

Bahai Nest. Mount Carmel 15
Haifa Syria Oct 23d 1914

Dear friends!

As I followed the Beloved over the Mountain of Peace I told him of Mr Hearst's peace meeting in New York on September 20th and how it was considered as a triumphant success, judged by numbers, by enthusiasm and by the station of the orators such as the Vice-President of the United States, Mr Marshall, Mr Champ Clark, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Glynn, Governor of New York and other distinguished Americans. The Vice President remark was a Bahai sentiment and Abdul Baha was most pleased with it. He is reported to have said: - "Our unfortunate, our angry, and as we look at it - our mistaken brethren all over Europe will pause when they hear from this and other meetings in America, and will say, 'Is it not so that peace is better than war, that life is better than death, that friendship is fairer than hatred?'" Another note struck by Mr Clark, half altruistic and half patriotic, expressed the opinion of the average American and the Master liked the common sense and straightforward honesty behind his words. He said: - "In this world-wide war we are an innocent bystander. We have been grievously and sorely wounded, and we are here to night in an effort to encourage peacemaking in the old world, partly out of motives for humanity, but largely because we do not want to be injured" The Master listened to my account with evident interest and after a few minutes, as the glorious sun was setting behind the Mountain, gilding the Eastern horizon with prismatic colours - he said: - "America is the home of the ideals of Peace; its people are peace-loving and its democratic leaders the spreaders of the seeds of Peace. Well done Mr Hearst! His motives have been surely humane and generous and in this instance he has served the cause of humanity. I hope that a chain of similar meetings will be organized throughout the states, wherein eloquent speakers expose the iniquities of war and the beauty of Peace, - so that the world may resound with their call to Peace. This is indeed most important,

On the other hand the legislators, the far-visioned peace-advocates, the practical statesmen of America must from now ^{on} frame ~~a~~ code of laws and regulations to be used as the foundation for the future Universal Parliament of Man. This initiatory step is most difficult and arduous and only a free, disinterested, large-minded, humanity-loving nation like Americans can perform such signal services. The American people have had sound judicial training and the fundamental principles of their political institutions are based on the equality of opportunities for all mankind. Their national and state system of government has been always a good and beneficial example for the framers of the Constitution of the international Court of arbitration. In short America must be the principal actor in establishing the lasting Peace amongst the nations of the world. The propaganda of Peace ideals must be carried on unremittingly - thus the ground may become ready and the hearts prepared. The promotion of the principles of Peace and the exposition of the evils of war shall ultimately lead ~~into~~ ^{awakening} a stirring ^{on} the part of the people! Let us hope that there shall be a speedy settlement for all these barbaric, brutal destruction and new vandalism and that love may take the place of enmity."

I asked the ^{master} whether it would not be conducive to some good results if the Bahais in different cities in America organized a number of Peace meetings to which the public be invited and eloquent lectures delivered by prominent peace advocates and eminent personages as well as by the Bahais. He thought if the friends are able to arrange such public meetings and ^{at least} the substance of the lectures published in newspapers it would be very good indeed.

Because the Master had a dozen guests to day, he descended the Mountain early this morning and asked me to follow him after half an hour. When I entered the garden I could hear his voice in the Androun and after a few minutes he came out and started to walk, meanwhile talking.

At this time Kamal Bay, a prominent neighbor entered and the Beloved took him in the reception room. While the guest was smoking the hubbly bubble and drinking tea the Master dictated several Tablets for the believers in Russia, through our dear friend, Sayad Assadullah. While he was dictating another long Tablet for a believer in Teheran the guests arrived from Acca. Amongst them was the Commander of the army, the Mofte and others. The Master arose from his seat and welcomed them very heartily. The weather was balmy and very delightful and so the guests preferred to sit in the garden and listen to the wisdom talk of the Beloved. They were all reverence and respect towards him. Dinner was served in the central hall and at two pm they all left. At about 4 o'clock the Master came out of the house and went into the store of Mirza Anayetullah. He stayed there for one hour. Then coming back he rode on the donkey and ascended the Mountain for the evening. The air of Mount Carmel agrees perfectly with the present constitution of the Master. The inspiration of its pure air is most invigorating. It acts like a tonic on the body and is most wholesome.

In the evening he came again to the Pilgrims Home and stayed with us for more than one hour. At first he asked Aga Mahamad Hassan what he has prepared for us to eat and he said 'Abgousht'. Then he said:- "The best hour to eat supper is right after sunset. The Arabs having eaten their frugal supper go to sleep soon afterwards. This is the natural law. For example all the birds and many animals sleep after sunset. The babies once eating their milk go also to sleep after sunset. But on the other hand they wake up very early. This is the divine order of creation and many think it is the best, when the limited intelligence of man tries to inter middle with these laws he makes a sorry mess of them. The best way is to co-ordinate one's customs as far as possible with

the Divine Laws. During ^{the} life of my grandfather, the Ministers of State had an established custom. ^{my} grandfather being also a cabinet Minister, they had arranged to get every night in the house of one of themselves by turn. After the sun ^{one} lay one they came. At first they drank tea. Large trays of various ^{kind} of food were placed on tables from which they ate now and then. At midnight they would dismiss all the servants, lock the doors, bring ⁱⁿ their portfolios and in ^{these} calm and quiet hours discuss and deliberate on matters of state. For example the Minister of Finance or the Secretary of Foreign Affairs ^{would} bring up certain outstanding questions and after due consultation they would decide upon the course ^{of action} to be taken. In this manner, these ^{statesmen} consulted ^{together} for 3 or 4 hours concerning these difficult problems of administration, fully decided with the approval of their colleagues what should they do tomorrow and the Secretary of the meeting took down separate notes relating to each Ministry. Then at 4 or 5 am. supper was served and after this, they left the meeting for their own homes, where they slept till 11 or twelve o'clock. After a light breakfast they started for their various departments. They had already mapped out how to dispatch the business of the day and they went on doing their work in the utmost speed and wisdom. Those who were around them wondered how they could dispatch the ^{important} business of state with such fine judgment, discrimination and astuteness but they did not know ^{anything about} the anxious hours of consultation during the whole of the evenings. In that period the affairs of government and the people prospered greatly, because these men worked with undivided attention and enthusiasm for the progress and enlightenment of the public. No one had any selfish interest and all of them worked with main and force for the public weal. Often these deliberative Councils were held in our ^{ancestral} palace and I have been told these statesmen came to my grandfather and asked his advice and guidance in regard to the matters of their own departments and received sound and practical suggestions. "