

Bahai Pilgrims Home
 Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
 January 3d 1914

Dear friends!

I am sorry if you at any time ^{have felt} that I have been "preaching" to you, because this is the worst characteristic that I can ever conceive in any person. A thing that I dislike most thoroughly is to preach to people. I don't know how, even if I wanted to. ~~The trait of my nature~~
 The bent of my character is practical
~~has been and is bent toward the practical and active side~~
 of life and those who have associated with me in America ^{know this.}
~~are aware of this fact.~~ Now if at times you come across any passage ⁱⁿ these letters that "savours" ^{indeed} "preaching" I have ^{been} utterly unconscious of it; instead such passages are dead translated into words. I have not learned the English language in the ^{easy lessons} ~~enervating~~ environment of the school room but out in the open ^{I have hammered it out for my self} ~~with the~~ shovel and hammer. I have not learned the art of "preaching" but I have learned enough ^{faintly} ~~how~~ to express my ideas and feelings.

just faintly. Having been ^{removed} taken out by our Beloved from ²⁻³ that ^{life} active arena which was ^{my} element, I try to invest my own writings with that dynamic spirit of activity which is natural to me seethes in my constitution. When I write on Love, on Unity, on Peace, on the promotion of the Principles of the Kingdom of Abha I am far from "preaching," I am uttering my own inmost convictions. Every one knows full well that we have no "preacher" in the Bahai Cause. We all follow the example of Abdul Baha. We only ^{try} by words and deeds ^{is} encourage each other, to emulate him and to characterize ourselves with his heavenly Attributes. He is the Sun, we must at least ^{reflect} get a few rays. He is the garden, ^{from which} we must cull a nosegay of roses. He is the tree, ^{from which} we must pluck a few fruits. He is the ocean, we must drink a few drops. He is the inspiring teacher, ^{from whom} we must learn a few lessons. He is the heavenly banquet, ^{at which} we must eat a few mouthfuls. He is the ark of salvation, we must ^{gain} get an entrance ^{into it}. He is the Center of spirituality, we must come within the shelter of ~~envelop ourselves~~ with his Protection. These are a few

things that we must do before we can call ourselves Bahá'ís.
 Now this is not "preaching," it is only ~~a~~ reminding. God has
 deposited ^{places} in our hearts certain inherent powers which
 must be evolved and spring forth into life and activity;
 otherwise we will not only bring disgrace upon ourselves
 but discredit to the Cause. The Bahá'í Movement is
 radiant spirituality, youthful hope, brotherhood, fellow-
 ship, the Love of God and ^{an} eternal spring of faith
 and steadfastness. We must embody these princi-
 ples; ^{in ourselves} - so that like unto luminous stars they may
 begin the horizon of our minds and spirits. Then
 and not until then, will we become enabled to attract
 the people to this Cause. Daily we must remind
 ourselves of these Teachings, upraise the Flag of
 Divine Revelation and unite our voices and efforts
 in the common Purpose of ^{the} spiritualization of man-
 kind. This is the Wish of Abdul Baha! This is the
 longing of all the sanctified souls! This is the aim
 of all the Bahá'ís! May we become the vehicles for the
 realization of these godlike Ideals!

When I descended the mountain this morning I found Mr and Mrs Holback in the house of the Beloved. The latter had written an article for a ^{the nineteenth century} ~~London Magazine~~, and desired to read at least portions of it to the Master. Consequently after a few moments he called us to his own room. He was most pleased with the parts translated to him and praised her for her accuracy and faithful work. "Glory is not in this, that a man loves his country but rather glory is in this that he loves his kind," ^{was} ^{passage} one of the principles that elicited his praise. ^{Mr. & Mrs. Holback} When ~~she~~ left the room the Beloved delivered into my hand a big package containing petitions from America received last night from Port Said. "Now go and read over these letters and tell me ^{afterwards} what news they contain." he said as he ^{laid} ~~brought down~~ his right hand ~~with a hard blow~~ on my face. ^{with} A few more words of love and affection on his part I came out of his room full of happiness and rejoicing. The rest of the morning he was engaged in receiving the various ~~kinds~~ of people, Turks and Arabs, Europeans and Asiatics, relieving their wants, alleviating their burdens and cheering their hearts.

In ^{this} afternoon all the pilgrims were glad when they heard ^{was} he is coming up ^{to the Tomb.} Many of them walked toward the public road and after awhile the carriage of the Beloved was seen from afar. When he observed all these believers are gathered there, he alighted and walked with them toward the Pilgrims Home. On the way he commented on the charming scenery and the unsurpassing beauty of land, ~~mountain~~ and sea. The mountain is already ^{beginning to assume its spring verdure} a mass of ~~resendant foliage~~, many kinds of lovely wild flowers ^{grow} ^{carpet the ground.} ^{crisscross in bare} Out of ~~the sheer rocks~~ you ^{may see} ~~observe~~ anemones springing up. The weather is balmy and spring like, surely a great contrast with the bleak and cold weather of New York and Chicago. We have rain of course during the winter ~~the~~ season but this rain helps the growth of the luxuriant vegetation. The Master felt well and happy as he waved his hands toward ~~the~~ calm, blue sea and ^{stately} ~~the~~ noble Carmel and ~~he~~ said: - "Yes, ~~praise~~ ^{have} be to God that the friends are ~~having~~ a most delectable place for their

habitation." Then he entered the house, took a seat in²⁷ the reception room near the window and called all the believers to come in and sit down.

There is an old man amongst the pilgrims by the name of Mirza Hossein. He is the brother of the martyred Vargha whose son Mirza Valiollah Khan was in America with the Beloved. He is a very fine, noble Bahai with a long, gray beard, always happy and gentle. During the days of the Blessed Perfection his father with the two sons—Vargha and Mirza Hossein—came to Acca. The father passed away and was buried outside of Acca, and the two wounded sons were left behind to serve the Cause—one to give up his life with his little son Rouhollah in the path of God, another to live into a ripe, old age. "Now you ^{will} understand better what the Master addressed ~~addressed~~ him when he entered:—"It is said, 'the benediction of God be upon that face which is wrinkled in the true religion'. Now, praise be to God, His Honor Mirza Hossein has become old in the religion of God. Years ago when he arrived in Acca with his brother Vargha he was young, but

now his hairs are ^{grown} ~~made~~ white. What a glorious station is destined for man if he remains firm in the Cause till the end of his days."

Then he spoke generally ~~of~~ "A fair and impartial observer perceives the signs of the power and intelligence of God in all the ^{ill} atoms of existence. Before leaving Haifa I felt very ~~bad~~, but as soon as I embarked on the sea of the service of the Cause of God I felt better. All of a sudden my health was restored to me; simply through the Confirmations of the Blessed Perfection. That was why I took my first journey to Europe. Then God assisted me to spread the Glad-tidings in those regions. Returning to Alexandria I ^{stay'd} sojourned in Egypt for the winter and then started on the long voyage for America. We spent fifteen days on the sea and ^{after} when we reached New York ^{a series} of meetings and Conferences ~~was~~ ^{were} ^{held} commenced by night and day. Although I often did not feel well, yet when I entered a large meeting or a

church I was entirely transformed and spoke without²⁸
^{hesitation} ~~any interruption~~ for a long time." Then he ^{recounted} briefly
over the visits he ^{paid} ~~payed~~ to the various cities in America
and his return to London, Edinburgh, Paris and Germany.
Here his face became wonderfully animated:—"Then I
reached Stuttgart. There I found wonderful Bahais. They
were the embodiments of love and faith. They imparted^{brought me}
~~upon me~~ health and joy. In many respects the German
believers are unique and peerless. They are faithful,
strong, and firm. I loved them very much. Their
attraction and ^{the force of their love} ~~enthusiasm~~ are an example, and
their genuine spirit of hospitality and kindness to
be ^{are} ~~imitated~~ ^{worthy of imitation}. They are the brilliant stars in the
heaven of Baha. Whenever I think of them a wave
of joy sweeps over me." Then he ^{spoke of} passed on to
Budapest and dwelt on his significant visit to that
city and his return to Paris and Egypt. Altogether
it was a most pleasant talk and enjoyed by all
the pilgrims. I could not keep up with the flow
of his divine language but throughout his

speech he had always a word of commendation for this or that Bahai. As there are more than 20 Jewish Bahai pilgrims several of them asked questions about the Bible, to all of which the Beloved gave satisfying answers. Then tea was served and we followed him to the Holy Tomb of the Bab ^{where} the Visitation Tablet was read by himself. Coming out of the building he divided the contents of a large tray of oranges amongst the pilgrims.

He stayed amongst us for more than 2 hours ~~and~~ shed^{ding} sunshine and happiness in the secret and inaccessible chambers of every heart.

We had a wonderful night of reciting poems and Tablets. Many pilgrims had composed poems and they read them with much spirit and enthusiasm. We ^{to him} spent till far ^{after} midnight; indeed a radiant company, each expressing nothing but love, union and concord and an insatiable desire to spread the Cause upon ^{their} return to their respective homes.