

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel
Haifa Syria
August 7th 1914

Dear friends!

Rev. J. W. Van Kirk, the designer of World Peace Flag writes the following to our Beloved:- "Having had the honor of seeing you twice and having the great pleasure of meeting a few of your devoted followers in Washington, Philadelphia and New York City I take the liberty of sending you an emblem as an appropriate standard of the fundamental and comprehensive truths you are promulgating and hope to have the delight of meeting you in Acca. You will please find enclosed a Flag and a pamphlet which are self-explanatory. Should the way open I hope to unfurl in the streets of Acca the Standard of the great ideas and principles of the Bahai Manifestation."

Concerning the Flag he says: "The seven stripes are the colors of the rainbow or what is called in science the spectrum analysis of white light. As the light of the sun passes through the drops of rain it is broken up into

the primary colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet and thrown on the cloud beyond the observer. Also when light passes through a prism it disperses into the same colors. And when these colors are reunited they produce white light. The seven stripes in general represent the human race as it has passed through history. It has been broken up, segregated and divided into many nations, races, languages, civilizations, sects and parties of various kinds, yet, at the same time, it shows that they are not naturally independent, antagonistic or enemies of one another but are parts, shades or phases of one common humanity."

In another place he says:- "For more than a generation the world has been in a transition from liberty to fraternity, from egoism to altruism, from personal liberty to fraternal liberty, from individuality to social solidarity, from patriotism to humanitarianism, from religious and ethical sectarianism to spiritual and moral unity, from organic disunity to organic unity, from the rule of classism to government of the people and from selfishness to brotherhood. The era of fraternity has well set in."

The above quotations were translated and read to Abdul Bala and he was well-pleased with them. The anthem of

"World Patriotism" which we are translating it into Persian and which was also read to the Master may be quoted here as a prelude to the wonderful Tablet of Abdul Baha to Rev. Van Kirk:-

O mother earth! of thee,
 Home of humanity
 Of thee we sing;
 Land where our brothers roam
 Land of the nations' home,
 Under all heaven's dome,
 Let Duty ring.

Our Father's country this,
 Home for His offspring 'tis,
 This home we love;
 We love all lands and seas,
 One kin its people, these,
 Their bond and nature, is,
 Like that above.

Let friendship fill this place,
 And ring to every race

Fraternal's Song;
 O, human kind, awake
 Let all that live partake,
 The long dead silence break,
 The note prolong.

The nations' Lord; to thee
 Friend of humanity,
 Of thee we sing;
 Long may our earth be bright
 With brothers' love and right;
 Inspire us by Thy light,
 Great Christ our King.

Here is then the Tablet of the Master to the composer of
 this international anthem:—

"O thou respected truth-seeker! Thy letter was received. It
 reflected the sentiment of the oneness of the world of
 humanity. The Flag that thou hast forwarded was in
 reality the foreshadowing symbol of Universal Peace.
 Today all the nations of the world are animated with a
 warlike spirit and all the governments of the world
 are filling their Military store-houses, inventing

infernal machines and perfecting their man-killing engines,— so that their martial powers may preponderate each other; especially the Continent of Europe has become an arsenal of combustible materials. It needs only one tiny spark to set that hell into a world-wide explosion. It will be then such a titanic conflagration, the lurid flames of which shall blazon all the horizons. Hence the Anthem of Universal Peace has still no charm in their ears. Their universally accepted political axioms are that the greatness and prosperity of a nation depend on her Military and Naval Powers. The more elaborate these preparations, the better protected and secured the well-being and happiness of that government and nation. The Kings and rulers of the world are not yet ready to acknowledge that Universal Peace is conducive to the life of the world of humanity. In a similar strain the nobles, the demagogues and those in authority find their glory and reputation in naval and military preparedness.

"Consequently it is impossible that "economic contentment" be realized by the people of the world save through the

transforming Power of Faith. For Faith is the solver of every problem. Therefore you must strive to strengthen the foundation of the Religion of God. Through the Power of the Religion of God every difficulty will be disentangled. The Power of the Religion of God will humble the Kings and set at naught the crooked motives of those who are in Supreme authority. Then endeavor ye, that the Power of true Religion which breathes the spirit of life into the dead body of the world of humanity may be promulgated. This is the antidote for the poisoned body of the world and a quick-healing remedy for the rancorous disease of man. For this reason diffuse thou as much as thou art able the sweet Fragrances of the Holy Spirit, teach the people the Divine advice and exhortations and spread far and wide the heavenly Teachings"

The Beloved was busy all day and I saw him only a few minutes as he was returning from his walk. He looked well and greeted us with his inimitable Marhaba.

In the morning the Persian students had their meeting and Mir Sayad Hossein Afnan, Badi Bushru'i and Mirza Aflatoon were speakers. Every one sends you Bahai greeting.