

Moonbeam Bahai Cabin
 Akko Senan Akko. Syria
 April 2d 1915

Dear friends!

The governor of Akko was today the guest of honor of the Beloved. The carriage was sent to the city to bring him and he arrived before noon. The Master sent a delegate of the Believers and the prominent members of the village, including the Sheiks, to the foot of the mountain to welcome him. He was accompanied by a guard of soldiers. Abdul Baha was in the reception-room and when the governor entered he arose from his seat and received him with pleasure. For ^{more} than one hour they talked on the present conditions of the country and the prevalent opinion that the Syrian towns along the Mediterranean shore will be soon occupied by the army of the Foreign warships. For this reason they are taking precautionary measures to leave the towns with all their official documents as soon as the signs of landing ^{the} soldiers become manifest. There are more than fifty camels, 20 horses and several carriages kept in readiness outside of the gate of Akko to load their baggage. The real struggle will of course begin when the army of occupation will try to pierce into the interior of the country, as there are many regiments keeping the defiles, passages and routes and occupying strategic places on the height of the mountains. It is guessed that ^{the} aeroplanes and airships will play an important part in finding the positions and the strength of the Turks, and ~~that~~ ^{their} carefully-laid defensive plans are open to the sharp eyes of the military airmen, who soar high above their heads and are beyond the range of the fire of their field-guns.

Another interesting subject of discussion was the finding of a number of bottles along the shore. On opening them they have found pages of publication in Arabic and French on the defeat of Turkey in Caucasasia, Egypt and Dardanelles the bombardment of Smyrna and the demand of the Admiral of the Fleet for his surrender, the victories of England, Russia and France in Europe and other parts of Asia and the misfortunes of Austria and Germany. The contents of these papers assured the inhabitants that they will be well-treated, that the Powers are not at war with them and that the ruling party in Turkey has been ^{aligned}

by the fair promises of Germany. In Beirut and Tripoli many of these bottles have been found. It is evident that they have been thrown into the sea by the warships for the dissemination of news in their favor amongst the inhabitants. The local governors have issued an order that whoever finds these bottles, must without delay carry them to the Chief of Police, for they contain a poisonous gas on the opening of which will kill the people!

We were invited to dinner, as well as the ^{as} Sheikhs, and the Beloved gave a ^{as before} detailed stirring account of the history of Acca from the time it was taken by the Crusaders in 1104 A.D. its fortune in their hands till it was retaken by Saladin in 1187, how it was subsequently besieged and held by the Crusaders under Philip ^{August} of France and Richard I of England in 1191 and given to the Knights of St. John; how it fell into the hands of the Egyptians in 1291; then attacked and possessed by the Turks in 1517; how Napoleon Bonaparte besieged it for 61 days in 1799 but was saved by the skill of Jazzar Pasha and the timely assistance of Sir Sidney Smith; then its possession by Ibrahim Pasha ^{of Egypt} in 1832 and its final surrender to the combined armies of the English, Austrians and Turks in 1840 and its restoration to Turkey at that date. It was indeed nothing less than marvellous how he could remember all the details of ^{this} bygone history. I have no doubt that had he the inclination and desire he could write a most instructive history of this ancient and sacred town.

After drinking tea, Isfandeyar prepared the carriage and it was about 4 P.M. that the governor descended the stairs and bidding adieu to the Beloved rode away. Because the weather in Ahow Senan is very pure and exhilarating he has begged Abdul Baha to stay here at least three weeks. I hear that he has accepted the Motosarref's supplication conditionally; hence barring the unusual, we may extend the limit of our sojourn on this mountain top. When the governor left he took a long ride ^{on horseback} with Sheik Saleh.

In the evening we were delighted to find ourselves in the Presence of our Lord. He had received a few letters from America and Germany and as soon as he saw me entering the room he gave them to me and wished to be translated. I read them aloud while all the friends listened. A letter from Mr C. M. Remey dated February 6th contained the following paragraph

which will interest the Bahais, because its practical realization will be of importance to the students of the Cause in future generations:-

"While I was in Haifa last October _____ suggested that it would be a very good thing if Mirza Noureddin Zaine could make a complete copy in ^{several} volumes of the writings and Tablets of the Blessed Perfection and that these could be deposited in America for future generations of Truth-seekers and students of the Divine Cause. Now if it be Thy Will that this work should be done, I may be able ^{with} one or two of the friends in this Cause to the extent of sufficient funds to pay Mirza Noureddin Zaine for the time he will take to copy these Holy Words. The Chicago friends would like very much to have these in the Assembly Archives. informs me that in Acca there are Tablets of Baha Ollah to the extent of about 20 volumes. If it be Thy Will I will try to arrange this matter in all harmony and Unity of Spirit.

Another letter from Madame Schwarz announced the news that she has ^{spoken} about the principles of the Cause ^{of Peace} and the Beloved's visit to Stuttgart ^{with} the King of Wurttemberg. When I finished translating the letter Sheikh Saleh asked the Beloved what ~~were~~ their contents. He told him. Then ^{with} hearty laughter he said:- "This was our Agency. Now tell me the contents of thy agency? Our Agency carries the victories of Peace and Love, whilst your agency conveys the news of war and slaughter. Ours is the herald of life and light but thine is ^{the} harbinger of death and darkness. Ours is the crier of construction but thine is the proclaimer of destruction. Ours is the spreader of goodwill and fellowship amongst men but thine is the announcer of enmity and strangeness. Ours is the promoter of the oneness of the world of humanity, thine is the instigator of misunderstandings amongst the inhabitants of the earth. Ours is the torch-bearer of justice and equity, thine is the standard-carrier of tyranny and oppression. Ours is the publisher of the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God, thine is the scatterer of the seed of discords and animosity between the members of the commonwealth of man. Ours is the trumpet of Peace, thine is the bugle of carnage. Ours is the springtime of the flowers of affection and Amity, thine is the winter of hostility and rancor."