

30 Rue St Didier
Paris France
March 17, 1913

Dear Harriet!

1- It ^{was} 7 a.m. The Master
^{was} in bed; He called me to himself. And
I hastened to him. He desired letters from
America to be read to him. He ^{was} ~~is~~
being made happy because they contained
good news. Then he dictated answers.
Words like unto the brilliant pearls
from the diving Treasury fall from
his ^{He wrote to a friend:} blessed lips. "Thou hast written
regarding the results of my trip to
America" ^{he dictates in answer to a letter.} "Its importance is not
now manifest. Ere long you shall
behold that these pure seeds have
grown and have adorned the green
meadow and verdant rose-garden.
The hyacinths of realities and
significances will appear and

the plain and the country will be
 be changed into the Paradise of
 Akha. Strive ye that they may
 grow very quickly. Water that
 field ~~and train~~ and take care
 of the tender ^{shrubs} ~~plants~~ planted by
 the hand of Abdul Baha so that
 they may yield luscious fruits,
 thus becoming the food of the
 spirit."

This is the greatest yearning of
 the heart of Abdul Baha that
 the ^{American} friends in America may
 grow in the ^{life of the spirit} ~~holy~~ grace, in sanc-
 tification, in the purity of the
 heart, in the sweetness of nature,
 in the beauty of character and
 in the strength of faith and
 assurance. Thus they may receive

receive the inspiration of the Divine Spirit, increase their good deeds and advance daily along the path of spiritual knowledge and wisdom. For only through the outpourings of the Holy Spirit will they become enabled to accomplish the services required from them by the Lord of mankind. To accept the Bahai Movement is a very simple but to live up to its wonderful requirements is most difficult. We first forget all our former notions and make the principles of the Master as the guiding star of our lives. When we say, we are Bahais we are exceedingly honored, for we

come under the Canopy of the
 most marvellous Cause in this
 world. We must fulfill our
 promises to Baha-Allah! If the
 words of St Francis:—"Great
 things have we promised unto
 God, much greater far hath
 God promised unto us, if we
 observe what we have promised
 unto him." So we observe
 that we must become
 a Bahai not only by verbal
 declaration but by ^{our} ~~any~~ deeds
 and actions. Otherwise, we
 may do more harm to the
 Cause than good. ~~All~~ The
 people of the world expect
 the Bahais to render the
 greatest service to the
 world of humanity.

2-

Today the Master did not come out of his room, ~~at all~~, ~~because he was~~ ~~very weak~~. While lying down in bed ~~all day~~ he received the people. In the morning he called Mirza Ali Akbar to his own room and asked to chant ^{for him} the prayers of Baha-Allah. Tea was served to him in bed. When the people gathered in the salon he called them to his own room and gave them a very short address: ^{he stated that his} ~~My~~ general health ^{was} is well ~~he~~ ~~commenced~~ ^{his} but my nerves ^{were} ~~are~~ weak. ^{His} My physical body ^{was} is not afflicted with any ailment; but having lived forty years in the prison ~~of~~ of Acca, the imprisonment often very severe, the air very

had, the climate ~~most~~ humid,
 the conditions most harrowing, the
 confinement and anxiety nerve-
 racking, therefore ^{his} ~~my~~ nervous
 system ^{was} ~~is~~ weakened. When ^{they} ~~we~~ ^{Baba}
 arrived at Accra and the authorities
 imprisoned ^{them} ~~us~~ in the Barrack,
 there was a very damp room, that
 formerly the dead were washed
 in it — ^{an} undertaking-room —. The floor
 of the room was made of stone
 and covered with a thin ^{old} mat.
 This room was allotted ^{to Abdul Baba} ~~me~~ and
 for more than two years ^{he} I slept
^{in it} over the floor of this undertaking
 room. That is why at this age ^{he}
 I have a reaction in ^{his} ~~my~~ nervous
 system. The nerves ^{could not} ~~cannot~~ stand
 all these sufferings. It is more

or less easy to strengthen every part
 of the body ^{but} ~~when weakened~~ ~~except~~
 when the nerves are weakened
 it is most difficult to reinforce
 them. Now ^{he was} I am suffering from
 a nervous breakdown; ^{his} ~~my~~ body
 as a whole ^{was} is well. Nervous ills
 play a great effect upon the human
 constitution and they stop him
 from all activities. He cannot
 see; he cannot eat; he cannot
 walk. But praise be to God ^{that} in
 the face of all these difficulties
 the outpourings of the Kingdom
 of Abha are descending unin-
 terruptedly; the Providence of
 Baha-Allah is all-encircling &
 the rays of his sun are shining
 and ^{Abdu'l-Baha} ~~my~~ heart is in the utmost

joy and fragrance. Although ^{his} ~~my~~ body ^{was} ~~is~~ weak, ^{his} ~~my~~ heart is happy with the unutterable sweetness of Divine Presence.

^{His} ~~My~~ point ^{was} ~~is~~ this: I hoped that ^{the friends} ~~you~~ will never become defeated. The more ^{they} ~~you~~ are surrounded with tribulations and ordeals, the greater may become ^{their} ~~your~~ firmness and ~~your~~ steadfastness. A person who withstands the attack of the army of persecutions and sufferings ~~he~~ will become inherently great. I hoped that in the Cause of Bahá'í ^{the Bahá'ís} each one of ~~you~~ may become like unto a solid and immovable mountain and stand ^{with} ~~and~~

firmly before every attack of calamity and adversity.

Such were his holy Commands! While he suffers from pain, he thinks of our progress! In sweet humility he admonishes us with the words of light and life. Unceasingly he paves and straightens for us the path of duty and the road toward the Kingdom of Eternity, working on, preaching on, never dreaming of despair.

3 In the morning Entezam-es-Saltaneh came to call on the Master and was ^{shown} into his room.

In the course of conversation about the confusion of the administration of Persian government

~~many~~ years ago the Master told
 him the following story:- There
 was a Mirza Fazlollah who was
 looking for a government appoint-
 ment. He came one day to the
 Blessed Perfection and begged ^{to} ~~him~~
 use his influence before the
 Secretary of one of the Departments
 so that he may become appointed
 as a clerk. As he was a good and
 able man this was done and
 the next day the man took
 his position as a clerk in one
 of the many branches of one
 of the Departments. Now it
 so happened that the ^{name of the} Chief
 Clerk was also named Mirza
 Fazlollah and as he was an old
 man he died ^{some} after ~~some~~ time.

By sheer audacity the first man
~~without telling it to anyone~~ ^{took} ~~takes~~
on his own initiative the place of
the Chief Clerk and because of the
identity of the names, he signed all
the documents and were taken
to His Majesty for royal approval.
Without noticing the change, the
Shah approved the papers and
after that the man filled this
important position for many
years and few knew of the
change of personality.

4 In the afternoon the Master
ate a bowl of the Chickaw-broth
and ~~he~~ asked all of us to go to
Mr Scott's meeting. People were
grieved because they could ^{not} see
the Master. Mrs Richard gave

a most brilliant talk on evolution in French and Mrs Bernard spoke in English about the attributes of the spiritual man, Both of them talked most effectively and I felt their spirit of earnestness and firmness. Then Mirza Ali Akbar chanted some of the Tablets of Baha, Allah, and I translated for them. On our return we found Miss Sanderson and Mrs Bernard talking with the Beloved. I have forgotten to tell you that Miss Sanderson has studied Persian and understands everything the Master says. ~~Mrs Sanderson~~ She is going to have meetings in her house after the departure of the Beloved.

5

At this time the Master called me in. I saw him lying in his bed but a pile of letters just received from the Orient was before him. He was reading them one by one. Then he asked about the meeting, who talked, ^{what} ~~etc~~ ^{messages etc} which I answered accordingly.

Murza Hossein dropped in and he was talking very loudly in the other room with the Persians. The Master summoned him to his presence and asked him what he was talking about. He said, ~~I cannot tell you~~ ^{he could not tell him} now but it ~~is some~~ ^{was} ~~argument~~ ^{argument} about the Feast of Now-Rouz. Then ~~the~~ Master ^{that there was} laughed and said, no need

6 of secrecy for ^{he} I heard everything
~~he told a story that once~~
~~you said.~~ Once in Acrea ^{he} was
 present in the Court room. The
 judge was deaf and could not
 hear everything ~~said~~. He was
 accused right along that he took
 bribes from the accused ones
 and granted ~~them~~ judgments ⁱⁿ
~~accord~~ ^{according} ~~their~~ ^{on} favors. On this special
 the officers of the Court were
 divided into two parties; some
 upheld the integrity of the judge
 and others condemned him as
 a rascal and bribe-taker.
 Finally those who condemned him
 said ^{they were} ~~we~~ are going to demonstra-
^{it} ~~to~~ ^{Abdul Baki} ~~you~~ that ^{we} ~~we~~ are right in
^{their} ~~our~~ ^{disposition} ~~claim~~. At the time there
 was a case pending before the

judge. They got hold of the accused
 and told him ^{to} go now beside
 the judge and ^{whisper} ~~talk~~ to his ear
 that ^{he} ~~you~~ ^{would} ~~would~~ give him an
 English pound if he ^{would} ~~would~~ favor
^{his} ~~your~~ case. The man did so and as
 the judge was deaf he had to talk
 aloud so that everybody could
 hear him. The judge assented to
 this proposition and gave him
 his small tobacco-bag so that he
 may put the money in it ^{and} ~~while~~
 he was going to fill his pipe. Now
 the judge ^{was} ~~is~~ waiting and the whole
 court's procedure ^{was} ~~it~~ ~~meanwhile~~
 suspended. The accused man
 before everybody ^{filled his pipe with} ~~puts his pipe with~~
~~tobacco~~ ^{and returned the bag}
~~the hand in the bag and after~~
~~filling it return it to the judge~~

The judge ^{felt} ~~felt~~ the bag with his ^{fingers} ~~hands~~ and ~~found~~ ^{could feel} no pound. ^{Proving} he looked toward the man and ^{by} back-knocked him. "I do not find the money in the bag," ~~the judge~~ ^{he} ~~tells~~ ^{such} ~~in the ear of man in~~ a way that many people ~~nearly~~ could hear. "It is very strange, ^{surely} I put the money in." "How! You rascal! you wanted to fool ~~me~~! I knew you are a Jew! I should not have trusted you." Oh! Your honor! God forbid! Let me see the bag. Indeed I ^{just} ~~put~~ the money in it." The judge furiously ~~to~~ throw the bag towards him. The Jew instead of putting ~~one~~ ^a pound in the bag dropped ⁱⁿ a piece of five

Cents and hands it back ^{to the} against Judge ~~him~~. He feels the size of the money from outside and his face ~~was~~ then wreathed with smiles and amidst the uproar ~~and~~ of confusion ~~the~~ he sentenced the other party. But when he ~~comes~~ ^{out} and ~~found~~ ^{found} that there ~~was~~ only five cents in the bag and his reputation as an incorruptible Judge ruined before everybody he ~~fell~~ ^{fell} into a fit of rage and fury and ~~sends~~ ^{sends} for the Jews and gives him a sound thrashing.

As the above story was told degree by degree the Master became ^{and more} more animated and with his hands and facial ~~expressions~~

he portrayed now the feeling of the ¹⁸

~~You could easily see that he~~
~~is the Master of all men.~~

~~Love to all~~

~~Must~~

crowd, now the rage of the
judge and again the glee
of the Jew at his triumph