

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
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Dear friends! O

No 16 and 17 of the Star of the West, Vol. V came to my hand today and the publication of the preliminary program of the International Bahai Congress held last month in San Francisco imparted to us great joy. With much pleasure we read the names of the speakers and were assured that the Confirmations of the Kingdom of Abha have descended upon them during the momentous hours of public utterance. In the evening when all the believers gathered in the Presence of the Lord I found an opportunity to read to him the names and the theme of each lecturer as well as the announcement of the Bahai Congress. His spiritual face as well as those of the friends flushed with the white rays of hope and gleams of delight. He straightened his back on the sofa, looked into our eyes with a new fiery animation and thus spoke: - "The Cause which is endowed by the dynamic, spiritual energy will advance and develop in spite of all obstacles. That dynamic spiritual energy will force men into most extraordinary activities. Although invisible, yet it works its way through the hearts of the people, impelling them to rise and serve their fellowmen. It is the most irresistible, irrepressible energy in the world of creation. In a twinkling of an eye it removes the most insurmountable barriers and defeats the most determined army of opposition. Its nature and property may be unknown to the skeptical men of science who weigh everything in the balance of sense and reason but its manifestations and functions are evident and clear to the people of understanding and sagacity. Just now all the doors are closed and all the ways are blocked but this Divine Energy is working in America. It has taken possession of the subterranean layers of human consciousness, causing the evolving of new plans, new ideals and new services. The Word of God is being proclaimed without the Crier and the Celestial Flag is held aloft without the standard-bearer. The songs of the Kingdom are sung without the nightingale and the garden of the Lord is adorned without the gardener. There is motion without the mover and deeds without the doer. The poet Masnawi says: -

'Seest thou not the pen, writing? although the hand cannot be seen. Beholdest thou not the dust raised aloft? although the horseman is invisible.' Similarly the ensign of God is being hoisted in all parts of the world without the General, the voice of the True One is lifted up without the herald and the heavenly light is radiating to all directions without the protecting glass. This is no other than through that mysterious, hidden Energy of the Cause.

"When the Blessed Perfection was in Constantinople He sent a message to Mirza Houssein Khan, the Persian Ambassador, through the then well-known Mirza Safa to this effect: What dost thou expect to do with me? If by these persecutions ^{and exiles} thou dost desire my destruction, very well, singly and alone I am in your midst without any protector or guardian. You may do with me whatever you please. you may banish or hang me on a gallows, you may throw me into the dungeon or kill me in the public square, in fact you may inflict upon me the worse imaginable punishments. I will welcome all these as the signs of the Favor of my Lord. But if through these misguided efforts you intend the annihilation of the Cause of God, bootless ~~are~~ your exertions. If your aim is the extinction of this divine lamp, you shall surely fail. If these are your objects you are wasting your force. you were vainly imagining that with the martyrdom of His Holiness the Bab this spiritual lamp would have been died out but contrary to the expectation of all the opposers its light illumined the horizons of the East and the West. On this account we are not hopeless. No man-made dam can hold back the battling waves of the sea. No Chinese wall can stay the aerial tide of the life-imparting breezes. No ingenious project can obstruct the shining forth of the rays of the Sun. all the changes and disturbances in the world contribute to the promotion of this glorious Cause and consolidate its unifying forces. This blessed tree will grow and develop. No power under the sun will stop its progress. The spirit of the Cause will never become weak, its sight will not be dimmed, its hearing will not be lost, its hands and feet will not be paralyzed nor its faculties atrophied."

This morning I found the Beloved sitting in the garden and looking at the flowers. In a long time he was alone. Then he asked for the friends and bade them be seated in the sunshine. Speaking about feast he said: "The believers of God must invite the people to the Feast of the Love of God. The result of such a feast is the spirituality of the souls and the upliftment of the mind while the outcome of the material feasts are temporal and superficial. In the Bahai feasts the expression of moral sentiments must become very strong, overpowering and the table of divine life be spread. When the material and spiritual feasts are wedded together in love and affection, the child of harmony and peace will be born in the assemblage of the elect."

Before noon the American Consul called and for more than one hour the talk between ^{him and} the Beloved revolved around many local and foreign subjects, chiefly the war in Europe and the present extreme poverty of the inhabitants of Syria. Then he described warmly and graphically the appearance of Baha Ollah in Persia and how through His Teachings the racial and religious prejudices have been laid ^{aside} by all those who have accepted the fundamental unity of all faiths.

This morning a warship entered the harbor of Haifa and in a few minutes the strange sight of an aeroplane made its appearance above the horizon. She made a circuit flight above Mount Carmel and then changed its course toward Tiberias. Gaining the desired information she returned and came ^{right} down on the deck of the man-of-war. After an hour or two she steamed off and we were now the wiser.

In the afternoon the landau was made ready and the Master asked Doctor Habibullah, Mirza Badi and myself to accompany him on a ride. A propos of education he said: "If the Bahais could build an universal ^{on Mount Carmel or in the vicinity of the sacred Tomb of Baha Ollah} University, wherein all the divine and material sciences are to be taught, most wonderful results will be achieved not only for the people of Syria but the whole world." I asked him a few questions concerning this interesting suggestion, so that if ⁱⁿ the future his idea is matured, his plan may be carried out in full. It will be very wonderful and I am sure most practical. Only time is needed for its slow but sure fruition.