

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria
May 3d 1915

Dear friends;

This morning Doctor Finkelstein, the Director of the Jewish Technical Institute called on the Beloved. He received him in the garden and they sat in the glorious sunshine. For more than one hour they talked together on many subjects, too numerous to be recorded in these pages. I will however mention the salient points of only a few topics. The battles fought between the Turks and the forces of the Allied Powers of Europe ^{in Gallipoli} were considered in detail and the rather non-committal opinion was expressed that we have to wait and watch for the final results. The facts that more than "fourty war-ships" are "knocking" at the gate of Dardanelles and the Russian fleet is "knocking" loudly from the Bosphorus on the black sea and that according to the current report England and France have landed "400,000" soldiers in the neighborhood of the sea of Marmora were reviewed. All these reports are of course based on the "Dépêches communiquées par l'Agence Turque". For the last few months the regular channels of communication have been so completely blocked that we have not received one single page of European news. Doctor Finkelstein related the history of the thirty years as well as the seven years wars in Germany and the rapid progress in the invention of modern armaments. Then the Master spoke on the question of Universal Peace, the barbarism of war and the sweetness of international understanding. He wondered at the ruthless cruelty of man and hoped the day will come when all the nations of the world will discuss and settle their disputes in the Parliament of humanity. Being the servants of God, the sheep of one flock, the pages of ~~the~~ book, the letters of one word, the leaves of one tree, the petals of one rose, the members of one family, why did they shed each other's blood, why did they cover vast fields with the mutilated bodies of their brethren, why did they violate the laws of mankind, why did they relapse into the primeval stage of savagery? They are not men, they are a hundred thousand times worse than the maddened and infuriated bulls in a Spanish arena.

Then asking Doctor how old he is and finding he is 33 yrs old, but still unmarried, he advised him to marry as soon as it will be possible for him. He said: "Buy a piece of land on the top of the Mountain and build for yourself a lovely ^{country} house. Then marry a strong, vigorous, athletic girl like thyself. Marriage is a holy and divine Covenant, and young men, in order to partake of the responsibilities of life, must enter into this sacred compact of physical and spiritual relationship. They must bring into their new lives pure bodies, pure thoughts and pure motives. This is the richest settlement on the part of the young man and the most priceless dowry by the young girl. Through the inculcation of a thorough knowledge of hygiene humanity must be freed from all manner of diseases and ailments. The parents must teach their children the laws of life and how to avoid evils and temptations. Thus may they grow into healthy and robust manhood and womanhood. This is indeed the most glorious heritage they can hand down to posterity. Generally the offsprings of marriages between the age of 25 and 40 become hale, muscular, able-bodied and brave; provided the contracting parties have been free from diseases and certain weaknesses of the body. Every couple must bring into their new home that quality of love and devotion which is solid and permanent. Their attachment must not be based upon the foundation of changing, personal attraction but founded on the deeper laws of spiritual co-operation and good-fellowship. As the years roll on their respect and fondness for each other must increase. Hand in hand they must go on and on, learning new things, revealing the subtle tenderness of wedded life, unfolding the rich meanings of the ideal family and diffusing the sweet fragrances of mutual association. It is an axiomatic fact that all the lasting and beneficial reforms must commence with the family. Both the father and mother must contribute their share to the idealization and sanctification of the hearth. This is the cornerstone of national greatness.

In the evening we were in his presence only for a few minutes. A propos of a question he said: "Only through the power of the Holy Spirit the Cause of Universal Peace will be established in this world. There must needs be a divine executive Power to bring these self-seeking governments to the terms of universal brotherhood and conciliation. Nothing else