

7
Bahai Nest.

Mount Carmel, Haifa, Syria.

February. 1st. 1914.

Dear friends!

The original source and fountain head of the Bahai movement today is Abdul Baha. The rainfall of his abundant teachings extend from East to West and the clouds of his Mercy are responsible for the great downpours of the Holy Spirit. As far as he is concerned, in the scheme of his life there is no conservation of energy, for the descent of spiritual showers are uninterrupted. The waters of his advice and counsels which are gathered here and there will never be evaporated to return to ^{the} atmosphere but will continue to irrigate the thirsty ground of the hearts. When the water falls from the heaven of his divine Will it will flow through the river of every life, causing vegetation and growth on its banks and clothing the stature of nature with a new garment of beauty. The world receives a new stimulus and creation takes up life anew. A wondrous transformation becomes visible - thus causing

the spiritual progress of man from degree to degree.

This morning the Beloved dictated a significant message for the Christian Commonwealth on the possibility of the organization of a world Congress of Religions instead of the various sects of Christianity. The results of the former will be limited in scope while that of the latter are limitless. It was a long, wonderful message which will no doubt ~~will~~ appear in its columns. Mrs Holback who was the channel through ^{which} ~~whom~~ this message was sent was delighted with its pregnant contents and unquestionably it will agitate public opinion in favor of such a great Assemblage of the Representatives of all the religions of the world.

Then bidding farewell to them ^{the master} he left the house to call on a number of citizens. He was out for an hour or two and when he returned we were standing in the garden. He turned his face toward me and said:—"How art thou? Art thou feeling well? I heard that the other day thou wert indisposed. Thou must

take care of thyself lest thou mayest catch ~~the~~ cold?
Take care of thyself. Thou hast much work ahead of ~~thee~~.
This is not the time ^{for} of sickness."

Before noon the members of the Holy Family ^{called} ~~acall~~ on the members of the family of the governor general of Damascus and in the evening the Beloved entertained him and a number of his staff and officials of the town. There were 12 men sitting around the table and the range of the subjects discussed were varied and infinite. After dinner they came into the reception-room and stayed till midnight. They ~~were~~ charmed with his explanations and interesting talk. It is marvellous to see ^{how humble} these great and influential men of ^{the} Turkish empire ^{are} humbled ⁱⁿ before his Presence, drinking the water of his knowledge and listening to his words of wisdom. The impression that they carry away from here will be most beneficial to the Cause, for they are the moulders of public opinion and the great channels of the official life of the country.

The following is the message to the Christian Commonwealth:—

"I have read in a recent number of the Christian Commonwealth that there will be held a world Conference of faith and Order at which delegates of all Christian denominations shall be present. This news gave me great joy and satisfaction, inasmuch as every movement which tends to bring about even the partial unity of humanity is praiseworthy and commendable. However were it possible to bring about those ideal forces which shall make the realization of a world Conference of religions, it shall yield immensely greater results to the human race. For every particular movement is derived from human policies and conventions, on the other hand every divine movement is an effulgence of the Holy Spirit of the Almighty; consequently it is more profitable if the scholars and thinkers of this great century, the wise men and philosophers of our time, undertake the organization of an universal Congress of the religions of the world to bring about the fraternity and solidarity of the various faiths of mankind. This is the greatest need, the most pressing and

urgent need of the day. For this Century is the Century of light; this Cycle is the Cycle of science; this period is the period of reality.

"Thus through the wise deliberations of such an august assemblage the religions of the world may abandon all those doctrines which are mere dogmas and traditions and retain only what is absolute and fundamental. In this manner they shall discover that the object of all the past religions has been no other than the inculcation of reality, and absolute reality is never susceptible to multiplication or division.

The middle ages were the ages of obscurity. Those who investigated, groped in the darkness of doubt and hesitation, ^{and} the nations held blindly to traditions which were easily proved false. Praise be to God! For in this Cycle the great Sun of Reality has dawned, flooding the horizon of the world with its radiant light.

"Consequently it is most necessary to bring about such a representative gathering that it may strive with might and main to lay the foundation of the oneness of the world of humanity, to relinquish traditions and

dogmas and promulgate the fundamental principles and cardinal doctrines of the great religions of the world.

The Cardinal principle of the religion of God is Love; divine Love causes the promulgation of divine Order; divine Order is no other than the consolidation of all the mighty, beneficial forces of the world of humanity, Justice, Brotherhood, diffusion of reality, the fostering of culture and altruistic philanthropy.

"All the members of the world of humanity are the sheep of God. God is the Universal Shepherd. He showers His Kindness upon all. This is the Divine Order. Unquestionably it is greater and more comprehensive than the policy of man.

"I am exceedingly pleased with the broad policy initiated and maintained by the Christian Commonwealth, for that liberal organ is free from all prejudice. The Editor of the paper is the promoter of the ^{possible} ideal of the oneness of the world of humanity."