

MARTHA-PENSION

FAMILY-HOTEL

97, rue Lauriston

PARIS

PARIS, 1e March 25 1913

TÉLÉPHONE
651-03

Dear Harriet

The receipt of three letters today gave much happiness to ~~Our Beloved~~ Abdul Baha, for they contained good news. One from Miss Juanita M. Storch, from Oakland Calif, another from Mother Beecher and the third from Miss Juliet Thompson. The letter from Oakland was much praised by the Master both as regards to its contents and its style. I would like to quote here the part the Beloved loved the best: - "Last night when I came home I found the papers you sent me. Words cannot express the happiness I felt. You are the first person to have sent me anything from Paris, and I was so surprised and happy to receive the things I love best. Many people love to receive garments and jewels from Paris and to their eyes if a thing be labeled "Paris," it is the best

obtainable. But I am so glad that the first thing I have had sent to me was of the very best. Nothing do I love to obtain more than ~~more~~ ^{than} the teachings of Baha 'U'llah. God's garments are never outworn and the brilliance of his jewels is beyond comparison." The Beloved when heard the last statement said: "Bravo! Bravo! This is a most beautiful idea, well expressed" Then with enthusiasm in his eyes he said: - "I have set a conflagration throughout America. Its results will become ^{known} later. Wait for ~~two~~ ^{a few} years and you will behold the appearance of many traces. I do not like to talk about these things for the present, because the people cannot understand them but you be patient for a little while and you will see what I have done in America. It took three hundred years for the Cause of Christ to be spread but in the first century the Cause of Baha o'llah will be promulgated everywhere. We who are so weak are carrying constant conquests while others

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notwithstanding their greatness and power are being defeated, therefore it is evident that the Confirmations of God are with us.

2. ~~Later on~~ Mirza Lotfollah Hakim came in and the Master addressing the rest in the room said: - "We went to London and Mirza Lotfollah served ^{us} very faithfully, very sincerely. ~~Now~~ ^{at this time} he is likewise engaged in the Service of the Cause. In this Dispensation those Israelites who have become believers have arisen to serve the Cause with ^{the} greatest of steadfast-

ness

3. ~~The~~ Other Persians arrived and were permitted to go in the Presence of our Beloved. He spoke to them about the lack of administrative capacity and ability amongst the Persian Governors and Ministers and

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how during the last few years instead of
devoting their time and energy to the
amelioration of the conditions of
their country they wasted their
precious time over the formation
of political parties and in a short
while ^{many} incongruous parties stalked
abroad. What is this? It is the Demo-
cratic party. What is that? It is the
Conservative party, the Liberal party,
the royalist party, the constitutional
party, the republican party, ad infinitum.
They were only mere words with
no meaning behind them. These
parties instead of uniting ~~them~~ and save
general principles divided ^{the people} ~~them~~ worse
than ever and made confusion
worst confounded. They could not
agree upon anything. Instead of fighting
the enemy, they fought amongst
themselves and weakened their
moral ~~force~~ ^{fiber} till they have
now reached to this deplorable ^{condition}.

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At 9.30 the Master in company with Sayad Ahmad Bagiroff and myself drove to the hotel of Sepahdar Qam who had just returned from Nice. He came out of his room to welcome the Master and kissed his hands. The Beloved told us to wait in the other room and later he will call us in. For ~~nearly~~ half an hour they were alone together and then we were called in. ~~The~~ The Master asked me to translate to Sepahdar Qam the letters of Miss Storek, Miss Thompson and Mother Beecher which I did. Sepahdar listened most carefully and his silence was now and then punctuated with ~~signs~~ ^{words} of praise and surprise. He was

most pleased and impressed. After this he told us the wonderful story of the martyrdom of ~~Bahai~~ Badi, the youth who carried the Epistle of Baha Ullah to the Shah of Persia. As he was at the time an eye-witness of this ~~dramatic~~^{tragic} event, it makes it most significant and doubly interesting from a historical standpoint. The Master listened to the recital of the story with the greatest silence; sympathy and love pictured in his glorious face. "Yesterday," ~~he said~~^{Sapahdar said} "I called on Sarden Mansour and while there I saw a ~~published~~^{printed} copy of the Epistle of Baha-Ullah to Nasser-ed-din Shah. I told those who were present that I have been an eye-witness of the death of Badi and then related to them the whole story as I knew it. Then I brought that Epistle with myself to read it here. Besides this, I wrote with my own hand this story behind a book for Mon. Dreyfus."

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↑ At the time that this event transpired I was a Colonel in the Army and my father had not yet received his title. The Shah had pitched his tents many miles away from Teheran and my father and myself were commissioned to go around the surrounding villages and prepare the Commissariat. While we were riding and trying to get ready to go out, we heard a great noise and confusion, servants running too and fro in great consternation. My father asked what is the cause of all these noises. ^{An officer} ~~Some one~~ who was just coming in from the scene said, that a few minutes ago His Imperial Majesty was driving in the royal carriage when a youth waved a hammer towards him. ~~The Shah said~~ ~~He sent~~ for him several of his

body-guards to find out what he wanted.
He told them ^{What he had} ~~to~~ ^{had} to see the Shah in
person ~~by hand~~; ^{by hand} ~~I have~~ a message to deliver
~~to him~~. At first they searched him,
fearing he may attack the Shah
with a secret weapon, ^{and} ~~They~~ tried to
make him tell the message to them,
but he ~~says~~ ^{repeated}: "no, I must see the
Shah and ~~hand~~ ^{give} the message to him".
~~hand~~. The Shah seeing that his
body-guards ~~have~~ ^{did} not return
~~he sends some~~ ^{says} more ~~people~~ ^{servants} to
bring them back. "What ~~have you~~ ^{was the}
kept reason of your ~~retardation~~ ^{delay}?"
the Shah asked imperiously.

"This man 'they said' desires to deliver
a message personally to your Majesty.
We ~~have~~ tried to ~~get it from him~~ ^{get it from him}
but he ~~does~~ ^{would} not ~~accept~~ ^{give} it." "Bring
him then. Badi' ^{was} ~~is~~ brought before the
carriage of the Shah. "What is your
wish, young man?" "I have brought
a Firman from the part of my
Lord for thee! and he ~~took~~

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out immediately the Tablet of
 Baha-Ullah and delivered it into the
 hand of the Shah. The body-guards
 realizing what had happened gathered ^{around}
 Baha Badi and the Shah almost
 beside himself with anger ordered Kazem
 Khan to take this young man and force
 him to give ~~out~~ the names of ^{his accomplices} ~~his friends~~.
 "It took ~~the~~ ^{the officer} ~~man~~ hardly a minute to
 tell us these ~~events~~ ^{things} when I saw a soldier
 surrounded by many others was carrying
 on his back a young man ^{whose} ~~whole~~ ^{with ropes} ~~his~~
 hands and feet were shawly tied. They
^{were making sport of him} ~~told jeeringly~~ that this is the man who
 had brought a "Firman" for the Shah!
 Just think of his foolhardiness and
 audacity to say ^{loudly} to the King of Kings
 that he had brought a "Firman" and
 not a petition! Hearing this, I did
~~not~~ ^{no} ~~take~~ ^{no} importance to the event

and with my father went out to fulfill¹⁰
our duties. On our return, after three days,
we were^{so} busy that we did not ask^{about}
about the Bahai messenger ~~till~~^{and} after 8
days we heard that he ~~is~~^{was} killed. One
morning my father told me, let us go^{and}
call on Kazem Khan. We started on our
way till we reached the door of his tent.
He hailed us in and we commented on
various events of the Court. Then my father
asked Kazem Khan:- "What did happen
to that young Bahai who had brought
a letter from Baha Ullah for the
Shah? We heard that he is killed.
As you had him in your charge, tell
us about ~~him~~^{it}." "Really!" Kazem
Khan answered "It was one of the
most marvellous things that has
ever transpired, a very marvellous
event, almost a miracle~~!~~! It is
an astounding story. You remember
the day he was caught while handing
the "Firman of his Lord" to the Shah.
Well! His Majesty turned him to me
to me with the injunction that

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I must get out of him the names of his friends. I brought him to my tent and while his hands and feet were tied, I addressed him thus:—
"You are a young, comely youth! Tell me where are thy friends? and I will give thee freedom". He answered: "My dear Sir! I have no friends! I do not know anyone! I have not even seen the Revelator of the Firman. I ~~do~~ am not informed with its contents. The ~~f~~ Firman was given me to deliver it into the hands of the Shah! I have not seen any one either on my way or in Teheran. Now I am most happy that I have fulfilled my duty. I have nothing else to ~~do~~ ^{say}". I told him:— "young man! Art ~~you~~ ^{thou} mad? Do ~~you~~ ^{thou} dost thou not know that this is the sacred Command of His Majesty? If thou dost not reveal the names of thy friends and accomplices in

Teheran we will be forced to ^{make} ~~bring~~ the
confess by inflicting upon thee severe
punishments and tortures. He said:

"I have already said what I know, what-
ever punishment you inflict upon
me it ^{will be of} ~~is~~ the essence of happiness;
~~And~~ ^{the} severer the torture the greater
my gratitude to you, I am ready."

While I was beside myself with
rage, I was secretly admiring the
calmness and imperturbability of
the ^{man} ~~man~~. So I ordered the Farrashes
to bring the Bastonadae, and putting
his feet through it they inflicted a
severe beating with fresh branches
of the tree upon the sole of his
feet. The more they ~~beat~~ ^{struck} the
more marvellous ^{was} ~~is~~ his calmness
and poise. He cried not neither
~~did~~ he plead for mercy, Unwonder
of wonder! he laughed he sang! ~~It~~
^{Was} it possible? It ^{was} ~~is~~ as though
this punishment had no effect
upon him! All the Farrashes

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[↑] ~~was~~ ^{was} by this time tired. I ~~am~~ ^{was} angry. I ~~was~~ ^{was} amazed. The fortitude, the patience of this young man stupefied me. Blood flowed from his feet and toes. I jumped out of my seat, got several branches ^{together} and continued to beat him as though the demon had possessed me. Great ~~Allah!~~ ^{Again he} laughs! His face ~~was~~ ^{was} wreathed ~~in~~ ^{with} smiles! He ~~sings~~ ^{chants} the songs of praise and glorification! He cried out, O ^{my} God! O my Lord! I thank thee for this great bounty! I praise thee for this most eminent favor! Now I ~~am~~ ^{was} tired in turn! I ~~cannot~~ ^{could not} go any further. I run out of the tent and with consternation in my eyes I present myself before the Shah! "Your Majesty! There is no use! We have almost killed

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him under Bastinado but he does not reveal anything. On the contrary! he sings! "Go!" the Shah said "he must divulge the names of his accomplices or he will be put to death."

I returned to my tent. I ordered my servants to prepare a great fire in the large braziers, and many iron rods and bricks brought in. The rods and bricks were put in the midst of the burning coal till they got as red as fire. Then I addressed Badi: If thou dost not reveal the names of thy friends, thy whole body will be branded with these fiery spikes and bricks. Thou must beside, confess that thou hast brought a "petition" for the Shah and not a "Hirman." In my ~~heart~~ ^{mind} I was I thought that these means of torture will so frighten him that he will confess without any further difficulty. But he astonished me when he said:—
"I have brought a "Hirman" for

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the Shah and not a petition.
all my life I have been longing
for the realization of this day.
Whatever torture you heap upon
me, you must know of a certainty
that it is not torture but it is
the greatest ^{all the} divine Gifts. I am
ready Sir. "Well, we started to
brand his breast, his hands, his feet.
Yet he did not flinch, he did not
show any sign of pain. He was
not even perturbed. His face was
peaceful, his heart was strong. Oh,
~~my God~~ ^{merciful Allah!} Is there nothing in this
world to make this ~~man~~ ^{man} suffer?
The room was filled with the
smoke and the odor of ~~the~~ ^{his}
burning flesh. I could not stand
the sight and the smell any
longer. I came out for a moment
to breathe the fresh air

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Going in after a few minutes, in my
blind anger I took out of the fire
the red hot spike and branded
his back and front and ~~entered~~ ^{run it}
through his body, here and there.
No! He was completely insensible
to pains. He did not feel any torture.
When the executioners would get
tired, lo and behold he would take
with his own hand one of the
red spikes and put it on his
body. ^{Under} ~~During~~ all these excruciating
sufferings he laughed, he was
really happy, he chanted some
Arabie prayers. We were simply
awe-struck! This young man
must be ^{a veritable Rustam} invincible! At this
juncture the Shah passed by
the tent and called for me:
"Kazem Khan" the Shah said "has
your young man confessed?"
"No" I answered "We have

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inflicted upon him the
worst kinds of tortures, but
they have made no effect
whatever upon him. He does ^{not}
even condescend to say that he has
brought a "petition" for his Majesty.
All the time he says "I have brought
the Firman from my Lord".
Then the Shah said: "He must
either tell the names of his ^{friends}
or he dies." Then ~~as~~ I returned ^{again}
to the tent and ordered the
Farrashes to bring a big piece
of log. I asked him to put his
head on the log which he did
unwillingly. Then I ~~gave~~ ^{put} a heavy
bludgeon in the hand of one of the
Farrashes, told him to raise it
in the air and stand over his head.
Then I addressed him: - Young man

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if thou dost not desire to divulge
the names of thy friends, all right.
At least say I have brought a
"petition" for His Majesty and not
a Firman. Then thou wilt be
made free." "Free!" he cried out.
"Do not talk to me about freedom!
I am the freest man in the world.
All my life I have been yearning
for this day, for this hour. Now
that this Chalice of divine felicity
is made ready, is it not unjust
that I may heedlessly let it
pass by without drinking it!
I tell you Sir, for the last time
that I have brought the
"Firman of my Lord and
not a petition..." Then I
made a sign to the man
with his raised mace to do
his work and with the first
and second stroke ~~his~~ the
~~head of the Badi~~ his head was
splintered and life flew out of

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his body. A report of what
transpired was submitted to
the Shah and he in turn
commanded me to ~~bury~~ ^{bury} ~~the~~ ^{his} remains
of the Badi secretly which I ~~have~~ ^{did that}
~~done~~ "very hard."

Such was the story of the
martyrdom of ~~the~~ Badi as ^{related}
to ~~my~~ ^{to} my father and myself
by Kazem Khan himself after
eight days ^{of superhuman torture} of ~~the~~ Act. One of
the strangest things, however, is
that that Kazem Khan and
his whole family were
entirely destroyed afterwards
and no trace of them left
in Persia "

Such was, ~~the~~ This was the
wonderful story of the martyrdom
of Badi as heard by me today
^{related} recited by Safahdar Ghassebi

before Our Beloved. Truly I say, ²⁰ I
would have travelled from America to
Paris just to hear their story from
the lips of ~~a nobleman of Russia~~
such as Sapahdar Azam!

~~After drinking tea and talking~~
~~more on different~~ ^{other} topics the
Master arose to depart. "Rest
than assured" ~~the~~ ^{he told him as} ~~Master told~~
~~him as~~ ^{his} parting words "that
God will confer and assist
thee and as a sign of this
I will kiss both thy cheeks."

^{Sapahdar} He likewise kissed the Blessed
hands of the Beloved. Coming
out of the hotel a taxicab
was hired and a ride in the
Park was taken. On reaching
a very large ~~large~~ lake
over which hundreds of
ducks were riding gorgeously
the Master came out and
walked around it. Many trees
in white blossoms attracted his

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attention. Foyad Ahmed
 said it will be well if every
 day the Master could come
 out in the Park and inhale
 the breeze. He answered: Our
 recreation consists of the Breeze
 of the Providence of His Holiness
 Baha Ullah. If it wafts from
 the direction of Mercy, we are
 stirred with happiness; if not,
 & not.
 Returning, ~~he~~ stopped at
 to ~~visit~~ his daughter for a while ^{then} he
 called on Mon and Madame Dreyfus
 and came back to the hotel about
 three to meet Foad Effendi and
 a Frenchman. The Beloved spoke
 to them on the prophecies of the
 Holy Books concerning this day
 and how all the nations are
 expecting the coming of a
 promised One. In closing

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He told the Frenchman that the
~~the~~ beginning of this movement is like
the commencement of the Christian
Dispensation. Just as they gave no
importance to Christian Movement
in the same manner they may
not give due importance to the
Babai Cause but its greatness
will become known later on.

9 At five o'clock Mr Cobb with
other young American ~~men~~ ^{students} came
to see the Master ~~as arranged~~ ^{that} They
were excellent men at the prime
age. The Beloved welcomed them
most cordially. One of them said
^{that} they have heard much about
the Babai Movement from
Mr Cobb and they think it a
great privilege to find themselves
in the Presence of Abdu'l Baha.
~~Abdu'l Baha said that he was~~
~~also~~ likewise most pleased to
meet ~~them~~ ^{these} ~~that~~ The Master said
"This Cause has become worldwide.
In a short space of time it has
permeated throughout all the ^{regions}

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↑ for it has a magnetic power
which attracts all the intelligent
men and women toward its center.
Were a person ^{one} informed with
the reality of this Cause he ~~will~~ ^{would} believe
in it; for these teachings are the Spirit
of this age. The Bahai Movement
imports ~~of~~ life. It is the Cause of
love and unity amongst mankind.
It establishes communication between
various religions and different
nations. It removes all antagonism.
Therefore when this Cause is
fully spread in Europe, warfare
will be a thing of the past, universal
Peace will be realized, the ^{owners}
of the world of humanity will be
practiced, religion and science
will work hand in hand. Then
this ^{various human families} ~~world~~ will become one
family. There will remain

no racial distinctions such as French, English, American, German, Arab, Turk, Persian. They will become all one,

The Bahai Movement bestows upon man a new spirit, a new light and a new motion. ~~The sphere of~~ ^{the horizon of} thought must be. It enlarges the sphere of thought. It illumines the intellect. It expands the ~~the~~ arena of comprehension. . . .

This world is like unto an egg. As long as man lives within the shell of the egg he cannot hear heaven's word. All the nostrils are afflicted with cold and they cannot inhale the sweet fragrance. All the eyes are blind and they cannot see the ray of the Sun of Reality.

In brief, the Master talked at length about the intellectual and spiritual powers

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latent in man and ^{in what manner} ~~how~~
 man enabled to bring under
 his control all the phenomena
 of nature through this God given
 power, ~~and through~~ ^{how through} this heavenly
 power Divine Civilization
~~will be~~ established. After the meeting
 they asked questions and received
 satisfactory answers. Then tea
 was served and when they left
 the Master they were all
 inspired with the noblest ideals
 of brotherhood. His last word ^{to them}
 was "I hope each one of you
 as luminous as this electric
 light" and unconsciously they
 all turned their eyes and looked
 at the ^{glare} light!

after the meeting the Master
went ^{out} to call Miss Sanderson
and did not return before
ten o'clock. For his supper he
ate only a piece of bread and
cheese.

I enclose a few letters which
I request you to mail ^{each} ~~them~~ with
a copy of the printed address of
the Master in London which
I forwarded to you in a separate
package.

Love to all

Ahmad