

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria

August 22d 1914

Dear friends!

Would you like to read a beautiful poem written by Mrs Stanward while ^{she was staying} in Darjeeling, a mystic tribute to the highest Mountain of the world? It is named "a Himalayan Reverie" and the time of the writing is at sunset:—

"High are the heights of snowbound peaks,
Rearing their glistening crowns in heavenly calm;
Clouds circle shyly round their forest slopes
Veiling the too great beauty of Majestic Thrones.
Gazing at depths and heights my soul stands mute
Straining at check of body grip or tie. Yet
To the Deeps and peaks something within me cries
Sending out quivering sighs and silent love born thoughts
To One! My hands are stretched to One Great Source of all
I can but stretch them out and yearn
Since frail are yet the wings that fair would soar so high.
Broken the links on life's rough stoney way,
I can but kneel and view Thy works afar;
And see the beauty of Thy golden Ray

Glowing and gleaming into the hearts of men;
 Painting Thy Image fair on flowers and trees
 While hurried footsteps careless pass and I,
 I am left to whisper praises low
 Drink deep Thy breezes in, into my soul!
 Dost feel, O Thou who lovest all,
 My heart beats on the hill top calm?
 My life pulse seeks to merge to merge in Thine and know
 Thy rhythmic strength and Power. For Thou
 Dost seem to lift my slower pace to Thine
 And clasp me ever nearer, closer, yet into
 Thy heart of Life. Then lo! Thy whisper steals
 Like laughter stifted on the roseate mists.
 Yea! Thou hast calmed the storm and
 Breathed in Peace and left me singing
 As Thou passed on serenely glad and Blest.
 In her letter to the Beloved she writes:- "Thy kind and
 generous Tablet with its sweet words of encouragement
 has greatly cheered and encouraged me. It is my great
 pleasure and privilege to work for the Cause of God and
 His Beloved Majesty in El Abba has encompassed me
 with His strength and enabled me to carry out what

has been possible this first season here. Indeed I have been truly amazed at times to meet so much ready sympathy and to see how the hearts opened like flowers to the message of this Sun of Truth. There is a growing spirit for more universal modes of religion in this vast country and this will enable this Cause to be known and heard. Alas! What I can do is little in comparison with what can still be done and I look forward keenly to next winter when, please God, we shall all be very busy again. If the Spirit of Divine Will continues to support my frame and voice, my work is fully mapped out from next September I shall continue to write articles for Magazines from here, so that my time of rest is profitably spent and I hope to see many prominent Moslems on my return to Calcutta... ... I trust Thou hast received the two pictures I sent of these divine Mountains of Himalayas. They are more immense than Swiss ones and make me filled with joy and majesty of God Eternal. The Peace of God seems portrayed by these great silent and pure white witnesses to man in the snow-peaks..... "

In another letter she says:- "I want you to read a kind of Hymn of Praise I wrote down the other morning. The first verse came to me quite spontaneously when I had been meditating

..... I seemed to hear a great burst of music in my imagination and so I called it a song for Festival Occasions....."

Here follows "the Hymns of Praise for Bahai Festivals:—

(1) "O Glory Supernal! Thou Lord of the Heights!

O Splendor Eternal of bright starry Hosts!

Giver of Light! Upon us be Thy Power!

Forever adoring Thee! Hear us dear Lord!

Baha-o-llah our Lord!

(2) Pure may our hearts be, O God in Thy Sight

Filled with the flame of Love, lit by Thy Word.

Keep us Thy Children nigh unto Thy Throne.

Behold us! reclaim us! We come to Thee, Lord!

Baha-o-llah our Lord!

(3) Rich blessings bestow, Thou Ineffable Glow!

As we stretch forth our hands to the warmth of Thy Fire!

O! quicken these branches and leaves of Thy Tree,

Draw us into Thy Vineyard Thy helpers to be!

Baha-o-llah our King!

(4) Bestow on us privilege our brothers to serve

Thy Standard to raise proclaiming Thy law.

Let Peace be our motto and Peace our Goal

Till humanity praises Thee, soul upon soul.

Baha-o-llah our King! "

In another letter she says :- "I enclose some letters from Editors which will show their cordial spirit towards Bahai Articles. All are ready to receive. I must continue the press work in other directions as soon as I get elsewhere. I hope these articles will be useful for India propaganda work as I am doing my best to make them accurately informative. The Vedic Arya Samaj people will be a great help and I must go and meet their leaders this autumn....."

The Editor of the Vedic Magazine after writing at great length on the subject of the Vedas being "the primal fount of Divine Youth" and that the Sages of India have been the teachers of humanity" says :- "These statements of mine are necessarily imperfect and fragmentary. I wish we could see each other soon. I long so much to talk with you on these subjects and exchange views. I feel that in you I have found a kindred spirit. We shall have ⁵⁰ extra copies of the numbers of Magazine carrying your articles. You will get a new proof each time after the Magazine is out and when you have made the necessary corrections extra copies will be printed. Let me ^{repeat} what I said in yesterday's letter: I'm out here in a hurry to finish the series. Let the series be as long as you can make it. Why not produce a comprehensive volume

of essays on ^{the} Bahai Movement in this fashion? Yesterday I gave your Manuscript to a very competent critic to read. He was charmed with your article and requested me earnestly that the series should be continued, you write so beautifully, so sanely and so logically that I am sure your series of articles will win universal praise. Kindly set to work to write the 3d article and send it as soon as you possibly can. We shall all be delighted to make your personal acquaintance when you come to Gurukul Kangri. Laksar junction is on the way between Calcutta and Lahore and Haridwar is only eleven miles from Laksar. Therefore it will be possible for you to pay us a visit on your way to Lahore....."

From Allahabad the Editor of the "Hindustan Review" writes:- "I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your article which you have so kindly sent us. It will appear in the Hindustan Review..... I shall also be obliged to you if you will kindly continue to send your literary contribution to the H.R."

In her last letter from Calcutta she says:- "I have come to the city to help in the work and rouse interest and feel much vexed to inform you that the Congress of Religions

is postponed for one year This will however leave me^a free hand as to time and when I have got through August I will try and arrange to take a lecture tour via Lucknow to Lahore..... I am now hoping to do some work with a number of Muslims here. I don't know whether you saw the Urdu paper, Al Helal. I have called on Azad, the learned young Editor of this paper who impressed me very favorably. His father was a sort of religious teacher who had several thousands of followers and this son has travelled through Turkey and Egypt. He spoke beautifully about the Bahai teachings and said nothing could be higher and better than they were and that no one of any learning or religion could disagree with the clear expositions. I mentioned that we wanted Abdul Baha to come to India and he said indeed it was most necessary he should come. I hope soon to make some more lectures and will let you know..... If the Master does not come to India I will leave next year in March and go and see you all in Syria and then perhaps go on to London for a spell..... Supposing I see my way clear I might take a trip to Burma in November and just have a peep at conditions there...."

The Beloved delivered a talk^{to night} on humility which will be translated in the following letter.