

Ramleh, Egypt
Nov 2d 1913

Dear friends!

His Royal Highness Mahammad Ali Pasha is the brother of the Khedive of Egypt. He is a great traveller and student of the customs and manners of different nations. Last year he took a long trip through the United States and Canada and the result of his varied experiences and learned observations is embodied in a compact volume of 424 pages just out of publication. This book is now on my table and I find on page 146-5 an excellent testimony by this royal Prince about his interview with the Beloved in New York. For the benefit of our Western readers I will give herein an exact translation. The book is of course written in Arabic. He writes:—

"On the morning of Monday July 22d we rode in a carriage and went out to buy some architectural books dealing with the American school of Architecture in order to present them to Mahmoud Bey Fahmy the head-architect of Vafks. On our return to the hotel they announced to me that the learned and erudite, the glorious Oriental, Abbas Effendi, the leader of the Bahais desire to pay me a visit. I appointed the hour of 3 in the afternoon of this day. At 2 o'clock came to me Jalal Bey the Turkish Consul to the United States. I found him a perfect gentleman. On his face I observed dignity and virtue and through his talk I detected his power and ability. I was delighted with him and begged of God to increase the number of such Turkish officials especially in the European Countries.

"Afterward Alihas Effendi arrived. I arose and welcomed him. His presence imparted^{to} me exceeding joy and I revered him accordingly. His marvellous intelligence^{is} is not in the least ~~impaired~~ by the old age. He stayed with me for more than one hour and spoke to me on sundry subjects which were most instructive and indicated faintly the vast range of his knowledge and the unlimited variety of his information. Lo! and behold he is a wise Man, Great and the greatest Man of the Orient! After the departure of this Glorious Personage we got an automobile.

"Afterward we went to pay back the visit of Alihas Effendi. I found his home comparatively small but containing all the means of comfort and order. There I saw about ten persons who wore on their heads Persian hats. From this I realized that this honorable wise man has divined the American disposition in thus bringing with himself this large number of people in order to attract their attention. By this statement I do not mean in the least to detract from the position of this Person, nay rather this idea of his denotes again most forcibly his intelligence and his knowledge of the ways through which the souls are attracted and the people are satisfied.

"As regards to his innumerable addresses. They were effective in the hearts. Verily these addresses started a great intellectual revolution in America and at this very

moment they are quoted in the newspapers and magazines and made the storm-center of a great discussion. Around these addresses the opinions of their learned men of religion ^{reminded} his influence and power has reached to such a degree that the envious indeed envy him. I stayed with him for a long time. I spoke to him and ^{he} spoke with me. The charm of his words enthralled me. Then I departed from his Presence. For ever I do preserve in my heart his love and honor.

To day the Master had Osman Pasha and a few others as his guests at lunch. Khassro was ordered to prepare a good oriental dinner. The guests arrived at noon. Before noon the Beloved went out and had a long walk. I may ^{just} well say here that the Biography of Prince Mahamad Ali contains a good-sized introduction by this Osman Pasha who is thought as of the most intellectual men of Egypt and a man much loved and admired by Khedive. At ~~the~~ table the Master served Pilaw and chicken to our American believers which they enjoyed very much. For more than three hours he spoke with these men on almost any subject under the sun and when he ascended the stairs to go to his room and rest he was very tired. He arose from his nap about 5 o'clock and came to our room. He felt very happy and his face was full of smiles. He said he liked to slap me and which he started to do it before I could say 'yes'. When the slap

was given he laughed and asked me to say aloud Alhamdulillah-lah. This I did but he thought it would be better to repeat it again, this time a little louder. Then he sat in the porch and the tea was served to him. His happiness was contagious and my heart in me responded to it and the outward manifestation of it were tears, but I had to check them before he could turn his face.

Sheikh Asad and another Pasha - two members of the Turkish Parliament from Syria have just arrived from Constantinople. They are old friends of the Beloved. They sent their Secretary to inform him about their arrival in Alexandria and the Beloved immediately went to the City to call on them. He returned about 9 o'clock and brought with himself two very influential officials. As our American sisters were in the reception room he spoke about the recognition of Mahomed as the prophet of God. Till eleven o'clock he was speaking with these men. In the afternoon Mrs Hoagg and Mrs Wise called on Mirza Abdul Fazel. Twelve years ago he was living in Port Said ^{and Mrs. Kitzinger} and Mrs Hoagg and the deceased Mrs Cab, for many weeks attended the instruction classes taught by him. Therefore it was a great joy to both to meet each other after so many years. In the course of conversation he said:- "you must be very proud and happy because our Lord Abdul Baha travelled through your land. Up to this time the feet of no founder of religion have trod

on the soil of America. This is the first instance in the history of the world. Teaching in the United States at this time must be comparatively easy; because many people either have seen the Master or heard him speak or read about him in the Press. They know that the spirit of this Cause is brotherhood and freedom from prejudice. When you speak about this Revelation to a Christian you do not tell him 'Leave your Christ' because you as a Bahai believe more firmly in the Christ and have a clearer conception of him, but you tell him 'Discard your prejudice, love mankind, see the Countenance of your Father in every face, love your brother Catholic or Methodist, love the devotees of other religions'. Consequently your work is chiefly a work of Conciliation; you must convince people that fellowship is better than enmity. We must put aside all these names and worship the Reality." Many other subjects were discussed, all of them most instructive. He served them tea with his ^{own} hands and before they left three photos were taken, two alone of Mirza Abul Fazel and one with our two sisters.

This was a very full day for the Beloved for he talked for hours with these men. Although not Bahais, they love the Master very sincerely and will do anything for him. From him they receive light and guidance and they are deeply grateful. His praise is on their lips, his love in the depths of their hearts.