

Bahai' Nest: Mount Carmel
Haifa, Syria

July 27th 1914

Dear friends!

It takes more than an ordinary mind to explain that while many of our American and European friends are leaving the cities and their homes to escape the oppressive heat, the Blessed One is centering his divine attention on those far-off regions and while Elijah-like, living at the foot of Mount Carmel he is revealing innumerable Tablets for those believers who are in all probability scattered in different summer-resorts and are imparting the Glad-tidings of the Kingdom of Abha to those who are weary at heart and tired of the strenuous ^{life} of materialism. The Master is enjoying good health and its effect in a corresponding manner is being reflected on all the Bahai world, giving them life, vigor, happiness and serenity. His words of encouragement and good cheer and sound advice to the friends in different parts of the World will yield in the long run tremendous results and ^{will} help them to advance the Cause and dedicate their lives to the promotion of the Religion of God.

This morning and afternoon many Tablets were dictated for the American and Persian friends, especially a very long and powerful communication to the San-Francisco believers concerning the holding of a Bahai Convention during the Exposition months. With his own hand he also wrote a detailed Tablet to the Turkish Commander, Isakki Bey in Jerusalem. After finishing it he read it aloud and said: 'It is very difficult to write a letter in good Turkish. The language is very complicated.'

Speaking about some one who has degraded himself in the Bahai world through his own deeds and actions he said: "What does a man lose if he should lose his self? His moral credit will be larger than his debit. What harm is there if a person plan the design of his life after the pattern of the life of Mirza Asad Qasbi? What danger befalls him if he direct his mind from every other thought save the spread of the Religion of God? What wrong comes to him if he consecrate his life to the diffusion of the Fragrances of God? He will be favored in the sight of God. He will be honored in the estimation of all the people. What harm is therein this? Who will be loser? and what will be the gain?"

While he was dictating Tablets two Syrian Christian women entered the room. They had two pieces of land and wanted to sell ^{them} to the Beloved. He received them most kindly and said :- "My friends! What do I want to do with a piece of land? If I have any money I would rather distribute it amongst the poor. Land will not avail men. I have the poor always with me. Their needs must be relieved; their wants must be alleviated. Man must so live that he may find a place for himself in the Kingdom of God. There are many people in this town who would be glad to buy your land. Go to them." One of them started to weep because she was a widow and her children had no bread to eat. The Master was very much affected and asked me to give them a sum of money. I emptied my pocket into her hands ^{and} both left the room with cheerful countenances.

In the afternoon an Egyptian journalist called on him. He has been travelling in Syria and ^{had witnessed} many harrowing scenes of the latest regulations of Military Conscription. It seems everybody is being enlisted in the army by force, young men who have their wives, mothers and

children to support are dragged away by the authorities. No exception is made. Formerly a man could buy his place by paying from one to three hundred dollars or he could send another person in his own place but all these rules are cancelled and a universal rigorous conscription is pursued without let and go. In Jaffa a man who had seven children and he was the only source of their support was pulled all along the streets to be enrolled and he would cry out: - Oh men! You cannot enroll me. If you tear me to pieces I will not yield to this oppression. Who will feed my children, who will clothe them, who will look after them? How do you expect me to defend the country or learn military tactics while my mind is constantly worried by the thought of my unprotected children. The people are discontented and worried. They say German military rules cannot work in Turkey, for the simple reason that the women of the nation are not educated, are not free, cannot ^{go} out and work like their European sisters; for centuries they have been kept behind the harim and the sole source of their maintenance have been and are men. The whole system has been and is wrong from bottom up, root and branch.

Therefore if the ^{young} men are forced into the army without any discrimination, thousands upon thousands of homes will be broken up and helpless cries and lamentations will be raised to heaven. Our journalist went on describing the things he has heard, the distressing scenes he has witnessed in the course of his journey and the passionate articles he has written for the Egyptian newspapers. The Master spoke on justice: "The supreme concern of any government must be the establishment of equal justice and equal opportunity amongst its citizens. Justice is the light of a nation, the lamp burning amongst the people; justice is the sun, through the light of which progress is secured and peace obtained. Through justice commerce thrives, industries are developed, morals are refined, honesty is established, international comity fostered and education popularized. That nation is honored and respected above all others which practices strict justice and mercy in all its dealings with outside world. By justice a nation is exalted, attaining to the pinnacle of eternal glory. The path of justice is the golden path of universal salvation."