

Bahai Nest.

Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

March 7th 1914

Dear friends!

Descending the mountain is now a pleasant daily task. As soon as I get up I go to the Pilgrims Home, pay a short visit to the friends, drink a cup of tea and then with Muzja Mahmud or a number of other believers start for the shade of the Beloved. I hardly stay in my nest nowadays except in the evenings. These are active, happy days. The Master is well, the Cause is progressing everywhere, the believers are united and in harmony all over the world, the Pilgrims arrive with every steamer from the East and the West the Cry of Ya Baha El Abha reaches to the ears of the dwellers of Mount Carmel, and there is a spirit of jollification and thankfulness abroad. As we descend the mountain the thrushes of cheerfulness, ^{perching on the branches of the trees of our hearts} break into songs and the hymns of happiness and rejoicing flow from our lips.

No sooner we arrived the home of the Lord than he sent for us - Mirza Mahmud and myself - and we were truly joyous to be the recipients of his ever gracious welcome. He said, his health is well and he is growing better daily for which we thanked God. For nearly half an hour he spoke to us about the difficulties of the Cause and how they are all crowding one over another demanding his attention. "I am all alone" he said "and I must attend to every small detail." Then he dictated about 5 or 6 Tablets for the American believers. While he was dictating the last one the door was opened and Mr and Mrs Holback came in. They were away for the last two days, having gone to the place of Sacrifice - reputed to be the Altar of ^{Abraham} ~~Abas~~, where the fire came down from heaven and burned the ^{prophets' sacrifices} ~~holocausts~~. After relating their thrilling experiences of donkey-riding and being caught in the rain on their return trip the Master said:- "The Altar of Sacrifice is the living heart of man and not a few pieces of dead stones. The fire that came down from heaven was no other than

the Fire of the Love of God descending from the heaven of the Divine Will; the bullocks are human and carnal desires and appetites which are entirely burned away by this Ideal Fire, leaving the spiritual altar, cleansed and pure. Then celestial qualifications and attributes will take the place of former blameworthy qualities. The killing of the priests of Baal means that the enemies of truth were so filled with wrath against the triumph of the Cause of rightness that they were perished by their own defeat." Then apropos of something else he said:—"The Bible and the Gospel are most honored in the estimation of all the Bahais. One of the spiritual utterances of His Holiness Christ in his sermon of the Mount is preferable to me than all writings of the philosophers. It is the religious duty of every Bahai to read and comprehend the meanings of the old and new Testaments."

Again he said: "Whoever desires to know

51

the history of this Cause and its tenets must come to us and not go to those who are ^{induced} predisposed and biased. For if the seeker goes for gaining information, to the latter people he will surely deprive himself of the real facts."

About noon I came out of the room of the Master. In the afternoon he called on a few officials of the town and later on dictated Tablets to Mirza Insean for the Oriental Bahais.

When the evening came around all the pilgrims were ready in the house, waiting the summons of the Beloved. Finally the time came and when every one took his seat he delivered a long, ^{instructive} address, parts of which I translate herein:—

"The greatest proof of the Blessed Perfection—May my life be a ransom to Him—consists in the fact that he was always manifest and evident under all conditions and circumstances. He ^{was} never concealed nor was he disguised for one day. In Persia, in Bagdad, in Constantinople, in Adrianople and in the most

52
great Prisoner Baha-O-llah ever withstood the persecutions of the enemies and kept his own ground in the face of all the world. Never he attempted to protect or shield himself for one second. Before all nations and all religions he proclaimed his Cause and declared his Teachings. The folk were resisting the spread of the Cause with the greatest hostility and his Blessed Breast was the target ^{for} of a hundred thousand arrows. It is revealed in the visiting Tablet: 'Verily I bear testimony that the eye of creation has not witnessed a Wronged One like unto Thee. Once thou wert surrounded by the armies of hardships, again thou wert under the chains and fetters and then thou wert beneath the sword of the enemies.' Continually he was threatened with the darts and javelins of the adversaries. He cried out 'We have burned away the veil and the shroud and are enkindled with the Fire of Love. Like unto the candle we are set aglow and similar to the beloved we are ever present in the gatherings of the Lovers'.

It is well-nigh beyond belief that notwithstanding⁵³
all these dangers, the Blessed Perfection was protected.
^{The condition was that of}
It is like unto a deer, that although surrounded by
a hundred thousand hounds, attacking it from every
side, yet it is protected by an invisible power.....
The greater the Cause, the more stupendous its upheavals.
The vaster the ocean, the more tumultuous its tempests.
A lake is not as turbulent as the sea. The waves of the
most great Sea are impetuous, ungovernable. The
foams and scums of a great sea are huge, prodigious.
The revolutions, the events and the happenings that
transpire and the difficulties that arise in a ^{movement}
are likened in the Koran to the scums and foams
on the surface of a raging sea. ^{the different streams of} It is said: When
a torrent descends from the heights of several mountains,
becoming a great volume of roaring, boiling, tumbling
angry waters, on the surface of it there shall
unquestionably appear much debris ^{and} rubbish ^{and} foam
and scum will be formed. The exact text is:- "We
cause the downpour of the rains from heaven, thus

creating a torrent. The torrent descending from the mountain fills all the hollow places and the cavities in the ground. The Cause of God is likened unto the descent of the rain from heaven, revolutionizing the placid current of the thoughts of men. 'Then it is said: 'On the surface of the torrent there will be formed foams of a vanishing quality.' These are the difficulties and obstacles rising in a movement. Again it is said:- 'These scenes are temporary and transient.' These events are ephemeral and do not last. 'That part of the torrent which benefits mankind remains as residuum in the earth. That which is the cause of life and salvation in the movement will last and is eternal and established.

Now in this age the most weighty Cause is the Cause of the Blessed Perfection. It is the greatest Dispensation of all the bygone ages and cycles. Its revolutions are world-shaking; its obstacles are tremendous, its impediments are infinite.

The believers of God must dispel the darkness of

55
these difficulties with heavenly perspicacity and super-
human knowledge; 'Like unto the light of the lamp
they must cause the disappearance of the gloom of irres-
olution and vacillation. They must solve every problem
arising in the Cause with the Power of Faith, the Power
of Assurance, the Power of Truth and the Power of the
Holy Spirit, so that this Cause may not have another
setback. Were it not for the successive visible and
invisible attacks of the friends and strangers, this
Cause would have been established ^{by this time} in the hearts of
all mankind.' Although after the crucifixion of
His Holiness Christ, the apostles were shaken, yet soon
they were awakened to the realization of their responsa-
bilities and made aware of the character of their
positions. They became as firm and steadfast as the
rock. Then they arose to illumine the lamp of the
lost Cause and straighten the path of the Kingdom.
They forgot everything and were filled with Christ.
They left behind homes, families, rest, composure,
friends and travelled throughout the world

to spread the Gospel. His Holiness Christ was their whole thought, their Ideal, their desire and the moving principle of their lives. They guided mankind till the last hour of death and then they were martyred in the Path of Christ. That is the primal reason that ~~although~~ ^{the preaching of these} Christianity is based upon eleven apostles, yet it became world-wide. The work of these eleven disciples was more efficacious than the work of eleven hundred or eleven thousand or even hundred thousand. Often one man is equal to a thousand. That is why the cause of God was protected and promulgated broadcast; the banner of God was upraised, the Divine Fragrances were diffused, and the Sun of Reality shone upon all the regions.

"In a similar manner all of us must banish from the spheres of our minds all the names, mentions and thoughts save Baha. To know and recognize Baha and his commands. This is our heavenly power.

57

This is the Confirmation of the Kingdom. This is the cause of our spiritual attraction! This is conducive to our Everlasting Glory! I declare by God nothing else will benefit us. This is the source of our salvation in the other world and the motive of our honor in this world. As each one of you, present in this meeting return to his respective home, let him carry away these words ^{with} him and speak about them to the believers; so that all the friends with one heart, one resolution, one spirituality, one attraction and one spirit arise in the service of the Cause, unfurl the Flag of brotherhood, diffuse the rays of the Sun of Universal Peace, plant the new seeds of heavenly civilization, scatter the Teachings of the Unity of religion, dispel the darkness of dogmas, declare the Glad-tidings of the oneness of the world of humanity and uplift the children of men from the depth of despair. Let the watchword of the believers be Love, love of God and love of man."