

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel

Haifa, Syria

Sept 3^d 1914

Dear friends!

The short, beautiful talk of the Beloved this afternoon after visiting the Holy Tomb is as follows:—

"In reality the air of Mount Carmel is most energizing. I have breathed in the air of many country-places and have seen many natural scenes but the air of this Mountain is most wholesome, most vitalizing and its scenery very entrancing. The purity of the air, the sublimity of the panorama and the beauty of the scene are united together on Mount Carmel, presenting to the eye a noble and inspiring spectacle of nature; especially now that this fine structure is built on its ascending slope containing the Holy remains of the Bab. Many Israelitish prophets either lived here or passed a portion of their lives or sojourned in it for a while or spent the last days of their existences on this Mountain. His Holiness Christ came to this Holy Mount many times. Its atmosphere is impregnated with a wonderful spirituality. Man is eternally in a state of communion and prayer with the source of all-good. The highest and most elevating state is the state

of prayer. Prayer is communion with God. Its efficacy is
 conditioned upon the freedom of the heart from extraneous
 suggestions and mundane thoughts. The worshipper must
 pray with a detached spirit, unconditional surrender of the
 will, concentrated attention and a magnetic spiritual passion.
 His innermost being must be stirred with the ^{joy} of sanctification. If the mirror of his soul is polished from
 the dross of all desires the heavenly pictures and sidereal
 images of the Kingdom of God will become fully reflected therein.
^{Then} ~~who~~ will be given the power, to translate these celestial forms
 into his own daily life and the lives of many thousands. Auto-
 matic, formulistic prayers that do not touch the core of the
 heart are of no avail. How sweet, how delicious, how satia-
 fying, how spiritual is prayer in the middle of nights! While
 all the eyes are closed, the eyes of the worshipper are wide open.
 While all the ears are stopped, the ears of the devotee are
 attuned to the subtle music of God! While the majority
 of the people are fast asleep, the adorer of the Ideal Beloved
 is wakeful. All around him there is a rare and delicate
 silence, deep, airy, ethereal silence, calm, magical and
 subtle — and there is the devotee, communing with nature
 and the Author of nature. "

An extract from a recent letter written by Mrs Getsinger concerning the now deadly conflict in Europe may not be ^{without} interest:—

"I hope the Beloved will be always well and oh so very pleased by the good news which shall come to Him from every quarter where His faithful soldiers are now proclaiming Unity and Peace amid all the disunion and war which has gathered like a cyclone and broke over Europe. Surely 'the days of great tribulation' foretold by Jesus Christ have come upon us! But after the Conflict will come Concord; after the battle bliss will appear. What a spectacle! The most civilized Christian countries of the world present today before the astonished eyes of mankind a scene diametrically opposed to the Teachings of Christ! In April 1904 when Miss Barney, Miss Rosenberg, Mrs Coules De Lagnel, Madame Jackson and myself were in the Holy Presence of Abdul Baha in Acca while he was still a prisoner! He told us the following significant story: ^{Abdul Baha} He was looking from the window down upon the ground where a bone was lying. A dog came along and began to gnaw the bone, where another dog seeing the toothsome bit also stopped and began the same process on the other end. This occasioned

growls from dog No 1 which were answered by snarls from No 2. Their barking attracted other dogs who came running from different directions and fell upon the piece of bone wherever advantage offered an opportunity and thus the bone became a veritable 'bone of contention'. The barking, snarling, growling, angry fighters pulled this way and that, filling the air with the noise and confusion of their warfare! At this juncture, a little donkey standing in the sunshine over against the wall walked deliberately over into the midst of the fighting pack and began to ^{the bone} pick in every direction - until they all let go and ran howling away - leaving ^a ~~the bone~~ on the ground and then the disgusted looking donkey also went back to sleep in the sun. . . . He went on to say: A day will come when all Europe will engage in war and the cause will be a very little one - just like that bone - but afterwards great construction will prevail in every direction. I was anxious and asked: 'What will America do at that time?' To which he replied: 'America will have internal trouble of her own. She will not take part in the struggle but at last she will come forward as a Peace-maker. Her

position too, with the Atlantic between herself and the seat of war will be a great safeguard.' Such were His words which we wrote down: And behold the day has come! Servia, poor little country - was the 'hove of contention' in this now mighty conflict - the apparent one anyway, though in the end Turkey may figure in as well as all the powers would very much like to pick Their feathers. But the great universal ^{war} of Europe is in process and in fact under headway. What the results will be only the Master knows. He also said: 'After that conflict many things will be changed; some Monarchies will become Republics and some Republics will become Empires.' What is that ^{wondrous} knowledge possessed by Abdul Baha! Think of it, ten years ago He foresaw and foreknew these very days and their startling events!"

In these black days the Bahais must impress upon the minds of every person that Peace is the sole remedy of all these terrible diseases. "In time of Peace all nations have been preparing for war, In the time of war let all men of good will prepare for Peace." This is the burden of the Message of Abdul Baha and it is hoped every one will follow it.