

Bahai Nest

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(2) March 17th 1914

(1) Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria

Dear friends!

Everywhere the Great Cause of Universal brotherhood is advancing. The world of humanity is ready for it. Oh! The light of the Sun of truth is breaking upon us, the lamps of guidance are paving the way and the songs of praise are heard from all the four corners of the earth. O ye soldiers of the Kingdom, gird up the loins of endeavor, put on the armors of service, rush toward the arena of activity and join your voices with the conquering hosts of human solidarity. In these days successive good news is received from India, our friends are working unsparingly to spread the Glad-tidings. With the torches of light carried high in their hands they are running through the ~~impenetrable~~ ^{darkened valleys} darkness and gathering around the Banner of Reality men and women from all religions and nationalities. India is being prepared for the triumphal entry of the

spiritual King, the people are expecting. Right and left they ask: When is he coming? Are we not going to see with our own eyes the ~~Land~~? We are so poor, oh so poor, we are unable to travel but we long, oh so long to touch the hem of his garment. Will he not come to us? Does he hear our constant calling to him from India? We would gladly sacrifice our lives if we could just look into his Divine face. Are we not worthy of his countenance? We are living in darkness and we yearn for the light of his countenance. We are hopeless, we desire to become hopeful through his active examples in our midst. We are his sheep, we beg for the protecting power of his rod. We are indigent, we hope to receive a portion from his endless Treasury. Is he coming to us real soon? Daily we pray that he may come, bringing with himself healing and comfort. All other countries will be indirectly benefitted through his trip to India. "Such cries and echoes are received from that land!"

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written from Madras

Mrs Stannard in a long letter, from which I quote only short extracts says:- "I have called here on high class Hindus connected with the friends I used to know. They own one of the leading Magazines in this section of India. They are the friends of Mr Eric Hammond, our cultured London friend. The Bahai Cause is little known in most parts of India and we must leave no stone unturned to raise our voice, teach the Cause and get printed matter out for the information of the public. Here as elsewhere our only channels are the Theists, Brahma Samaj and a few Rama Krishna people. I looked up the young Editor of the Vedanta Journal, Brahma Vadin and we are good friends. He is much struck with the magnitude of our movement. I have lent him the Hidden Words and the clippings of my lectures. He has suggested that I write a small article, stating how much in harmony I find the Gospel of Ramakrishna and the Bahai teachings. The next number of Brahma Vadin is going to be a big Veneranda number so if I get something in it

will be of great benefit to the Cause. He knows that his
 journal is not universal enough and wants to act on
 my suggestion of widening it through our Movement. I
 have given him Abdul Baha's Edinburgh lecture to print
 a 1000 copies as leaflet for me to give away after lectures.
 Tell the Master with all my love that I am getting up
 leaflets through all these groups I meet. They have
 their own aims and objects of inter-religious amity.
 In a few weeks I shall have a lot of materials
 for future lectures as the Indians just rush for
 literature after each talk. I shall try to do something
 like that in Calcutta and have sent to Rangoon for
 some Hidden Words which suits the Hindu mind. They
 are tremendous readers here and when I get the book
 lists for them they crowd up and all are busy taking
 down names I wish so much the Master
 could see sometimes the strange sights of these
 religious Hindus as they sit and listen to the unfolding
 of the story and tragedy of the Cause, of the way the

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great Light arose, how the Revelation spread over the world from behind prison doors, how the Great Manifestation did not stand up and lecture or preach openly and how the Will of God lead Him to the Christian and Judaic Holy Land, and how His son Abdul Baha left the prison to meet all the schools of religious learnings of Europe and America etc, and his great success. Then the mission of Universal Peace spread by this Revelation etc, etc. By the time I have spoken on here the room is in deep silence and they are as rigid and still as if carved in stone. Not one eye deviates from my eyes. They seem as if they were just listening, or watching blocks of wood. When I have finished, some seem quite dazed and then a rush is made for books and information. It is a deeply interesting Psychological study and oh! how necessary it is here to link up forces. My whole work is to bring unification of ideals and principles. We are all working to reach the same goal and half of these Theists are really Bahais in spirit. The Brahmo Samaj have to be carefully dealt

with as they have a horror of the Christian dogma of incarnation. The Bahai Movement wants powerful co-operation with certain practical groups It is indeed very pathetic to hear these Hindus asking eagerly: 'When is He coming? Do you think He will come to India? Often I cry into their ears: This is the time of Krishna and the period of Zoroaster! Oh men! Your Promised Deliverer hath come, Through Him we must plant the flag of inter-racial and religious Unity. We can make this Cause a great Universal pivot of Brotherhood between East and West and a bond of Unity between religions God is shaping things in His own way."

From Another quarter comes an interesting bit of news, written by one of the ^{Bahai} students of ^{the} College in Beirut. He says:- "An incident worth noting took place last week. The President of the College on the occasion of the Election of Badi Effendi to the chairmanship of the literary Club, referred to the Cause in the Presence of an audience mainly composed of the Professors, members of the

Faculty and their wives - a well-balanced, intelligent²⁵ audience. President Bliss spoke in high terms of the benign effect of the Cause on the world in general. He referred especially to the attitude of the Cause to the Peace movement that the Bahai Movement has set the world astir and made it conscious and aware of the Barbarism and savagery of war that still permeates the atmosphere of civilized nations. He admitted that this was a noble ideal which should be followed by all ^{of us} who are working to secure true happiness^{and} success to the world of humanity."

For the last three days a strong sirocco was blowing over Haifa. It is the most oppressive, relaxing wind coming from the Lybian deserts. It has the effect of slackening one's energies and making one ^{indolent} soporiferous and sleepy. It seemed to me that I wanted to sleep all the time. It was however a little abated this evening before I ^{came} went to bed.

Early in the morning the Beloved came down twice to meet Hajj Abbas who has been brought here from

the Hospital. He was very kind and loving to him and dictated a Tablet to an old believer in Acca about him, arranging his transference to the latter town. Before the Beloved left the room he put in the palm of his hand several English Pounds. Later on in the day I was called into his Presence and he spoke briefly about the dangers which have always surrounded him from his Childhood. I asked him about the significance of the "horn of salvation" mentioned in one of the Gospels. He said: - "Christ was known by the name of the Lamb. The only means of defense that a lamb possesses are his horns. Now the means that the Lamb of God defended himself with were his horns - in other words, his utterances, his teachings. From the spiritual standpoint he 'saved' the world with his horn - his Teaching."

^{the} In the afternoon there was a general meeting at the Holy Tomb of Bab at which the Master was present but he did not speak. In the evening Mirza Hadi, Monavar Khanom, Reuka Khanom, Mrs Haegg and others arrived from Beirut after a week's stay there. Two young men from Teheran arrived on the same boat and one from Cairo. Many pilgrims expect to leave their homes after the New Year.