

Home of Abdul Baha
Mount Carmel, Haifa Syria
May 21st 1915

this afternoon

Dear friends!

While the landau was driven toward Elijah's cave, I asked three questions from the Beloved. As they were general in tone and scope you would no doubt be interested to hear his answers.

"Will it help the promotion of the Bahai principles and the establishment of Universal Peace if at the termination of this war an International Bahai Conference ^{could} be formed in London?"

"Yes. We must wait and see how the results of the mighty events which are taking place in these days will shape themselves into concrete facts and how far the Western nations will soar toward the bright heaven of human brotherhood. This old world of ours is undergoing undreamed of changes and revolutions. It is in a transitional state, shedding off its old skin and taking unto itself new ligments and building up new tissues. The happy and healthy children of a new order of public opinion are being born, the ethical laws of the world are in the process of a radical reformation, ^{and} an entirely new code of statutes will be legislated for the international relations and the final consolidation of the modern and ancient nations. No human mind can conceive the startling changes which God has in store for His chastened children.

"It seems to me that the present war is ^{rather} intensifying the root of enmity and hatred between the nations, because so much blood is being shed and all the pacific agencies have failed in their mission. Have they another power ^{through} which they may eradicate the basis of this new evil?"

"It is now demonstrated that all their existent powers have contributed ^{some} thing toward the realization of this world war, even their so-called Christian religion has been made a pliable instrument for the promotion of war purposes. Hence it is evident that they have no other executive power ^{strong} enough to remove the accumulated load of their new-created rancours. The Only power that is left is the Power of the Bahai Movement which is impartial and entirely spiritual. This is the only highway through which they can marshal their armies of Peace. When they turn their faces

toward this Point their hearts will be illuminated with a new light, their complicated relations will be readjusted and their problems solved. For this reason I have said that after this war there must needs be many Bahai teachers, equipped and ready to go out into the world and explain to the sorrow-stricken nations the self-evident benefits of peace. The whole world will then be in a listening attitude and willing to forget the past and strike a new road of mutual helpfulness and co-operation."

"Supposing there were a few Bahai members in the national parliaments and Senates of the nations, would they have been able to promote in a practical manner the cause of universal Peace?"

"Yes. It would have had a marked effect. God willing this excellent idea will become realized, for such representatives and Senators would concentrate all their energies and influence on the side of Peace and conciliation. Their public utterances in the national councils will be listened to respectfully and their sincere strivings crowned with success. By the delivery of eloquent speeches they will attract the attention of the world to the insanity of war adherents - thus organizing a strong, wisely-propelled public opinion capable to stem the furious tide of any uprising, ^{and} changing the current of blind evil forces into the channel of world solidarity and inter-racial brotherliness. Such Bahai members having drunk from the pure fountain of the Universal Teachings of Baha-ollah, are in reality cosmopolitan in spirit, mind and soul and have arisen above the stultifying limit of nationality and patriotism. They exert all their moral, religious and intellectual powers for the progress of the world and the perfection of mankind. God will assist and confirm them in all their undertakings. Of a truth they are the harbingers of the roseate dawn of the sun of world's amity and friendship. Their words and deeds will exert a decided influence on the decisions of their governments. They will become enabled not only to usher in the era of the United States of Europe but the infinitely more important measure will be brought into fruitage under their ^{wise and} statesmanlike leadership and that is - the Organization of the United - States of the world. If there has been possible

in the past the formation of a United States of America, the next ^{most} natural step will be the constitution of a United States of Europe, each state autonomous within its boundary, inter-dependent and working for the common prosperity, general advancement, expansion of commerce, diffusion of learning, the welfare of the whole communities, the socialization of industries and the improvements of arts, inventions, crafts and sciences. This is indeed the ideal state of the human society."

Our bandeau stopped a few minutes under the olive grove and he spoke about the deposition of Gaemmagam. "Such is the course of human events yesterday he was the governor of Haifa, and did practically as he ~~was~~ pleased. Today he is shorn of all his autocratic powers and cannot oppress the poor people." On our return he alighted from the carriage at the police station and talked a few minutes with the commissioner. Then he walked to ~~the~~ hotel Carmel and several military officers arose from their seats on the veranda and welcomed him in their midst. Here also he tarried for a quarter of an hour and when we reached home the Commander of the garrison in Acre was awaiting him. He welcomed him and took him by the arms. In a second they disappeared in the house. ^{Thus} for about three hours we were with the Lord ⁱⁿ ~~under~~ the sunshine of his countenance and receiving the sweet manna of his blessings.

At noon I partook of the material food at his table. There were a few more guests and he spoke to them on a variety of interesting subjects. In the morning he took Badi Effendi through the garden and showed him the fruits hanging on the branches and tempting the beholder. In the evening Haji Mirza Haydar Ali asked him to dictate to me half an hour a day the detailed history of the life of the Blessed Perfection as a priceless heritage for future generations. He did not answer him but simply said: "The signs of greatness and majesty was apparent in Baha Ollah at every stage of his miraculous life and those who entered His presence went away impressed with His supernatural learning and intelligence."