

VI. DMAS

7/1/1913 - 10/23/1914

Sohrab's Diary

Diary of Mirza Akbar Sahrab

Number 1

Port Said, Egypt.

Beginning July 1st, 1913

Dear Friends:-

It would not be bad if on the first day of every month we may survey the collective activities of the month just passed, to see whether we have accomplished anything beneficial or harmful to our fellowmen. If the former we will let it become the stepping-stone for greater things; if the latter, we will try to walk in the Right path-way. For those who have just accepted the Bahai Revelation, there is nothing more useful than retrospection, thus they will practice that which is good and shun that which is evil. In this day the Highway of the Lord of mankind is very plain. All the obstacles are removed, the hollow places and the marshy grounds are filled. If we start walking in His Path we shall surely reach our destination and behold the Countenance of the Beloved, receive His benediction and ever afterward commune with the Holy Ones. The Bahai Path is the Path that leads us to the Kingdom of Eternity, for GOD hath illumined it throughout with the Light of His Face. Hundreds and thousands are joining those who have started their pilgrimage in the Highway of ABHA. As they go along they raise their clarion voices in thankfulness and praise. They are singing the songs of peace and spiritual brotherhood. They know that theirs is the victory of attainment. What a happy band of pilgrims they are! Their faith is superhuman, their energy is extraordinary, their faces are illumined, their feet are untiring, their conviction is courageous, their love unselfish, their hope is transcendent, their sincerity is unquestioned, their integrity is unimpeachable and their devotion to the Cause is attested! My friends! Let us join this holy band of pilgrims!

Last night the Master told me to come to him early in the morning with a number of petitions just received; so I was there quite early. While He was dictating Tablets, He was meanwhile carrying along different lines of conversation with a stream of callers and pilgrims. Tablets were revealed for Mr. Albert Windus of Chicago; Frau Schwartz of Stuttgart; Mrs. Roger Boyle of Washington, D. C. Miss Tonika Frese, Mrs. Edith Ingles of New York, Miss Juanita Starch of Oakland, Cal; Mrs. Annie Lincoln of Brooklyn, N. Y. and a wonderful article for the Theosophy of Scotland in Edinburgh, the editor of which is Mr. Graham Cole. An article published in the Egyptian Gazette dated Friday, June 27 on page three entitled "Abdul Baha in Egypt. Wonderful scenes in Port Said. Eastern Bahais assembled in force," was read to the Master. The description of the Persian believers "who are curiously dressed, in great lambkin hats and long divided skirts with enormous pleats" was especially graphic. Here is another quotation giving a little insight on how these "converts" lived. "At Port Said the pilgrims have erected a huge tent on the roof of a native hotel and there they gather and sing with touching devotion."

Mirza Nourollah Vakil is an old believer from Bagdad. He has been waiting ten months in Haifa and Alexandretta for the arrival of the Beloved. He is a patient true Bahai, ever ready to fulfill the desire of the Lord. He has been the keeper of the House in which Baha'ollah and his family lived eleven years. This house, owing to the lack of attention, has fallen into ruin, and for the present there are no means at hand to rebuild or repair it. In speaking with him over this matter, he said if there was a sum of Five Hundred Pounds sterling, the house could be very suitably repaired. The above answer was given through my own solicitation, but I believe there must needs be at least one thousand pounds sterling to reconstruct the house upon its old plan without any architectural innovation, thus keeping the original form of the time of Baha'o'llah. To my mind this is a most wonderful service for any Bahai who is able to do it. The Master, speaking to Mirza Nourollah and a number of Bahais from Bagdad said: "I have great love for the believers of Bagdad. They are ever in my heart. Be not sad owing to the present ruin of the house. The time of its rebuilding shall come very soon. We must destroy and build it again, but its first form shall not undergo any change. Rest ye assured that it will be constructed most solidly, This is the Blessed House; do you realize that it is the Blessed House of Baha'o'llah? All that quarter in which the House is situated will be destroyed and will be transformed into wonderful parks and gardens. It will become most heavenly. The Holy Sepulchre of Christ was a place of dumping all kinds of rubbish for three hundred years till St. Helena came, cleared the ground and built over a most wonderful church. However, the Cause of Baha'o'llah is extraordinary, and the Places wherein He has lived will be fully preserved."

Today two pilgrims arrived from Persia, Mirza Pazollah the son of the eldest brother of Baha'o'llah, and a young Bahai from Damascus. Upon hearing of the arrival of the son of His uncle, he was called in to His Presence, and of course much love showered upon him. I was not there to witness the loving scene and hear His Words, but Mirza Ali Akbar told me the Master spoke about His childhood days, the thing that I should like to have heard.

In the afternoon we were all invited again to His Home to take tea. We waited a few minutes down stairs, but as soon as we heard His Footsteps everybody arose. He sat in a chair in front of the window and spoke feelingly, part of which is as follows: "The inhabitants of Persia are yet asleep, although GOD has demonstrated to them His Cause in so many ways. If this Cause had appeared in America and Europe, - by this time all those regions would have become illumined and the souls would have become awakened. So many souls were martyred; so much blood has been spilt! If one of these events had transpired in another country, the effect would have been marvellous.

Ever so many people became divine, illumined and celestial, and in their midst they cried out to awaken them." "Truly I say each one of the believers of GOD has been the embodiment of severance, the incarnation of devotion, an ignited candle, he visualized in the world

of humanity the Teachings of GOD, and he was an example and a lesson to mankind of how to be pure, sanctified, attracted, enkindled and honest. The evidences of GOD they wrote with their own blood upon the earth."

Then He told us to take a walk with Him and He strode out followed by His servants. As the "Greatest Holy Leaf" will arrive from Haifa to be with the Master, and as the present house is rather small and unfurnished, another apartment of four rooms and kitchen is rented for us. "Us" means Mirza Mahmoud, Seyed Asaad Ullah, Mirza Manser and Ahmad Sohrab. The Master, therefore, walked toward the apartment to see how it is. On the way He told us two stories of His childhood; one about the Mohammedan clergy and the "big paradise;" another about a bareheaded Mullah before a large crowd of people and the sudden shower of hail upon his head and his precipitated flight.

Coming out of the apartment, He ordered a carriage and with Mirza Fazaloh they were driven away from us.

We returned to the hotel, and had an interesting conversation with the young man from Damascus. Having been in Teheran during the Parliamentary period, he gave us a thrilling account of the victory of the Nationalist Cause, his journey from Teheran toward Shiraz and how a large caravan which included himself was attacked and robbed. He and his friend had to walk six days through the mountains and uninhabited places before they reached their destination, bedraggled and with large blisters on the soles of their feet. Although he had suffered much, he was very cheerful and very happy because today he was privileged to look into the Face of the Incarnation of Divine Love!

... ..

Port Said, Egypt July 2, 1913

Dear Friends:

"It is not my duty to command particular persons to arise and teach the Cause. Whosoever arises to spread the Word and perform this service, he will behold the Doors of Confirmation are open wide before his face. This is the season of teaching, and therefore it will yield results. In every season, something will be productive. If during the seed-sowing time we want to gather the harvest, we shall fail. If at the time of irrigation, we desire to do something else, failure will be the result. Now this is the divine season of seed-sowing. Every Bahai must become a heavenly Cultivator. If at this season he performs the prayers of all the past and future ages, it will yield no fruit. My primal object of this long trip was to show by deed to the friends of GOD that this is the season of teaching the Cause. Although Acca and Haifa are the headquarters of this Cause, and I must stay there and from those centers administer the affairs of the Cause, - yet I left everything and travelled through the earth to herald the coming of the Kingdom of ABHA. Any person desiring to be surrounded by the Confirmation of the Blessed Perfection, must arise and teach the Cause. This is the path".

These were the Words of the Lord of Might toward the end of a wonderful talk given to the pilgrims this afternoon immediately before we were given permission to retire from His Presence.

At 4 P. M. seven more pilgrims left for Haifa and Alexandretta. Except one Zoroastrian who will leave for Bombay on the 5th, no one is left of the large number of pilgrims coming from Haifa. Today two fine young Bahai students arrived from Beyrouth. They are the advanced guard of the rest of the students who will be here soon. These two are very polite and speak English fluently. One of them is the son of Mahamma Taki Esphahani in Cairo- his name is Abdul Hossein. He has a fine voice and chants the Bahai Communes most effectively. He chanted tonight for the Beloved, and He was very pleased with him. "The believers must cultivate a beautiful voice so that they may sing the Bahai songs or chant the Blessed Perfections Communes with effect. The Communes are the Foods of the Spirit." He said afterward.

Another pilgrim from Cairo was Iskandar Khan, or as we know him in America, Sidney Sprague. He looks well and is quite happy with his present situation. His little son is growing. Of course he was eager to hear the news from America, and the progress of the Cause in that country. When we are in the East, America seems to one's mind so remote, so far, yet to a Bahai it is a constant reminder of the union of the East and the West. Mr. Sprague is at present teaching in an Egyptian school which has about five hundred pupils. Beside this

he gives private lessons. He looks a little stouter than the last time I met him in Chicago.

In the evening at the end of a long walk, the Master came to our hotel, and while I was sitting alone on the Veranda He opened the door and came in. Little by little the friends gathered around Him. Down in the street a motley crowd of Arabs were passing by, above our heads the stars shone with the utmost of brilliancy, and on our left side the Mediterranean was laughing merrily. We were all very happy in the Presence of the Master of Illumination. In the darkness His face irradiated like an Orb of Light, and His Tongue uttered such Words of Guidance and Truth as the "Man of Sorrows" spoke 1900 years ago on Mount Olivet.

Toward the end He told us of a dream He had when He was a little child; How He related it in the morning to His mother and how it happened to be fulfilled that very afternoon without any exaggeration. Then He came down to our humble dining room and ate with the rest of the pilgrims. In ever so many ways He shows His solicitude, His thoughtfulness and His care of the comfort and the happiness of others.

In the morning, we drank tea in His Presence. He sent for us very early. It seems that He had slept last night in Ahmad Yazdi's apartment so we all went there. After our arrival He spoke about the progress of the Cause in Germany. He had some letters from Mirza Ali Akbar and Mirza Lotfollah Hakim, giving the descriptions of the meetings in Stuttgart during their one week's stay there. He read the former aloud and gave me the letter to read it aloud to the friends...

Letters written by the German friends were also read, and these He gave to me to be translated and sent to the Star of the West for publication, which was done on the same day. Then He spoke very enthusiastically about the German believers, their firmness and their devotion. For more than an hour He talked about Baha'o'llah and the enemies of the Cause who at every turn tried to stop Its influence, but they all failed. He related several historical incidents of the early days of Bagdad.

"With the appearance of the Truth the point of opposition raises its head. The former gains signal victory; the other goes into crushing defeat. The first upraises the standard of guidance; the other unfurls the banner of error. One is Divine Revelation; the other is satanic suggestion. The first leads us into the Paradise of Peace; the second hurls us headlong into the hell of war."

... ..

Port Said, Egypt, July 3, 1938

Dear Friends:

We are living in the day in which the Spirit of the Lord is manifest, the rays of the Sun of Reality are evident, the Divine Jerusalem hath descended from heaven and the Glorious Glad Tidings are proclaimed. We must fashion our lives according to the Heavenly Teachings, live in a state of internal contentment, peruse the Holy Writings and practice that which will be conducive to our own and the world's prosperity. The Bahai Cause is much in need of real earnest workers - workers who will defy all opposition, meeting the antagonist as a firm rock before the blowing of the winds of tests and storms of trials. How many old trees are uprooted by one wind, and how many ships have been wrecked by one storm. There are many lands athirst for the Water of Life, let the friends of GOD irrigate it with the vernal shower from the Kingdom of ABHA. There are many persons hungry for the Heavenly Bread; we must invite them to the Banquet of the Lord. The lethargic must become active, the sleeping ones must be awakened; the despirited ones receive a share of the inexhaustible Favours and the Sweet Music of the Supreme Concourse be heard. We must be up and doing some kind of service no matter how slight it is. Praise be to GOD that the Orb of the Center of the Covenant is shining and His Mercy is all-encompassing. He is teaching us and gently and lovingly guides us in the Right Path. We all hope to serve Him in some way or another, to win His good pleasure by sincerely walking in His Footsteps, to become the signs of His Love, the embodiment of His compassion and the humble followers of His Eternal Law.

All of this morning and part of the afternoon we were left to ourselves. The Master was busy in other directions and could not call us into His Presence. Meanwhile we found time to pack our trunks and baggage and move from the hotel into our new apartment. It is unfurnished and as we do not know how long we will stay in Port Said, there is no need to purchase many things. I have one large black kitchen table over which I have spread papers and do my writing, a chair and a bed. The apartment is airy and has a wonderful side view of the Mediterranean. It is in the Arab quarter and consequently it is rented for nine dollars a month. Port Said is famous for its fleas. They bother us to death all night. Those who have mosquito nets escape the attack of the fleas and sleep comfortably all night but I happen not to have any and have to carry on an offensive and defensive war with the attacking army. Many years ago when I lived here for three years, there were many mosquitoes - not as bad as New Jersey ones - but quite ferocious. However, the Egyptian Government organized a health and hygiene department, filled in the marshy grounds, and thus exterminated the breeding of mosquitoes. All spring and summer there is no drop of rain. All that we see is an occasional patch of cloud aimlessly sailing through space. Our apartment being very near the Mediterranean, enjoys a fresh, vitalizing breeze all the time, especially in the evenings. Many people sleep all night on the roof. The roofs of the houses are flat and paved like the floor of a large salon. I wanted so much to sleep a few nights on the roof, but the friends would not let me because they said it is too damp for those who are not accustomed to it.

About five o'clock Khosro brought the good news that we are called by the Master to the new house. When we arrived, all the believers were there and a few new ones from Cairo. Hossein Rouhy who was in America years ago with Khorassani and Mirza Assad Ullah was here with his three sons. He is a short man and knows English and Arabic very well. He has a private school in Egypt, mostly for the poor and the orphans. There are about one hundred and sixty children in his school. The school is named after the Master "Abbas", and in every class room his framed photograph is hung in a prominent place. Hossein Rouhy is an active young man and I believe he is doing much good with his school.

The Master had asked Fazlollah - the son of His great uncle, to draw the design of the House of Baha'e'llah in Nur. Therefore, with the assistance of Mirza Ali Akbar, he was busy all day drawing the plan and it was offered to Him this afternoon. It must have been a great palatial residence according to the architectural conception of the East. The Master holding the various papers in His Hands, went on to describe the different parts of the house as though He had left it yesterday. Then with His matchless Power, He contrasted this palace of luxury and worldly comfort with the barren and ruined barracks of Acca. "The soul of man must be happy," He said, "No matter where he is. One must attain to that condition of inward beatitude and peace, - then outward circumstances will not alter his spiritual calmness and joyousness. No one can imagine a worse place than the barracks of Acca. The climate was bad, the water was no better, the surroundings were filthy and dirty, the treatment of the officials was unbearable, and we were looked upon as the enemies of religion and corruptors of morals. The government had given an order that during our stay in Acca, no one must talk with us and we must not talk with each other. Having arrived in Acca, they found there were not enough rooms in the barracks to imprison us separately, so they put us all in two rooms with no furniture at all. The court of the barrack had a most gloomy aspect. There were three or four fig trees over the branches of which several ominous owls screeched all night. Every one got sick, and there were neither provisions nor medicine. At the entrance of the barrack, there was an undertaker's room. It was a horrible looking room, yet I lived there two years with the utmost happiness. Up to that period I had not time to read the Koran from first to last, but then I had ample time and used to read this Holy Book with fervor and enthusiasm. Going over the incidents and events of the lives of former Prophets, and find how parallel they were with us, I was consoled and encouraged. I would read, for instance, the following verse:

"How thoughtless are the people! Whenever a Prophet is sent to them, they either ridicule Him or persecute Him." And then I would read this verse. "Verily, Our Host is victorious over them." I was very happy all the time, because I was a free man. Shut off in that room, My Spirit travelled throughout the immensity of space. At night, I went on the roof and communed with the countless brilliant stars. What a divine feast! What a heavenly procession! What a spiritual freedom! What beatific bliss! What celestial sovereignty!"

Then He spoke in detail about the present war between Greece and Bulgaria and the utter folly of shedding the blood of innocent people. "There is no benefit in this human butchery! This is spoliation; this is



destruction! Mankind must learn the lessons of Peace. They must be instructed in the school of love. What is this insanity! What is this fratricide! What is this ruthlessness! Away with the nightmare of war! Banish the thought of strife and sedition! Are we not brothers? Are we not the children of one Father? Are we not the sheep of one Shepherd? How long this blindness! How long this military lunacy!

Then he spoke about the restlessness of Kings and Rulers and gave us the instance of one of the Mohammedan Caliphs, that although he had under his dominion, many countries; yet he could not be happy. "Divine happiness"- He said in conclusion- "is obtained through servitude at the Threshold of GOD, evanescence, detachment, sincerity and severance from all else save GOD."

Before He left us, He recalled to His mind the name of the head shepherd of Baha'o'llah and related many stories about him. He asked Mirza Fazlallah whether he was alive, to which he answered - "he is dead, but his daughter is living."

One day this head shepherd came to the Blessed Perfection and said: "My Lord! I have one advice to give unto you." "What is it?" Baha'o'llah asked. "Never trust the Ulamas." Baha'o'llah loved him very much on account of his simplicity and faithfulness.

You know how difficult it is to leave the Beloved but after such a spiritual feast, we were given permission to retire.

He asked Hossein Rouhy: "How many pupils have you in your school?" He answered: "One hundred and sixty." "Goodness! You are rich. Your hands are certainly full. I don't have one pupil. Can you find some pupils for Me?" And He laughed.

... ..

Port Said, July 4, 1913.

Dear Friends:

Haji Abdullah is an old Bahai of 80 years. He has lived 50 years in Egypt, and has ever been a devoted Bahai, a sincere believer. He is dressed in a long robe and has a long gray beard. Although so advanced in age, yet he is vigorous and in good health. He has seen Egypt become prosperous through the opening of the Suez Canal. He lives in one of the small towns in the interior of Egypt, and having heard about the arrival of the Master, he has come to see Him. Today he received permission to return to his work. The Master asked him: "Tell me, Haji Abdullah, how old are you?" "I am over 80 years old", he answered. "Well! thou hast lived a good long life, and now thou art looking younger than I. It is through the favor of Baha'o'llah! It is true! Now tell me truly, dost thou desire to live longer?" "Yes!" he answered. "Well! Is this life so sweet to thy taste as to long for a more extended life? Why is this? As to Me, I long to leave this ephemeral world. It contains no attraction for me. I am like the man who has heard that he must travel twenty days, before reaching his destination. Having travelled already fifteen days, he is eager to hasten his trip and arrive at his goal. He is anticipating the eternal union with the Beloved at the end of his journey, therefore he is impatient!" The old man moved deeply, and spoke in a tremulous voice: "My Lord! I do not want to live for myself. Looking back at my life, I see many barren years are stretching before my eyes; for I have not been confirmed in the service of the Cause. I desire to do something. I am hoping against hope that I may yet be confirmed to do some kind of service in the Cause. I know I am very old, but my hope is young." And his eyes were full of tears.

This morning, the Master received in private many of the Egyptian friends, who had just come for one day and leave in the afternoon. Meanwhile He found time to dictate Tablets for many friends, amongst them, Mrs. Ella Cooper, of San Francisco, Mrs. Ella Sargent of New York, Miss. Pauly Paulson of Missoula, Montana, Mrs. H. S. Timlinson of Fruitvale, Calif., Mrs. F. P. Baldwin and Miss. Juliet Thompson of New York; Los Angeles Bahai Assembly and an Esperanto Bahai Class of New York; Mirza Ali Akbar and Mirza Lotfollah of London, Mr. Tudor-Pole of Bristol, and the International Congress of Free Christians and other Religious Liberals, holding its congress in Paris & from July 16 to 22. He also received Tablets from a number of Persian believers. While He was dictating Tablets, He said: "Although I am not feeling well, yet when I dictate I enter into a spiritual state. I forget Myself and My pain entirely, and for the moment I am perfectly well." For the last few days He has been complaining about the weather, and may leave in a day or two for Ilsmaliheh, considered to be the summer resort of Egypt. The Port Said weather at this season is most humid. I don't think He will take all of us with Him; but He may take one or two, probably Mirza Moneer. I would like to go with Him too. I hate the idea of remoteness from Him, don't you? In the afternoon, while the believers were sitting in His Presence, He dictated many Tablets, and they listened most carefully. To them it was better and more significant than a Talk, because they consider it the greatest privilege of their lives to be present while the Holy Tablets are revealed. After an hour or two

or so, He said: "It is enough!" and for nearly thirty minutes He related stories about the futility of studying Mohammedan theology, which is nothing else but a bundle of traditions and prejudiced dogmas.

The poem of Mr. Chase, written on Aug. 9, 1912, San Francisco, Calif., was read to the Master, and He gave His sanction to publish it in the STAR OF THE WEST. It was composed just before his death, begging the Beloved to go to California. The first line of it is: "O thou David of the Promised Kingdom of GOD!"

Another interesting story about Abraham was sent from San Francisco by Miss. Bijou Straum, who is preparing the book of the Master's Addresses for publication. She desires to include this story in the book as a footnote. It was read to the Master. He gave the source whence the story has come. First I copy here the story as reported in M.K. Schermerhorn's book, and then I translate it as the Beloved told it:

"Abraham would scarce break his fast for one week, lest some hungry traveller might pass who needed his store. Daily he looked out upon the desert, and one day he beheld an aged man, with hair white as snow tottering toward his door. 'Guest of mine eyes!' exclaimed Abraham, 'enter thou with welcome, and be pleased to share my bread and salt. The stranger entered and the place of honor was given to him. When the family gathered around the board, each one of them said: 'In the Name of GOD!' but the aged guest uttered no word. Abraham said: 'Old man, when thou eatest food, is it not right to repeat the Name of GOD?' The stranger replied: 'My custom is that of Fire Worshippers.' ~~xxxxxxx~~ Then Abraham arose in wrath and drove the aged man from his house. But even as he did so, a swift-winged Spirit stood before the patriarch and said: 'Abraham, for a hundred years hath the Divine Bounty flowed out to this man in sunshine and rain, in bread and life. Is it fit for thee to withhold thy hand from him because his worship is not thine?'"

The Master said: "The true version of this story is in the Mashavi. It is related that an old aged and decrepit man became the guest of His Holiness Abraham. He exercised toward his guest the utmost hospitality and courtesy. When dinner was served, His Holiness Abraham uttered the Name of GOD, and then started eating. On the other hand, the guest uttered the name of an idol and began to eat. His Holiness was grieved, arose in wrath and rebuked his guest most severely. But even as he did so, GOD's Revelation descended upon Him. 'O, Abraham, for a hundred years this man has been an idol-worshipper, and I have been patient with him. I have nurtured him; I have protected him; I have taken good care of him; I have trained him; I have showered on him many Bounties and I have been kind and loving to him. But thou wert not able to endure his society for one night! And I, a hundred years! His Holiness Abraham was deeply touched by this address and begged his aged guest to pardon him."

When we left the Master's Presence, He kept Mirza Fazlollah, and later on as they were walking together in the avenue, an Indian gentleman who is the Editor of PEESCH AKBAR, an important journal, met Him. He happens to know a great deal about the Cause through the American newspapers which were sent to him by Mirza Mahmoud, who knew him and had spoken with him while travelling and

Port Said, Egypt, July 5, '13.

Dear Friends:

Whether we live in the East or in the West, the Invisible Power of Baha'o'llah is unifying our scattered forces and training us for the service of His Kingdom - the Kingdom of Universal Love and inter-racial Amity. Today the world of humanity is in need of this Power, more than at any other time. The keen competition which is carried on by the captains of industry and finance; the rambling discontent and social unrest of the laboring classes; the religious bigotry and extreme fanaticism of some of the religions; the heat and bitterness with which fantastic controversies are upheld between the sectarians; the spirit of superiority with which some nations look upon others; the lust of conquest and the desire for the extension of territory; the social and political rivalries between nations and governments; and the hatred and enmity existing between the different races - all these antagonistic forces clashing against each other, apparently aggravate the situation and make confusion worse confounded. But the Power of the Blessed Perfection has come to stay, bringing healing under its wide-outstretched wings. This Power alone is the SOLVENT for all these puzzling problems. There may be found here and there some medicine to give temporary relief, but the lasting and permanent cure is the Bahai Power, which unites all people and sets at naught their seeming differences. This Power alone transforms the hearts, inspires the spirits, uplifts the mind, reveals the secrets of Love and unfurls the Banner of Divine Brotherhood.

Our last pilgrim, the Zoroastrian from Bombay, Mehreban, has left today for his home, at 7 o'clock P.M. He was an old man with bushy round gray beard. He spoke very little, but his eyes were the fresh springs of love and gentleness. The Master has been especially kind to him, and often praised his race for their uprightness and charity. He called him this morning to His Presence and after a few words of farewell, gave him a short Tablet written with His own hand, the translation of which is as follows:

"O thou Mehreban! Praise be to GOD that through the Protection and Favor of the Omnipresent GOD thou didst reach the Illumined Spot, Kissed the Threshold of the Kind Friend and became confirmed and assisted in that which is the highest desire of the angels of the universe of heaven. Now there are also several days that thou hast been My associate and My companion. Consequently return thou to India and convey the greeting of this Friend to each and all the believers, and say: 'This impotent One does not enjoy one moment of rest. In the evening He is restless; by day He is full of acclamation. He undertook this long trip and cried out over the mountains and on the plains. Now is the time that the friends may raise their mighty voices and fill the world with the Melody of the Kingdom of ABHA. They must show an effort, render some kind of service, create a whirlwind of ecstasy, and appear with manifold signs and power, so that ABDUL BAHA may obtain the peace of mind and spirit.'" "

This morning, the Beloved sent for Mirza Moneer and dictated to him several long Tablets to Persian believers, many of them having long or short accounts of His Western journey. Later in the day Mirza Mahmoud called on Moulavi Nabboub Alam, which is the

name of the Indian Editor, and together they called on the Master. As he is a Moslem the discussion was purely dealing with the Moham-  
medan world, and an exposition of the means through which they may  
be brought closer together. He was much impressed by the Talk of  
the Beloved, and took down notes so that he may write a few articles  
about the Cause.

About half past six all of us gathered in front of the hotel  
to bid farewell to our Zoroastrian brother. We followed him to the  
pier, and while he left in the little boat to be carried to the  
steamer, I looked up and there in the heavens I saw the most beau-  
tiful crescent, so delicate, so atristic. For a long time I looked  
at it, and the hunger of my eyes could not be satisfied. It was the  
silvery bow of the angels, the arrows of which are the meteors. Re-  
turning to the hotel, after a little rest, we sat around the table.  
For the first time we were only five or six. We looked at each other,  
and not only did we ~~think~~ miss our many pilgrims, but also the be-  
loved friends beyond the seas in Europe and America.

-----

Port Said, Egypt, July 6, 1913.

Dear Friends:

The heart of the Bahai is a cool spring, from which eternally gushes forth the pure water of Divine Knowledge and heavenly wisdom. This water irrigates the soil of humanity which is parched through the heat of dogmas and the fire of superstitions. Immediately after the distribution of this Water, the flowers and anemones of love and affection become manifest and the nostrils of those who are remote and near are perfumed. The barren ground is changed into a luxuriant garden; the sterile trees are clad with verdant ~~green~~ garments; the nightingales break forth into songs of gladness; the frost of the winter is transformed into the winsome appearance of spring, and the calmness of death is changed into the buoyance of life!

The Bahai heart is a miniature garden. The Gardener is Abdul Baha. With tender hands He sows the seeds of roses and violets, carnations and tulips, chrysanthemums and lillies of the valley, forget-me-nots and immortelles! The beauty of these ideal flowers is in their imperishableness and the sweetness of their fragrances. Day and night He sows the seeds from His never-ending store. To Him the ground of every human heart is susceptible to Divine cultivation. That is why the gardens are so many, all around the world. He is the most successful Gardener that the world has ever seen! He knows the capacities of the soil, the chemical ingredients of every part, and He applies His indisputable knowledge with so much success. Give to Him the most barren, sterile patch of ground, and before long it is a mass of flowers and an orchard of fruitful trees.

Today about ---o'clock, this morning, the Beloved had a most interesting interview with the Editor of PEESCH AKHBAR. The Editor had many questions about the return of the old glory of Islam, the education of the Eastern women, the question of the veil, etc. etc., to each of which the Master gave a detailed answer. The man although old, was carried away with enthusiasm, because he found all his difficulties were removed with such simple, yet eloquent expressions. He again wrote down all the Master told him. He understood Persian quite well, and is a wide-awake and intelligent journalist. He has been out of India for about seven months, and expects to go to Tunis, Europe and New York before returning to his native home. The Master has given him an introduction to Mirza Ali Kuli Khan, so that he may be shown all due respect. The Beloved said: "We must ever think of the education of the public, and try our utmost to improve the conditions of the submerged class and lay a solid foundation for the erection of the temple of human happiness. For the realization of this hope, Divine Education is essential, the inculcation of the oneness of the world of humanity is necessary. We must deal with all with loving kindness and be the real well wishers of mankind. For they are the sheep of GOD, and GOD is the Universal Shepherd. He is

compassionate to each member of His flock. He trains all, He feeds all, He protects all. We must free them from old prejudices which are decayed and rotten. We must confer upon them a new life. That is cordial love, good fellowship, amity and unity, amongst all the children of men. Our behavior and conduct must be an example to them. We must abandon all forms of prejudices - religious, racial, sectarian, patriotic and national. The objects of all the religions have been the moral progress of the race - then the illumination of the world will be assured and the prosperity of mankind obtained."

In the afternoon I was called into the presence of the Beloved. He had received letters from Khan, and Mr. and Mrs. McNutt. He talked a great deal about the latter and He revealed long answers to each. It seems that this question has created a great deal of discussion, but I hope that the end will be good. Then He revealed several other beautiful Tablets, for Miss Sanderson, Mons. and M<sup>me</sup> Richard, Mons. and M<sup>me</sup> Bernard and Mr. and Mrs. Scott of Paris. He expressed the hope of the future illumination of Paris, through them, and exhorted them to continue spreading the Message.

For the last few days, although the weather is extremely hot and it is quite out of the question to go in out in the middle of the day, yet the Master keeps us busy dictating Tablets and translating. Rest to Him is unknown.

In the evening we took a car and went out of the City to see the filtration plant. There is a large park and flowers, and this attracts the people on Sunday. The Suez Canal Company constructed a fine modern plant; the water is brought from the Nile and filtered through sand etc. One cannot complain of the Port Said water. It is most clear, pure and light. After one hour walk through the Park, we returned home walking. The night was very beautiful. We had with us Mirza Fazollah and he told us a great deal about the district of Nur, the family of Baha'o'llah and the interesting details of the Greatest Manifestation of the Will of GOD.

... ..

Port Said, Egypt,  
July 7th, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

After a letter from afar off friend gives us good cheer and encouragement, This is part of that invisible chain which unites all mankind; more especially is this the case with those who are working for a common Cause. Thousands of miles, oceans and lands may divide them, but when the word arrives the hearts are united; space and time are annihilated and they live as though in one room, talking and conversing together and creating an atmosphere of uplift. This in itself is a sufficient reason why the believers from the various countries and out of the way places should correspond together and keep each other informed not only of the progress of the Cause which of course is the most important but of other current events which we may guess will interest our friends.

Of course I know full well how fortunate I am to be with the Beloved all the time! I know also that I am not worthy of this great privilege but all this is through His grace and Bounty. But when I received a letter today from Mrs. Mabel Rice-Wray of Tropicco, Calif. in which she sweetly reminded me of this great privilege I was made very happy. She says in part:- "How fortunate you are to be with the Beloved for so long a time. . . . Just think of you, being part of a trip which is surely the greatest that has ever been taken in the history of the world, that, the Light may reach to every part of the earth.} } } } }How wonderful, how wonderful it must be to be able to watch day by day the life of Abdul Baha and thus have a thousand questions answered of how to meet the myriad phases of life. Do you know, do you realize what a bounty is yours? Think how many would give everything, everything just to be near Him. - - -"

Indeed I praise God day and night for all His Favours to this unworthy dust of the feet of the friends. I hope that when the time comes I may be able to serve the believers of America the best way that God leads me. For the present I pray for them at the Threshold of Abdul Baha and beg the assistance and confirmation of the Blessed Perfection for them so that they may unfurl the Banner of the Kingdom of Baha and raise the voice of Ya Baha El Abha to the pinnacle of heaven. In this manner they will become the cause of the happiness of the heart of the Master. His passionate desire is to illumine the world with the Light of morality, let the believers assist Him in this great work! Let them arise with heavenly power to carry out His will.

This morning I was summoned to His Holy Presence. Mirza Fazlollah was there too. Packages of letters were all around him. He was writing and now and then He raised His head and spoke. Evidently he was following the thread of a long conversation when I arrived. He was saying:- "Praise be to God that we have many enemies. We must be very happy. The priests and the Ulemas, the Rabbis and the Mullahs are attacking us right and left but these attacks make us stronger and more powerful. We are invulnerable! We know no defeat. We are fighters to the last. There are no deserters in the Grand Army of Abha! They are all good fighters! One of the Missionaries in Beirut in his sermon cried out in wrath and hopeless anger:- "We always thought that the Bahais would be a good, wholesome influence for civilizing Islam alone, now they have started to civilize us and are teaching us by demonstration a plan of propagand~~er~~ the like of which has never been seen since the time of Christ and His Apostles! Ah me! We have many enemies, bitter, dangerous and vengeful! But we defeat them through the Power of Love! That



July 7th? 1913.

is our only weapon. The Ocean of the Cause is limitless, shoreless depthless. One wave and all these foams will be scattered to the four corners of the sea. I do not look at the present disturbed conditions of the Ocean. My heart is assured and confident as to the future of the Cause. No person no matter how powerful, how mighty, can shake the foundation of the Bahai Faith. It rests upon the Eternal rock of ages. After the departure of His Holiness Christ there were only eleven disciples whose faith was shaken and outwardly they were of the lower class, deprived of any social distinctions! But behold the results of their work! But after the departure of the Blessed Perfection there were more than one million believers scattered all over the earth, all of whom faithful, sincere and self-sacrificing. Praise be to God that singly and alone, without any helper and assistant we attacked the drilled army of darkness and we have come out upon the field victorious!"

Such is the sublime faith that must animate and quicken all the Bahais throughout all the world.

In the afternoon we were called again. Haji Niaz had just arrived from Cario. He is a very old Bahai, about eighty years old; has seen Baha'o'llah many times and has lived in Egypt for the last 35 years. He is tall/has long white beard and wears a turban like the Master. He is a gentle man and all the Americans (Bahais) who have passed through Cario have made a point to see Haji Niaz. The Master loves him very much and welcomed him with open arms. Then He talked with him about the believers in Cario. Afterwards he dictated to me many Tablets, a long one on Universal Peace for the Christians Commonwealth, to Miss Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard, Mon. Mnd Richard, Mon. and Mnd. Scott and others. From this time, the Beloved may write more articles for the Western Press to reach many thousands of people who cannot be reached otherwise.

Toward the evening we called on Mahboub-alam and talked with him about the probable trip of the Master's to India. He gave us some good suggestions which I hope to carry out before long. India cries out to the Beloved and no doubt He will listen to the call.

Ahmad Sohrab.

Port Said, Egypt.  
July 8, /9/3.

Dear Friends:-

Pure religion free from dogmas and sacerdotalism contributes to the happiness and progress of a people, suffering them to attain to the highest summit of democracy and brotherhood. Religion hampered by the chains of fossilized traditions or imprisoned within the jail of blind imitations will keep mankind within hidebound limits or asphyxiate people with the vapors of intolerance and prejudice. Religion must be as free as the breeze of the early morn, as bright as the stars of heaven, as pure and chaste as a gentle blushing virgin, as fragrant as the sweet flowers of spring, as clean as the limpid and cooling water of the fountain, as verdant as the delectable paradise and as universal as the rays and the heat of the phenomenal sun. Therefore when religion does not perform the these functions it is not fulfilling its mission. It is diverted from its original ~~cause~~. In this connection Our Beloved says in a Tablet just revealed to the Sixth International Congress of Free and Progressive Christians and other Religious Liberals to be held in Paris July 16th to 22nd, 1913 as follows:-

"Thus religion which was destined to become the cause of friendship has become the cause of enmity. Religion which was meant to be the sweet honey is changed into bitter poison. Religion the function of which was to be the illumination of the world of humanity has become the factor of obscurantism and gloom. Religion which was to confer Everlasting Life has become the instrument of death."

The duty of everyone of us is therefore to spread the principles of the Pure Religion which are in accord with the requirements of this age.

When one enters the Presence of the Beloved of the world, even if it is for the thousandth time he feels quickened by the spirit of reverence, humility, and evanescence. When I found myself this morning standing before him and heard his rich, vibrant voice greeting me "You are welcome! You are welcome!" I felt as though this was my first visit to him. He always receives every one, even His servants, with His heavenly cordiality, His sweet smile, His divine courtesy, His inimitable friendship so that they would believe they are His own sons and daughters. With His discourses, His remarks and His teachings He uplifts one's heart and makes one long to sacrifice his life in His path. Really to be with Him for one hour is more glorious than the association with all great men of the world; to be enlisted in His service is better than the service of the kings and Emperors. To win His good-pleasure is the ~~source~~ source of eternal joy, to upraise the Flag of His Truth is more wonderful than all the wealth of this earth! May all of us remain faithful to Him and live and act in such a manner as to win His approval! If we continue to be firm in the Cause and pray every morn and eve for this pearl of greatest price our ~~honor~~ brows will be crowned with the diadem of God's Bestowals! The Cause must become a glowing Fire in our hearts and not a flickering flame in our minds. It must become a flowing fountain ever gushing forth from the innermost part of our beings! No obstacle must seem to us insurmountable; no difficulty discouraging; no praise flattering and no criticism a reason for retirement. Hero-like we must face square all the problems, try to solve them and encourage others through deeds and words! What if the whole world be against us! We may be in the minority--as the Christ and His Apostles were in the minority 1800 years ago--but whenever God is on the side of the minority it will become the majority! "There is a power in the Cause, a mysterious Power, far, far, far, away from the ken of men and angels. That invisible power is the Cause of all these outward activities.

It moves the hearts. It rends the mountains. It administers the complicated affairs of the Cause. It inspires the friends. It dashes into a thousand pieces all the forces of opposition. It creates new spiritual worlds. This is a mystery of the Kingdom of Abha." Thus spoke the Beloved, after dictating several wonderful Tablets to Miss Harriet C. Cline, and Mrs. Mabel Rice-Wray of Los Angeles, Miss Harriet Magee of New York, Mrs. Dixon of Washington, D.C., Miss Dorothy Hodgson of Paris, and Miss General Jack of London. His eyes were closed all the time, and his words like unto the crystalline water flowed from the Eternal Spring of God's Presence!

Leaving the Beloved to his divine contemplation and heavenly Work, I went to the hotel, and there I talked with our Haji Niaz. I knew him before I left for America years ago, which seems to me like a pleasant dream. Through him I received my first Tablet from the Master, and for this great reason I love him very much. In fact, everybody loves him, without exception. He is a veteran in the Cause. He told us in his rich, ornamental, lovely language, the story of a king and his ministers and courtiers.

Once upon a time the King went out to hunt with the entire members of his Cabinet, the Diplomatic Corps, the officials of the Court, and a large number of important personages especially invited for this occasion. As the King intended to stay in the country all summer, he ordered the Master of Ceremonies to take the Imperial Tent, which was a wonderful work of art. During the past seasons, the King on important occasions ordered the inside walls and the ceiling of his Royal Tent to be decorated with hundreds of precious jewels, the price of which could not be measured by dollars and cents. This year also he asked the Minister of Finance to take with him the large box of jewels. Finally after many days of preparations, the Imperial Caravan, which was more than a mile long, started out. The King headed the procession. After him came the Cabinet Ministers the Diplomatic Corps, the Courtiers and the guests. They had to travel six days before they could reach the hunting ground. After four days of travelling, it so happened that the horse carrying the box of jewels was toward the end of the Caravan. After three hours march the King looked around, and to his apparent surprise, he found no one with him except Ayaz, and he observed the Caravan more than half a mile away from him, surrounded with dust and great confusion existing. "What is this?" asked the King. "Half an hour ago", Ayaz humbly and serenely answered, "the box of jewels fell from the back of the horse, and all of the precious stones were scattered on the ground. Then as I saw a wild scramble followed; everybody forgot his duty and himself and tried to collect those jewels." The King did not move, nor did he say anything to show that an extraordinary event had happened. "AYazi!" the King said, after a few moments of reflection: "Yes, my Lord!" he answered. "Why didst thou not join them to get a portion of the spoil? Are they not precious jewels?" "Yes, my Lord! Those jewels are good for them. I preferred to be with thee. Thou art the greatest Jewel of my life."

Port Said, Egypt, July 9th, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

My room has two doors which are opened to the veranda and at this time of the evening there is always a cool breeze wafter from the Mediterranean which is on our right, probably not more than 1000 feet away. At midnight I get up and go out and listen to the music of the waves which is played to the brightness of the stars. Tonight the moon is shining. It is less than half full, but it has a wondrous silver hue. The voices of the Arabs chanting their Koran comes to our ears. It is a wierd, monotonous sound but very soothing. My table is covered with papers and letters; Mirza Mahmoud is a few steps further writing and copying Tablets. Our light consists of a dear little lamp. We have just returned from a memorial meeting held for the death of the little girl of Mirza Jalal Afshar, One of the Port Said Bahais. We were invited at 5 P.M. to go to the funeral. Mirza Mahmoud chanted one of the prayers of Baha'o'llah and then the little body was washed, wrapped up in silk and as there was no ring for her finger, the prayer was written on a piece of paper and put in the palm of her hand. The second ceremony--the Mohammedan--consisted of the coming of the Mullah, chanting prayers and then they carried her body by hand to the Mosque which was near by. All those who entered the Mosque left their shoes at the door. The body was laid on the floor, the tall Mullah stood before it. We stood behind the Mullah. He started then to read the prayer of the dead with the rapidity of lightening and from time to time he raised his two hands to his face and ears which exercise was copied by us automatically according to the rule. All this, however did not take more than five minutes. Several carriages were ready at the door of the Mosque and as soon as we were out, Mirza Jalal, his brother, the Mullah carrying with both hands the body of the child and another relative got in one carriage and the rest of us in others. We were driven posthaste toward the cemetery situated in the West of the city. The Mediterranean was on our right and always very near. On the way we observed many little hills of soft silk like sand so formed by the winds. Often one observed the extremely soft sand trickling down from the upper part of the hills exactly like the flowing of a little rivulet. It was a most fascinating sight. First we passed by the Christian Cemetery surrounded by a fairly tall wall. One saw the cross in all forms--large and small defying the crescent of the Mohammedan burying-place. I had to stand up in the carriage to see the Christian Cemetery it was not as beautiful and flowery as the cemeteries of America, because it is most difficult in this land of sand to raise trees and flowers, but it was fairly clean and one could see patches of green and flowers here and there. Finally we reached the Mohammedan cemetery! It was very unclean. Shrieking Arab men and women were scattered all over. All the graves were marked with a wooden slab and I believe a little fire would burn the whole place. The little girl was interred beside her grandfather who died and was buried here a few years ago. The poor father was weeping and quite inconsolable. Haji Niaz being the oldest man tried to console him but he did not succeed very well.

Probably many of the American friends remember the faithful Taki Menshadi through whom the East and the West carried on a large and voluminous correspondence with Abdul Baha. He died a few years ago and his body is buried in this Cemetery. As I had met him during my visit to Acca 15 years ago and from that time on till the day of his death I corresponded with him I expressed the desire of visiting his tomb. Yousoff directed us to it and we offered a prayer.

Unless one knows the place it is not possible to find it. There is no tombstone and only a piece of wood without any writing on it is the mark.

Haji Niaz knew him well-as well as other Port Said Bahais. The brief outline of his life is as follows:-

He was from Menshad, a little village near Yazd. In his early youth he accepted this revelation and as he found the people of his own village extremely fanatical and dogmatic and as the rabble threatened to kill him he left the place and went to the city of Ker- man. He started to teach the Cause and when the Ulemas received the news of his presence they sent him word that either he must leave the city immediately or they would take the law into their own hands. With much difficulty and privation he at last arrived at the city of Shiraz. After sometime, with the object of visiting Baha'o'llah he made a pilgrimage to Mecca and thus acquired the much respected title of "Haji." From Mecca he went to Alexandria. It was before the Arab Revolution. Here with a number of other Persians he engaged in business but not being constitutionally built for that kind of work and always having the hopw of serving the Cause in a worthy manner and entertaining the hope of ~~seeing~~ beholding the Face of the Blessed Perfection he left everything and went to Acca. After attaining to the supreme desire of his heart he made Acca his final home and tried to do something. Little by little the eagerness to serve the Cause, his longing to devote his whole time to the movement was demonstrated and Baha'o'llah from time to time gave him a packet of Tablets to mail to different parts of the Orient. When the believers all over the world observed that they received their Tablets through him they commenced to correspond with him and send their petitions to him so that he might give them personally to Abdul Baha and Baha'o'llah and intercede for them. Thus without any ceremonies or formalities Taki Menshadi became the most well-known and talked of Bahai. Every one was eager to receive his letters. It has often been stated by those believers who are familiar with both Persian and English writings that Taki Menshadi and brother Remey are brothers in calligraphy, only Taki Menshadi was an elder brother. Menshadi's letters are well pre- served by all the Persians. Haji Niaz tells me he has 500 of them. I may have Two hundred or more. These letters are masterpieces of news writing. He had a sense for bare facts and news and he knew that no one expected from him philosophizing or the verbosity of Oriental compliments. He had done away with all these literary formalities of the East. It was really a radical departure from the established rule and many young people seeing the wisdom of his course followed it afterward. Every letter generally opened with a few sentences about the Master's health and his family. This news to the Bahai world was considered the most important. Then the news of the arrival and departure of the pilgrims, their names, the events of Acca, the general news of the progress of the Cause in other parts of the world etc, etc. They are "newsy letters" in brief. After the ascension of Baha'o'llah the activities of the Cause became so manifold, the numbers of the believers became doubled, the movement was spread in America and Europe and the matter of cor- respondence with all these heterogeneous elements became of the utmost importance. The Master looked around for an efficient, ex- perience man who could hold in his hand the helm of the ship of correspondence and with a cool head and infinite patience direct it through the tempestuous sea of difficulties. In the whole Bahai

world there was not a more fitting man than Taki Menshadi and him he selected for this position. For many years he worked untiringly, unceasingly, ever receiving assistance from the Supreme Concourse. In his early days at Acca and Haifa, his house became the general meeting place for all the Bahais. "I will meet you tonight at Menshadi's home at such and such an hour" was an oft quoted expression. The door of his house was opened to every one. He welcomed every pilgrim! He was always the first one to go to the steamers to greet the newcomers or say farewell to those who were returning to their homes laden with the spiritual gifts from the Presence of Baha'o'llah.

Haji Niaz says:- Taki Menahadi was supremely known amongst all the Bahais for his fidelity, simplicity, loving disposition, truthfulness, sincerity and above all his fiery zeal to serve everyone with gentleness, courtesy and truly marvellous patience. His room was furnished with great simplicity. He always sat on the floor, surrounded by a mass of letters. He was often literally buried in them. He smoked his hubble-bubble, all the time and over indulgence in this finally caused his death. When Sultan Abdul Hamid sent several commissioners to Acca and the conditions became intolerable the Beloved sent Taki Menshadi to Port Said so that from this place he might carry on his work and it was here that he passed away serene and happy. He lived about sixty years. The Master was much grieved when he heard the news, and after a while appointed Sayad Assadollah in his stead which place he has filled with credit to the Cause and himself. But now I hear that Sayad Assadollah is going to leave tomorrow noon for Russia to teach the Cause. After the wonderful trip through America and Europe he will no doubt be confirmed to attract many souls to the Abha Kingdom; but we shall miss him very much indeed. No doubt the Master before long will appoint another person to carry on his work.

This morning I called on the Beloved. He had received packages of letters, some of them were for me from America. There is one point which has been brought before the attention of the Master of late. It is this:- In certain Assemblies in America some of the believers desire to exclude all public speaking and confine the meeting to the reading of Tablets etc. This positively is not according to the Bahai plan of teaching the Cause, neither according to the instructions of Abdul Baha. To read Tablets, to peruse the Holy Writings is only half of the aspect of the question, the other aspect is the ~~giving~~ delivery of eloquent addresses and fluent speeches according to the spirit of the Cause. The Master has been and is always encouraging the believers TO SPEAK in the meetings. This I KNOW is his will. When this morning this subject was again presented to him in a letter from America he laughed heartily and said:- "I have written in many Tablets that the friends MUST speak in the meetings. Some of the believers forget this half and push forward the other half which is about reading the Tablets etc. We must encourage the believers in public speaking and especially encourage those who can do so. This Cause is proclaimed through eloquent, sincere addresses. We must unloose the tongue, spread the fragrances of God, diffuse the Words of God. We must present to the public the proofs and evidences of this Cause with a tongue of fire--so that the souls may be exhilarated, the minds become full of tumult and acclamation. With the Words of Love and Illumination, we must set the hearts aglow with the fire of the Love of God, enkindle the minds with the Power of the Kingdom. We must explain the Teachings orally so that the hearts may become like unto the pure fountains, the invisible inspirations may descend, the Bounties of

The Holy Spirit may be revealed, the rays of the Sun of Reality may shine, the Breezes of the Paradise of Abha may waft and the Glad-Tidings of the Kingdom of Abha may be announced."

Then he revealed a Tablet on this subject and may reveal others before long:-

"Thou hast written concerning the spiritual meeting. The spiritual meeting must be in the utmost state of ecstasy and tumult. The supplication must be perused. The Tablets and verses be read, eloquent SPEECHES be DELIVERED, Divine proofs be explained, the audience be encouraged and incited to enter the Kingdom of God, the news received from different parts be read and in the end they may read collectively (Ensemble) a supplication."

This is only an outline of how the meetings ought to be conducted, according to the desire of the Beloved. As regards music, it entirely depends upon the wish of the Assembly, the Master has repeatedly said, If they like to have music and singing they can have both.

Ahmad.



Port Said, Egypt. July 10th, 1913.

Dear Friends:

Our travelling companion, our fellow worker, Sayad Assadollah Gemi, who has been with Baha'o'llah and the Master ever so many years and travelled with the latter in America and Europe, left today for Caucasus to teach the Cause. We will miss him terribly. He has been like a father to us during all our wanderings, and although Mirza Mahmoud wrote the official report of the trip of the Beloved, yet Sayad Assadollah corresponded with ever so many small assemblies in all parts of the East, which would never receive any direct news were he not travelling with us. Now detached from all save GOD, alone at the age of 76 he faces the world, and carrying in his hand the Ideal banner of the Cause he leaves Port Said with a firm confidence and trust in Abdul Baha.

After the ascension of Baha'o'llah, he made a trip through Persia taught many souls and was bitterly persecuted for his glorious faith. Last night and this morning he went to the Supreme Commander and no doubt received his orders and the heavenly benediction, and today at one o'clock we were all gathered at the station bidding him farewell. He goes first to Alexandria, to meet Mirza Abul Fazl, and then taking a ship will sail for Constantinople.

I can candidly confess that nothing has so deeply touched me in my whole Bahai career as the heavenly resolution of this old man to go alone into the world and teach the Cause. He himself went to the Master and implored Him to give him permission. "I have seen everything. I have heard Thy glories proclaimed from the pulpits and platforms. I have seen wonderous scenes of the Majesty of our Lord. I have hearkened to Thy golden words falling from Thy golden lips. My Lord! My cup is full to overflowing. I am an old man; I wonder whether I can accomplish anything in Thy Cause; but I supplicate Thee to let me go. I can contain myself no longer. I do not like to die on the couch of rest, but I love to die in the thick of the fight-- in the battle field. I love to die as a soldier, fighting the good fight to the very last moment and not as a retired private." And so he goes! With these super human examples of deeds and self sacrifice, does anybody wonder why this Cause has such a stupendous power? All these people in America and Europe who have met our dear brother Sayad Assadollah loved him and I knew from the depths of their hearts they will pray for him that the Lord may keep him and protect him many years longer for the service of His Cause and as a witness to His Power. My beloved Sayad Assadollah, farewell! Thou hast ever been a loving companion, and a faithful attendant to our Beloved! Thy cheerful face and disposition shall never be forgotten! Thy memory shall shine in our inmost hearts as a shining star! Thy faith will be a glorious example to all the younger generations! During all the years of thy life thou hast served thy God to the best of thy ability! Thou hast suffered and accepted much persecution in the Path of Baha! And now although a veteran of many wars thou art again in the rank of the active soldiers and art entering on a new campaign! Fare thee well!

For a few minutes we were privileged to see the Master in the morning. He said the weather in Port Said has not agreed with Him, and He expects to go tomorrow to Ismaelieh, a town of about one hour

continued



and fifteen minutes from this City. He is going there for two or three days, and if everything is all right He will send for us. Ahmad Yazdi and Khosro will accompany.

In the afternoon Mirza Abul Gasim Isfahani and Mirza Mohammed two merchant Bahais from Cairo, arrived with their wives to see the Master. With them I went into the Holy Presence. He was dressed in spotless white and looked very beautiful. A large envelope contained the poems of Mr. Frank K. Moxey, of 575 Riverside Drive, New York City had just been received. The Master gave them to me to read. After looking over the titles of the poems, I told Him about them. He asked me then to translate the poem on the Bab, which I did immediately. He was most pleased with it, and praised it very highly. Mr. Moxey has a wonderful talent in poetry, and his lines are very eloquent and inspirational. I hope he will continue composing these wonderful ideals and soul stirring poetry. I am glad that Mr. Moxey is inspired by our Beloved in this heavenly work.

Then the Master took from the table the Star of the West No. 5, and showed to all those who were present the photograph of the Mashrak-el Azkar convention in New York City. "Look at this photograph, and wonder at the penetrative influence of the Bahai Cause?" He said. He expressed the hope that the Star of the West will little by little widen its field of labor and become a power for good in the Cause and in humanitarian activities. The Persian section is eagerly read by all the Bahais.

Then He spoke about the arduous trip of America:- "The confirmation and assistance of the Blessed Perfection were my companions; otherwise this body could never stand all the difficulties of the voyage. I do not feel well, yet I work, I travel, I go there, I am here, I do not give any importance to my body. The wisdom of this is that the believers may see with their own eyes that I overlook hardships, vicissitudes, sickness and trouble, so that the Cause may be spread. Except the diffusion of the Fragrances of God, I desire nothing. My hope is to teach the Cause, to proclaim the Glad Tidings of the appearance of the Kingdom of Abha and to advance the Cause of international peace and human brotherhood

-----

Port Said, Egypt.  
July 11, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

Knowing that the Beloved is leaving to-day for the City of Ismalieh we called on Him about 6:30 A.M. The train leaves at eight, so we had ample time to have our last meeting. There were several pilgrims just arrived. To these He expressed His regret in leaving them today but the weather being extremely hot He could not bear it any longer. He will stay there two or three days. If the weather agrees with Him He will rent a house and send for us, if not He will then return and go either to Alexandria or Ramleh. He spoke about the innumerable meetings He attended in America and how everyone was spiritual, divine, heavenly and overflowing with attraction; how the believers are ever striving upward; how the praises of their glad praises are raised to the Supreme Concourse; how they are even striving upward; how they are making a great effort in the spiritualization of mankind; how they are the servants of the oneness of the world of humanity, the promoters of Universal Peace and the standard bearers of the spiritual brotherhood of man. Then He told them about Fred Mortensen, a young Bahai from Minneapolis who was so anxious to meet the Master that he risked his life by concealing himself under the train till he reached Green Acre. "He was a good young man and he met him and his wife again when we passed through that city. Such events could not happen by the effort of any human being but they are the confirmations of the Holy Spirit and the marvelous signs of this Dispensation."

About 7:45 the carriage was ready and the small satchels of the Beloved were brought down and after saying farewell to each one of us, the carriage took Him to the station, Ahmad Yazdi and Khosro in His company.

We returned home a little sad because we could not go with Him, but we consoled ourselves that we will again see Him real soon.

A young Persian Bahai by the name of Aga Jamal arrived yesterday from Haifa and he will cook for us in our apartment as long as we are here. He is a tall, quiet man, very willing to serve and please everybody. Mirza Ali Akbar, Haji Niaz and Mirza Fazlollah live in the hotel but for their board and tea they come to us. Haji Niaz is a good conversationalist and knows many anecdotes and stories. While I was writing in my room they had clustered around him on the veranda and He was speaking to them most interestingly.

At noon we received a telephone message from Ahmad Yazdi that the Master had arrived safely and is now in the hotel Vasta or Vaseteeh. He is pleased with the place and is well.

In the afternoon we were again gathered in the veranda drinking tea and talking about the Cause. Haji Niaz telling about his meetings with Professor Browne when he was in Egypt and how he was invited to the house of Khorassani where all day one of the Bahai teachers carried on an argument with him, discussing the Cause, based upon the rational and scriptural proofs.

Instead of continuing to write about what we did I will translate herein a few extracts from recent Tablets:-

On Abdul Baha's trip to America:-

"Less than a year Abdul Baha raised the cry of "Ya Baha El Abha" from His heart and soul as He crossed the mountains and deserts of that Continent and in Churches and meetings He imparted the Glad-Tidings of the appearance of the Kingdom of God. With a resonant voice He announced the dawn of the Sun of Reality and explained divine proofs and evidences. With a heart and spirit overflowing with the Love of God He raised the New Wonderful Melody. Undoubted-

July II, 1913.

ly it will have great effect. Consider that the soul imparting Melody of His Holiness Christ--may my life be a sacrifice to Him-- became effective and world conquering after three hundred years but in a short space of time the Melody of the Kingdom of Abha stirred into cheerfulness the East and the West!"

The future of the Cause in Stuttgart.

"I hope that the Ensigns of Signs may become upraised in Stuttgart; the Fire of the Love of God be so enkindled as to set aglow all those parts and each one of these blessed souls may become like a bright candle shedding the light of guidance in every direction."

On the Power of the Cause.

"The Glad-Tidings of the Kingdom of Abha is effective over the hard stone and resuscitates the dried bones. Like unto the down-pouring of the vernal shower it causes the growth of roses and hyacinths, jasmines and jonquils out of the black soil! Although the inhabitants of this city are submerged in the sea of materialism and may take sometime before they are awakened yet the Melody of the Kingdom of Abha shall finally quicken them; the cup of the Love of God will become full to overflowing, impart a wonderful exhilaration and allay the thirst of the thirsty ones!"

Ahmad Sohrab.

Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab.

Port Said, Egypt, July 12, 1913.

Dear Friends:

One of the believers, Mirza Abul Gazim Esphahani, coming from Cairo a few days ago, brought with him a package belonging to Seyed Assadollah. This package contained amongst other things three precious volumes of Tablets from the pen of Abdul Baha. They are copies of very old Tablets, some of them addressed to the old believers in America. Herein I will translate a few. The following may have been revealed to one of the America Assemblies, and may be sixteen years old.

HE IS EL ABHA V

O ye friends of the Blessed Perfection!

This century is the century of attraction! This Cycle is the Cycle of His Highness the Lord of Hosts! The East and the West are in commotion and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ acclamation and the North and the South in ecstasy and tumult. The world is progressing with marvelous acceleration and the realm of existence is growing and developing with an eternal velocity and at geometric ratio. Mankind like unto a suckling babe is being trained in the Arms of Providence, and humanity like unto a newly planted tree in the ground of the world is waxing in stature and size, becoming more beautiful and lovely through the downpour of the rain of Grace. The greater the exertion the more the descent of the Divine Bestowal. The more we ascend heavenward the greater will be the realization of universal progress from all directions.

Therefore, O ye friends of ~~GOD~~ the Ancient Beauty and O ye beloved ones of the Most Great Name! make ye an effort, so that in all the grades of human existence, whether spiritual or material, ye may make extraordinary advancement. The Mercy and Favor of His Highness the ONE is with us!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Here is another Tablet which was revealed probably thirteen years ago to Mrs. Goodall, the contents of which show how the Master's prayers are fulfilled in her behalf:-

O thou spiritual pearl, and leaf stirred by the wafting of the Breeze of GOD!

Verily, with a heart overflowing with love and affection, I perused thy letter, which was an eloquent expression of thy praise for the Love of GOD, thy firmness in the Covenant of GOD, thy gladness through the Fragrances of GOD and thy great exertion in the guidance of the servants of GOD.

Verily I supplicate to GOD to confirm thee with the breaths of the Spirit, to dilate thy breast with the zephyrs wafting from the direction of the Paradise of ABHA and to suffer thee to become a

light from which radiates the rays of supplication, invocation and prayer toward the Kingdom of GOD; so that thou mayest become the cause of the awakening, mindfulness and quickening of the servants and the maidservants of GOD, to give them to drink the wine of knowledge and to summon them to the Kingdom of the Merciful with evidences and proofs.

-----

I may close this day by the translation of another wonderful Tablet:-

HE IS EL ABHA !

O ye real friends!

This Day is the Day of the glorious bounties of the Invisible Kingdom of ABHA and the tumultuous waving of the seas of the inexhaustible Bestowals of the Supreme Communion! The rays of His Effulgences have dawned from all directions, and the breezes of His Generosity and Compassion are wafting from all parts. The Doors of His Kingdom are flung wide and the verses of His Omnipotence are spread abroad. His ancient Grace like a mighty torrent is flowing with great impetuosity and His Manifest Light is apparent from the horizon of Certainty like unto a shining moon. But these servants must appreciate the value of this Eminent Grace and consider this Sublime Generosity as the Most Great Bounty, so that we may become of its signs and be illumined with its rays. When the vernal showers descend upon the good and pure soil, flowers and Hyacinths will grow therein and the earth will become the delectable Paradise.

-----

Not having heard anything directly from the Master till late in the afternoon, we sent a telegram in the name of all the friends inquiring about the health of the Beloved, and after an hour the answer came back by Ahmad Yazdi that the Master is feeling well and enjoys the weather.

Mrs. Stannard is back in Port Said, and may stay several days. We had a pleasant conversation about the progress of the Cause in Germany and England. The Master may send her to India. She is an active, energetic worker and no doubt she will be able to spread the Cause very effectively.

Imagine how terribly hot the weather is in Cairo that she came to Port Said for her vacation and rest. She says the summer of Cairo is unbearable.

The nights are very beautiful and the moon shines and the stars gleam in their unusual splendor.

Ahmad.

-----

Port Said, Egypt, July 14, 1913.

Dear Friends:

The European part of Port Said is decorated with thousands of Japanese lanterns, the French flag is seen everywhere and it seems today everybody is celebrating the National Feast of the Republic of France. After sunset the principal avenues, the French Consulate, French banks, firms and buildings are lighted up by the magical power of electricity. The avenue in which the Eastern Exchange, Continental and Casino Palace Hotel are built, is a riot of music, promenaders, - Arabs, Greeks, Italians, English, Germans, and what-not. Everybody is out to have a good time and see the sights. The avenue from one end to another is wired and a roof of Japanese lanterns is constructed. The trees bear many such luminous fruits. During the day there has been many public functions and receptions in the Consulate, The Governments home, the Canals Company's headquarters, of which we know practically nothing. Last night there was a grand ball in the Casino Palace Hotel, which they say was a great success. About eight o'clock we left home and arrived at the Municipal Park. The Casino Palace Hotel is so built that it fronts the Mediterranean and on the other side it faces the Park. And it was indeed a glorious sight to see thousands of Arabs, - men, women and children - who had come to see what wonders these "strangers" have wrought! The weather was cool and a nice brisk breeze was wafting from the sea. The heaven was beautifully clear, and the soft, silvery rays of the Queen of Night streamed down upon a pre-occupied populace. The searchlight placed on high to guide the ships into the harbor, revolved round and round, sending its powerful rays into the remote distance of the sea. Promptly at nine o'clock a cannon boomed forth, and the display of fireworks was started. More than twenty coal barges were tied together on the sea; the people crowded near the harbor. The fireworks were on these barges, and hundreds of rockets ascended to the sky, there to display many colors. They had arranged some strange, fantastic fireworks on the water, running hither and thither like lizards. For an hour and a half the display of pyrotechnics continued, displaying all the original devices and magical works that a French mind can invent. As soon as the fireworks started, three fair sized ships, illumined from top to bottom, came into view from the other side of the Port. These ships were followed by more than a hundred boats, in an orderly, long line, all brilliantly lighted with electricity. It was really a very imposing, naval procession, mossy fairy-like, picturesque and beautiful. Besides the boats, there were several hundred others, belonging to merry-makers afloat on the calm sea. Now and then the air would waft to our ears the sweet notes of a mandolin or violin. It was half-past eleven when we returned home, very tired and wearied in body and limbs, requiring immediate rest.

This morning Ahmad Yazdi returned from Imaelieh and brought the good news of the Beloved. The first two days He did not feel well, and had fever, but since then He has been feeling well and resting. While there He met an old friend of His, who is a famous doctor, and he prescribed a regime of rest and dieting, to be followed strictly. The Master has said that He will stay there a week; but if the weather agrees with Him, He will send for the rest; if

not, He will return and then may go to Ramleh. Ahmad Yazdi says the weather in Ismaelieh was hotter, but not humid. The Master sent for Mirza Fazi'llah and Mirza Moneer to go to Him as soon as possible. They left at seven o'clock O. J. and would be in Ismaelieh at 8.15 P. M.

Yesterday I translated some Tablets from the manuscript books of Seyed Assadollah. Today I will translate another Tablet to another old American Bahai.

O thou who art attracted by the Lights shing from the Kingdom of GOD!

Verily I read thy eloquent and wonderful epistle, expressing thine excessive joy through the Divine Glad Tidings, reflecting the susceptibilities of thy consciousness and thy spiritual emotions through the Bestowals of His Majesty the Lord of mankind. Blessed art thou for this Bounty! Gladness be unto thee for this gift! Rejoicing be unto thee for this confirmation! Happiness be unto thee for this Assistance! Ere long thou shalt behold with the eyes of beatitude the signs of success and prosperity on account of thy firmness in the Love of GOD, thy steadfastness in the Covenant of GOD, thy superlative attraction to GOD, thy unwavering perseverance in the diffusion of the Fragrances of GOD and thy source of joyousness through the Glad Tidings of GOD!

Know thou, verily, I say unto thee that the conditions of this mortal world, even if it be the kingship of the whole expanse of this globe, is ephemeral. It is an illusion. It is ended in nothing; neither does it contain any results. Nor in the estimation of GOD is it equal to the wing of a mosquito. Where are the Kings and the Queens? Where are the palaces and their mistresses? Where are the imperial thrones and jeweled crowns? Where are the mighty rulers of Persia, Greece and Rome? Verily, their palaces are in ruins, their thrones destroyed and their crowns thrown to the dust. But any one of the maidservants of GOD who arose in the diffusion of the Fragrances of GOD, serving the Kingdom of GOD, summoning the people to the Word of GOD, eternally her signs are widely spread and handed down through centuries and cycles, her dawn is ever luminous, her star always shining, her flag continually flying, her station divinely glorified, her crown scintillating, her message living, her fame immortal, her voice resonate, her spirit in the apex of the Kingdom and her effulgence in the horizon of the Realm of Might. I beg of GOD to make thee one of these maidservants."

Ahmad.

Port Said, Egypt, July 15th, 1913.

Dear Friends:

In the notes of our brother, Mirza Mahmud, I find a glorious message to the Unitarians of America, which I am sure was not translated at the time. It is the second day of the Beloved's departure from Alexandria for America, on March 26th or 27th, 1912. An American woman expressed her interest in the Cause, saying that she is a Unitarian and requesting the Master to send a message to them in the United States. Then our LORD uttered the following words:

"Convey to the Unitarians my loving greetings and say: The most exalted aim in this creational world is the promotion of the Love of God and the establishment of good fellowship and unity among the people. This is the signal distinction between man and animal. When thou reachest America, announce to the Unitarians:

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The Sun of Universal Love hath dawned.

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The Banquet of friendship and divine association is spread.

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The Banner of the Kingdom of God is unfurled!

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The Heavenly Spring hath appeared!

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The Cloud of Spiritual Grace is poring down!

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The Trees of the Orchard of humanity are verdant and ableom!

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The Herald of the Kingdom hath become manifest!

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The prophecies of the Holy Books have become fulfilled!

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The age of Human Protherhood is dawning upon mankind.

"Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! The Century of Light and Universal Peace hath come!

As I read these vivifying words it seemed to me they are a very significant prelude to the enthusiastic reception given to HIM by the Unitarians of America in their convention in Boston.

Another very beautiful talk that I may be permitted to translate here is the Beloved's words to Bishop Birch of New York, who came to call upon HIM in the Hotel Ansonia on the sixth day after HIS arrival. Following the preliminary conversation, HE said:



# 2.

"Praise be to GOD that stupendous material developments are obtained in this country; but material civilization alone does not safeguard the progress of a nation; because through material civilization dynamite, Krupp guns, projectiles and Mauser rifles are invented; thus the infernal instruments of human fratricide are multiplied and constantly perfected. Therefore, natural civilization fosters both good and evil. All this wolfish bloodshed, all this feverish multiplication of military armaments, are the results of material civilization. When material civilization joins hands with spiritual civilization, then it will be perfect. In former times a wooden box may have protected your possessions from the thief, but now the safes with their complicated keys and combinations do not daunt the robber. Consequently, just as "goog" is advanced through material civilization, evil takes the same pace; unless the earthly civilization becomes the hand-maid of heavenly civilization. Natural civilization is like unto the body of man. If the body is animated by the spirit, it is alive; otherwise it is a vile corpse which in the long run will become putrid and decayed."

The Bishop expressed his pleasure and delight to hear the above words of light. The Master answered:

"I am likewise very grateful to you. Praise be to GOD that your churches are free from prejudices. They are not so creed bound as not to be able to breathe. Many Christian Churches in Europe are yet so extremely dogmatic. But I have already spoken in churches belonging to your denomination. The congregation consisted of most intelligent people. This is a great distinction. Hence I love you with all my heart and soul. My chief aim is to remove the present misunderstanding between the nations of the East and the West, so that we may express cordial love toward each other and promote the essentials of the Heavenly Civilization. I hope that such a confirmation may be vouchsafed us, so that we may become united!"

The Bishop said: "Up to this time no one has come from the East to the West with such power, such lucid teachings and such an exalted aim. Therefore I am very grateful to you and most pleased to have met you."

The third contribution for to-day is going to be part of a touching Tablet revealed by the Beloved to a friend in Acca, on the fourth of the month. HE said, in part:

"Truly I say, the supreme desire of my heart and soul is to be present at the Court of Baha'e'llah, so that I may perfume my face and my locks with the dust of the Holy Threshold. It is now three years that Abdul Baha hath been deprived of this Favor, and hath remained too far to become the recipient of the dawning lights of the Brilliant Spot. Day and night there has been remorse and regret. It is hoped from His Highness, the Desired One that this weak body, which has come to the verge of complete disintegration through the effects of this long journey, before the cessation of breath, may become so assisted as to throw life itself upon the dust of the Holy Threshold, attain to a new life, illumine HIS eyes, transforming His Heart and spirit into the rose-garden and the meadows, then starting on HIS journey to the Abode of the Friend and hastening from this world to another world."

# 3.

In a Tablet revealed on the same day to Mirza Ali Akbar, HE says about Germany:

"In short Germany shall become illumined; because the inhabitants are religious and not submerged in the sea of materialism. Those souls who travel along the path of nature are like unto the dead people; the Breath of Life does not have any effect upon them. Praise be to GOD that you have become assisted in service, and the candle of Guidance you made manifest to the eyes of all. It is hoped that most weighty results may become apparent. The German believers are in the utmost enkindlement, firm and steadfast in the Cause of GOD; therefore their influence will be very great."

To-day a letter was received from Mirza Moneer from Ismaelieh, giving the news of the well being of the Master and telling us that soon He may call us to HIMSELF. HE is looking for a house large enough to accomodate usall.

In the morning we called on Ahmad Yazdi in his store. In the afternnoon Madame Stannard called on us and we talked a great deal bout the probability of the Beloved's trip to India. She has lived in India for a long time, and is thoroughly familiar with the situation.

A few letters from America gave us cheer and joy. Thus through the golden chain of correspondence the hearts are united, even if the sea's and lands separate them.

--Finis--

begin p. 3 (numbered 24) in ms letter (3/27/97 Sat)

7/16/1903

[store to hear any news or receive any letters coming in. For lunch afterwards we have bread, cheese, canteloupe or watermelon, and if not these, "abgousht", or Persian soup. Our friends take a nap. I ~~work. At four we~~ have tea, at six we go out and take a walk and breathe the fresh air, or call on Madame Stannard at the Eastern Exchange Hotel. Generally we are back by eight. Between nine and ten we have our supper, sometimes rice or meat, etc. Then we sit on the veranda for half an hour to an hour talking about the Cause, enjoying the perfect moonlight or coming in the room to work again-until 11 or 12 o'clock, after which time we retire. This is the program of our life for the present. A great contrast to the strenuous activities of the West. From behind these scenes there rises higher and higher the stature of spiritual happiness which is necessary for the progress of the individual.

This morning Mirza Fazl'ollah returned from Ismaelieh with a package of Tablets from the Beloved for me, to be translated. On the envelope the Master had written with HIS own hand: "Translate these Tablets soon. We are thinking of renting a house. As soon as it is prepared we will send for you without delay." This news danced before my eyes, and I grabbed the Tablets to translate them "soon". Our happiness was complete when Mirza Ali Akbar brought the news that we have permission to go to Ismaelieh tomorrow, just for the day, and return by night. The glad news of meeting the Master gave us a new vigor, and all day and night we walked upon the clouds of joy and happiness. Mirza Fasl'ollah has received permission to leave for Persia tomorrow.

The following is the translation of a Tablet revealed for the Persian believers on July 4th, which may be of interest.

7/10/1912

HE IS GOD!

O ye friends of Abdul Baha !

Material friendship is not permanent; for every kind of love which is not purely for the sake of GOD is ended in hatred. Amity which is not for the sake of the Lord changeth into enmity. But the divine friends are the faithful ones; they are the consolation of the heart and the peace of my spirit. They are spirit embodied, love personified, sincerity incarnated, loyal friends and staunch lovers. Therefore they are the cause of the happiness of the heart and the soul.

During this long journey, whenever the memory of the friends crossed my mind, the hardships were forgotten, an inconceivable joy realized and the vicissitudes and the inconveniences transformed into composure and tranquillity. Then I supplicated toward the Kingdom of Glory, saying: "O thou Kind Beloved! Be thou the Associate of the hearts and souls of the friends; at every moment send them the dews from the sea of Thy Bestowals; at every second exhilarate them with a new wine and cause them to be intoxicated with Thy Cup; so that they may take the Divine Goblet in their hands, give the choice wine to the seekers and confer the exhilaration of the wine of "Am I not your LORD?" upon the wooers!

In short, during this trip you were all with me and were visible before my sight. During this wandering and travelling, the melody of the Divine Bird reached to the apex of Heaven, and the cry of "Ya Baha el Abha!" was heard of the people of the world. Now it is the turn of the believers of GOD; for me to be silent and for you to be singing, full of acclamation and joy; so that you may awaken those who are heedless.

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

.....

7/16/13

HE IS GOD!

O ye friends of Abdul Baha !

Material friendship is not permanent; for every kind of love which is not purely for the sake of GOD is ended in hatred. Amity which is not for the sake of the Lord changeth into enmity. But the divine friends are the faithful ones; they are the consolation of the heart and the peace of my spirit. They are spirit embodied, love personified, sincerity incarnated, loyal friends and staunch lovers. Therefore they are the cause of the happiness of the heart and the soul.

During this long journey, whenever the memory of the friends crossed my mind, the hardships were forgotten, an inconceivable joy realized and the vicissitudes and the inconveniences transformed into composure and tranquillity. Then I supplicated toward the Kingdom of Glory, saying: "O thou Kind Beloved! Be thou the Associate of the hearts and ~~the~~ souls of the friends; at every moment send them the dews from the sea of Thy Bestowals; at every second exhilarate them with a new wine and cause them to be intoxicated with Thy Cup; so that they may take the Divine Goblet in their hands, give the choice wine to the seekers and confer the exhilaration of the wine of "Am I not your LORD?" upon the wooers!

In short, during this trip you were all with me and were visible before my sight. During this wandering and travelling, the melody of the Divine Bird reached to the apex of Heaven, and the cry of "Ya Baha el Abha!- was heard of the people of the world. Now it is the turn of the believers of GOD; for me to be silent and for you to be singing, full of acclamation and joy; so that you may awaken those who are heedless.

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

.....

Port Said, Egypt, July 17, 1913.

Dear Friends:

To start this day with thanksgiving on my lips and in my heart, I shall translate a Tablet revealed by the Master many years ago to the Persian believers. It is out of one of the three books of Sayed Assadollah:

HE IS GOD!

I praise thee, O Thou Remover of sorrows, Overlooker of faults, Rejoicer of hearts and the Illuminator of faces! Verily, these are evidences to the Manifestation of Thy Singleness, beloved ones at the door of Thy Oneness, worthies among they people, noble ones amongst thy creatures, and righteous ones in the congregation of Thy servants. Verily Thou hast chosen them for the sake of Thy Love, elected them for Thy Knowledge, appointed them as the custodians of Thy Mysteries and (exalted) exalted them above all Thy other servants under all circumstances and conditions!

O Lord! O Lord! illumine their eyes by beholding Thy lights, refine their consciences by the appearance of Thy Mysteries, and enlighten their hearts by the traces of Thy Names! Suffer them to become the signs of Thy Unity, the banner of Thy Singleness, the stars of Thy Graces and the candles of Thy Assemblages! so that they may arise to serve Thee and be steadfast in Thy Worship., Verily, Thou art the Merciful, the Giver, the Mighty and the Generous!

O ye kind friends of Abdu'l Baha! It is night. The impenetrable and inky darkness hath covered all the regions, but the hearts of the yearning ones are illumined and enlightened by the rays of the Bestower of the Clement. The effulgence of the Morn of Guidance is manifest and clear, and the brilliant rays of the SUN of REALITY are diffused throughout all the continents. The verses of the divine Majesty of the Most Great Name are read by all the peoples in all tongues, and through utterances the evidences are proofs of the Blessed Perfection are explained and demonstrated. The melody of holiness ascends to the sphere of ether and the songs of the most eminent Guidance confer life, and the sweet fragrances of the Paradise of ABHA have perfumed this world and the World beyond.

Notwithstanding this effulgence and this diffusion of the rose-garden of the Covenant, innumerable souls are yet afflicted with the sleep of negligence. The eyes are veiled and the nostrils do not inhale the fragrant perfume. What a negligence is this! What an inadvertance is this! What an ignorance is this! and what a heedlessness is this! Verily this is the condition of the deprived ones in this Most Great Dispensation.

But as regards you: turn your faces toward the Kingdom of ABHA and join your voices in anthems of thanksgiving and praise, that praise be to GOD, the Sun of Unity hath so

illumined the hearts of the righteous ones as to cause them to become the envy of the dawning-places of lights. This is naught except through HIS all-comprehending Mercy and special Favor. Its source is: "He chooseth for His Grace whomsoever He willeth" and its mainspring is: "This is through the Bounty of your Lord. He bestoweth on whomsoever HE desireth."

Theref ore appreciate the value of this Most Great Bestowal, ineffable Grace, manifest Favor and Bounty unto all the inhabitants of the world, so that through this appreciation and thankfulness the Mercy of the Peerless Lord be increased, the Ancient Grace be revealed in the hearts and souls and the spiritual outpouring be vouchsafed. Upon ye be greeting and praise!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

With the expectation of leaving today for Ismailieh we arose very early. At 8 o'clock the train left the station. There were several other Bahais with us, who expected to stop over at Ismailieh with their wives and children, meet the Master and then continue their journey to Cairo. All along the road the mighty Canal joining the two seas was visible and now and then great ships passed before our eyes. On the other hand, the barren desert sand with hardly any vegetation. We also passed by a great salt lake, the whiteness of which dazzled the eyes in the light of the sun. The train stopped at many stations, emptying and filling with passengers and freight. By 10 o'clock we reached Ismailieh. It has a clean and small up-to-date station. As it is practically an European town, it is the cleanest town in Egypt. It has ofcourse, an Arab quarter, but in comparison with other Arab quarters I have seen it is quite clean. Ismailieh is a new town. As soon as we reached the station, we hastened to the hotel of J. Basta, which is quite near by. The first persons we met were Mirza Moneer and Khosro, who are fortunate these blessed days to be with the Master. One of them conducted us to room 13, where the Beloved was living. As we were permitted to enter we found Him in bed in a weakened condition. He welcomed us and enquired about our health. One of us had brought a package of letters, which was delivered to HIM after a few minutes. For a while HE read them. There was a letter from Miss Boylan announcing the sad news of the death of her mother; another from India welcoming HIM to Egypt and inviting HIM again to visit that country. There were many more letters and cablegrams which for the present were left unread.

# 3.

He raised Himself and sat up in bed. He complained of the hardness of the cushion, saying: "When I was in Paris one of the believers brought me a soft cushion and urged me to put it under my head, I became accustomed to it, and as there is none in the hotel, my neck has pained all these nights. To be the slave of custom is the worst habit. I will have none of it! When I was (goi) young, I often had a brick or a piece of rock as my pillow and slept soundly!"

Haji Niaz said he had a soft cushion with him and asked to be allowed to go out and bring it.

"No, no! I must get accustomed to my natural ways. This would not do. One must never accustom himself to anything, the absence of which may disturb his comfort."

Then HE related the story of Baha'o'llah's hard incarceration in the Barrack of Acca.

"When the two years had passed" He continued, "a regiment of soldiers was assigned to Acca. Of course there was no other place for them to live except the Barracks. Therefore they had no other alternative but to turn us out. All the time there was an Inn in Acca which was inhabited by different people. This Inn became the hospice for the pilgrims in after years. I went to the Inn-keeper and said: "As our number is large and there are several families in our party I desire to rent the Inn as a whole and if possible the present inmates may vacate and go elsewhere." He gave his consent to my suggestion. When after a few days I came back to draw up the papers and sign the documents I saw one of the rooms was still inhabited. "Who is this?" I asked. "He is the German Consul" he answered. "He must leave the premises, otherwise I will not rent the place. It is impossible for an outsider to live here". The Inn-keeper looked at me with ridicule and contempt. "Ha, ha!" he laughed "and they say you are a prisoner! Bah! You talk to me as though you are my Lord and Master. What do you think, Mr. Prisoner, do you expect to get an exclusive palace in this prison town? Not much! Not much! This man is a German Consul; I cannot drive him out." I told him: "If a prisoner finds a palace in this prison town, he has indeed accomplished something; otherwise there are many palaces in the outside world." Finally the German Consul left of his own accord and requested to come only two hours by day to attend to his official duties, to which proposition we assented cheerfully. Then we began to repair the rooms. One of the rooms was left unrepaired, because our small fund was exhausted. The rooms then were assigned to various families and friends, and I choose the last one for myself. This room was so damp that grass had grown on the walls and the ceiling and when it rained, there were several cracks in the ceiling which gave free and welcome entrance to the rain!



# 4.

The floor consisted of humid earth, a breeder of fleas. I had a piece of mat and a long Persian fur coat. It was my seat by day and my coverlet by night. When I covered myself with it, an army of fleas hiding in the ambush of the fur attacked me and tried their best to defeat me, but I defeated them by turning the coat and covering myself with the other side. For one hour I slept; then the wily, indomitable fleas found their way again to the inner side. Every night I had recourse to this manoeuvring eight or ten times. Notwithstanding this, no one may believe me if I say that I was far happier and more joyful at that time than now, sleeping on this fine bed!"

To our utter surprise HE informed us that HE will leave today for Ramleh, and will stay there for a week. If the weather agrees with HIM, HE will send for us; if not, HE will (return) send for us; return to Port Said and all of us will go together to Haifa. Therefore at 2:30 P.M., accompanied by Mirza Moneer and Kherro, HE left for Alexandria and Ramleh. The station master was an European and when the Beloved reached the station a few minutes ahead of time, he conducted HIM to his private office to rest, and when the train came in, he followed HIM very politely to the first class wagon. This sign of distinction was of course great enough in the eyes of the natives and officials of the railway to excite their wonder and curiosity. Once again we were separated from the Master as the train pulled out of the station. Our train left for Port Said at half-past nine and therefore we had several hours on our hands. A very tragic thing happened: It was that one of the Persian Bahais and his wife forgot in the station their child of two years old. Mirza Mahmoud broke our seriousness by the ludicrous statement that as they had so many children they clean forgot this one! However for the moment we did not know what to do, until finally we decided that Haji Mohammed send a telegram to the next station informing the father of his loss and telling him to wait there until Azziz Effendi brings the child. Having attended to this, about five o'clock we went out sight seeing. There is a beautiful, large park, lovely buildings, clean avenues and electric lights in abundance. I was quite surprised by the size of the park and its large pines and trees and flower-culture. We also saw the Arab quarter. The goats, the hens, the donkeys and other animals live in the same room with the Arabs, - a peaceful family!

When we set our feet in Port Said station, we have familiar faces to greet us back. Ahmad Yazdi, Ibrahim Effendi, and Aga Janal. They were of course surprised to hear that the master had left Ismailieh, but said quietly: "HE doeth whatsoever HE willeth!"

Port Said, Egypt, July 18th, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

I have no news today. We did not hear anything from Ramleh, and worked until seven o'clock p. m. Then we paid a call on Madame Stannard and returned home by way of Ahmad Yazdi's store. He had received the little bust of the Master from Stuttgart. Mr. Herrigal had been kind enough to send one for Mirza Mahmoud and one for Ahmad Sohrab. It adorns my writing table at present, and is a constant reminder of the wonderful personality of the Master and HIS Heavenly Love. HIS spiritual Face is printed on the tablets of many hearts. They think of HIM and work for HIM all the time; for HIS spiritual Face is the Love of GOD, the Knowledge of GOD, the Breath of the Holy Spirit, the Divine Inspiration and the love of all mankind.

The following is a prayer revealed from the tongue of the Beloved many years ago.

HE IS THE GLORY AND THE MOST GLORIOUS!

O GOD! O GOD!

Behold Thou the radiant faces made joyous through the fragrances of the flowers of Thy Kingdom EL ABHA, and illumined with the Lights of The Supreme Concourse! Verily, Thou seest that the temples of the believers are stirred by the fresh breezes of the Mornings of Eternity and the heart of the pure ones are attracted by the signs of the Sacred Mysteries.

O Lord! Fill for them the cups of joy; enlighten their faces by the rays emanating from the lamp of divine prosperity; cause them to hear the sweet songs of the birds of Holiness in the rose-garden of spiritual success; gladden them by listening to the melodies of the Doves of Light in the delectable, heavenly fields, and suffer them to enter into the Paradise of ABHA, Thy Celestial Gardens.

O my Lord! O my Lord! Intoxicate them with the Wine of Knowledge; sweeten their tastes with the delicacies of prayer in the early morn and eve; gather them together into one congregation; confer upon them a shelter; protect them in the Cave of Thy Covenant and Thy Testament; shield them from the doubts of the violators and the evil suggestions of the waverers; make them the mines of knowledge, wisdom and assurance; cause their feet to be firm and steadfast in the straight pathway and grant unto them prosperity in whatsoever country

continued-

July 18th, 1913 continued

-2-

they call the people to Thy Name! Verily, Thou art the Lord of the Cause, and Thou art Powerful to do whatsoever Thou desireth!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas

.....

Here is another prayer. It may have been revealed for the American believers, but I am not sure.

H E I S G O D !

O Thou Incomparable GOD! Make Thou these hearts intimate with Thy Mystery; suffer them to be detached from the known and the unknown; suffer them to drink from the overflowing cup of the Horn of Unity and intoxicate them with the wine of "Am I not your Lord?"

O Lord! These servants are intoxicated and enamored with Thee. These longing ones are attracted and enthralled with Thy Beauty; They are the wanderers of Thine Abode; the lovers of Thy Countenance and the flock of gazelles of Thy meadow.

O Lord! We are wandering in the desert of remoteness and are scattered in the valley of deprivation. Send Thou to us the messenger of Providence and the Angel of Guidance; so that the fragrances of Thine Abode may reach to our nostrils, the refulgent Light of Thy Countenance may illuminate the "house of sorrows" of these grief-stricken people; the darkness of night may be changed into the sunlight of day and the thorny places of regret may be transformed into the garden of hope. Verily, Thou art the Mighty, the Seer, the Hearer!

O ye believers of GOD! Rejoice in the Most Eminent Bounty of your Lord! be happy, for the favors of the Glad Tidings of the King of the Kingdom are unlimited. Be ye prepared for the downpouring of the Cloud of Mercy. Upon ye be the Bestowals of your Lord, the Ancient! Dilate your breasts, increase your fervor, exalt your ambition, add to your yearning and be rejoiced in heart, for GOD hath chosen you from amongst HIS creatures for the sake of HIS Love. Verily HE is merciful and clement to you.

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

I will bring this day to a close by translating another Tablet revealed to an American believer several years ago.

.....

H E I S G O D !

O thou spiritual leaf, verdant and fresh through the downpour of the Kingdom of GOD!

continued-

July 18th, 1913 continued -3-

Verily I implore at the Threshold of GOD, the Mighty, the Powerful to illumine thy heart with the lights emanating from the height of the Kingdom, to cause thy tongue to speak the praise of the Living, Self-Subsistent, Eternal Lord and to suffer thee to become a shining light with the rays of knowledge, so that thou mayst enlighten these vast cities and great states.

Verily, verily I say unto thee, the Covenant of GOD and HIS Testament is the lamp with world-illuminating rays, and from the Supreme Concurrence it enlightens the horizons of the earth and heaven.

Whoever stations himself in front of this Divine Light, his face will become illumined with the Manifest Glory, his speech will become effective in the hearts and spirits and GOD shall reinforce him with power which penetrates through realities of all things.

Upon ye be EL ABHA.

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas

Port Said, Egypt, July 19th, 1913.

Dear Friends:

This morning we received a short note from Mirza Moneer, telling of the safe arrival of the Beloved in Ramleh, taking room in the Victoria Hotel. Owing to the fatigue of the journey and the recurrence of fever, HE could not sleep well in the night. On the way they came across Seyed Jalal, who was going to Ismailieh to meet the Beloved; but the Master took him back to Alexandria.

Toward the evening I called on Madame Stannard. On her part she read to me a letter just received from Miss Hiscock of New York who has been living in Ramleh for two or three years. She says how glad she is the Beloved is there and that Mirza Fazl has already called on HIM, and she and other friends will avail themselves of the first opportunity to do the same.

The Master has sent one of the Bahais, Seyed Yahya, to take HIS daughter, Touba Khanum back to Alexandria. The furniture, etc. is also being forwarded. A house will be rented in Ramleh and in a few days we will be on our way to join the Center of Light. When HE leaves a place all the different particles which were holding together to all intents and purposes, are seemingly scattered again; the collective individualities will regain their personalities, each person follows his own inclination, one feels something is lacking, the touchstone of life is gone, the great social leveller has disappeared. The "I" and "my" stalks abroad. Futile conversation and back-biting sneak around the corner, and if encouraged step boldly in the courtyard and the private chamber. We must ever gaze toward the Sun of Universal Fellowship, otherwise we will miss the mark.

I was reading this morning the diary of the Master's voyage on the steamer Cedric from Alexandria to New York. Leaving aside the usual details and description of the trip, I have chosen a few selections from HIS talks with this tourist or that traveller, which have a general tone and bearing upon HIS expected arrival in America.

It is the third day of the trip. An American, after hearing the Master's teachings on reincarnation, goes to his cabin and brings for HIM an idol as worshipped in China and Japan. Abdul Baha held it in HIS hand and remarked: "What a vast difference exists between the souls of mankind! One retrogrades to such a level, so low, as to worship statues and stony forms which are devoid of spirit and reason, while GOD hath conferred upon him reason and adorned his shoulders with the mantle of spiritual attributes! Another soars to such a summit of perfection and perspicacity as to become the signs of GOD and the Instructor of humanity. Brahma, Krishna and Buddha never taught polytheism, They were the Supreme Teachers of monotheism, like all the other Prophets of GOD; but the succeeding generations misconstrued their words, and in order to further their own selfish interests they fabricated these false doctrines."

On the sixth day HE said to a number of the passengers; "All the created phenomena are subject to the laws of change and transmutation. Youth is followed by old age; a tender plant becomes an old, decrepit tree; dynasties are born, wax strong, reach to the zenith of glory and then totter to the ground. Likewise, every one of the world-

religions has been the cause of progress and advancement in its own time, but now they have become like old, very old trees. They do not yield any more luscious fruits. Some people persist in the unscientific belief belief that these very old trees will again become young, push forth leaves blossoms and fruits. This is impossible. This age needs a young, vigorous plant, with world-wide growing capacity. Are you informed of the existence of such a plant?"

On the eight day; HZ is speaking to the Persians:

"The Blessed Perfection has upturn the root of the tree of superstitions and religious offices. In the past the ambitious leaders of religions have been the cause of the retrogression and ignorance of a nation. In this Cause there are no religious titles, no ceremonies of ordination. One is not respected simply because he wears a peculiar dress or carries a religious title, or has inherited it from the fathers. No! These are not the marks of distinction. On the other hand, those sanctified souls, - the signs of their divine sanctity and spirituality become apparent in the hearts of others. People are unconsciously attracted to them through their pure morality, their justice and loving kindness. Every one is drawn to them through their praiseworthy attributes and pleasing qualities, and all the faces are illumined by the lights of their virtues and integrity. In this movement there is no title to be given to anyone; no See to be inherited by any person. "The hands of the Cause" are the hands of truth. Therefore whosoever is the promoter and the servant of the word of GOD, he is the Hand of Truth. By the "hands of GOD certain definite meanings are connoted. It is not only a verbal expression. Whosoever is more humble in the Cause of GOD, he is more confirmed, and whosoever is more evanescent, he is more favored."

.....

Port Said, Egypt, July 20th, 1913.

AS:-

these are lean days and you may observe a scarcity of news as far as the sayings and doings of the Beloved are concerned. This is another illustration that nothing really interests us in these days except the Master and HIS movements. A letter devoid of HIS name and HIS teachings is not worth reading. HIS heart is the fountain of life out of which flows eternally the Water of Truth. Are we not thirsty? HIS universal Teachings are the Divine Food descending from the exalted ~~heaven~~ heaven of the Will of GOD. Are we not hungry? HIS utterances are the roses and anemones of the Garden of Abha. Do we not love flowers? HIS words are the brilliant stars of the Firmament of the Spiritual Glory. Are not the stars beautiful? HIS beatific Presence inspires confidence, manhood, loyalty and uprightness. Should we not characterize ourselves with these attributes? HIS ideals are the fresh breezes heralding the approaching dawn of the spring time of human regeneration. Are we not stirred into gladness, joy and love of life? HIS principles are the iridescent rays of the Sun of Reality. Are we not illuminated? HIS life-work is a glorious epic, written with a pen of diamonds on the pages of the heavenly Book. Are we conscious of its supreme importance? HIS message is the sweet melody of the Kingdom of ABHA. Do we listen to its soul-enrapturing strains? HIS pathway is the heavenly way leading the traveller to the Ultimate Reality. Are we ready to walk in it? HIS existence is the tumultuous sea of the Love of GOD. Are we willing to risk our lives on its white waves? HE is the Ark of Salvation, the Divine Tabernacle, the Holy of Holies, the Sacred Mystery and the embodiment of Divine Life.

This was a day of quiet work and contemplation, and when toward the evening we walked out and passed by the Eastern Exchange Hotel and

Let our dear friend Mrs Stannard, she told us that a cablegram had been received from Mrs Getsinger from Naples, that she will arrive in Port Said on Wednesday. Of course as soon as she lands and finds the Beloved in Ramleh she will take the train for Alexandria without delay.

Today the French inhabitants had a gorgeous religious procession which started from their church. All the streets through which the procession passed were adorned with flags, buntings and Japanese lanterns. The priests were dressed in their pompous surplices of red, gold and silver; long lines of girls dressed as angels and a long line of choir boys. All these, including the band of music, was followed by a large image of Mary, the mother of Christ, holding the child Jesus in her arms. Of course thousands of Arabs had left their work and had come to see this very spectacular sight of what they call "idol worship", and not understanding the sacredness of these symbols they peked fun and laughed in their sleeves.

I shall continue to translate a few more sayings of the Beloved on the steamer Cedric.

.....

Ninth day: "Formally it was most difficult to cross the Atlantic, and up to this time travellers with our aims and intentions have not gone from Persia to America. There are a few who have gone, but it has been either for personal affairs or the transaction of unimportant business. One can therefore say that this is the first journey of the Persians to America. Our great hope is the Divine Confirmation, through which means all the doors will be opened before our faces. Conquest and glory revolve around the servants of the Blessed Perfection. All the intentions must disappear except this wondrous aim."

Eleventh day: An American passenger asked HIM: "Why do you go



to America? HE answered: I go there through the personal invitation of the American Peace Societies and the urgent appeal of my friends. Because the objects of the Cause are Universal Peace, the oneness of the world of humanity and the perfect equality between all mankind. As this century is the century of light and the cycle of the revelation of Mysteries, undoubtedly these glorious aims will be fully established and the influence of this great Cause will encircle the East and the West."

Twelfth day: At the table the Master spoke about simple diet? - how much better it is for ones constitution to eat one or two courses. One of the American Bahais asked HIM whether HE would not prescribe a simple regime of dieting for the believers upon HIS arrival in America. HE laughed heartily and said: We do not interfere with their material food, but we shall give them a simple receipt of spiritual food. This is our work."

Sixteenth day: "We shall be only one more day on the steamer. In reality steam is a marvelous energy. Were it not for this power how could we cross the Atlantic Ocean? What a wonderful means of transportation GOD has prepared for us and how the Blessed Perfection hath confirmed us. Otherwise what relation is there between America and Persia."

Seventeenth day: Great skyscrapers are visible in the distance; The Queen of Liberty upholds her light; the Master walking on the deck, watching with great interest the shifting scenes; hundreds of Bahais are watching on the pier, impatiently;- HE talks with the Persians: "When we embarked on the steamer in Alexandria no one dreamed that we should reach so safely America and we should cross the Atlantic with such ease.".... Now the steamer docks in its berth; the Bahais on the pier wave their handkerchiefs and hats; on the deck the desired of all nations is not seen. HE is in HIS cabin HE is surrounded by a number of newspaper men,

each one having so many questions. Patiently HE gives interviews to each, answers every question and satisfies all. Here I shall translate one of the many beautiful interviews; it is the shortest. "What are your aims?" The interviewer asked. "Our aims He answered, "are universal peace and the oneness of the world of humanity. Last year I visited London and Paris. This year I have come to America to meet the pacifists of your country; perchance we may find a basis of co-operation. It is my hope that the American Peace Societies may consolidate their forces and thus, shoulder to shoulder, they may render an effective service to human kind." "How is Universal Peace to be established?"-"By the education of the public with the sentiments of peace. Today the full realization of Universal Peace is the panacea for every disease." "What are these diseases?" - "One of these diseases is the impoverishment and the penury of the farmers and the middle-class through the unbearable burden of war taxes. This wave of military craze has reached its height. It shall soon recede. The income of the farmers and others is taken by the force of a military government and expended foolishly over useless implements of destruction. The prospect becomes gloomier every year, because the war budget of every government is being increased without regard to the feverish signs of social unrest and industrial upheavals. The people are seething with ideas of insurrection and agitation. The burden has become too heavy. The patience of mankind has become exhausted. They groan under this load, and they grope in the darkness seeking the light of peace and brotherhood. Their pitiful cries ascend to the Throne of the Almighty. Lo! lo! HE has listened to them; HE has answered their prayers. The dawn of peace hath appeared; the lights of brotherhood are breaking through the <sup>dark</sup> clouds of human prejudices. Lovers of Peace, rejoice! O ye who are heavy laden, be happy, be happy! Weep no more, for your loads will be taken away from you."

"This military and navel expenditure is a great disease , look at the results of the war between Italy and Turkey how dreadful they are! The fathers hear the news of the death of their sons! The sons are grieved through the death of their fathers. How many peaceful villiages are laid to waste! How the wealth of the two nations is exhausted! The remedy of this disease is through Universal Peace. This will ensure public security. Today that which is the cause of dispersion is war. If the nations enter into a faithful agreement to leave off the war-like preparations at once, they should secure for themselves and their posterity eternal welfare; they shall become freed from every difficulty, and international confusion. This end must be obtained through the development of the intellect and the inculcation of peaceful ideals in all the institutions of modern civilization."

.....

Port Said , Egypt, July 21, 1913

ands:-

Aside from the deepening impression that the Beloved will stay in Ramleh and not go to Haifa at present, there is no news. We are anxiously waiting to hear the word of our departure, although we have rented this apartment for one month. Not only do I miss the glory of HIS presence, but so much of HIS wonderful words of light and guidance are lost, because there is no one to report them. The art of diary keeping is comparatively unknown in the East. The believers are not accustomed to it. For example, during all the years of Baha'O'llah and the Master, no one ever dreamed of reporting their sayings. I have not seen a book or a pamphlet biographic in tone and diary like in construction. The Persian pilgrims learned from the West, and whenever they were summoned to the Presence of the Beloved, they would beg either Mirza Mahmud or myself to go with them and report the Master's words. We were stenographers par excellence, and our services were much in demand. Had the Master lived in America for the last forty years, besides, HIS Tablets, there would have been volumes of memoirs and diaries written by those who would have been fortunate enough to hear them.

While we were waiting patiently to hear HIS command, we are not idle. All day we are doing our best to be busy, and marvelous to relate we have succeeded so far. The calmness and sweetness of that peace which passeth understanding flying over our minds and hearts, and in this temporary separation from the Beloved we have experienced that hope to be realized by all of us. Just as the Master hath sacrificed all HIS conditions in life in order to spread the Fragrances of the Paradise of ABH; just as the Spirit of Baha'O'llah is HIS guardian and Protector, so likewise we must forget all other thoughts and occupy ourselves with those matters which pertain to the exaltation of the Word of GOD amongst man-

kind, and be confident that the Blessed Perfection shall sustain and reinforce us under all circumstances. At the present time nothing will succeed like the promulgation of the Teachings, because the Power of the Supreme Concurrence is behind it.

In a Tablet revealed by the Beloved many years ago to the Persian friends , HE says:-

"O ye believers of GOD! Supplicate and entreat at the Threshold of the Almighty to confirm you in the diffusion of the Fragrances of HIS Holiness, which are wafting from the direction of the Garden of GOD! Blow ye over all creation like the breezes of the early morn, and impart ye fragrances and verdancy through the Power of Truth upon the flowers, sweet hyacinths and roses of the garden of existence. This is the quint-essence of meeting and the superlative degree of success and prosperity for it causes the attainment of man to the Kingdom of ABHA, attracts him to the Sacred Court of HIS Highness the Almighty and suffers him to reach the Sublime Presence of the Powerful and Omnipotent Lord."

The translation of another dynamic Tablet to the Persian believers revealed likewise many years ago will be of interest.

.....

O ye merciful friends of Abdul Baha!

Although it is night, yet it is the morn of the dawn of the Divine Kingdom. The lights are shining and the faces are radiant. The Ancient Bestowals of the Beauty of ABHA is the companion of every pure heart, and the Effulgence of the Manifestation of Mt. Sinai is the associate of every firm and steadfast one. The soul entrancing melody of the Blessed Perfection is heard from the Invisible World by every upright and righteous person, and HIS Glad Tidings and Gospels of joy grant undeniable

favor. The fame of HIS greatness hath filled all the regions and the songs of the birds of the meadow of HIS Reality confer spirit upon all the inhabitants of the globe.

Therefore we must send forth a cry of joy and through the Power of GOD confer a mighty thrill of spiritual commotion through the pillars of this mortal world. Thus Eternal Life may become revealed in this mundane existence, the Heavenly Grace may become apparent and the everlasting bounty of the Paradise of ABHA may adorn this world. How long shall there be silence? How long lukewarmness? The flaming torch of the burning Fire of GOD is set aglow on the apex of the world, and the lighted candle of Guidance is a witness in the gathering. If we are not enkindled with the heat of this Divine Flame, what heart-burning fire then shall cause us to be set aglow? If we are not intoxicated with this wine of GOD what kind of wine shall then exhilarate us? If in the Assemblage of Transfiguration we do not forget ourselves, becoming joyous and enraptured, then in what gathering will we become tumultuous and full of acclamation? Oye Divine Friends, the call is the call of the Beauty of ABHA, streaming down from the Invisible Kingdom! The Melody is the Melody of the Supreme Concourse! Be ye happy! Be ye joyous! Be ye exultant! Be ye glad!

Upon ye be greeting and praise!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

Port Said, Egypt, July 22, 1913

Dear Friends:-

The Bahai Cause does not need an outside influence to promote its principles, but it is in need of internal loving-kindness and broad tolerance, so that those principles may go out to the world clothed with flesh and blood. If we occupy ourselves with gossip, if we always try to uncover the sins and shortcomings of others and prate about our own deeds of holiness, if we are ungenerous in spirit and dogmatic in attitude, if we have not a pardoning nature, if we are not clothed with the garment of forgiveness;- then we have not only done a great harm to the Cause, and temporarily stopped its onward march, but we have stunted our own spiritual progress. Ours it is to pray quietly for the souls. Whether believer or unbeliever, and let GOD alone be the judge. HE hath demanded of us to teach HIS Cause and to promulgate HIS Teachings, and be ever an embodiment of sincerity and forgiveness. "Beware, beware lest ye offend any soul!"-HE says.- My business is to make myself purer and purer every day, and try to live a holier and more simple life. I must see my own shortcomings and mistakes and do my best to adorn my character with praiseworthy attributes. Why should I occupy myself with the faults of others? Have I not enough myself? Is there not enough room for self-improvement? No cause can advance in this world if it is not characterized by these qualities. We have not enough time to teach this Movement, and if we spend that little time in finding fault, in hostile criticism, in dogmatic assertions, then we might as well demand: What have I done to serve the Cause? In brief, We must have a constructive spirit, build, build and rear the walls of this mighty palace of spiritual brotherhood.

The progress of this Port Said is in itself a great lesson for all the ~~the~~ Bahais. Forty years ago there were half a dozen dingy

hovels, with half naked Arabs. There was no trade, no houses and no communication with the outside world. Almost all the area over which the present up-to-date city of Port Said, with its 60,000 busy inhabitants, is built is the land reclaimed from the sea. As soon as the Suez Canal conjoined the two mighty oceans, Port Said became the Port, and from that date on the magical progress of the post went on uninterruptedly. Just as GOD inspired the heart and the mind of DeLesseps with this most wonderful thought of joining the two seas, in like manner our Beloved as the spiritual engineer is appointed by Baha'O'llah to join together the two branches of the human race in the East and the West. The united efforts of thousands of laborers made possible the realization of the Suez Canal after years of hard work, the greatest engineering feat up to that time was accomplished. Similarly to that, the united zeal and endeavor of all the Bahais is needed to join together the mighty seas of humanity. This is not child's play. This is a stupendous under-taking. Could the laborers dig the canal if they sat around and hurled criticism against each other? Let us be faithful to our work, let us work to the end, let no harsh words discourage us, let us leave behind fruitless discussions and engage in that which will result in the Words of GOD being promoted, the fragrances of the Cause being diffused. Thus we may become the cause of the happiness of the heart of Abdul Baha. Let us look forward, not backward, heavenward, not earthward. Let us be trees yielding luscious fruit. Baha'O'llah will assist us. The canal will be digged. There will be witnessed the confluence of the two seas. Now the two mighty oceans of the two human families- East and West- which are being stirred at present by the contrary winds of conflicting prejudices, shall be joined together. There will be million of laborers; only we must desire to be faithful workers to the very end. GOD does not need our services, but we are in need of HIS continual graces. HE is the most



patient! HE can wait'. A thousand years in the sight of GOD is as one day. If through our negligence and inadvertance we retard HIS work, we are the losers. HE will raise other generations to fulfill HIS Will. HE will inspire other hearts to speak HIS Words. HE will illuminate other minds to grasp HIS ultimate plan. HE will reinforce other armies to achieve HIS triumph. HE will instruct other nations in the Ideals of GOD. This matchless opportunity,- we must not let it slip out of our hands! The tool is for the one who can handle it!

About six o'clock we left our apartment in search of news. The headquarters of all the news is Ahmad Yazdi's store, so thither our feet directed us. We found there to our surprise and delight, Haji Sayed Javed and Roushi Effendi, just arrived from Haifa at the bidding of the Master. The former is an old Bahai of the time of Baha'O'llah,-with an interesting history as a background; the latter is the grandson of the Master. He is about thirteen years old; the son of Mirza Mehsein. He is a quiet lovely boy. I liked him at first sight. He breathes the spirit of devotion and beauty, and no doubt some day he will be a power in the Cause. From there we called on Madame Stannard. She had a letter from Ramleh, written by Miss E. Hiscock. I was very much pleased with its contents, and asked her permission to share portions of it with you. She writes:--

\*Your kind letter telling of the Master and your Ismailieh trip received. You are anxious I know to hear how Abdul Baha is here and you will be glad to know that HE is already feeling the benefits of this invigorating air, and is much better. I believe I wrote you HE received visitors and all believers this morning and afternoon of Friday at the Hotel Victoria, where HE is still comfortably settled. Saturday afternoon I walked over, thinking probably I might see HIM, Mr Sprague and a few others were there, but we found the Master was sleeping, so we

all came away. However, HE sent Mirza Moneer over that evening to tell me to come the next day at half past four to see HIM. When I arrived at the Hotel (Saturday afternoon) Mirza Moneer told me that the Master had been that morning alone in a carriage to Moharram Bey to see Mirza Abul Fazi, whose address had been given HIM, so HE had to take the trouble in finding him. HE returned at twelve o'clock. After eating HE slept some, and was already seeing visitors when I arrived. Soon I was ushered into HIS Presence: others came who were believers. Later we were dismissed for HIM to receive several men who had been announced. About an hour later HE took a carriage and came alone here to the Hotel Plaisance to see the Atwoods. It happened that .... with his wife and her sister, who is staying here for a month, had just come home, so he was most glad to have them meet Abdul Baha for the first time. Then he walked with Abdul Baha to Morassa's house, where he left HIM. Possibly HE might have gone to see Osman Pasha also, but we have not learned. Now that HE is decidedly better they will probably look for a house?"

So much you have today of the Beloved's news, and no more. Miss Hiscock does not know to what use I have put her letter, but I do not think she would have any objection were she to learn of it. (End)

FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Port Said, Egypt, July 23, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

I feel that before the end of the month the Beloved will call us to himself. I have heard that two houses are rented, one for the Master and the family, the other for the secretaries, etc. The houses are close together. This news has given a new turn to our thoughts, and although we were not unhappy we are now decidedly cheerful, and as we work we hum together. Mirza Ali Akbar hums and whistles Russian songs, Mirza Mahmoud the Persian poems, and my choice, strange to say, falls on American rag time. We do not say to each other the why of this sudden change, but as we look into one another's eyes the twinkle and merry nod may express more than all the words in the vocabulary. After all, we are the creatures of circumstances, and environment plays a large part in shaping our thoughts and aspirations. However, the Master teaches us to live above our environment and not let our minds be colored by the changing films of prejudices.

This morning Haji Sayad Javad and Rouhi Effendi came to call on us, and we welcomed them with Bahai cordiality. Haji Sayad Javad told me a short account of his trips to Acca to see Baha'o'llah during the early days of his imprisonment. He is an old gentleman, tall, short white beard, and full of reminiscences of the days of the Blessed Perfection.

About five o'clock we sauntered out toward Ahmad Yazdi's store, and it was with genuine satisfaction that we met Mrs. Get-singer, who landed two hours ago. She was well and very happy and overflowing with joyful anticipation to meet the Master. Strangely enough, a telegram was received from the Master after an hour, giving her permission to leave the next morning for Ramleh. That night we called on her at the Eastern Exchange and had a long and interesting talk about the cause in America and the various personalities playing their parts. We prayed toward the end for the progress of the movement in the United States and an extraordinary activity on the part of the believers.

In this letter I should like to translate from my Persian notes a most interesting interview between a correspondent of the Examiner (Hearst's newspaper) and the Master in San Francisco. The date is October 3, 1912. The hour is about eight P. M. The interview was given after a most active day. This fine interview came out the next day in a most crude form, almost unrecognizable.

Correspondent. Are you pleased with the United States?

Abdul Baha. The continent of America is most progressive. The means of instructions are prepared; the educational institutions are thoroughly equipped and the pupils are being systematically trained and educated. The wealth is on an upward tendency. Its government is democratic. Its advancement is unceasing. Its nation is hospitable. Its people are loyal, energetic and noble. Its inhabitants are free and the lovers of liberty. Its men are civilized, and its women are cultured, refined and idealistic. On the other hand, all these advantages are on the material plane, and I observe the majority of the people are submerged in the sea of materialism and agnosticism. The natural civilization is well-nigh perfect, but it is in need of the civilization of heaven - divine civilization.

Correspondent. What do you mean by divine civilization?

Abdul Baha. Divine civilization is the light. Material civilization is the lamp. Material civilization is the body; in itself it is not sufficient, and humanity from every standpoint stands in sore need of divine civilization. Natural civilization insures material welfare and prosperity. Divine civilization vouchsafes man ideal virtues. Material civilization serves the physical world. Divine civilization serves the world of morality. Divine civilization is a symposium of the perfections of the world of humanity. Divine civilization is the improvement of the ethical life of a nation. Divine civilization is the discovery of the reality of phenomena. Divine civilization is the spiritual philosophy. Divine civilization is the knowledge of God with rational and

---

intellectual evidences. Divine civilization is eternal life. Divine civilization is the immortality of the soul. Divine civilization is the breath of the Holy Spirit. Divine civilization is heavenly wisdom. Divine civilization is the reality of all the teachings of the ancient prophets. Divine civilization is universal peace and the oneness of the world of humanity. The holy manifestations of God have been the founders of divine civilization and the first teachers of mankind, and the spreaders of the fragrances of holiness and sanctity amongst the children of men.

Correspondent. Are you satisfied with the American people?

Abdul Baha. The American people are a stranger-loving people. All nations are welcomed in their midst. They give to every one the right of living and the pursuit of happiness. Here no one feels a foreigner. I am most satisfied with all of them.

Correspondent. I have heard that you advocate the complete equality of men with women. This radical teaching coming from an Oriental thinker is of great interest and supreme significance. Just at this juncture the California women are clamoring for the right to vote for all the national and state officials, and your opinion on this important question will be greatly appreciated by the people.

Abdul Baha. The question of the equality between men and women has made great advancement in America, more than elsewhere, and day by day it is assuming greater importance and becoming nearer to realization. However, as long as complete equality does not exist between male and female, the world of humanity will not make

extraordinary progress. The woman is an important column, and there is another equally important. If we aim to have a durable building, the foundations of both columns must be laid very deep. The women are the first teachers and instructors of the small children. They teach them and inculcate morality in their minds and hearts. Later they go to universities for higher education and specialization. Now if the teacher or instructor is deficient, how can the scholar be properly trained? Therefore it is proved that culture and refinement of the men will be intensified, and will bloom and attain to perfect fruition when the women are equally educated and given the same educational facilities. Consequently the women must enjoy all the learning they are able to assimilate in order that they may reach to the same level as men. The same privileges and opportunities must be conferred upon women, so that just as they share with man life and its responsibilities they may also share with him the same virtues of the world of humanity. Undoubtedly partnership in education presupposes equality in rights. The world of humanity has two wings, one wing male, the other wing female. Both wings must become strong so that mankind may soar to the empyrean realms of its destined perfection. But if one wing is left weak and the other strong, its upward flight will be slow. God hath created both human. They share together and in common all the qualities. No one is endowed with special privileges. How can we make a distinction which is unknown in the sight of God? We must follow the policy of God.

Moreover there is male and female in the vegetable kingdom. They are on an equal footing. Inherently, they enjoy

suffrage, and there is no distinction between them. Likewise in the animal kingdom the right of suffrage and equality is enjoyed without any feeling of superiority or privilege. Therefore, it is well known that there is no distinction of gender in the vegetable and animal kingdoms, although they are deprived of the faculty of reasoning and they have not the power of distinguishing. But we, who are confirmed with the bestowal of reason and enjoy all the faculties by which man is distinguished from the animal, how can we act in this manner and build these false barriers? Many women have appeared who have won for themselves fame and name for the versatility of their intellects and the brilliancy of their thoughts. Amongst the Bahai women many have shown remarkable capability in literature, sciences and arts, and have rendered distinguished service in every department of life.

In history many capable women appear who have displayed special genius in government and political administration, such as Semiramis, Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra, and Queen Victoria of England. In the religious world, the Israelites wandered for forty years in the wilderness and could not conquer the Holy Land. Finally a woman achieved the signal victory. During the Christian dispensation the apostles became agitated after Christ's crucifixion. Even Peter denied him thrice, but Mary Magdalene became the cause of their becoming firm and steadfast. In the religion of Baha'ollah, Kurratul Ayn and many other Persian women demonstrated their knowledge and wisdom to such an extent that even the men were astonished and listened to their advices and lectures.

Correspondent. What is your object in coming to America?

---

Abdul Baha. I have come to America to promote the ideal of universal peace and the solidarity of the human race. I have not come for pleasure, as a tourist.

Correspondent. What do you think about women's fashions?

Abdul Baha. We do not look upon the dresses of women, whether they are of the latest mode. We are not the judge of fashions. We rather judge the wearer of dresses. If she is chaste, if she be cultured, if she be characterized with heavenly morality, and if she be favored at the threshold of God, she is honored and respected by us, no matter what manner of dress she wears. We have nothing to do with the ever changing world of modes and picture hats.

Correspondent. What is the greatest thing you have seen in America?

Abdul Baha. The greatest thing I have seen in America is its freedom. In reality this is a free nation and a democratic government.

Correspondent. What is your opinion about Turkey and the Balkan war?

Abdul Baha. We have nothing to do with war. We are the advocates of peace. Speak to us about the condition of peace. Go to diplomatists and militarists and ask their opinions about this war. But as regards peace, in the world of humanity there is no more important affair, no weightier cause. It is conducive to the well-being of the world of creation, the means of the prosperity of the nations, the reason of eternal friendship between the people, the cause of solidarity between the East and the West, the promoter



of real freedom and the most eminent favor of His Highness the Almighty. We must all strive to upraise the flag of international peace, the oneness of the world of humanity, and the spiritual brotherhood of mankind.

The correspondent tried to ask a few more questions, but Abdul Baha interrupted him by this final statement, while putting his hand on his shoulder and kissing his face:

"Consider how much I love you and to what extent I respect Mr. Hearst, that notwithstanding the fatigue coming over me as the result of a very busy day I have answered all thy questions."

Thus the young man left the presence of the Beloved with a sense of awe and respect that one feels only when he is steeped in the holy atmosphere which is created wherever he (Abdul Baha) is - the center of spirituality and heavenliness.

FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Port Said, Egypt, July 24, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

The Port Said believers have gone to the station to say good-by to Haji Sayad Javad, Rouhi Effendi and Mrs. Getsinger, who are leaving to-day for Ramleh to be honored with the blessing of the Beloved's presence. I am with them, too. The train leaves at 8 A. M. They are very happy, of course, and we are very happy for their sake. The train pulls out of the station and we return home in the heat of the sun to spend another day in quiet work and uninterrupted solitude. I sit in front of my table, Mirza Mahmud in front of his table - two chairs put near each other, - Mirza Ali Akbar in his room copying in his book the addresses of Abdul Baha, when after an hour the door is opened and Aga Azuz enters. He looks at me and smiles. Like a flash of lightning his thought is transferred to me. I get up from my seat. "Have you any news from the Master for us?" I ask. "Yes," he quietly answered. "Ahmad Yazdi has received a telegram just now from the Master and he gives you four permission to leave for Ramleh." I am beside myself with joy. I wrestle with the rest, and for a few minutes confusion reigns in the room. We must leave on the one o'clock train. In half an hour all our baggage is prepared. We are very happy. Are we not going to stand in the presence of the Lord of mankind? What ecstasy! What divine beatitude! Gaily we go to Ahmad Yazdi's store to thank him personally for the good news he has sent to us. Returning home, we finish our work, and at a quarter after twelve we leave

for the station. There, to our surprise, we find Ahmad Yazdi present to say good-by to us. He is full of jokes, and he always laughs. He can be serious, too, when he makes up his mind. Well, he cracked a few jokes with Mirza Ali Akbar. There is no need of explanation between them. Often with one word, one glance, one look, the joke is explained and the laughter starts. The two big men have a jovial struggle with each other as to which one is going to kiss the other first. My attention was momentarily distracted and I don't yet know who came out victor.

Finally everything is ready; the first and second bell rings and the train starts in its course. In our hearts the birds of joy sing. Behind us the most pleasant memories of more than one month; all around us is the sandy, quiet desert - the garden of Allah; ahead of us, union with whom? With the Beloved of the world. As I sat in my seat contemplating the love of the Master, my eyes were filled with tears of joy, and I realized more than ever, as no doubt thousands have had this same experience, that Abdul Baha is my beloved, my hope, my desire, the sum total of my longings. If one has Abdul Baha for his beloved, his happiness is not dimmed, his peace is not broken, his faith remains and removes a mountain, all his aspirations are fulfilled. O joy of joy! O heavenly light! O love divine! Art thou not the most beautiful, the most satisfying, the most ennobling, the most rapturous! Will I not give my whole life gladly just to treasure thee in the secret chambers of my heart! Thou art the power of transmutation! Thou art the philosopher's stone! Thou art the remedy for all sorrows and moral diseases! O Love! O God! O unchanging Lord! Sustain

me; feed me with thy ambrosial food; suffer me to drink from thy diamond cup of pure affection. I am thine, whatever I am. I feel throughout my whole body the spiritual thrills of thy compassion and mercy. Thou art all in all, and I am what I am, - even less than the dust of thy servants who have arisen to serve thy cause, to spread thy glorious light, and to call mankind to thy kingdom, the El Abha.

By this time we reached Ismailieh, the small, clean town blessed by the feet of our Beloved. Then the train started after a few minutes stop. After Ismailieh the country was green, through the unfailing blessing of the Nile; the palm trees were laden with long bunches of green dates; the cotton belt was extensive, and the reports are that this year's production is excellent. As the train passed on, we saw hundreds of men and women working in the fields, camels were grazing by herds, and there were many cows and sheep. The rice is also grown in this part of the country. The farms are watered in two ways. As the soil of these farms is above the level of the Canal, they resort to these two very peculiar ways, which no doubt have been handed down to them from great antiquity. By 4.30 P. M. we reached Benha, where we had to change trains, and after thirty minutes we were aboard the other train. It was 7.30 when our train stopped at the station of Sidi Gaber, and here Haji Khorassani and Mirza Moncer were present to welcome us and guide us to our new quarters. On the way, our train crossed the noble, broad Nile. It is spanned by a most excellent iron bridge. Toward sunset the men and women farmers - fellaheen - showing their religious spirit, leave all their work, perform ablutions and pray

either on their farms or beside the streets their daily prayers. Thus we see a most beautiful picture of these simple people from the windows of the train, praying to their Maker under the open sky. The other picture which is Biblical is the procession of women with jars on their heads, going from the curious mud-built villages to the springs to fill the jars with water.

Ramleh is a modern town of Egypt, with all the conveniences of western civilization. It is a summer resort of all the most important European officials in the service of the Egyptian government and the native Pashas, etc. There are lovely parks, all kinds of hotels and splendid houses. We have a fine furnished apartment, and the house of the Beloved is about two hundred yards away. At eight o'clock he came in and our joy knew no bounds to look again into his benign face, - the face of God! He was tired because he had just returned from a call paid to Mirza Abul Fazl. He inquired about our health, and after a few more inquiries he left the house, but the joy of those few minutes with him will ever remain in our hearts. For the last few days, while the Beloved was living in the Victoria Hotel, many English lords and Arab Sheikhs called on him, and on many occasions more than twenty of these important men would gather in the salon, listening to his talks often longer than an hour. None of these talks are preserved, and the only thing that I could get from the rest was that he talked about his American and European tour, an answer which did not satisfy me at all, but how could I help myself? There is a weekly meeting in the house of Haji Khorassani, and the Master attended it.

Mr. and Mrs. Sprague and their child are living in

Ramleh. Mrs. Getsinger is living in the house of the Beloved. At present Touba Khanum, one of his daughters, and her son, Rouhy, live there, too.

Here at last we are happy, but Mirza Ali Akbar and myself could not sleep all night, because - my goodness! - there are so many mosquitos here that they are delighted to bother every person. The windows have no screens, and if one desires to sleep he must have a mosquito net, otherwise it is impossible.

I will end this letter by the translation of a few quotations from tablets:

"If thou desirest to be confirmed in the service of the Kingdom of God, live in accord with the teachings of Baha'o'llah, and that is: real love for the world of humanity, and the utmost of kindness for the believers of God. This real love, like unto the magnetic power, attracts the divine confirmations."

"If a soul calls the people to the Kingdom of God according to the principles of Baha'o'llah, there will be many listeners. First one must teach by deeds (happy disposition), then speak out the word. First one must become thirsty, then the salubrious water will be offered. No matter how delicious the water is, one who is not thirsty will not enjoy it. Therefore, make ye an effort so that the people may become thirsty, then cause them to quaff from the divine chalice."

May all the friends be confirmed in carrying out the will of the beloved, which is no other than the will of God.

Ahmad.

FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Ramleh, Egypt, July 25, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

The days of secret longings have come to an end. We are again under the shade of our Beloved. Oh, may we never leave him again. He has become such a glorious vivid reality to me that I am afraid I shall suffer awful pangs and agonies of death if I am away from him for a long time. How foolish are men who prate of the pomps and glories of kingship! Are they not shortsighted? Have they not tasted the wine of servitude at the threshold of Abdal Baha! Better be his servant than the emperor of a united world of humanity! Thraldom at the court of this spiritual king is preferable a million times to all the emoluments and advancements that mankind offers to man! All these things shall perish, but his servitude shall last throughout centuries and cycles (all centuries). I desire to be his faithful, sincere servant, and the servant of his servants. I pray for this often. Is there any greater, more glorious station than this? No, not in my estimation! Let all other thoughts and ambitions perish!

This morning the Beloved entered our apartment unceremoniously and sat on a chair on the veranda. He is trying to find a house in Ramleh for Mirza Abul Fazi so that he may be near us, and after a few moments he went out with Haji Mohammed in search of a house. Fortunately (we learned after a while) the house is going to be very near us, so we will have the privilege of seeing him quite often.

---

In the afternoon Haji Khorassani came to us and expressed a wish to call on Mirza Abul Fazl. Mirza Ali Akbar and I begged him to take us, too. He was willing to do so. It takes more than an hour to reach the place, and then one must walk past several intervening blocks before reaching the house. One cannot find it by himself. We knocked at the door. After a moment it was opened and Mirza Abul Fazl welcomed us. He looked much older than when I used to serve him in America. He has the same solitary tendency. No one lives with him. He serves others, and consequently himself. He welcomed us, and of course he asked about many believers in America. I was glad to convey to him their messages of love and respect, and tell him how much he is loved and honored by all the American friends. He recalled his pleasant summers spent in Green Acre, and wished that place a great future. He asked about the health of Miss Farmer. He wanted to know about the circulation of the "Brilliant Proof" and wished a copy could reach the hands of Rev. Easton. He deplored his inability to travel and his physical weakness. "If I were strong enough I would never have staid in one place more than one month. I would have traveled from one place to another. I have advised all the Bahai teachers to travel around as much as they can. They must fly from one bush to another bush and sing the songs of the kingdom - the kingdom of Abha." Then he served us with ruby tea prepared with his own hands, and Mirza Ali Akbar related some touching incidents about the trip of the Beloved throughout America.

We were on our way home when we met Aga Mohammed Bagar, a Bahai who is appointed to attend to the occasional needs of Mirza



Abul Fazi. He lives near him. He told us that the Master has sent him to take Mirza Abul Fazi to Ramleh. We stopped at a large department store in Alexandria and bought two mosquito nets to save ourselves from the bites of these omnivorous insects. The city of Alexandria is to all intents and purposes like a progressive city in America. Its tall buildings, its large department stores, its clean avenues, its two-story electric cars, its delightful parks, its electrically lighted boulevards and streets, its fine promenade around the seaport, are all signs of a wonderfully thriving spirit. As I walked along the streets I thought I might be walking through one of the cleanest avenues of New York, or Boston, or San Francisco, and wondered at this magical transformation, since this whole city was burned to the ground during the Arabic revolution, probably thirty-five years ago. The inhabitants are of all nationalities, - Greeks, Italians, French, Jews, English, Arabs, etc., - very cosmopolitan.

When we arrived home it was nine o'clock and the Master was sitting on the veranda with a number of believers. I learned to my great regret that I had missed a large meeting. "What did he say?" I asked. The same answer was given: "About America, the addresses in churches and temples, the unity of humankind, and the beauty and holiness of the spiritual life." Mirza Abul Fazi was sitting there, too, and the Master asked him to go and see the house which he is going to rent for him for about three months. When he returned, he was satisfied with the place, and in a few days we shall have him with us. Isn't that great? Mirza Abul Fazi has done so much for me during my first years in America. He is

to-day the greatest teacher in the Bahai world, and through his writings he is beloved by both friends and foes. May he live many years longer! How the Master loves him, thinks of his comfort, and tries to prepare all the means of comfort for him. "You come to Ramleh," the Beloved told him, "and I will be your physician. I will take care of you." Therefore he is coming, and like a wise mentor he will guide and instruct us as long as we are in Ramleh.

Ahmad.

FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Ramleh, Egypt, July 26, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

Before chronicling the daily events, I should like to share with you the wonderful contents of a very great tablet revealed for the believers in Azarbeyjan.

H E I S G O D !

O ye spiritual friends of Abdul Baha!

The faithful messenger arrived and in the spiritual world conveyed the message of the believers of God. This blessed, happy-starred messenger is no other than the fragrance of attraction and the soul-refreshing breezes of the love of God. They stir the hearts into cheerfulness and make the spirits the treasures of joy and gladness. The effulgence of divine unity hath cast such a splendor over the hearts and spirits and hath created such a bond of spiritual communication between all as to make them throb as one heart and beat as one pulse. Therefore one observes that the spiritual reflections and the merciful impressions are printed upon the tablet of the hearts in the utmost of beauty and art and their delicate forms are transparent and graceful. I beg of God that day unto day this spiritual communication may become reinforced and cause more and more the appearance of this divine unity in the world of humanity, so that all mankind, like unto disciplined soldiers, may abide under the shade of the Word of God and under the

flag of the Covenant, striving with all their hearts and souls in order that universal conciliation, cordial love and spiritual communication may be firmly established between the hearts of the inhabitants of the world; all the children of men, through the radiant, new bestowal, may consort and associate with each other in one loving meeting; strife and war may vanish from the face of the earth; the love of the beauty of the Most Glorious may encompass every atom of creation; enmity be changed into amity; difference may be changed to good fellowship; the foundation of animosity be destroyed; the basis of hatred be demolished; the illumination of union may cause the disappearance of the darkness of limitation, and the transcendent light of the Merciful may suffer the hearts of humanity to become the mines of the refulgent love of God.

O ye friends of God! Now is the time you must affiliate with all the nations with joy and the utmost of kindness; thus may you become the manifestors of the mercy of His Highness the One. Become ye the spirit of the world and the quintessence of life in the temple of humanity. In this wonderful century in which the Ancient Beauty - the Most Great Name - has dawned from the horizon of the world with infinite bestowals, the Word of God hath created such dominion and potency over the realities of mankind that the effect and influence of human conditions and environments are neutralized. With a penetrative power he hath gathered all in the court of union and addresses them as follows:

Now is the time that the believers of God must unfurl the banner of unity, singing the songs of friendship in the assemblages of the world and inviting all to the universality and all-

inclusiveness of the grace of God, so that the canopy of holiness may be pitched on the apex of creation and all the nations be brought under the shade of the word of unity. This bounty shall become unveiled in the center of the world when the believers of God shall live in accord with the teachings of the Merciful One and occupy their time in the diffusion of the sweet fragrances of universal love.

In every dispensation the command of friendship and the law of love have been revealed, but it has been circumscribed within the circle of the believing friends and not with the contrary enemies. Praise be to God that in this wonderful cycle the laws of God are not confined within any limitations, neither must they be exercised toward a special community to the exclusion of another. He hath commanded all the friends to show love, friendship, amity and kindness to all the people of the world.

Now the believers of God must live in accord with these divine teachings. They must become kind fathers to the children of humanity, affectionate brothers to the youths of mankind and soul-sacrificing children toward those laden with age. The aim is this: you must be in the utmost state of joy and fragrance, love and kindness toward all, even toward the enemies. Meet the persecutions and adversity with the utmost of faithfulness. Whenever animosity appears, deal with it with forbearance. Make your breasts the targets for the arrows and spears of opposition. Brave the ridicule, the blame and the rebuke with perfect love; so that all the nations may observe the power of the Most Great Name, and all the people may acknowledge the potency of the Blessed Perfection,

showing how he hath destroyed the foundation of strangeness, hath guided the inhabitants of the world to unity and love, hath illumined the realm of man and hath transformed this terrestrial globe into the delectable paradise. These people are like unto children, negligent and mindless. One must train these children with the utmost of love, and carry them in the arms of grace with infinite tenderness, in order that they may taste the spiritual, the love of the Merciful One, that they may illumine like unto the candles and cause the disappearance of the darkness of the world. Thus they may behold clearly and manifestly with what glorious crown and brilliant diadem the Most Great Name, the Blessed Perfection, - may my life be a sacrifice to him! - hath adorned the heads of his believers; what graces he hath poured upon the hearts of his friends; what love he hath brought into the world of humanity and what friendship he hath caused to appear amongst the children of men.

O Lord! O Lord! Confirm thy righteous servants in the practice of love and friendship amongst all mankind and assist them in the diffusion of the light of guidance, which is descending from thy supreme concourse amongst all the inhabitants of the world. Verily, thou art powerful, omnipotent, generous! And verily thou art the Merciful, the Clement, the Compassionate and the Bestower!

(Signed) Abdul Baha Abbas.

This morning the Beloved called me to his presence. He complained of the weather and his health. "I am not feeling well, even in Ramleh, but for the present I will not move to any other

place, no matter what may happen. I have finished all my work. I have nothing else to do. I am now ready for the last call. How I long to quaff from that cup! How sweet will be its taste! How delightful will be that hour!"

I started to weep, but I had to check my tears, because he looked toward me. He was surrounded by letters and papers. He started to read over some tablets and handed me a package of letters received from America to read and prepare them for his answers. He told me to come back in the afternoon. Before leaving he told me to go in the reception room and visit Mrs. Getsinger, which I did with great pleasure. We had a long, interesting conversation about the movement in the United States, and hoped the believers of the Merciful will be inspired to carry out the contents of the foregoing heavenly tablet. Before noon I took the car for Alexandria with Mirza Moneer and returned at one o'clock without fulfilling my errand.

At four o'clock I called. As I passed the street in front of the house I looked up, and lo! I saw the Master sitting in the balcony, dressed in his beautiful white robe. I bowed and stopped. He bade me come up. When I entered the room he welcomed me with genuine hilarity and said: "Come! I feel better this afternoon. Read to me the letters. You sit down and I will walk. Sit near the window. Open it so that you may feel cool." Did you ever think of the great attention which he pays to all his servants? It so happened that Mr. Joseph H. Hannen's second monthly report was first. I said: "May I read Mr. Hannen's report?" He laughed and said: "Mr. Hannen is your dear friend, is he not? But

he is my son. Read." He laughed and made comments when I read to him how the minister was brought into the cause by hearing a lecture against it. As regards speaking at the meetings, he said: "I have written ten times on this subject. I wrote a tablet a few days ago. That is for all the believers. Send a copy of that to Mr. Hannen, and write to him that eloquent addresses and inspiring speeches must be delivered in the meetings and gatherings, explaining the principles of the Blessed Perfection and setting the hearts aglow with the fire of God." He was also pleased to know that \$250 has been sent to Dr. Moody, and expressed the hope that the activities of the Persian American Educational Society will yearly increase, the sphere of its influence be enlarged and the debt of the Society be wiped out. He often speaks about the Society, its large, disinterested platform (Orient-Occident Unity) and the fame which it has achieved in this short space of time. About the Sunday School he revealed a tablet for Mrs. Hannen. Then other tablets were revealed for Mr. Gregory of Washington, Consul Schwarz, Mr. and Mrs. Clark of Tabriz, Miss Ella Roberts of Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Moxey of New York, the believers of Stuttgart and many others. While he was revealing tablets he was carrying on a long conversation with an Arab Sheikh. When he finished he came out, followed by us. He took a long walk and returned to our apartment about eight o'clock and staid for nearly an hour, speaking now and then, and remaining silent at intervals. Here I end this letter by the following quotation from a recent tablet:

"Thou hast written what shouldst thou do and what prayer shouldst thou offer in order to become informed with the mysteries of God. Pray thou with an attracted heart, and supplicate thou with a spirit stirred by the glad tidings of God. Then the doors of the Kingdom of Mysteries shall be opened before thy face and thou shalt comprehend the realities of all things."



FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Ramlah, Egypt, July 27, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

Nowadays we do not see much of the Master, except glorious glimpses in the morning and evenings. We do not enjoy the privileges of hearing about his western trip, because then we were with him all the time, heard all his words, watched all his actions, and day by day our pure love and affection for him increased and increased till it knew no bounds. Now what we have lost in quantity is added to the quality, for these morning and evening calls, whether one hour or ten minutes, belong to ourselves. We are bathed in the sea of his love, fly in the atmosphere of his beauty, drink the wine of his grandeur, eat the food of his humility, listen to the thrilling, sweet music of his divine voice, rest under the overspreading tree of his teachings and watch the light and shade of his countenance. He inspires the hearts with wondrous thoughts of social service and mutual helpfulness. He reveals to the soul the secret of forgiveness and loving kindness. He teaches us patience and long-suffering. If the hearts are not stony these lessons will, in the long run, bear fruit, though I believe they will affect even the hard-hearted ones, for behind every heart of stone there is a warm heart of flesh and blood, and inside of many a tattered coat there may live a noble prince. His presence teaches us how insignificant are our endeavors, how narrow our ideals, how futile are our works in comparison with his grand accomplishments, his sweeping, universal conception of mankind, and his

unceasing activities in all directions, and his attention to all the details. If we could walk in his footsteps all the time, emulate him in all our lives, serve our fellow-men as he serves, spread the glad tidings of the kingdom as he spreads, then we shall have won his good pleasure.

This morning the Master called Mirza Ali Akbar to his presence. He felt radiant and most happy. Mirza Ali Akbar, finding him in such light-giving mood, related some funny stories, which made him laugh more. Afterward he sent for Mirza Moneer, dictating to him many tablets for the Oriental believers, some of which I translate herein because they contain paragraphs concerning his trip to America. From now on there will be a flood of tablets flowing from his silvery tongue, if his health keeps improving. For more than three years the Eastern believers have been deprived from the traces of his pen. Now it is time to reward them.

Toward noon he passed by the door of our house, followed by an Arab. We thought he was coming into our house, and so we prepared ourselves to receive him, but he passed by, making the sign of salutation. He was evidently going to fulfil an engagement. We were a little disappointed not to see him come in, but were satisfied with this one glimpse.

In the afternoon he entered the house with a letter in his hand. He distributed amongst us several tickets for a charity entertainment. The fete was to be held in the San Stefano Hotel, built in front of the sea nearby. A Pasha who is the patron of this hotel had sent these tickets to him, and it is a worthy charity for the erection of a school for the poor Mohammedans, called

Orwat ol Waska. After the distribution of these tickets, he spoke very emphatically about cleanliness, especially in cooking. He wished our Persian Bahai cook to wear a spotless white apron, wash his hands frequently with soap, keep his kitchen as clean as a pearl, and be as tidy and neat in his cooking as the best French chef. "If I do not see these changes in you" - he concluded his half-serious, half-playful remark - "I will use the big stick! Some of the educators believe that one whip will do more good than a hundred advices." He recalled with much relish and delight a cook he had seen in Beirut many, many years ago, who was the embodiment of cleanliness and purity. "He did not touch the meat with his hands, but it was cut to pieces by a special instrument, and cooked with such taste and skill that one would be made hungry to look at it. I staid there for a long time and went back and forth just to watch him. During the rest of my stay in Beirut I was his customer."

When he left we hurried along to go to the fete in the San Stefano Casino. It was a palatial hotel, most splendidly built. Hundreds of carriages and automobiles were waiting in rows. As we entered we were met by a large crowd of people, nearly 5,000, dispersed all over the grounds. Several bands of music were playing at different places. Many other amusements distracted the attention of the people. The wonderful sea, with its ebb and flow, was shimmering under the sunshine. The crowd was well-ordered. Except the tarbooshes on the heads of the young men and the thin, white veils covering the lower halves of the faces of the women, letting their black eyes and eyelids shine forth, I could not see

the slightest difference between this and any American charity affair. Of course there were many Westerners also. By seven o'clock it was almost impossible to move, so dense was the throng. At night there were moving pictures, and later an excellent fire-works display, which evoked general applause. Here I met Mr. Sprague and Miss Hiscock, with each of whom I had a long, interesting talk. On the other hand, the Master called at the house of Haji Khorassani, and finding a number of Arabs there he gave them a talk, which was taken down by one of those who were present. After this meeting he came again to our house and entertained us with lovely stories which brought laughter to the face. He was well and happy to-day.

Ahmad.

FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Ramleh, Egypt, July 28, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

The following are a few quotations from tablets revealed yesterday for the Persian believers:

"After my return from America and Europe, owing to the difficulties of the long voyage and the innumerable inconveniences of the journey, a reaction set in and I became sick. Now, through the favor and bounty of the Blessed Perfection, I am feeling better; therefore I am engaged in writing to thee this letter, so that thou mayest realize the friends of God are never forgotten under any circumstances. --- Now this is the time that the believers of God may imitate the conduct and the manner of Abdul Baha. Day and night they must engage in teaching the Cause of God. But they must be imbued with the same spiritual state that Abdul Baha manifested while traveling in America. When the teacher delivers an address, first of all his own words must have a supreme and powerful effect over himself, so that every one may in turn be affected. His utterance MUST be like unto the flame of the fire, burning away the veils of dogmas, passion and desire. Moreover, he must be in the utmost state of humility and evanescence, that others may be mindful. He must have attained the station of renunciation and annihilation. Then, and not till then, will he teach the people with the melody of the supreme concourse."

"Praise be to God that through the bestowal and grace of the beauty of Abha I have returned from the continent of Europe to the continent of Africa. I have tarried for a few days in these parts because of the length of the voyage, the tempest of the sea, the different kinds of weather of American prairies and mountains, and traveling through the cities of Europe have made me sick. While in Europe, one day we were in London and another in Edinburgh, now in Paris and anon in Stuttgart, once in Budapest and again in Vienna. Almost every hour we were in some place, delivering lengthy speeches and addresses, and notwithstanding the indisposition of the body day and night I cried and raised my voice in large meetings and important churches. --- As there were many obstacles, the door of correspondence was closed, but the faces of the illumined friends were manifest at every hour in the court of consciousness, and at all times they were present in my memory. As I have found at this time a little opportunity, I address you this letter, so that I may occupy myself with the servitude of the believers of God from every standpoint and become the means of the happiness of the hearts. This is the utmost desire of Abdul Baha. During this long trip, great capacity was created in every clime for listening to the Word of God; even in the vast countries of the Orient the fame of the Cause of God is more than ever spread. Therefore the friends of God must take an example of my behavior and my demeanor. They must not rest one moment. They must seek quietude not for one second. At all times they must emanate joy and gladness. They must be occupied in teaching the Cause of God. No event must sadden their hearts. No catastrophe must break their

spirits. With divine happiness they must withstand every impending disaster. During the time of peace, security and comfort and the lack of sorrow, even the monkey will be the most jovial fellow. He will be happy, joyful, grateful, patient and overflowing with gladness. But the sincere servant of Baha'o'llah who is firm in the Covenant and steadfast in the Testament while surrounded by the most great sea of tests, threatened by the surging, rocking waves of persecution and encircled by the whirlwinds of calumnies and backbitings, will blossom like unto a rose and break into joyous songs and sweet melodies like unto the nightingale."

"Your letter was received; but Abdul Baha, owing to the infirmity of body, the difficulties of voyage over land and sea, the lack of rest, striving and exerting night and day, delivering long addresses in different cities, answering the varied, intricate questions of the people, has not been able to answer it. His life, his identity, his heart and his body are gladly sacrificed in the path of Baha. This is the bestowal of the Almighty. This is the inestimable favor of God. This is the favor of the Blessed Perfection. These are the graces of His Highness the One."

It was about six o'clock when the door was opened and the Beloved came in. I had just finished dressing and was going to sit in front of my table to translate a few tablets. The rest were in bed, but they hurried out and were dressed in a few minutes. He was surprised that they were yet asleep and told us he had already read many letters, written several tablets, and attended to various

---

other things before leaving the house. "Up to the time I was thirty-two years old I never slept in bed, preferring always a piece of mat, and as cushion I chose one or two books. I went to sleep without disrobing, fearing that it would take some time to dress in the morning. But now I cannot do these things. When I lived in Acca I generally kept busy six to ten secretaries, often dictating important letters to three at the same time."

Then he started to correct one of his addresses delivered in San Francisco, and made some remarks about the speeches before the Open Forum and Japanese Independent Church. Just as he came suddenly he left suddenly, and there were many pledges offered that henceforth every one will be up before six A. M.

Again he came in the afternoon, staid a long time, and gave us three stories of men who were utter cowards formerly, but they became courageous and intrepid after accepting the Bahai revelation. How graphic, how simple, how matchless, he is in his description of these divine events. Then he called on an important native personage, and after nine o'clock he returned to our home, bringing with him an Arab. After offering him coffee, he told him about the meeting in the Bowery Mission, in New York, the Salvation Army in London, and other events of the wonderful trip. When he left the room we felt the sweet fragrance of the presence of God.



FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Ramleh, Egypt, July 29, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

Through the teachings of the Beloved we see the light of God in every face, the beauty of his kingdom in every life, the flowers of his garden in every heart, the stars of his heaven in every soul, the effulgence of his spirit in every countenance, and the wonders of his creation in every true son of God. In him our highest ideal of a divine humanity is fulfilled. In our estimation he stands as the embodiment of all the heavenly virtues, the incarnation of the purest susceptibilities of this and the future centuries, and the representative of God amongst men. He towers high above the thoughts and ideals of this or any other age. He loves mankind as God alone can love. Like the pure zephyr of the early spring, he wafts over the spirits of men, and out of the ashes of despair and hopelessness there rise the sweet anemones of hope and the hyacinths of faith and sanctification. His words make us love and serve our fellow-men; his deeds inspire our hearts with the power of self-sacrifice and charity. We love him and are prepared to give up our lives for him at any moment, not because he gives us anything, but because he makes us love and serve mankind more and more. The longer one stays with him, the more passionate grows his love for him. In his presence one finds the secret of eternal happiness: a happiness which knows no end, a joy which is tempered by no sorrow, a spiritual uplift which is followed by no downfall, a celestial serenity which is not terminated by any pessimism, a

---

divine brotherhood which is not limited by any racial, national or religious injunction, a radiant light which is not befogged by any clouds, and an inward illumination whose effulgence adorns the horizon of humanity. We hope to become assisted to be imbued with his qualities, to walk in his footsteps, and to be characterized with his attributes.

This morning the Beloved called for me, and after a few minutes I was standing in his holy presence. He dictated several cablegrams and spoke a few moments on various subjects. I was dismissed to go to Alexandria to send the cables and attend to other errands. In the morning talk, as he handed me one of the corrected addresses of California, he said these talks must be translated into Arabic, and to hurry up the work so that they may become ready.

A package of newspapers was received from Minneapolis in which the glad tidings of the Kingdom of Abha were printed. These glad tidings were sent to the Master while we were in Paris for his correction. They were corrected and forwarded back to America. I would like to quote it in this letter, because I translated it in Persian to the Master this afternoon and he was pleased with it.

"Glad tidings of the Kingdom of Abha! We announce to you glad tidings of great joy! Similar words were spoken almost two thousand years ago. Reflect and be not of the heedless. This is the great day of God. This is the day of universal peace, of universal brotherhood, of a universal language, and of the union of all religions. This is the day wherein the prophecies of the holy books of every tongue have been or are being fulfilled. This is the cycle of Baha'o'llah.

"We announce to you His Holiness the Bab, the precursor of 'He whom God shall manifest.'

"We announce to you Baha'o'llah, 'He whom God shall manifest,' the one who has broken the seals of both the creational and collective books.

"We announce to you Abdul Baha, the Center of the Covenant, the interpreter of the holy books of all peoples and of the Bahai teachings, and the only door through which mankind can enter the kingdom of God in this day and dispensation."

For dinner the Beloved enjoyed a special dish prepared by one of the Pashas and sent to his house. In turn he sent part of it to us. It is one of the rare delicacies of Arabia, a kind of meat-cake with vegetables and pine nuts.

I forgot to write that yesterday we called on Seyed Jalal, the son of the celebrated poet and teacher living in Teheran. He is in the German hospital. A few days ago he was operated on, but now he feels much better. The hospital is a model of elegance and cleanliness. All the floors and walls are built of marble. Really I am wondering at every turn at the practical signs of progress in Egypt. It is nothing short of a miracle. Walking through the avenues and European business district of Alexandria one might think he is in Europe or America.

In the afternoon I called on the Beloved, and in his presence found Dr. de Bons, a French Bahai dentist practising in Cairo, now on his way to Switzerland to meet his wife, and Mrs. Sprague. He had just arrived from Cairo and will stay two or three days to meet the Master. Then he told them to go and stay in the

other house till he comes, because he was going to take them on a drive through Nozha Park, which is the national park of Alexandria. I have heard much of the praises of the park, but have not yet seen it. They say it rivals any park in Europe or America. After a few minutes he went out, too, and for nearly two hours he entertained them, driving through the park, and speaking to them about his spiritual experiences in America. When he returned with them from his long drive he was as fresh as I saw him in the morning. He is never tired, and for the last three or four days his health has been improving, and for this great blessing we proffer thanksgiving and praise to God. He walks amongst us as a witness to all men, as an example of sanctity and faith. Every day spent in the neighborhood of his light is an age, the significance of which and its beauty cannot be grasped by the mentality of men.

Ahmad Sohrab.

FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Ramleh, Egypt, July 30, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

The Cause of Baha'o'llah is the cause of life. Life is the mainspring of material and spiritual activities. One of the active principles is love; the other is peace. A Bahai life is not rounded out and developed without the full manifestation of these two active principles. They must become the dominant influence of the whole existence. A Bahai must love the world and he must be at peace with humanity, so that these two harmonious notes may blend and assist man to ascend to the highest summit of true greatness and innate spiritual perception. All the prophets of God have come to inculcate in the life of every individual these two principles, especially the Blessed Perfection. He hath held aloft the banner of love and peace, and summoned all nations to adhere thereto. Whoever is imbued with the realities of these two principles, he has life, otherwise he is dead. Love and peace are the causes which hold together all the different elements of the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms. Were it not for the presence of these two divine forces constantly exercising their benign influences the whole machinery of creation would have been smashed to pieces. The power of gravitation or attraction is no other than one of the signs of these heavenly energies. Whenever the secret powers of these two spiritual verities are revealed in the world of humanity, impelling mankind to grow larger and larger in its capacity, then the glorious zenith of divine civilization will become visible. It is the

duty of the Bahais to cause more and more these principles to be revealed, first amongst themselves, reaching out toward one another, and then amongst the people of the world. What a lofty privilege! What a divine bestowal! What wonderful responsibility! What a radiant glory! What ecstatic joy! What pure happiness!

This morning he sent for me. Joyfully I hastened toward the holy house to receive the rays of his love and benediction. He dictated cablegrams for various parts of the world, and spoke of the amount of work to be accomplished. No one can imagine how many different issues must be met and conflicting interests harmonized.

"I am now advanced in age. The reaction of this long journey has had a terrible effect upon my weakened constitution, and I cannot work as vigorously as I used to in my youth. When I read a letter my eyes grow weary; when I dictate a few tablets my mind gets tired; when I walk a few thousand feet I become exhausted."

How heart-breaking and joy-imparting is his condition in these days! The barometer of his health never stands still on one mark for two days in succession. Like the ebb and flow of the sea the condition of his health has sudden rise and fall. We watch him with great solicitude, but we are helpless to do anything to alleviate his pain or to increase his health. He told us one day: "The doctor enjoins upon me this dictum: 'Do not work. Do not speak. Do not write.' But God commands me: 'Work, speak, and write!' Now whose command shall I obey?"

A few minutes afterward I was out in the open, sad at heart because I saw Abdul Baha so heavy-laden with the burden of

the world, and there is not a single soul to lighten it! While Seyed Assadollah was here, he carried on a large and profitable correspondence with all parts of the Orient, thus informing the friends of the passing events. They did not receive any tablets, but this correspondence kept them in touch and was of course a great consolation. But now he is gone, too, to be a soldier in the field, and up to this date no one has been appointed in his place, and thus the believers in the Orient are anxious and worried. Mirza Mahmud upon his arrival in Port Said discontinued writing weekly letters, and is now busy day and night compiling his notes. I am also busy with various things. Mirza Moneer takes dictation of tablets for the Oriental Bahais, which are being revealed almost every day.

When I arrived the Master came also. Mirza Abul Fazl was here, too, and so the Master recited in detail a resume of his addresses in the Jewish synagogue in America. The respect and utter humility of Mirza Abul Fazl in the presence of the Beloved is most beautiful to behold. He hardly raises his voice. Those who have seen and heard Mirza Abul Fazl know the extent of his knowledge and the wide range of his learning and the brilliancy of his services to the Cause of God. Men like Mirza Abul Fazl are the rarest jewels of the Cause, and therefore they are loved and honored by the Master. He has suffered imprisonment for two years for the sake of his faith and has undergone much persecution.

In the afternoon the Master came again and directly afterward two Mohammedan Mullahs called on him. These Arabs love hair-splitting controversies and therefore one of them tried to

start the ball rolling. The Master, with a wonderfully divine attitude, silenced him and gently rebuked him for the utter uselessness of theological discussions which are not productive of any reality. They were advised to investigate the truth, free from any prejudice. Then he told them about his lecture in Oxford University, his meeting at Mr. Alexander Bell's (the inventor of the telephone) in his own home in Washington, and finally ended his highly interesting talk by telling them that "Our field of activity is Europe and America. I have come here to rest for a few months." The Mullahs were utterly defeated, begged humbly the Master's forgiveness for their apparent negligence, and expressed their conviction that they had highly profited by their meeting and feel they will never forget the lesson they have learned to-day.

Ahmad Sohrab.



FROM MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB

Ramleh, Egypt, July 31, 1913.

Dear Friends:-

Another month is coming to an end. The stream of life is rolling on. The events of the holy cause are developing. The signs of awakening are evident. The beauty of the spiritual life is manifest. The traces of the Sun of Reality are spreading. The mysteries of the words of God are revealed. The clouds of superstition are dispelled. The horizon of divine religion is clear. The excellence of sanctity is visible. The rose gardens of the hearts are adorned. The nightingales of significances are warbling. The flowers of faith are perfuming the nostrils. The breezes of the Holy Spirit are vivifying the dead souls. The King of Kings is sitting upon the throne of majesty. The glory of the Lord of mankind hath shone forth. The fountains of eternal life are flowing. The vineyard of the Lord is verdant. The servants are faithful. The gardeners are honest and sincere. From all parts of the Orient the news of the forward march of the cause is being received. Men and women are advancing toward the kingdom of Kl Abha. On their lips are the tumultuous voices of glorification. In their ears are the sweet, ravishing melodies of the birds of paradise. The teachers of the cause are inspired with a new, contagious zeal. Their hearts are fired with the unprecedented example of the Beloved. Difficulties? They laugh at them. From every corner of the Orient the still, small voice grows in volume and force, becoming irresistible in its might, removing every obstacle from its path,