

Home of Baha-Ollah.

Acca Syria November 30. 1914

Dear friends!

Badi Effendi and Mirza Halibollah Khodabakish came down from Ahsen Senan to go to the public bath and returned this afternoon. Before returning, however, the Master called them into his presence. They were delighted with the chance of meeting the Beloved of their hearts. "How are you in Ahsen Senan? Are you passing your time in a pleasant, profitable manner? At any rate during these agitated days you are all collected in one place, — safe, comfortable, healthy and in the utmost joy and fragrance. Your hearts are at rest, for you are beneath the shadow of the Blessed Perfection. What are the enjoyments of this physical life? Are they not these? Man should possess a place of security and safety, a delightful home with charming surroundings; open space, temperate weather, lots of fresh air, ^{and} verdant country, blue sea and flowery mountains for his daily exercises and mental pabulum. Now praise be to God that all these material as well as spiritual gifts of God are prepared for you. No doubt you have read in the recent dispatches that a number of turbulent tribes in Persia have arisen ^{against} Foreign Powers and there have been several demonstrations in different parts to join Turkey in this "holy jahad". Some of the Mohammadians congratulated me on Persia's determination to resist foreign ^{encroachment} simply because I am a Persian. I told them we are trained and instructed by Baha-Ollah — the Unifier and Peacemaker of the world. We are kind to all the denizens of the earth. We are the soldiers of Universal Peace, the serried ranks of brotherhood. We are not at war with any people. We are walking in the path of amity. The Bahais are not war-makers and shedders of blood. They are the glorified army of the Lord of Hosts. Their weapons are love and kindness. His Holiness Baha-Allah has taught us the lessons of tolerance and solidarity, — that all mankind are the sheep of God and He is the Clement Shepherd over all His flock. If He was not kind He would not have created them, supported them, sustained them, protected them. Inasmuch as He displays these all-surrounding qualities He is a Kind Father. Now so

long as this Universal Shepherd is kind, why should we treat each other harshly?"

This morning before we went down the Beloved had left the house to call on some poor families and investigate their needs. He came back but he was out again after half an hour. A poor Jewish traveller from Bagdad called and received about 3 dollars. He was very happy and left the presence of the potent King most satisfied. Before noon he was walking alone in the sunshine in 'Fakhouré'. Three Christian families approached him and received help. Another person talked with him and interceded for a third party whom the Master knew. "There is no need of intercession" I heard him say "Send him to me. Unquestionably I will do for him all I can and I will be glad to assist him. Now and again I have come to the assistance of those people who have been my enemies and thirsted for my blood. Then how much more I will be kind toward him who has been my friend and brother."

Abul Gasem arrived with his basket of madarines and bouquet of flowers as the Beloved was ascending the stairs. The former he divided amongst us and smote hard on the cheek of the delighted gardener. With brisk and vigorous steps he walked towards the dining room and called me aloud to follow him. How happy and mirthful he was! He laughed and talked and was very merry and in high spirits - an embodiment of joyousness and exhilaration. Miss Sanderson was ^{also} at the table. "Ha! Ha!" he spoke with laughter "The inhabitants of Acca have come to me and say: 'Is it not strange that thou dost not leave the town! Why! Abbas Effendi! This town is threatened with danger, any day the cruisers of the enemies may anchor in the Bay of Acca and bombard it. It seems to us that thou hast not any work here. We wish thee to leave the town for thine own safety. How is it that thou hast sent away all the Persians and their families and thou art here! Each one of the government's officials have a horse in their stables ready to escape as soon the enemies ships appear in the horzow.' I answered them: - 'these difficulties are nothing compared to what we have seen. We have gone through

such persecutions in Persia that the present disturbances are like honey and sugar. During our first seven years sojourn in Bagdad we were never sure that we shall live till next day We are resigned to the Will of God. Let us suppose that the cannon balls will be dropped in this very house and tear our bodies to pieces. What of it? This will be conducive to our utmost joy, will be the means of our glorification. Millions of people are sacrificing their lives in these days. They are all our own flesh and blood. What of it if we also share their fate! It will be surely an experience to see ~~these~~ bullets whirling and buzzing above one's head and bursting thunderlike amidst the air letting out and scattering smaller bullets, with a puff of quick blast, the upper sphere filled with the glaring ^{white} and black clouds of "smoke".

In the afternoon the chief of Police who is devoted to the Beloved called. "I have come to pay you a visit as well as dispatch a little business", he said as he sat down to drink his tea. The Master laughed: "You may come here and visit us as much as you like but not for business. This is not an office." He had a book and wanted the Beloved subscribe to some ^{kind of} municipal undertaking and write his name in it. He payed him ten francs and the chief of Police left the house to skin others.

The Turkish newspapers report a misunderstanding which has arisen between the United States and Japan and predict war ^{between} the two countries but I do not believe it. America is too great and too sagacious to enter this international charnel-house. America is the home of peaceful ideals and if that country in any way enters the arena of human slaughter, towards what point can mankind turn his eyes for a final settlement of this bloody imbroglis.

The French hospital in Beirut is taken by the Turkish government. A number of Monasteries had raised American flag for temporary protection but they were lowered by the Turkish officers.

All the foreign concessions, such as railroads, tramways,

gas and electric's are abrogated and brought under Turkish control. France is the principal sufferer in Syria.

Racial and religious antipathy ~~is~~ becoming more and more pronounced. The following little incident will illustrate what I mean. A man goes to a druggist in Acca (he related to me) and carries a prescription. He insists that ^{the} druggist must not give him any French or English drug but German. In order to humor him the druggist says he has thrown ^{out} all of his French and English medicines and has nothing but German drugs. "Fine, fine," the man cries "Thou art indeed a good Muslimman! Down with the English! Down with the French!" "But the German drugs cost more," ventures the pharmacist. "I will be glad to pay more ~~but~~ ^{only} it must be German." The druggist charges him 4 times the regular price, gives him French medicine and sends him away happy. In Haifa a government inspector calls on Mirza Anayetullah's store. He has a large shingle above the entrance with words "Persian Store". "Is not this writing English?" he asks. "Yes," our brother answers. "Then it must be brought down. Our streets must not be desecrated with English writing." "What of the French and Russian writings above other stores and hotels?" "All of them are to be brought down. Not one of them shall remain in their places. We want to wipe away all the traces of such sacrilegious writings."

The ignorant mob are daily fed with the bread of hatred and ^{envy}. Germany and Austria ought to be loved, and honored but the rest, Presto - they are the children of the devil. Even the fantastic idea finds credence that the German Emperor is really ^{nothing} else but a good Muslimman. He is known under the name of Hajj Ebrahim "Kalayum" (the Arabic rendition of William) and will perform a pilgrimage to Mecca when this war is over. All the Germans are "Muslimmans" and brothers in faith. The German white book is translated into Arabic and commences with the most ancient Koranic formula in the beginning of every chapter: - "In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful"