

Bahai Nest

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria

March 12th 1914

Dear friends!

A Bahai means a joy-giver. Are you a Bahai in this sense? A Bahai is conscious of his ^{divine} birth-right and lives eternally on the mountain-top of idealism. A Bahai does more good unto others than unto himself. He arranges the plan of his life according to the principle of 'above all nations is humanity.' He is a fruit-bearing tree planted by the Hand of Providence beside the river of Life in the Paradise of Truth. He expresses in his common daily deeds the spirit of cheerfulness and mutual helpfulness. He is neither elated by the praise of his friends nor discouraged by the blame of his enemies. A couch of silk or a hard floor of stone or wood are the same to him. His confidence is on the source of all-good and his reliance is on the Confirmations of the Holy Spirits. Prompted by the universal ideals of this 20th century he strives to serve his fellowmen without ostentation or

flourish. He may now and then stumble and probably fall into a mood of despondency and apparent lethargy but he will rise immediately and profited by the experience, he will continue his upward journey with fresh inspiration and new, scintillating hope. The life of every Bahai is a palace of kingly thoughts and imperial ideals. He is a spiritual dreamer and dreams the dream of the future brotherhood of man and the final disarmament of nations. Dreamer as he is, he is yet a practical and constructive builder, working day and night for the realization of universal Peace and co-sporting with those mighty, beneficial forces that are helping the forward advance of the same godlike Cause. The main-spring of his unflinching optimism is never dried; his faith in the ultimate goodness of humanity is never shaken; the flowers of his spiritual conceptions are not ^{perishable} perished nor ^{do they} lose their fragrances. The heavenly pictures printed on the Tablet of his mind are not effaced and the masterpieces of the celestial portraits exhibited in the gallery of his heart are not destroyed. Trials and

ordeals serve as fuel to kindle the fire of his confidence and constancy. Like unto a bird he builds his nest on the loftiest branch of the tree of God's Grace and similar unto the nightingale he breaks into the tumultuous songs of glorification and edification. The blue vault of his spirit - vast and overshadowing - is studded with the brilliant stars of firmness, steadfastness; sincerity, loyalty, faithfulness, simplicity and devotion. In all his dealings with mankind he is guided by the light of noble emotions and refined susceptibilities. He keeps aloof from any form of prejudice as one shuns the poisonous fangs of a deadly serpent. He welcomes the rays of Truth, coming to him from the past and the present. The broad, royal vista of his vision lead him step by step to the heaven of blessedness. A Bahai is ^{of reality} a diver who plunging headforemost into the sea, brings up the white pearls of knowledge and the corals of wisdom. Above and beyond all he is a humble follower of Baha-Allah, and all

the messengers of God. He seeks to do good wherever
 he goes and wherever he is, throwing across the path
 of every man and woman the light of the guidance
 of God and the effulgence of the Law of God. True to
 himself he fulfills all his promises. He embodies in
 his life the spiritual and ethical principles of the
 founders of all the religions and dedicates his ambition
 to the furtherance of sciences and arts and those
 means which usher in the epoch of conciliation.
 His courage is not faltered, his trust in God is not
 weakened by any untoward circumstances. He lives
 on the plane of beatitude. He breaks the shatter of the
 dark prison of self and comes out into the sunlight of
 God's Mercy. Through him the waste wildness of ma-
 teriality blossoms into the garden of spirituality.
 His life has not the shadows of unbelief, agnosticism,
 cynicism, grief and misanthropy. He makes the
 lofty attributes of Divinity liveable and workable.
 He is a symposium of the majestic virtues of the
 Kingdom of Abba!

Although I descended the mountain very early in the morning I did not see the Master till late in the afternoon. At present there are about 4 scholarly, well-known Bahai teachers living in the Pilgrims Home and the Master was receiving them one by one, listening attentively to their reports and mapping plans for their future work in various parts of the Orient. Late in the afternoon he came out of the house and beckoned to me to follow him.

^{While} He walked for nearly 15 minutes in the streets of ^{the} German colony, asking me various questions about the Cause and its progress in America ^{but} I could give him very few ^{little} news. On his return he met a young Bahai who was apparently taking a walk. To him he said: "A wise young man ever thinks of and studies those means ^{which} are conducive to his progress - mental, intellectual and spiritual. He lets all amusements and recreations go and applies himself to the acquirement of knowledge - thus he may become a useful

member of the body politic. He does not fritter away
his time in idle pastimes and unprofitable pursuits.
There is an Arabic ^{proverb} epigram which says: 'A dancer
starts his performance by the slow motion of his
shoulders, then little by little brings into poetic
vibrations all the rest of his body.' Similarly
a young man desiring to lay a good foundation for
his later life must devote his first few years to
the study of his chosen profession and forget all
pleasures and sports which divert him from accom-
plishing his main purpose. This is success and
prosperity. When he arrived ^{at the time}, all the believers ^{were}
~~scattered~~ in the rose-garden, and in their long-
flowing garments, and Turbans they made a striking
picture in the glowing sunset. Later on the moon
arose, casting its magical spell over the hearts and
creating those invisible longings of the spirit. Amidst
^{the calm, enraptured} this calm, enchanting scene we were called into the
Presence of the Moon of the Covenant. Herein you
find a few silver, white rays ^{into your ears} whispering to message

of love and peace:— "The religion of God reforms the moral side of the life of mankind. It is the spreader of the virtues of the world of humanity. It is the founder of divine perfections in the hearts of man. It is nearness unto God. It is the cause of attraction and enticement with the Fire of the Love of God. It is conducive to the illumination of human consciousness. all the prophets are sent by God for the guidance of the people; for the enlightenment of the minds of the inhabitants of the earth; for the promotion of the Word of Truth, for the education and instruction of the ignorant and for the disappearance of the gloom of prejudices The Bahai Cause is like unto a garden in which one finds all kinds of flowers. In this garden you will find the flowers seen in others; and beside, there are other rare flowers here that are not extant anywhere else. It includes the Teaching of other revelations and has revealed numerous, distinct principles adaptable to the requirements of this age."