

#

Bahai Nest, Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria

August 6th 1914

Dear friends!

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass For nation shall rise against nation, and Kingdom against Kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places. (Matt ch. 24).

The present conditions of the world are more or less the literal fulfillment of the above verses. A titanic spirit of unrest has overmastered the higher instincts of mankind and they are sharpening their arms for the destruction of each other. The history of the world does not show a more crucial and a more grave situation than this! We are face to face with the most tremendous struggle of the race. It is just beginning and no one can safely predict the consummation of this tragic engagement of infuriated and maddened humanity. How can these Westerners, who have made themselves famous for their finer sensibilities and refined and delicate feelings, engage so cold-bloodedly in the business of murders, thefts

plunders and the slaughtering of humanity is beyond the imagination of the practical thinkers of this age! To night the Beloved delivered another quickening and stimulating address on the question of the present European war, and the coalitions which are being formed for the humiliation and destruction of their so-called enemies. When all the friends and the large body of the Persian students found their way into his presence and each person took his seat he began to speak. His earnestness was deep-felt and every word moved and stirred the hearts:-

"The gathering storm is most portentous. Mankind is gripped with the paroxysm of a fearful alarm. They are in the throes of a deadly consternation. On their ashen faces are engraved the distorted pictures of the coming horrors. The kind shepherds have turned suddenly into ferocious wolves, tearing the sheep and the lambs into pieces. Mercy has hidden its face; love has covered her countenance; sympathy does not stretch forth its arms; affection has flown away; Truth finds itself a stranger among a large company of hypocritical admirers and Peace does not enrage herself in the clear mirrors of the pure hearts."

"About ten or fifteen days ago I had the pleasure of meeting the German Consul and discussing with him the ominous signs of the coming European war. He delivered ^{himself of} the opinion current amongst the statesmen that a nation must go on increasing her annual Military and Naval Expenditures, if she desires to protect her growing commercial and ~~national~~ interests from the attack of her equally powerful and expanding neighbors or rivals; that the greater ~~are~~ the Military devices and paraphernalia the more one is assured of the progress of the nation and her constantly developing resources. In that meeting there were present ^a number of Germans and other nationalities. Strange to say, on this question they all agreed with the Consul and concurred with his opinion as though he had ~~voiced~~ ^{voiced} their hidden and most cherished thoughts. I said: "If the power of Love and Peace become predominant and supreme, their effects will be greater than the power of hate and Mars - the god of war. In the world of existence there is no power as efficacious and ^{as} penetrative as the Power of Love. Military Power coerces and compels man through unnatural resort to force ^{and} violation but mankind yield happily and willingly to the Power of Love."

The war expenses of each nation has increased greatly of late years. Although there has not been the physical clash and turmoil of ^{actual} war, yet in reality a financial and economic war has been going on incessantly ^{and} draining the resources of the people. For a goodly portion of what ~~these~~ poor laborers, farmers and artisans get with the sweat of their brows and the labor of their hands is taken from them under the name of taxes and expended over military preparations. Hence war is uninterrupted ^{because}, this exaction breeds discontent, ~~and~~ class feeling and group consciousness against the established order; every one realizing that human society is out of gear. Now if they could employ this pugnacity, this hammer and tongs, ~~and~~ ^{this} fists and heels spirit, this feverish haste in the accumulation of war materials, this waste of great thoughts over the perfection of military science, I say, if they could expend this exertion and effort, this endeavor and high-mindedness - in bringing about Love amongst mankind, in strengthening the ties of interdependence between nations and governments, and in establishing fellowship and affinity between the races; how much more efficacious it

would have been! Instead of unsheathing the sword to shed each other's blood, they may think of the perfection of each other's civilizations, sciences, arts, commerce, progress and advancement. Is not this better? Is it not worthier for the noble station of man?

The German Consul and others would not think to accept my ideas and started to object to them.

Then I said again: 'What victory will you gain out of this war? What will be the outcome of this bloodshed? What will be the fruit of this onslaught? What will be the result of this aggression? From the beginning of history to the present time what has been the profit that humanity has gathered from war? Nothing but ruin, devastation, the desecration of the holy rights of men, vandalism, carnage and the brutalization of the ideals ~~deposited~~ ^{and} by God in the hearts of men. If we read the spirit of modern history aright we come to the conclusion that there is no war of conquest - the conqueror and the conquered find themselves in manifest loss at the end of the engagement.

..... Consider what ideal victories! What brilliant triumphs! What spiritual traces! What heavenly successes have become manifest through the Power of Love! Therefore

how much nobler and worthier ^{would} ~~will~~ it be if the sages and thinkers of the world ~~expended~~ ^{devoted} their physical, intellectual and moral forces in the promulgation of the Power of Love amongst mankind. This Power of Love is the means of reciprocity and co-operation between nations! It is the cause of their everlasting glory; It is conducive to the composure and security of the world of creation!

"I found ~~them~~ ^{my listeners} still far from accepting my plea. They were silenced but I knew it was a silence out of respect and not ^{an} acknowledgment and ^a confession that ~~they~~ ^{are} ~~are~~ ^{convinced}.

I found today that owing to the declaration of war in Europe, the Germans in this Colony are very sad and depressed, so much so that it is indescribable! They know that ~~that~~ they are in danger; the danger of ^{the} defeat of the fatherland. Then, why should they hail war?

Pursuing my conversation with the German Consul and others I said:-

"In reality all the inhabitants of Europe owe their allegiance to one religion and that is the religion of His Holiness Christ; they ^{also} belong to one racial stock, which is no other than Aryan; which parent stock migrated from Asia in ancient

times and settled in the different parts of that uninhabited country. After the lapse of many generations a community called itself Frank, Another Saxon, Another Norman, another Latin etc etc. Later on step by step they fabricated other means of differences and many misconceptions crept in which added day by day to the gravity of the situation. Furthermore, were we to ponder carefully we will realize that they are living on one continent - Europe. Hence, if they claim that their misunderstanding is on account of religious differences. As they are overshadowed by the influence of one religion, it must not exist. If they state that their alienation comes from racial bias, because they are the descendents of one primal race, it must be brushed aside. If they assert that their strife is on patriotic ground, inasmuch as they inhabit on one continent, it must have no weight. Moreover, they are all markind. They have grown from one common trunk and are the branches of one tree.

When I was travelling in Europe I observed every nation crying at the top of her voice: 'O my Country! O my dear country! O my beloved Country!' I said: 'Oh my friends! What are all these clamors for?

Why all these acclamations? Why all these uproars
 and outcries? Why all this hullabaloo? These countries
 over which you are so vociferous and at every ^{moment}
 showing the signs of obstreperousness is One country,
 the home of humanity. Wherever man chooses to
 live, there is his home and ^{his} country. God has not
 divided this earth. It is one globe, one sphere. These
 boundaries that you have defined are the greatest illu-
 sions that could ever man conceive in his mind.
 They have no reality. It is similar to the division of one
 room into different sections with so many hypothetical
 lines, calling this ^{corner} ~~part~~ Germany, that corner French
 and another corner England. Of a truth these suppo-
 sitional lines have no outward existence. These
 assumed boundaries are canine divisions, for it has
 been observed that a number of dogs divide amongst
 themselves the ^{public} square into the various sections and if
 one dare to go beyond the limit set for ~~him~~ ^{it} and tres-
 pass on the right of others, the rest will set up a
 dreadful howl and bark and go for ~~him~~ ^{it}; not-
 withstanding that these imaginary lines have no real
 forms or shapes.

Again, let us still go a little further and investigate and find out what is this 'Country' over which you so quarrel and scramble? A piece of land. If this is the case, very well then; it is self-evident that man lives ^{above} ~~under~~ this earth only for a few days and then for all eternity he will go under it. It is his everlasting graveyard, his unchangeable cemetery. Is it worthy of man to fight over his own burying-ground? to shed the blood of his own brethren? to destroy the divine edifice - for man is the Edifice of God? Is it noble of him to commit all these inhuman atrocities for the necropolis of dead corpses?

The object is this: these remarks were not relished by the Germans on that day but I saw them today in an unhappy mood. They were visibly agitated and disturbed. But on the other hand they are manifesting great courage and patriotism. The young men have given up their work and are ready to start for Germany. There are more than fifty volunteers and probably from this small colony ^{for the scene of war} nearly one hundred young men will leave. They are doing this with perfect joy and without the least complaint. But today's news, that Russia, England and France are united together to crush

Germany has given them much food to think.

How cruel man is to send his brothers into the battle-field - so that they may cut each other to pieces! - just on the simple ground that thou art German, I am English and he is French! Although in reality they are all human and are living beneath the shade of One God. ^{His} Divine Bestowals, Favors and Bounties have encircled all of them. They are all the sheep of God and ^{He as} the Spiritual Shepherd is merciful to all!

In short, the display of this barbaric passion is no other than the passion of nature. ^{These} Men like unto animals are the prisoners of nature, subdued and overcome by nature. According to the requirement of nature the animals ~~are~~ repugnacious and strive in the destruction of each other. In the world of nature there are aggression, bloodthirstiness, oppression, struggle for existence, rapacity, and ^{all these} ^{qualities} are the ^{natural laws} ~~orders~~ of nature. Just as these animals are captives of nature, similarly man is conquered, subjugated and humbled by nature. For example anger gets the better of man, ferocity prevails upon him and he becomes ~~the~~ subject

of the lower passions. What are ^{all} these? They are no other than the mandates of the world of nature.

Only those persons who are in reality believers in God, who have witnessed the signs of God, are attracted to the Kingdom of God and have turned their faces toward God - they and they alone are freed from the bloody claws of nature. Whereas formerly they were the subjects of nature, now they become its rulers. Whereas before they were vanquished by nature, now they become its victors. In brief, while nature invites man to the base propensities of ego and self, the Love of God attracts him to the worlds of sanctity and holiness, justice and generosity, mercy and humanity."

During the day many holy scenes transpired around the unique personality of Our Beloved. I was in his presence in the afternoon and he dictated many Tablets for the believers in Persia, England and India. Again I met him before sunset, a wonderful portrait of heavenly ideals, vibrating with the spirit of the Kingdom and creating the proper, peaceful atmosphere for those who are around him and inspiring the hearts with his supreme courage.