

# ABDUL-BAHA

True Happiness, Wisdom and Progress. The Dawn of Knowledge.

## THE REAL TRUTH

To comprehend the real import of these words, we have only to recall the subsequent stirring events in France. In the year 1870, which doubtless are fresh in the memory of all. Up to the middle of the year 1870, no crowned head felt the dignified assurance of royal safety and security as did the Emperor of France. Napoleon III believed himself and his kingdom to be impregnable; but to quote the words of a French historian, no greater delusion ever found repose in the breast of royalty.

Regarding this particular time, Sutherland Menzies, in his history of France from the earliest time to 1880, says:

"In these days a dictatorship can only be temporary. Napoleon III knew it well, and at the same moment that he took possession of the throne, he had promised that liberty should one day crown the new political edifice. After Solferino (N. B.—His great victory over Francis Joseph of Austria, 1859), he mediated bringing it back to French institutions, to which it was recalled by the increasing confidence and prosperity of the country." "In the midst of this prophecy and these hopes, a storm suddenly arose under which the empire foundered and France was precipitated into an abyss of grief and misery."—the war against Prussia, July, 1870.

Two years before this, he, the Emperor, received these words of warning from the Blessed Perfection; but he heeded them not, and as a result, the humiliation that he told him was hastening after him, overtook him before the end of 1870. In July of that year, the world was suddenly startled by the amazing announcement that Prussia, in that day considered, in the eyes of the world, an insignificant nation, had the boldness and temerity, single-handed, to declare war against the great warlike nation of France; a nation which only a little over half a century before, made all Europe tremble, and her allied armies quake with fear and dread. Notwithstanding, Prussia demanded the Provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, and served France with notice that if her demands were not complied with forthwith, she would seize them by force of arms; dignified France, intoxicated with the flattering memories of past victories, achieved through the prowess and greatness of her military standing, scorned their presumption, and to the surprise of the world, Prussia called to arms 1,500,000 trained men to enforce her demands; the most formidable machinery of war that the world has seen.

Napoleon marshalled the proud army of France to meet his foe, but alas! "humiliation was hastening after him." The terrific shot and shell of the determined Prussian threw the valliant columns of France into helpless confusion and disorder, and like reapers in the harvest field, the sturdy soldiers of His Teutonic Majesty mowed down the proud armies of France like grass. Such tremendous slaughter was never before heard of, in the space of time in which the engagements lasted between these two nations. War was declared in July (1870), and by the 6th of August, Weissenburg, Reichshofen and Forbach had fallen, before the crushing advance of the deadly foe. On September 2nd, the Emperor capitulated at Sedan; Marshal Bazaine at Metz, October 26th. Following this, Strasburg succumbed after a short but sharp bombardment; then, the order was given by the victorious commander of the Prussian forces, to march to Paris. Here a last determined resistance was made; but in spite of their courage, against disciplined and victorious soldiers, the provincial armies were crushed; and when, after 131 days of siege, after a month's bombardment, famine forced Paris to lower the drawbridges of her forts, in unconditional surrender, nothing more remained but to submit to the law of the conqueror; and thus the glory of the proud Emperor and the greatness of his kingdom faded away, like snowflakes before the melting rays of a summer sun. After the blood and carnage of the invading army had aided, the subjects of the Emperor, seized with a violent commotion, resulted in the overthrow of the

archy, and the establishment of a republic; which form of government has lasted up to the present day. Finally, he sought refuge in England, where he died (in exile) shortly after; as foretold by the Blessed Perfection.

The facts connected with the downfall of the last monarch of France, and the disruption of his kingdom, should be sufficient to awaken any thoughtful mind to a realization of the great day in which we are living; the day which has witnessed the Lord of Hosts among us.

The Franco-Prussian war was the shortest, sharpest and most decisive to be found in the annals of history. And why? Because the Lord of Hosts declared "humiliation was hastening after the Emperor; that his empire would depart from him; that commotion should seize the people, unless he arose to assist in the cause of the righteous and follow the Spirit in the right way; that his glory had made him proud; but it should not endure, but should pass away, unless he moved to take hold of the firm rope."

The Shah of Persia received a most wonderful tablet, dealing with the religious rights and liberties of the people. The messenger who delivered it was seized by the royal guards and put to death in the most diabolical manner. While it is not claimed that the act was in compliance with the command of the Shah, nevertheless His Highness did not interfere to prevent the extreme cruelties inflicted, which ended in a slow and tortuous death. It is a remarkable coincidence that both the Shah of Persia and the Sultan of Turkey, under whose respective rules these barbarous persecutions were sanctioned, should both be suddenly cut off by the hand of an assassin. The Sultan and several of his cabinet ministers were murdered, as you know, while holding a cabinet meeting, about the close of the Turko-Russian war in 1876, and the Shah in the spring of 1896, in the midst of his jubilee celebrations. The latter event must be fresh in the memory of all, as our daily papers gave full and graphic accounts of the tragic affair.

The Queen of England condescended to send a polite reply to the effect that, "if he were God, nothing could overthrow him or his teachings, but if he were not, he would come to naught"; or words to that effect. In reply the Blessed Perfection assured her that she would enjoy a long and prosperous reign; and we all know that this has been fully verified, as no crowned head of England reigned so long as Queen Victoria.

advanced as she has during the past thirty years; her population has been doubled, and her territory almost trebled. These are facts which can be had from statistics. It is also remarkable that the Czar of Russia should be the first to call a peace conference of all the nations.

Regarding the prophecies concerning the place and time of the Lord's coming, we shall at this present time quote a few passages to show that the events we have so far related are in exact accord with the Scriptures. We read in Hosea, chapter 2, verse 15: "And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope; and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt." And in Isaiah 65:10: "And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me."

(Continued next week.)