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Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel
Haifa, Syria Oct 24th 1914

Dear friends!

This was a quiet day. A half-hour stay in the Presence of the Beloved in the morning and the translation of the English newspapers concerning the long drawn struggle of nearly 20 days and nights continual fighting, called the Battle of the Aisne, and seeing him again in the afternoon and worshipping with him in the holy Shrine brought the day to an end. The Master expressed sorrow and pity at the enormous losses inflicted on both parties during those days. According to one of the newspapers: "Under such conditions twentieth century war tends to become amazingly long-drawn when a single battle rivals in length whole campaigns which have made history in the past." It is self evident, how the Beloved is grieved over these enormous human sacrifices, these cold-blooded slaughter. These civilized Powers have indeed blackened the pages of human history. They may call it by other names, give to it fairer and more deceiving descriptions but to a person who studies the matter impartially it is worse than any crime since the quarrel of Abel and Cain. The air is thick with charges and counter-charges, each side claiming to attract the sympathy of the world and laying all the awful responsibilities on the other. But the fact is, all of them have a great share in organizing this 'festival of death', this 'orgy of murder', this 'banquet of destruction' for their inhabitants. They have been making for the last many years, guns, powder, shells, shrapnels, howitzers, dum-dums, rifles, cartridges and all the murderous engines of hell! They distrusted each other, they hated each other. Oh yes! Outwardly, they gave utterances to the thought of eternal friendship, but in their hearts they did not believe in them. They went on coolly increasing their armaments, their soldiers - until Europe was groaning under this heavy load like a dumb animal.

On one hand Germany is called upon to give an account for ~~his~~ fostering a special brand of "Kulture". In the words of Mr Asquith:-
"Let me ^{then} ask for a moment what is this German culture? What is this

German spirit of which the Emperor's armies are at present the missionaries in Belgium and France? That which is specifically German in the movement of the world in the last 30 years has been, on the intellectual side, the development of the doctrine of the supreme and ultimate prerogative in human affairs of material forces, and on the practical side the taking of the foremost place in the fabrication and the multiplication of the machinery of destruction. To the men who have adopted this gospel, who believe that power is the be all and end all of the state, naturally a treaty is nothing more than a piece of parchment, and all the old world talk about the rights of the weak and the obligations of the strong is only so much threadbare and nauseating cant." Then Times in an inspired Editorial cries out:— "They (the Allies) are firmly and irrevocably resolved not to stay their hands until German militarism, its causes and effects, are destroyed once and for all." This is indeed a despairing defiance hurled against Germany and one is astonished at its underlying bitterness and hatred. But on the other hand Doctor Solf, Secretary of State for Colonies is reported to have said:— "Our worst enemies are the English. . . . Germany does not fear England by land, but on sea, she must face the most powerful fleet in the world. We must fight to the end on the battlefield and in the economic domain. Against our Continental enemy we fight for victory. Against England we fight for booty. That booty must be in proportion to the enormous sacrifices which our people now endure." Then in this pandemonium of voices rises another voice. that if "Blood and iron" is the motto of the Prussian militarism let ours be:— "Soul and fire". (Mr Churchill) Again he says in his speech:— "I have not come here to ask you for your cheers. I have come to ask you for a million men for the gallant army of Sir John French, a million of the flower of our manhood, nothing but the best, every man a volunteer, a million men maintained in the field and equipped with everything that science can invent or money can buy. . . . I have only one song to sing. These are days of actions rather than speech." When the Beloved heard that England wants one million men he said:— "What ~~resolution~~ resolution! One million!" Especially as I was told that for every man kept in the field they expect to have two men in training, for the wastage of an army from wound and disease is terrible in a long campaign. May God save them from

this great catastrophe that they are bringing upon themselves and humanity." I will quote another short extract which will show us another aspect of this dreadful calamity. As I have already referred in a former letter that one of the New York journals published an article containing a number of propositions, supposed to have been inspired by the German Ambassador to the United States concerning Peace. Mr Churchill in the latter part of his speech refers to this matter and then cries:—"Peace! Ah! we are only just beginning! Peace will be found, in the words of his Majesty the King, when the worthy causes for which we are fighting have been achieved." Thus runs along the bitter contention of words in the Press and foul deeds of slaughter in the battlefield, breaking the heart of the Beloved and giving him such sadness and sorrow too deep for expression! He is sad because he realizes the fair cities of Belgium and France like Liege, Louvain, Malines, Tervueren, Rheims, Brussels and many others are lying in ruin and the inhabitants are fleeing to the mountains! What horrible barbarism! What demonic destruction! What ruthless sacking! What devilish practices! What incendiary deeds! What savage cruelties! Men indeed must put on sackcloth, sit in the black ashes and weep over their own ignorance and blindness! Thus the Master writing to the believers of Kermanshah says:—"O ye believers of God and the friends of the Merciful! During this year the tests of God have encircled the East and the West! By the blowing of the furious gales of trials and ordeals, the people like unto the leaves are falling from the trees to the ground. In the book of Some Answered Questions by the maid servant of God Barney these days are clearly foretold. Refer to the the passage wherein it is stated that these revolutions shall last till 335 (Mohamaden Calendar) and before that time complete composure and tranquility will not be realized. You have expressed sorrow over the events in your province but you are not aware, what world-shaking resurrection is set up in other parts! Revolution and consequent disorder and infinite confusion rules over the destiny of Europe. Every day in the battlefield thousands upon thousands of officers of high ranks, princes of the royal blood and privates are hurled to the ground and their blood mixed with the soil; army after army, composed of the youths of their countries are torn to pieces, their bodies scattered

over miles and miles of fields and their bones bleached in the sun. Ancient cities are razed to the ground and the foundations of great families are ruined. The rich have become poor and the nobles are degraded. Thousands of worthy souls have become prisoners, tasting the bitter cup of humiliation! All these afflictions and calamities are foreborn for the sake of a handful of dust, giving to it the name of 'country,' while in reality this dust is the eternal graveyard for man! How they sacrifice everything in life for the sake of this cemetery! How they accept colossal losses and untold misfortunes! Notwithstanding they seem to be glad and happy and cry at the top of their voices. O my Country! O my Country!

Consequently how much happier and ^{more} pleased must you be, because you are self-sacrificing in the Path of that Kind Beloved, you are enamoured with His Face and Captives of His Countenance! If you have experienced any hardship, it is an evidence of His Grace! If the dart of persecution is flung at you, it is a proof of His Bestowal and if He gives you the sweetness of Faithfulness, it is a witness to His Bounties and Favor. All the people are sacrificing themselves for the love of the dust which they call ~~it~~ 'Our country' but praise be to God you are self-sacrificing in the ^{Divine} path. Therefore be ye not sad on account of the past events. Arise ye with the utmost power and resolution, be ye engaged in servitude and the freedom of humanity; organize ye meetings of Peace and each one of you become the shining candles of those gatherings; then the angels of confirmations shall descend bestowing joy and happiness to the hearts and the souls.

In the afternoon the Beloved walked for nearly an hour in the garden of the Tomb and referring to the progress of the Cause in Germany He said: - "Germany is fighting with all the Powers and has vanquished ~~them~~ ^{her enemies}. We are also fighting with Germany but we have defeated her. But this is not a war of death, it is a war of life. This is not a defeat but a victory. It will conduce to the eternal Glory of Germany. It (this Cause) will make her spiritually invincible".