

ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS COM- ING.

**Famous Leader of the Bahai Move-
ment En Route to America—Plans
Tour of the Country—Movement
Attracts Attention.**

By Lewis G. Gregory.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—It is now settled that Abdul Baha Abbas, the leader of the Bahai movement, is en route for America and will arrive in New York about April 10. He plans a tour of the country and will visit many of the large cities, Chicago among them. In view of the visit of one who, although not extensively known in the western world, is without doubt the most illustrious man on earth, it is to be hoped that the colored race, in connection with people of the other race, will avail themselves of the privilege of seeing and hearing him.

But what, may be asked, is the Bahai movement, and who is Abdul Baha Abbas? The answer to these questions seems to have a special significance to the oppressed, despised, and rejected of all races and nations. For while the colored people today, as naturally they would be, are in a ferment of unrest and discontent because of the manifest injustice and prejudice that are uniformly directed against them in America, here is a movement that has in it millions of people, representing many races and all the great religions, and now actively advocated in all parts of the world, and able to unite its followers under the banner of universal tolerance and love. In Oriental countries the Bahai movement has united Jews, Christians, Mohammedans, Hindus, Zoroastrians, Buddhists, etc., representing many races. In Europe it has united various branches of Christianity. In America, where it was introduced only about nineteen years ago, its assemblies reach from Maine to California, and it now gives forth more promise of being the real solution of the race problem than anything ever seen or heard of before.

Abdul Baha Abbas is the recognized leader of this movement, and from his friends "receives an homage that kings might sigh for in vain." He values deeds above words and works in and out of season for the freedom of men from superstition and hatred. Taking their cue from their leader, his friends are engaged in much useful work. They look to results while some reformers talk. May it not then be suggested that one who has done so much for the peace and progress of the human race is entitled to respect and attention? Would it not be profitable for the American people in general, and the colored people in particular, to study the man and the means that have made him so successful?

Abdul Baha, the Servant of God, as he is known by his followers, visited England, France, and Switzerland last fall. It was his first visit to the western world. Perhaps no man ever appealed more to the universal heart of humanity. This was shown by the number and variety of people who sought interviews with this illustrious Oriental. His interviewers consisted in part of the clergy, members of various religious and sociological cults, Masons, international peace promoters, suffragettes, statesmen and reformers of various kinds. He met these people all upon their own plane and had golden words of hope and kindness for each.

The maintenance of his liberal and progressive views have cost Abdul Baha much suffering. More than fifty years of his life were spent in a Turkish or Persian prison. But it is a remarkable tribute to his powers of leadership that during the most intense persecutions of his father, Baha'o'llah, and himself, the cause they advocated has steadily grown. The friends of this movement invite the public to investigate its power.

One of the cardinal precepts of the Bahai movement is a saying of Baha'o'llah:

"Verily the words which have descended from the heaven of the will of God are the source of unity and harmony in the world. Close your eyes to racial differences and welcome all with the light of oneness. This handful of dust, the world, is one home. Let it be in unity. Forsake pride; it is a cause of discord. Follow that which tends to harmony."

About fifty invitations have already been extended Abdul Baha to address gatherings in the cities he will visit. It is to be hoped that people of all races and classes will embrace the opportunity to see and hear him.