

Rue St Dider 30
Paris France

Feb 22. 1913,

Enclosed you find an
article about the meeting
of the Alliance Spiritualists

Dear Harriet

In these days of wars and
rumors of wars the ~~voice~~ ^{call} of Peace,
~~unconditional Peace~~ is being raised
from Paris. One thing that strikes
my mind more forcibly than anything
else is the unwavering faith, the
hopeful assurance, the radiant
confidence, the inspiring optimism,
the burning conviction and the
unflinching trust of the Beloved.
It is all right to talk or ^{write} ~~right~~ ^{on} ~~about~~
these things but to ^{actually} live them is
^{a different} ~~another~~ story. While the greatest
men and the astutest minds are
doubtful of the future of humanity
while they are engaged in
bloodshed and destruction;
~~while they tear the bodies of~~
~~their brothers into pieces, while~~
the horizon of ~~humanity~~ ^{the world} is

enveloped in gloom, while nations
are increasing their armies and navies -
the Master aided by the Holy Spirit
heralds the dawn of Universal
Peace and international Comity.
His voice is hearkened by the
people of all lands. Why? Because
his shining vision of the future
glories ~~which are~~ destined
for the human race is never
dimmed. In his presence the
Lopelless become hopeful; the
Coward, Courageous; the timid,
~~the~~ intrepid; ^{and} the ~~alarmist~~ ^{unlike a} ~~the~~
~~peace-maker~~ ~~peaceful~~ and ~~the warlike~~ the
~~peaceful~~. There is ~~now~~ ^{no} longer
a period of discouragement and
hopelessness in the life of every
~~big or small~~ man but the Master
besides being hopeful, creates the
same attitude of mind in others.
He goes on teaching and imparting
Knowledge and illumination
to those who are deprived.
Well is it for those who practice
his behests!

This morning our ^{he} ~~Bahadur~~ was in a happy and reminescent mood. Tea was served by the ever-faithful Sayad Assadullah ~~He~~ ^{and he} inquired from Aga Faraj, what ^{was} the difference between the weather in Paris and Teheran? He ~~said~~ ^{answered}, for the present the Paris ^{weather} ~~is~~ like spring. ~~Then~~ ^{related the suffering of} the ~~captain~~ ^{captain} of a cold icy night on ~~their~~ his way from Teheran to Gaywin. The road from Teheran to Rasht was constructed by the Russians some 22 yrs ago and therefore ~~they charge~~ the passengers ^{were} ~~before~~ ^{taxed} they start on their journey. There ~~are~~ ^{were} five Carriages with many stages on the road where the horses ~~are~~ ^{were} renewed and the ~~stop~~ ^{journey} continued. It ~~will~~ takes ~~you~~ ^{three} 3 days and ~~3 nights~~ of continued journey to reach Rasht from Teheran. This road was for nearly 12 yrs in the hand of a Bahadur

by the name of Bageroff whose
eldest son Mir Abdollah was one
of the Persians who travelled
with Haji Armeen to London
and participated in our interesting
experiences. Well, through the
splendid management of this
Road, Bageroff became a wealthy
man and well-known for his charity
and philanthropy. Then I believe
About 2 yrs ago the Master wrote
him to lighten his load of work
and worry. He gave up the mana-
gement of the Road and the Russians
found a Zoroastrian by the name
Bahman to superintend it. But
here comes the interesting part
of this story. Just ^{at} the final
agreement, Bahman comes to
Bageroff and begs him not to give
up the work entirely, ~~but~~ ^{but} ~~that he~~ ^{but} ~~pleads~~ ^{but} ~~him~~ ^{but} ~~to come into~~ ^{but} ~~partnership~~ ^{but} ~~with him~~ ^{but} ~~so that he~~ ^{but} ~~may be able to report to~~ ^{but} ~~the management his experiences.~~ ^{but} ~~Bageroff accepted the proposition~~

and they ^{drew} ~~made~~ a ^{contract} ~~compact~~ that ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ ~~either party~~ ~~anyone~~ of the two goes back on this arrangement, he will pay to the other ten thousand dollars. (~~which in Persia is more than 20 thousands~~) When Bahman ^{meets} ~~goes~~ to the Russians, he hears many extravagant stories of how Bageroff had become wealthy by holding the Road for 12 yrs. His cupidit^y ~~was~~ ^{was} excited and he signs the agreement without mentioning the name of Bageroff. He ^{accepts} full responsibility and without any denial or resentment on his part he goes to ^{the} bank, gets ten thousand dollars and delivers it to Bageroff. This was ~~just~~ money dropped from sky. Wasnt it? Well, the scale of business turned in such a fashion that Bahman ~~lost~~ ^{lost} ~~everything~~ and he finally ^{was} ~~is~~ obliged to borrow fifty thousand dollars to pay his debts and ~~manage~~ the Road.

3 This was in brief the story ⁶ ~~as~~ related to the Master by Aga Faraj. ~~Then~~ Our Beloved tells ^{in turn} us another story:—

At the time that His Holiness Baha-Allah was in the mountains of Sulaymanieh one of the young rugged, illiterate Kurds ^{living} ~~inhabiting~~ in the valleys came to see Him. The Blessed Perfection ^{was} ~~is~~ kind to him and his love grew for Baha-Allah. His name was Mullah Ali Mardan. Although he had the title of "Mullah" yet he was illiterate. He did not know anything about "faith" but ardently ~~he~~ adored Baha-Allah. Everyday he would leave his flock and go to the cave to hear the Blessed Perfection speak. Finally the time came that Baha-Allah through the pleadings of the friends ^{returned} to Bagdad and a new life and hope were infused in their bodies. Shortly after

the return of Baha-Allah, the father
of Mulla Ali Mardan ~~told~~ ^{told} him that
~~he saw him~~ ^{he saw him} in depression and gloom.
"If thou desirest to go to the Holy Land,
go thou mayest go." The young
man ~~is~~ ^{was} beside himself with
joy and left ~~the valley~~ ^{the valley} ~~humble~~
~~home~~ instantly. When he arrived
in Bagdad he came right to
Baha-Allah. He had a round
felt hat on his head and rough
woolen - camel clothes, very picturesque.
As he was a most simple man
he mixed his Persian with Kur-
dish dialect and the result was
very amusing. Baha-Allah
received him with graciousness
and open arms. As the Inspector
of the custom-house was a
devoted follower of the Blessed
Perfection He sent for him.
When he arrived, Baha-Allah
pointed Mulla Ali Mardan to him
"This is my friend" He said "I hope
you will give him a position in

the custom House." "Very well" the
Inspector respectfully answered, and
the "friend" of Baha-Allah was
properly installed in receipt with
^{good} wages. ^{By degrees} ~~little by little~~ he
advanced and all his associates liked
him because, he was willing to serve
and to learn. One day he came to Baha-
o-Allah and said: my father and mother
and my relatives are in great need and
poverty. I must assist them. The
Blessed Perfection ^{told him} Be confident; God
will greatly assist thee and will
make thee prosperous. The Inspector
next day increased his wages and made
with him an agreement, that of the
profits, ~~he makes~~ ^{all} he ^{allows} ~~will give him~~ ^a
3 per cent. ^{commission}. The first year Mullah
Ali Mardaan made a net sum
of \$8000. ^{Immediately} ~~Then~~ ^{he} sent seventy
mule-loads of clothes and
utensils, ~~and~~ rice, candy, tea, coffee
etc to his family. The next step
was his partnership with the
Inspector. The latter, however

getting ^{too} old in service and desiring to
retire from the field ~~of activity~~ was
looking around for an able successor.
The "friend" of Baha-Allah ^{fulfilled} ~~and succeeded~~
all his requirements and to the
amusement of ~~the~~ the people of
Bagdad, Mullah Ali Mardan
was one ^{fine} ~~day~~ ^{morning} given the official
position of the Inspector of the Custom
House. Who ^{was} ~~was~~ this illiterate Kurd
who ^{was} ~~was~~ constantly climbing up?
everybody was curiously inquiring.
But he managed the ^{Custom} affairs
^{so wisely} ~~very despatchly~~ and introduced
many reforms in the administration,
^{that everybody was pleased.}
Later he bought a house and remodelled
it and sent for his family. At
the time, there was a great
merchant in Bagdad who had ^a ~~a~~
daughter. There were many ^{suitors}
for her hand but all ^{everyone} ~~of them~~
~~were~~ rejected. One day Mullah Ali
Mardan came to Baha-Allah and
without any introduction ^{said} ~~he~~
~~says~~ I desire to ^{marry} ~~get married~~ ^{with}
the daughter of this merchant.

No one would have believed for a moment that such a thing ^{was} possible; but strangely enough, ^{the merchant} accepted him as his son-law. Great preparations were made for the ~~marriage~~ ^{wedding and} ceremony. ~~The~~ ^{The} bridegroom expended several thousands of dollars; ~~he~~ ^{giving many} arranged several feasts ^{and invited} for the poor of the city. The ^{wedding} ~~marriage~~ ^{social} ~~event~~ ^{events} ~~of the city~~ was one of the ^{principal} ~~capital~~ events of the city. After sometimes a child was born to him. ^{and in} ~~the~~ ^{time he} became ~~very~~ famous throughout those parts. He served the government in a deal with a Jew and as a reward for his ^{signal} services, he was decorated and received a title. Many ^{merchants} ~~people~~ knowing that he ^{was} ~~is~~ a Bahai, ~~would~~ claimed that they ^{were} ~~are~~ Bahais ^{too} and ~~in this fashion~~ ^{thus} get either reduction on duties or cause them to get ~~and~~ free. When Baha Allah heard ~~about this~~ ^{he} asked ^{him} why ~~did~~ he rely ~~upon~~ the ^{pretences} ~~mere statements~~ of these ^{merchants} ~~people~~? He said, because

11

They mention ~~your name~~, the name
of ~~the Blessed Perfection~~ ^{Baha-Willah} and ^{and} I do ^{not} want
them to be disappointed; otherwise I
know that they are ^{not} telling the
truth." He would come after into
the Presence of Baha-Allah and
say: "Oh My Lord, through your
mercy and bounty I have become
a King! Were it not for your
~~tender~~ care and protection I should
have now been living in the
mountains, tending ~~to~~ my flock
but now I am a King, a King,
because I have acquired all this
wealth; a greater King, because
I have your love. With this
love I am greater than all
the Kings of the world."

4% ~~Afterward the Master~~ ^{Abdul Behe} went
^{with Doctor Mohamad Khan} out, to ~~read~~ ^{read} a wonderful
Declaration of the Cause for a
photograph ~~for the Oriental~~
~~Bahais~~, On his return he read
it to us. It is full of power
and potency. He said, they have

~~made him~~ ^{him} tired because they made him repeat the words and ~~made him~~ raise his voice to a high pitch.

His day's address was the interpretation of the verse of the Gospel 'I have many things to ~~tell~~ ^{say} unto you, but you cannot hear ~~it~~ ^{them} now. Howbeit when the Comforter or the Spirit of Truth cometh ~~he~~ ^{will} lead you ~~unto~~ ^{to} all truth'. It was a clear ~~and lucid~~ explanation and necessary for the Christian Bahais ^{to know its contents} to grasp its contents.

After the talk he took Doctor Mohamad Khan and went out for a walk. He was back for two o'clock. After launch several young Persian students who were waiting his arrival met him and received his Blessings.

5 About six o'clock the ~~master~~ ^{the master} going out again to walk was invited ~~by~~ ^{and} ~~an~~ ^{to} ~~neighbour~~ ^{took me} ~~s down~~ ^{the house} stairs. ~~He~~ ^{sent for me}. ~~Entering~~ ^{then} ~~down stairs~~ ^{apart}, I found ~~they~~ ^{there}.

were some people
~~are people~~ from Costa Rica, ^{only he} ~~they had~~ ¹³
lived in New York many years, they
~~are~~ ^{were} ~~merchants of coffee~~ and as devout
Catholics they had made ~~last year~~
a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

They wanted to know who the Master
was and what was his religion? "I am
a Bahai!" the Beloved answered, "I
have never heard ^{the name} ~~about it~~. Will
you tell us about it?" They asked.

Then ~~he~~ gave them the message
in ^{a very} simple, ~~unaffected~~ way. And
for these teachings they put you
in prison? They raised their ^{in protest} voices.
Afterwards the Master ^{went to a} ~~gave to some~~
~~was~~ ^{some} ~~summing of semi-precious~~
an old stones for rings and to others
ancient pieces of money.

Then he took me for a long walk.
On his return he spoke to the Persians
about education and the beneficent
results of education and exhorted
them to study such sciences which
are productive of good to human
society. Love to all
Ahmed

1
The Visit of Abdul Beha to the poor
Children of Paris

Feb 22 1913

by Isabelle Fraser

It was just natural the fortifica-
tions of Paris that a little group
of Bahais ~~was~~ gathered to visit
Abdul Baha ^{at 4 o'clock} on the afternoon of
Sunday, Feb 2, at 22 rue
Selden Rollin Pre Saint Germain
(Seine). Here a real Bahai
settlement work is carried on ~~the~~
by efforts made through self-denial
patience and disinterested love
of the children of the poor.
Mons Ponsouille and his

2
wife are poor people who found-
that by giving up their noon-day
meal, they would have the
wherewith to give unto those
who were poorer than them-
selves. They looked about for
the best way to serve & feeling
that the present generation were
practically hopeless of results,
they decided to direct their
efforts to the coming race.
Each Sunday they gather to-
gether the children of the poor -
the very poor; ~~the~~ waifs &
worse than waifs, children
of criminals to hear the

~~The~~ The Bahais of Paris offered
to build a place for his work
but Mr. Ponsomaille ~~and~~
~~but~~ said that if they would
buy the boards & nails, he would
build a board cabin himself. This
in a few words is a history of
the place & its object. The dis-
conveniences, the uphill pull &
the opposition which these good
people have constantly ^{to}
overcome, can not be ^{fully} com-
pared by those unfamiliar
with Metropolitan Slum
life, but just a peep in at
the surroundings may give
some idea.

rain. By dint of constant inquiry
we finally found ~~the~~ M. Pons-
onville's self-constructed cabin &
here boys was the discarded car.
The cabin, ~~is~~ about 20 x 30 feet
was full of singing children.
Madame Ponsomville who has
a radiant face & who has
evidently taught the children
how to sing was standing at
the further end beating time &
singing, as they have no in-
strument.

On a raised platform
at the further end was a huge
Christmas tree which had
been left, at the request of the

children for Abdul Baki to
see as they had been expecting him
early in the year. On this glad
occasion there was gift-giving.
One of the Bahais had sent a
warm garment to each of the
children & there was a consign-
ment of oranges & cakes that
came in a taxi with four other
Bahais.

Mr. Ponsonable read a
tablet of the Master's & the
children recited the words of
Baha u Lah. The children
were singing "Jesro de hazarato
est ice" (Jesro u hazarato is here).

you very much. I will pray
that the children will grow
up in the light of education &
spiritual guidance & that they
may reward you & show
true appreciation by enkindling
other women & madams
& personelle are your spiritual
teachers. You must love these
good friends very much. They
are giving you spiritual food
so that you may be strengthened
in the life everlasting. "To the
Personelles he said - "You
are doing a noble work here.
May you be strengthened from
day to day. May the blessings
of El Alpha descend upon you

you will be rewarded & future
Ages will see the results of your
work." Mr. Ponsonville modestly
remarked that God's favor was
the only reward he sought.
The Master blessed the place

~~with a beautiful gift~~
for (I as ~~the~~ ^{with} Mr. Ponson-
ville, ^{he} again stood out in the
rain, prior to his departure, he
presented ~~a large pile of papers~~

~~in~~ in this good man's hand
the material blessing of several
hundred francs.

— 11 —