

Home of Baha - ollah. Acca, Syria
November 13th 1914

Dear friends!

Two synchronical events transpired to day that when placed in juxtaposition to each other will explain more than volumes of words the two underlying, dominant spirits of the East in this day — the spirit of Peace and the spirit of war. The first is the translation of an official communique from Constantinople, signed by the Commander of the faithful, the Sultan of Turkey and the second is the substance of the talk of Abdul Baha as related by himself to night with the Khedive of Egypt at the time of their meeting. It will be more than interesting if the contents of these two highly illuminative documents are compared with each other by the readers — so that they may judge which one of these two utterances will lead to progress, the fraternity of nations, the freedom of humanity from the evil plight of religious prejudices and the hoisting of the Banner of Universal Peace. The official communique which is addressed to the Moslems of the world at large says:—

"The Imperial and Royal Order of His Majesty the Commander of the Faithful is herewith issued forth that the Turkish Empire is in a state of war with England, France and Russia. The Moslems of the world must realize that gross injustices are perpetrated by England against Turkey and the Islamic Commonwealth. Gladstone, the famous English statesman has propagated a political axiom through his well-known utterance in the British Parliament, that as long as the Book Koran exists, there can be established no peace in the world and the five continents of the globe are always threatened with danger. Therefore, England is striving her utmost to undermine the Khalifate and wipe away the Islamic religion from the face of the earth. She has occupied Egypt without any excuse or political rights and divided the island of Foss(?) between herself between herself and her two Allies. From that time she has been spending all her resources to dismember Turkey and annihilate Islam. Not considering the declaration of our neutrality she instigated Russia to attack our fleet in the Black Sea. But with the assistance of Allah and the power of the great and blessed Khalifa

we are defending our rights and are standing before the enemies."

When the believers gathered tonight in the reception room Abdul Baka one of them about the latest news. He was told about a cable dispatch that the Khedive of Egypt is deposed by Great Britain and a Kinsman of his placed in his post. The Master said:- "When I was in Alexandria, Ahmad Ariss, the minister of reception of the Khedivial Court called upon me and proposed to me that he would like to arrange a meeting between his Highness the Khedive and myself. I told him that I am not interested in such royal visits, that I am the friend of the poor and would consider it always a great honor to be received by them. He went away and returned after a week. Having duly attended to the formal exchange of courtesies he told me that the royal courage is awaiting to take me to the palace of Rozhak where His royal highness the Khedive will be pleased to receive me. Seeing that he had undertaken this matter with so much trouble I did not want to disappoint him and acquiesced to his arrangement. We rode in the carriage and were driven away. At first we entered the royal garden, then ascended the three storied mansion. The Minister left me at the door of a large and spacious hall on the third floor, requested me to enter alone and retired into a corridor. As I entered I saw a man standing near the threshold and four or five persons at the end of the hall. I made a perfunctory salute to the man at the door, whom I took for the usher and proceeded towards the group of men one of whom I thought was the Khedive of Egypt. But from their attitude and hearings it immediately dawned upon my mind that the man by whom I passed and hardly noticed him was the Khedive himself. Turning back and looking ^{well} into his face I recognized him at once. Concurring with him on different Eastern questions, I at last broached to him the most vital problem of this age - the problem of Universal Peace. I proposed to him a workable plan which if he had taken it up would have redounded to his lasting fame. At first I reviewed for his benefit, the progress which has come to the cause of Universal Peace during the last decades. Then I said: 'The Cause of international arbitration is gaining adherents day by day all over Europe and America. Today the United States is leading the forces of good will and fraternity and during the last

years her far-sighted Presidents and statesmen have proposed many funda-
 mental Peace plans, the highest ideals of which are embodied in epoch-making
 treaties entered in good faith with several nations. This in itself is a
 most hopeful sign and insures ultimate success to the Cause of Peace.
 Universal War with its stupendous complications will ere long become
 an actuality and afflict the blind and heedless world with its awful conse-
 quences. This I say because Europe has become an arsenal filled with explosive
 materials and one of these days will set it aflame. The warring Powers having
 exhausted their resources will then enter into closer bond of intimacy
 and having destroyed the tree of militarism root and branch, will
 be willing to listen to the voice of the pacifists of all countries; the cause
 of eternal peace will be strengthened; its advocates increased and the en-
 lightened public opinion of mankind will demand the establishment
 of the International Court of arbitration. The Emperors and Kings of Europe
 are so situated today that either by inclination or rivalry; political
 considerations or patriotic motives, geographical locations or fear of foreign
 invasion - cannot take an initiative in the Cause of Universal Peace,
 and the reduction of armaments. So long as this mad competition exists
 amongst them they think they must go on increasing their military and
 naval budgets and pile destructive armaments upon armaments until
 millions of souls are crushed under its sheer weight. In order that they
 may safeguard their vital interests, independence and honor, they
 they argue, keep up these colossal armies and navies to the highest
 degree of efficiency. They believe they must keep peace amongst themselves
 at the point of bayonets, forts, machine guns and infernal engines.
 They must construct Dreadnoughts and Superdreadnoughts and
 take away from remunerative positions countless men to teach
 them the harmful and injurious art of war. While their minds are
 largely influenced by these spurious theories of state they cannot
 propose any all-inclusive universal plan for the
 realization of the Confederation of mankind and the estab-
 lishment of the Parliament of men. Their callings and am-
 bitions preclude them from taking such impartial step.

But you from amongst all the rulers of the earth are the most fortunate, because your country, Egypt as an English protectorate is not burdened with the heavy expenses of a standing army and navy; the inhabitants under the English rules have become the most prosperous and peace-loving and are not cursed with a war taxation. On account of Suez Canal, Egypt has become a golden link connecting the East and the West and its geographical position is the most unique. It has been from the time of antiquity and especially in these last years one of the most cosmopolitan countries of the world and the ideals of civilization and democracy have transformed the face of the land. Considering carefully these important facts, it behooves you, from amongst the rulers of the earth, to unfurl the Flag of Universal Peace in the land of the ancient Pharaohs. You can render this priceless service to your country and the world at large by calling together an International Congress of Universal Peace to be held annually in Egypt and invite to it hundreds of the world's foremost thinkers, scholars, philosophers and statesmen — in brief a Parliament of the world of humanity, a symposia of the East and the West, the North and the South. Your highness, you, as the inaugurator of such an Assemblage of humanity's representatives will be heralded throughout the confines of the earth as a true benefactor of the world and your words and utterances on these occasions will be published abroad through the Press and the platform of the civilized nations. This will be conducive to your everlasting glory and will immortalize your name in the history of mankind. The establishment of such a universal Congress on such a favorable ground — the junction between the Orient and the Occident — will yield untold results and usher in the dawn of Peace and good-fellowships amongst all the nations of the earth. This, your highness, I believe will be a great mission for you to fulfill in this world. I hope that you will take hold of this peerless opportunity. This was, in brief, the substance of my talk with the Khedive of Egypt when I met him for the first time. I considered it my duty to give him this message."

This morning Mahsen Effendi, the commissioner of Police and a few other important personages called on the Beloved and were with him till noon. For lunch we had fresh trout, cooked à la Turk. The Master liked the dish very much and piled my plate with it. In the afternoon we had tea in his presence. He was laughing and relating a number of events which transpired after the departure of Baha-Ollah. After awhile the carriage was ready and we were driven to Bahajie. The weather was cloudy and a fresh, revitalizing breeze was blowing. After ^{the} chanting of the visiting Tablet in the Holy Tomb he came out and for half an hour was walking under the great wide-spreading pine-trees. On our return a soldier presented him a petition that he may get for him a permission of leave ^{from the Colonel} to go away and see his family before he goes to war. The Master told him he will do his best and then looking at his old, torn shoes, payed him enough money to buy a pair. After a little rest in his room he came down into the reception ^{hall} and gave a long, interesting talk, part of which I translated aloud. Amongst other thing he said: - "Napoleon the Great conquered Germany and brought under his control its domain but to what result! It was only a temporary victory. It ruined the homes of thousands to satisfy the beastly ambition of a single man. In a short while Germany ~~was~~ recuperated and avenged the wrongs meted him by striking the terror of his arms into the very heart of France. The great conqueror himself spent his last days in misery in the Island of St. Helena. How glorious it would have been if the children of men lived amongst themselves like a flock of doves ~~living~~ in one cot, like the innocent sheep grazing in one green meadow, and like sweet-singing nightingales singing the most beautiful songs! But the donkeys kick, the dogs bark, the wolves tear other animals to pieces and the beasts of prey play havoc in the animal Kingdom. We must not be like the latter ~~but~~ exercise towards each other perfect love and amity: The earth has periodic waves like unto the waves of the Sea. The rising of one earth-wave covers under it all these wars, revolutions, contentions and strifes. How little man ^{knows}! How ignorant is he! How devoid of intelligence is he!"