

Bahai Nest, Mount Carmel 10
Haifa, Syria. Oct 12th 1914

Dear friends!

This morning the Master called me into his presence and bade me be seated. He was absorbed in his correspondence and after a few minutes he asked Aga Abbas Ghalib to bring tea and bread and cheese for me. Then he walked out of the room into the high road near the house and while going to and fro he gave a long talk on the situation in Europe, the outcome of the present struggle and its effect upon the Bahai Cause in the case of victory either by Germany ~~and~~ the Allies. Then he said:-
The present condition of the Bahai Cause in Germany is most satisfactory. The believers of God have progressed greatly along spiritual lines. All these letters testify to their sincerity and faithfulness. How wonderful it is! If the Blessed Beauty were living and I took these petitioners to him from Germany, what would he have said! These souls are most sincere. This Cause is in need of loyal servants, souls who would sacrifice everything for the sake of the Beloved, souls who would throw to the winds all their personal ambitions. Then they will shine like glorious suns and become the cause of the illumination of others. They will shine themselves and in turn enlighten others. This is conducive to the progress of the Cause! When his holiness Christ left this world he had only 60 or 70 disciples or according to the book of Acts, 120 followers: but when I pass away from this world I will leave behind hundreds of thousands of believers. Praise be to God that the friends are to be found ~~everywhere~~ in every part of the world.
..... The more I think of this war, the more I realize that the world's order is being disturbed. Mankind is in the throes of a deadly contention. Some of the German friends have asked that victory be given to Germany. We are not interfering with either party. Here at the Threshold of Baha-Allah we pray that they may seek Peace and settle all their outstanding disputes before a judicial, impartial, international court. May they upraise the banner of Universal Peace! May they strive in the establishment of good-fellowship and amity amongst the children of men! May they extend the

hearts with the fire of the Love of God! May they advance the cause of progress and real civilization! May their hearts be touched with real pity and sympathy! May they attain to such height of altruism as to be ready to sacrifice their lives for each other! This is the life of the world of humanity! This is in accord with the good-pleasure of the Blessed Perfection! Otherwise war under whatever pretext is owed, inhuman and to shed the blood of mankind is a crime in the sight of God." Then he dictated two cables to be sent to Washington and San - Francisco which were translated and given him to be signed. Our two American brothers Remy and Latimer ascended the Mountain ^{the} morning and were joyfully welcomed in the Bahai Nest. For lunch we were all the guests of the Persian students. They had prepared rice, meat, ragout cooked with egg-plants. The large table was placed outside in ~~the~~ ^{the} front of the large-reception room and we had, as we sat there, a matchless ^{view} of the mountain and the sea. After nearly three months of vacation, our Persian Bahai Students left tonight for Beirut to enter their college for this year. Altogether they had a most delightful time and we enjoyed their stimulating association exceedingly. After dinner we had tea with them and then the Beloved came and gave a long talk which will appear at the end of this letter. After the talk we worshipped at the Holy Tomb and then through Haji Mirza Haydar Ali the students requested the Master to take a picture in his presence. While Mr Latimer was ordering them how to stand the Beloved was walking in the garden, admiring the flowers. Then I was asked to go and tell him that they are all ready. When I approached him he gave ^{me} a white rose and a pomegranate which he had just cut from the tree. Mr Latimer took ~~altogether~~ 6 photographs of the Beloved, alone and in group and we all hope they will turn out very good. He went then to his room and we all came to the Bahai Nest and gathered on the veranda,

Here all the students started to sing a number of Persian songs and the translation of Mrs Waite hymns. We were all very happy. It was a most peaceful heavenly hour, just as the ^{golden} sun was setting behind the Western horizon, the ship that was going to take away the students hove into sight and they were ready for their departure. Rahmatallah, the gardener of the Tomb, who has been serving them for the past 3 months gave them a short farewell talk. He said: 'One day the Master came out of his room and looking at the room where you were living he said: 'I see already these noble students graduated from their college and coming out of its doors some of them go to the East, others to the West, North and South to spread the Words of God and teach the Cause of God.' I hope this prediction of the Beloved will be fully realized."

It was dusk and just before leaving, the Master walked down the path leading to the Pilgrim's House to give them ~~the~~ few parting words: "May you ever be under the protection and preservation of God! May you ever be assisted and confirmed! I will always remember you and beg for each one of you Heavenly Grace and Divine Beatitude! Rest ye assured for ye are ever under the canopy of celestial virtues. God willing, the fame of your sterling characters, your spiritual qualities, and selfless deeds may be spread more widely than before! ~ ~ ~ Give my greetings and salutations to the President of the college and those Professors whom I have met. Tell them I shall pray for them and am very pleased with their attitude and courtesy towards you!"

Then we followed them to the pier and bade them our final farewell. We were sad to ~~leave~~ them go but knowing the deep solicitude of the Master for their intellectual progress we realized that this is best. We all feel sure that their future will be very bright in the Cause. From now on Badi Bushru'i will be associated with my

my work. The Beloved desires him to become an active servant in the Cause and he is a splendid, refined, happy young man. When he goes to America, am sure all the friends will love and admire his delightful disposition and splendid qualities.

The talk of the Beloved in the afternoon is as follows:—
I have heard that you are leaving today. Then I said to myself I shall go to then say my farewell. Praise be to God that you have spent a delightful summer on the slope of Mt Carmel. The weather was bracing, the scenery was superb, the garden was beautiful, the flowers were fragrant, the country was verdant. You enjoyed the possession of such large airy rooms whose windows opened out on the blue sea, you were in the proximity of the Holy Tomb of the Báb, from every standpoint God's blessings were complete. I hope that you have enjoyed exceedingly your sojourn in this Sacred Spot."

At this juncture, Mullah Abou Taleb, the Sanitary Claus of Mt Carmel, entered the room and the Master said in English: "Musty, very old". Then he said in Persian:—"Mullah Abou Taleb is one of the oldest Bahais. He has been in Acca and Haifa for 60 these many years. Notwithstanding his extreme age he is still vigorous. Many a time he has walked from here to the Persian 'Afi' at the East end of the town."

Then at this time, Mirza Hadi entered the room, having just arrived from Acca and Abou Senan. The Master asked him:—"How are the friends? Are they all well? I strive always to be the means of the tranquility and composure of the friends. Man must ever strive to be the cause of the tranquility and composure of the friends. Man must ever strive to be the means of the happiness and security of his fellow-beings. If he tries to bring about the means of his own pleasure and ease it will be very easy. At the time of the arrival of the Investigation Committee, all the means of communication were closed, spies

are stationed all around, calumnies and falsehoods were hurled broadcast and the enemies both in Acca and other places, were united against us drawing up a number of false reports and sending them to the authorities in Constantinople, to instigate them and arouse their suspicion — so that they may take more close our confinement. Hence, it is evident from these remarks how difficult it was to attend to all the affairs of the Cause. One of their accusations was that I ~~am~~ have been trying to lay the foundation of a new Sovereignty. Another was that I have built a fortress on the slope of Mt Carmel which will have a commanding position all around. Another accusation was that I have made a new flag to lead my ^{increasing} army into the active field; that I have shown this flag to the inhabitants of Acca; that through Mirza Fekrolleh I have sent it to the surrounding cities and through Sheik Mahmud I have forwarded it to the Arabian tribes and ^{the} Bedouins of the Interior, demanding their allegiance and obedience. All these false reports were concocted with the assistance of the Hakezeens and sent to the Sublime Porte. Mirza Mahomet Ali took a large piece of white cloth and had it written on it in a poor hand — writing the word of "Ya Baha El Abha" and at the same time telling them that this was the flag that I had made. Then he delivered it into the hands of the enemies that it might be forwarded to Constantinople. The President of the Committee who was promised the governorship of Beirut at that time, declared that the first thing that he will do will be to cut the body of Abbas Effendi into two pieces and hang on the gate of Acca as a warning to others.

"In short, my aim is this; During those stirring, restless days I sent away seventy of the believers to Egypt, Russia and various ports. At that time I provided sufficient and adequate travelling ^{expenses} for every one. I borrowed the money from an American Baha' who lived in Paris. In short, I offered myself for a target to every

alarmity and affliction. Then a steamer arrived in the Bay of Acco to take me away secretly. The person by whom this was suggested is now living here. When this thing was suggested I called in Sayad Ali Akbar, Aga Sayid Yah, Mirza Assadallah, Aga Reza, Mirza Mahmud, Mirza Baydardali etc and told them that everything was prepared for my departure, that a steamer was in the Port to take me away, that they were going to let me down from the wall of the fortress with a rope, then riding rapidly in a carriage and reaching the shore climbing into a boat and board the ship. Now then you consult about this matter and decide whether I should go or not.

"This committee deliberated and finally decided that I should go. They came to me and said: 'This is very good. This is an excellent plan. Please go away and leave behind these awful conditions. We have unanimously decided upon this matter.' Then I told: 'I will not go. Beka-Allah did not leave the Báb did not leave and I shall not leave. It is not good for the Cause of God. The Well-being of the Cause of God demands my presence here.' Then other events followed each other and the members of the Investigation Committee left these parts. Before they reached Constantinople the cannon of God boomed forth and the voice of freedom was raised and the Committee of Union and Progress established a Constitutional Regime in Turkey. The upshot of these remarks is that man must ever ^{think} of the protection of others and not of himself. Now you are leaving for the college. Praise be to God that the Bahai students in Beirut are well-known for the beauty of their character, the purity of their deeds, and the loftiness of their morality. From whomever one enquires of the Bahai students, they will receive unstinted praise. This is through the Favours and Bounties of the Blessed Beauty, Who has assisted you to attain such a high station. For you have lived in such a manner

which has become conducive to the glorification of the Cause of God. Baha-O-
 lah is pleased with you; all the people are pleased with you; I am pleased with
 you and the friends of God are pleased with you. This is the special Divine Bounty
 which is being realized at rare intervals. If one asks any person concerning
 a Bahai student, he will answer: In reality they are intelligent, sober, in-
 structive, diligent, displaying good-manners and behaviors and concen-
 trating all their attention on the acquirement of knowledge. They do not at
 all spend their time in frivolous amusements and distracting recreations.
 Even the enemies testify to your spotless character. I hope that through
 the Favor and Bounty of the Blessed Beauty, His Holiness the Babi and the
 ineffable Blessings which hallow this Holy Shrine, the Confirmations of
 the Kingdom of Allah may encircle you and that you may be charac-
 terized with the shining qualities and brilliant attributes of the Bahai life.
 May your morality become more refined day by day! May your
 faith and assurance be increased day by day! May your attraction
 to the Kingdom of Allah be intensified day by day! May day by day
 your attainment in sciences and arts become more universal!
 Perchance, God willing, you may become perfect and accomplished
 from every standpoint and be the means of the enlightenment of
 Persia. The horizon of the general morality of that country is very dark
 and adventure, through your instrumentality, the people may be brought
 back into the realm of light and that each one of you may become
 like a shining candle in the lamp of Persia. It has been said that often
 one soul is equal to a thousand persons. God willing each one of
 you may become like unto a hundred thousand souls! This is
 not impossible of realization, for the Favours and Bestowals
 of God are unlimited. Do ye not be astonished at this, neither
 have any discouragement. This Grace descends to

the weak soul) is changed into a mighty king; the plant is grown into a huge fruitful tree; the grain of sand into a lofty mountain and the atom a star. When we consider the Favor and Bounty of God we realize that all these things are made possible. You must not regard your own limited capabilities, but turn your eyes toward the Unlimited Fountain of Divine Grace. He makes the shepherd, Abuzor Gaffary; the dealer, Ammar Bassel; the captive, Salman; (these persons were of poor origin, like the disciples of Christ but became famous in the Islamic world, because they believed in Mohamad during his life. Translator) the fisherman, Peter. In brief, there are many such instances in the sacred history of the world which are accounted the miracles of each dispensation. These things do not happen at the other periods of human history. They are the special privileges of early days of each manifestation. For this reason Baha-ullah says in the Kitab-i-El-Akdas: 'I ^{have} caused the highest to become the lowest and the lowest to become the highest.' It is also revealed in the Koran: 'We desire to surround with a special privilege those who are weak and lowly upon the earth. We shall make them a nation and the inheritors of great things.' Praise be to God that from the tender years of your life you have entered under the shade of the Divine Tree and are intoxicated with the choice Wine from the heavenly Goblet. I trust and hope that each one of you will rise higher and higher until you attain to the apex of human and divine perfections. "

With these glowing words the Beloved sent them away and fired their hearts - so that they knew their duties and responsibilities in the world and the service demanded of them.