

Bahai West

Mount Carmel Haifa, Syria

February 23^d 1914

Dear friends!

Just at this moment Aga Mehdi, the gardener of the Holy Tomb of Baha-o'llah arrived from Acre. He has brought with himself an ^{ampl} ~~armful~~ of fragrant violets and roses to offer at the feet of the King of Kings. How sweet they are! I wish so much you were here to look at them. They convey to one the fragrance of Holiness and the scent of spirituality. He has kindly offered me a few and I have them ~~right~~ before my eyes while I write you this letter. In thought I am worshipping at the Holy Threshold of the Blessed Perfection and I am remembering you in my prayers. I hope these words will bring to you the deep and heart-felt messages of Bahai love and friendship, just as these flowers are bringing to me the tender and affectionate ideals of the Kingdom of Abha. They are sweet and immortal. They diffuse far and wide the scent of Peace and human solidarity, of celestial feelings and divine ^{emotions}.

After dictating a few cablegrams for the friends in Germany and Teheran the Beloved revealed a number of Tablets for the believers in New York City. While he dictated the Tablets he was most happy because the news of the unity and accord of the friends in that city is joy-imparting. When he finished dictating he said: - "The city of New York is very important and the friends of the Merciful must do everything in their power to spread the Cause and affiliate with all the people."

Later on Doctor Coles of the English hospital sent word that a number of the English and American tourists desired to call on the Master and that they ^{would} be here after a few minutes. As soon as they arrived and the preliminary courtesies attended to, the American College ^{in Beirut} became the subject of discussion. "We must be just" Abdul Baha commenced "The American college at Beirut is carrying on a sacred mission of education and enlightenment and every lover of higher culture and civilization must wish it a great success."

One of the brightest attributes of Divinity is justice and
He likes to see His servants clothed with this quality. Years
ago I went to Beirut and visit the college in its infancy.
From that ^{time} on I have praised the liberalism of this
institution whenever I found an opportunity. Some of the
bigoted Mohamadaus complained bitterly because ^{the college} ~~gives~~
or rather insists upon a religious education and the
students are asked to attend the Sunday service in
the Church. They carried their complaints so far
as to write articles on this subject in the daily press.
I told ~~to~~ one of these men that all these talks are
based upon ignorant prejudices. I am sure the morals
of the students will not be corrupted. They will be
informed with the contents of the old and New Tes-
taments. What harm is there in this? A Church is
a house of prayers. Let them enter therein and wor-
ship God. What wrong is there in this? These students
attending the services in the Church glorify God, their
~~Master~~ and not the Devil. I have no doubt
that much good will be accomplished and many

misunderstandings will be removed if the Mus-
 ulmans attend the Churches ^{of the Christians} with reverence in
 their hearts and sincerity in their souls and
 likewise the Christians may go to the Moham-
 adan Mosques and magnify the Creator of the uni-
 verse. Is it not revealed in the Holy Scriptures that
 'My house shall be called of all nations the house
 of prayer?' All these houses of different names - Chu-
 reh, Mosque, Synagogue, Pagoda, Temple are no
 other than the Houses of prayers. What is there in
 a name? Man must attach his heart to God
 and not to a building. He must love to hear the
 name of God no matter from what lips; even should
 the devil mention the sacred name of the Lord I
 will be pleased with him, I love God and I love to hear
 His Glorious Name. I do not look upon the person-
 alities. When I was in Siberia my house was near
 the Synagogue. At midnight the Jews gathered
 in the temple and sang hymns of Halleluyah. I
 would especially get up and listen to them and in

my heart pray with them, When a man's life is a life of eternal quest after God he will worship Him no matter where he ^{may} ~~might~~ happen to be. I pray to God in the mosque, the church or the Synagogue in the same spirit as if I were in His Presence, " Many other subjects were discussed and his Western trip was touched upon. "In my first stay" he said "in London, I spoke from the pulpit of Archdeacon Wilberforce. He is a true Christian and a noble character. He lives a life according to the Teachings of His Holiness Christ. He is kind to all the strangers and works for the cause of Christ which is the cause of humanity".

They were most happy to be given this rare privilege of meeting Abdul Baha whose life and Teachings have created such a volcanic change in the religious thoughts of the world and whose name is most familiar to the American and English people.

X Speaking about a Persian by the name of _____ whom he has placed in the English hospital under the medical ^{care} of Doctor Coles he said:-

70th This Persian has been my enemy for forty years but during all this time I never directed toward him an ill-wish. When I visited Acre this last time he came to me sick, weary and repentant. 'I have done many things against you' he said 'Now I have reached the end of my resources. I cannot go any further. Please do not leave me to myself any longer. Do not send me away. I have grown very old, I am ill and tired of the world. Misery and remorse are my companions. Regret and sorrow are my bed-bellows. I have come to you as my very last hope. I have no other friend to whom I may turn my face for succor and help.' I answered him 'Thou hast ever been my friend. Anxiously have I been waiting for thy return. Just as a father has been longing for the return of his absent son, so have I been yearning for thee. Thou art indeed welcome, Thou art my friend. I love thee very much. Come along with me to Haifa and I will put thee in the Hospital, so that thy health ^{may} be restored.' "

In the afternoon the Beloved came out of the house and beckoned me to follow him. He walked toward the German Colony and on the way a number of Pilgrims joined us.

^{Along} the way most every one saluted him and payed him ^{reverent} ~~divine~~ respect. After a long walk we reached a tall, overshadowing tree under which there were several benches. He sat on one of them and gave us permission to do the same. Then he asked our pilgrim from Kerman to speak to him. "Tell me" he said. "What voice is heard in thy City? Is it the voice of of an earthly singer or the voice of the Cause of God? For whenever the Divine Voice is raised all the other voices are hushed. The charm and beauty of the voice of Truth attracts the hearts and spiritualize the thoughts. When the rich and highly-gifted spiritual Artist breaks forth into a concourse of soft lays and colorful tones of ministry, then the melodies and scores of the earthly singers will sink lower and lower till at last they are lost in a sea of eternal silence, — obscure and mystifying. When the sweet harmonies of

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of the Bird of ^{the} Supreme Paradise are raised, the
buzzings of the bees are not heeded. To-day whosoever
takes the lessons of voice culture in the Celestial
Conservatory of Baha-o-llah, he will be endowed
with a soul-captivating voice which would
move and thrill the hearts of numberless music
lovers."

After awhile he continued his walk and a little
further on he pointed out to us the cave on the slope
of Mount Carmel in which ^{the martyr} ~~Ostad~~ Ismael lived
day after day and related his story with fuller parti-
culars. Contentment and independence were the key-
notes of his simple, majestic life. "These are 'the
Master said' the qualities of the people of God. These are
the requirements of a Bahai life." Then having ^{gone} ~~reached~~
^{very} far he ~~treaded back~~ ^{retroced} his steps and we followed
him peacefully while the sun was slowly setting in
the Western sky.

In the meeting he spoke chiefly concerning the con-
ditions of the children of martyrs of yore and inquired
^{and} ~~inquired~~ after their wellbeing. "The children of the martyrs"
he said "are the limbs and organs of my body, because
their parents have revealed in the world the mys-
tery of sacrifice. Whosoever assists them has assisted
Baha-Allah. The stations of the martyrs is the highest
in the world of humanity; even the prophets have
longed to quaff of this Cup." The Beloved continued
to speak a long time on this subject so that when
we left His Presence we yearned to be sacrificed in
the Path of God and to shed these few drops of
blood for the sake of His Glory.