

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
April 25th 1915

Dear friends!

Yesterday morning while the Beloved was sitting in the garden ^{amongst} the fragrant, white lilies he dictated two Tablets, one to Mr H. H. Topakeyan, ^{Consul} General of Persia in New York and the other to Mr Andrew Carnegie. I quote ^{extract} from the first and embody herein the second in full.

To Mr H. H. Topakeyan he writes:-

"Your letter written on March 10th 1915 was duly received. Praise be to God that it contained the good news of the health of all the members of that respected family. This produced great joy. Praise be to God that we are also shielded and guarded beneath the Shade of the Tree of Divine Protection and Preservation and are at all time occupied with your memory. you have written on the lack of the arrival of news on our parts to those regions. This bloody war has blocked all the ways. I hope that this hostility may be terminated by the end of this summer and the means of tranquility and composure be obtained. Convey the utmost ^{love} to Mr Carnegie on my behalf. This personage is the lover of the world of humanity and the servant of Universal Peace; therefore he is the manifestor of heavenly Confirmations. An epistle is enclosed herein. Deliver it to him and mail me his photograph. While in the West I cried with a resonant voice and in the most explicit language in meetings and churches that ere long such and such events shall transpire. We hope that after this war, days of the utmost sweetness and peacefulness may be unveiled. Europe and America in accord with the Teachings of His Holiness Baha Ollah may attain to a new life, these darknesses may disappear and the Brightness of the Kingdom of God may illumine the hearts."

To the noble personage, His Excellency Mr Andrew Carnegie.

May God assist him!

He is God!

O thou illustrious soul, O thou the great pillar of the Palace of Universal Peace!

It was sometimes since I intended to correspond with thee but there was no intermediary between us. Now that His Excellency Mr Topakeyan has made this possible through his kindly suggestion, I write thee this Epistle; for truly I say thou art the lover of the world of humanity and one of the founders of Universal Peace.

Today the most great service to the Kingdom of God is the promotion of the principle of the unification of mankind and the establishment of Universal Peace. A number of souls who were doctrinaires and impractical thinkers worked for the realization of this most exalted aim and good cause but they were doomed to failure, save that lofty personage who has been and is still promoting the matter of international Arbitration and general Conciliation through deeds, words, self-sacrifice and the generous donation of wealth and property. Rest thou assured that through the Confirmation of the Holy Spirit thou wilt become confirmed and assisted in the accomplishment of this most resplendent service and in this mortal world thou shalt lay the foundation of an immortal, everlasting edifice and in the end thou wilt sit upon the throne of incorruptible glory in the Kingdom of God.

All the leaders and statesmen of Europe are thinking on the plans of war and the annihilation of the mansion of humanity but thou art thinking on the plan of Peace and Love, and the strengthening and reinforcement of the basis of the superstructure of the human world. They are the heralds of death, thou art the harbinger of life. The foundations of their palaces are unstable and wavering and the turrets of their mansions are tottering and crumbling but the basis of thy structure is firm and unmovable.

While I was journeying throughout America and Europe I cried before all the meetings, conventions and Churches:— 'O ye noble friends! The world of humanity is facing in the future a most portentous danger and supreme Calamity. The Continent of Europe has become like unto a gunpowder magazine and arsenal, under

nature. Its combustion will be dependent on the sudden and unexpected enkindlement of one tiny spark which shall envelop the whole earth with a world-wide conflagration, causing the total collapse of European Civilization through the furious, wild raging fiery tongues of war. Therefore, O ye well-wishers of the world of humanity, endeavor ye by day and by night; - so that these inflammable materials may not come in touch with the burning fire of racial antipathy and hatred. Today the life of mankind and their attainment to everlasting Glory depend on their display of effort and exertion in accord with the principles of His Holiness Baha Ollah; for His first and foremost teaching consists of the oneness of the world of humanity. He says we are all the sheep of God. His highness the Almighty is the real Shepherd and Kind to all the sheep. Why then should we be unkind toward each other? Another of His most great Institutes deals with the subject of Universal Peace, the establishment of which would be conducive to the well-being and progress and tranquility of the commonwealth of man. Other precepts of Baha Ollah ^{treat} of the identity of the underlying foundation of the religions of God, the original oneness of the nations, the adaption and general practice of an universal, auxiliary language, and the inculcation of the ideal of cosmopolitanism and world-patriotism amongst the children of men; consequently in future, His Teachings will act as a deterrent and preventive from the occurrence of the Most Great Danger, i.e., Universal War.

Today the most important subject of the Kingdom of God is the promulgation of the Cause of Universal Peace and the Principle of the Oneness of the world of humanity. Whosoever arises in the accomplishment of this pre-eminent service, the Confirmations of the Holy Spirit will descend upon him. Now all that has been predicted has come to pass and the lurid flames of this war have emblazoned the horizon of the East and the West, causing a reverberating social earthquake through the columns of the earth. After this war the workers for the Cause of Universal Peace will increase day by day and the pacific party will array its force, displaying greater activity with better advantage and in

the end gaining a permanent triumph and eternal victory over the other parties. The realization of this matter is incontestable and is fragable. Therefore, ere long, a vast and unlimited field will be open before your view for the display of your powers and energies. You must promote this glorious intention with the heavenly Power and the Confirmation of the Holy Spirit. I am praying in thy life that thou mayst pitch a pavilion and unfurl a flag in the world of Peace, Love and Eternal Life.

I beg you to accept the considerations of my highest and deepest respect. (Signed) Abdul Baha Agha.

This morning Mr Rothschild arrived at ten o'clock and the ladies being present, in company with the Beloved we rode toward his house. His two little sons and one little girl ran out to welcome him. They were three little lovely angels, with curly golden hairs and deep blue eyes. The Master took them in his arm and showered upon them his blessings. The conversation turned upon the war in Germany and its consequent results on the whole world. Mr Rothschild being a musician played ^{for us} on his piano, a few pieces from Wagner, Beethoven and Schumann. I enjoyed it so very much, because my soul was hungry for good music and it was such a long time that I had no occasion to listen to any. Then they showed us the harlequins with which they amuse the children during the tedious hours of the day. Such a droll house of merry-andrew which made the Beloved laugh very heartily.

An elaborate painting of the tabernacle of testimony as detailed by Moses in its holy sanctuary, the altar of the burnt offering with a thick cloud of smoke going up, the mercy seat with the two cherubims spreading out their wings on high, the candlestick with six branches going out of it was shown him and he explained to them the symbolic meaning of each. Just before leaving them he said, "How cruel it is that these governments are causing the shedding of so much blood! What a grotesque sight that these so-called civilized Christian nations are teaching each other the art of human slaughter! We hope that the horizon of the world may soon be cleansed from these clouds of war, and the traces of destruction and carnage be wiped away. We must all work and pray for the realization of Peace;— so that the influx of Love

may overwhelm the hearts and the Standard of the unification of mankind be upraised." From here we called on the German Consul and the Master was welcomed into his private office. I waited for him in the outer room but his clear rich voice came to my ear. When we entered the landau and were driven down town he said: "These warring Christian nations call themselves the followers of Nazarene but do not live in accord with his teachings. In ^{name} they are Christians but in reality they are worse than pagan Hattutots. Do we who are Bahais live according to the principles of His Holiness Baha Ollah? We must ^{be} just. We must ^{not} speak with our eyes closed to our own shortcomings and expatiate on those of others. 'Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine ^{own} eye?' If we had lived in accord with the precepts of the Blessed Perfection, by this time, half the inhabitants of the world would have become Bahais and peace makers, attracted by the rays of the Sun of Truth and their nostrils perfumed with the fragrances of Holiness. We must not begin with word and end in word. We must act and teach mankind with the irresistible force of example. We must be willing to give up our own ideas and ^{opinions} when the public weal is concerned. We must serve the world of humanity in a befitting manner. We must be self-sacrificing. We must clothe ourselves with the robe of joy and happiness. We must not be pessimists and misanthropes. We must pray to God that He may assist us in the accomplishment of real services in His heavenly Vineyard. One drop of deed is better than an ocean of words. One ounce of action is more beloved than a tone of eloquent speeches."

This afternoon, Fouzi Effendi, after the removal of a series of stumbling blocks left for Egypt on the Italian steamer. It was a most difficult task but through the Confirmation of God it was accomplished.

Toward sunset four gentlemen called on the Beloved and they ^{speak} with him for a long time on the relation of New Theology with the growth of religious tolerance.

In the evening he gave a ^{talk on the} martyrdom of some old Bahais and their marvellous courage and faith in the arena of sacrifice.