ^{and Mrs} were driven away for a drive. On his return, as this was the night of ^{the} meeting, he excused himself for not being able to be present on the ground that he was again invited by Khaleel Pasha ^{to a dinner} who is giving a ^{given in harmony} dinner to the Governor-General and ^{the} officials of the town.

The other day I received a note from Mr Atwood of Ramleh containing a letter written by Rev. C.J. Street, M. A., L.L.B. of Sheffield, England. He is a Unitarian Minister, and for the months of Oct and Nov. 1913 has been giving a number of lectures on the great religions of the world including the Bahai Movement. Part of his letter may be of interest to our friends. He says:-
"Particularly I was interested in your personal allusions to Abdul Baha, for whom I have a very high admiration. Recently I have been giving a series of Sunday

evening addresses on "Faiths of the World," and the last
I spoke of was Bahaism, the study of which is a great
joy to me. I have high hopes of the good which this
beautiful faith is going to do for the world. Miss Mathew,
of whom you wrote, was much disappointed because
I did not find it necessary to give up my Unitarian
faith to become a Bahai, but I told her we were
both preaching the same truth, I am glad
you see so much of Abdul Baha and think it is a
great privilege you enjoy. Some day his name will
be enrolled among the greatest of honored names,
perhaps even higher than Baha-o-llah whom he
himself venerates and extols. Nothing would please
me better than to receive a "tablet" from him, but
that is probably too much to expect and I have
always been too modest to write and ask him
for a message. But if you have an opportunity
give him my love and profound esteem and
tell him I proclaim him from a Unitarian
Christian pulpit one of the greatest prophets

of mankind."

Several letters from Mrs Stannard outline the splendid Bahai work she has done in Karachi. Her lectures at the Theistic League Conference were published in their entirety in the daily Press and much publicity work is ^{being} accomplished. She is now back in Bombay. Mrs Getzinger's letters announce her recovery from a severe attack of illness and her departure for Surat. In a letter just received Mrs Stannard says: - "I shall go off to Calcutta next month and do some preparatory work there. Also I have been asked to go to Madras. The enclosed printed article will enable you to see the sort of prospects for Great Bahai opportunities coming up next year. If the Master thinks he would come to India by then there will be hosts of people to meet him and he would be the crowning glory of the World's Conference. Doctor Sunderland told me efforts would be made to get very important people to come to speak at these three Congresses.... The Karachi visit has been most useful and brought me in contact with many nice people..... The Brahmo Samaj are very kind to us and will be always the best help in India. Rev. Promatho Sen of Calcutta says he wishes I was there now as they are having a big time for anniversary festival of their religion."

Our English friends are no doubt very happy to have such an active worker in the field of labor. Our prayers follow her no matter where she goes. May she become confirmed with more and more glorious services in the Kingdom of Abha.