

Home of Baha Ollah. Acca
 Syria March 8th 1915

Dear friends!

Yesterday one of the friends by the name of Agha Mahamad Mehdi arrived from Beirut by way of Tyre and Sidon. He is a Bahai-resident of Acca. ^{him} about 2 weeks ago he went to Beirut to attend to some ^{of his} personal affairs. He brought with himself a number of letters written to the Master from Germany and made care of Mirza Azizollah Khan, one of the Persian students, who visited Stuttgart last year. Some of these letters were translated into Persian by our brother while others were not. Thus when this morning, we entered the Blessed room, the Beloved delivered the untranslated ones into my hands, - so that I may read to him their contents. Then he read to us aloud the translation of the letter of Madam Consul Schwarz and when it was finished he said: - "Madam Schwarz is the personification of spiritual Love. She is one of the most sanctified, pure, spiritual, firm and steadfast women that I have met in the West. She is so gentle and kind, so loving and sympathetic that one easily takes her for a supernatural, angelic being. She is the visible symbol of the nobility of truth, and the democracy of ideal grace. Her husband, her daughter and her sons are likewise true and sincere Bahais and devoted to the promotion of the Cause amongst their own people. The horrors of this war have softened the hearts and made them ready to listen to the Message of the Kingdom and the Gospel of Peace."

He asked me to read to him other letters. In one letter from Friedrich Schweizer the following quotation is found: "Some of the Bahai friends have given up their lives as soldiers on the battlefield: Herr Fov Lieber, Herr Zimmer, Herr Schweminger and also Frau Spahr has departed from this world. The Assembly of Tuffenhausen are offering prayers for these souls." The Beloved was very sad to hear his spiritual children thus killed and asked me to write their names on a sheet of paper ^{and} give it to him. Again our brother writes: - "This war-time has drawn the hearts nearer together and great works of charity are being undertaken by individual souls. Since beginning of the war we have had different soldiers in our house. To each and all we have given the Teachings of

Baha-Allah. The hearts of many people seem to be opened by the calamitous events of war and all of them are willing to listen to the Glad-tidings of the Kingdom. O Lord! grant us more and more power to work in your service. We all need your blessings and protection and beg and supplicate you for your benediction." Another letter signed by many believers was read. It says in part: - "We supplicate you in behalf of the whole world to illumine them with the light of love and peace. The holy Teachings have never ^{been} promulgated so widely and in these days of war there are many people who are turning their faces toward the Prince of Peace, the Counsellor. We are holding every week many Bahai meetings and the souls are attracted to the light of Reality. We are glad and happy over these spiritual conquests". There was also a letter signed by the children and their parents from Esslingen, breathing the same spirit of love and affection for all mankind. These are indeed the real manifestations of friendship for other nations, resulting from Bahai education and enlightenment. They convince us that although Germany is at war, yet the broad spirit of loving-kindness and amity is growing in the hearts of its strong and powerful people. The Master prayed that this spirit of true fraternity may increase day by day and the tent of the oneness of the world of humanity may be pitched ^{up} in the centre of the world, that the inhabitants of Germany may walk in the pathway of constructive peace and national glory, that the apotheosis of war be changed into the deification of ideal civilization and the science of human murder be transformed into the arts of human protection. Then he asked me to translate the children's letter into Persian and half an hour afterward he read it to a number of visitors. Thus this morning our hearts were cheered by these delightful messages from Germany and inasmuch as they were so elevating in tone, I thought I will share them with you; - so that we may appreciate more fully their self-sacrifice and faithfulness and how under the present distressing situations they are displaying the spirit of calm resignation and unruffled serenity. The Master was made very happy to hear ^{that} the progress of the Cause in Germany is continuous.

Today the Master told Khoero to warm the bath in this home. It was originally built for the Blessed Perfection in which He bathed Himself regularly during His lifetime. When it was all prepared and the water was warmed to the boiling point he asked Mirza Fazlollah Khan and me to take the bath and he would take it another day. Consequently we had a thorough scrubbing of the bodies and felt so much the better for it.

On the day that we came from Abou Senaw, because it was windy, rainy and disagreeable the Beloved caught a slight cold and the Doctor begged him not to leave his room till he felt perfectly well. He was much better today and by tomorrow the cold will be entirely removed.

In the evening we all gathered in his room. He was silent for quite a long time. Then as though coming back from the world of Light and Peace he addressed us in these few words: - "Would it not have been better if these quarrelsome, disputatious nations left aside their strifes and wars and entered into a solid pact of universal confederation? It would have been indeed a glorious achievement devoutly wished for. When selfishness becomes the ruling power of the machinery of a government, then the people will go to the utmost limit of egotism. These governments are draining themselves and at the same time destroying the happiness and well-being of mankind. The present leaders of humanity are devoid of reason and governed by the lower Animalistic powers, if they acted in accord with the good-pleasure of the Lord they would not have become the cause of shedding the blood of their own brothers. In this struggle in Germany, four of our believers have given up their lives. Because they have been the soldiers of the Prince of Peace their names will be written as martyrs in the book of Life. They did not love war but they had obeyed the call of their country in going into this fight. The Cause of God is progressing in Germany. Many souls are enkindled with the fire of the Love of God and are advancing toward the Kingdom of Peace. The believers are busy teaching new men and women and working in hospitals and in other ways, nursing the wounded and alleviating the pain of their suffering brothers.