

Tablets, Instructions and Words of Explanation

Revealed by

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¶ For the Assemblies and Meetings
of the Baháís of the United States and
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

FIRST TALK	3
First Tablet to the Northeastern States	5
Second Tablet to the Northeastern States	7
SECOND TALK	11
First Tablet to the Southern States	12
Second Tablet to the Southern States	13
THIRD TALK	20
First Tablet to the Central States	21
Second Tablet to the Central States	23
FOURTH TALK	28
Tablet to the Western States	31
FIFTH TALK.	36
First Tablet to Canadian Friends	37
Second Tablet to Canadian Friends	38
SIXTH TALK.	44
Tablets to the Bahai Assemblies of the United States and Canada	46
SEVENTH TALK.	54
Tablet to the Believers and the Maid-Servants of the Merciful of the Bahai Assemblies of the United States and Canada	55
EIGHTH TALK	62
Eighth General Tablet to the Bahais of the United States and Canada.	65
NINTH TALK	73
Suggestions Presented	81

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

FIRST TALK

Baha'o'llah in the Tablet to the Pope of Rome says:

"Arise in the Name of thy Lord the Merciful, amidst the assembly of beings, and take the cup of life in the hand of assurance; drink thou therefrom first, then give to drink to those who advance of the people of different religions."

Dear friends! It is indeed a great joy to be present at this great gathering and a blessed privilege indeed to offer to you the Cup of Life prepared for you by our Beloved Abdul Baha. So that you may drink of these Life-giving Words and then go forth—offering it to all the religionists of the world.

I bring you the greeting and love of Abdul Baha and his hope and prayers for your spiritual advancement and illumination. During the last four years the Beloved has often spoken of your faithfulness and sincerity in the Cause, and of your yearning to serve and teach and help to further the cause of the oneness of the world of humanity.

There are many meetings held in this world. Each having a certain object in view, that object may be commercial, educational or economic, but I am sure that the object of this great Convention is to draw the hearts nearer together, to spread the knowledge of Truth, to uphold the ideals of God, to proclaim the Revelation of Baha'o'llah and to express our devotion and adherence to the Center of the Covenant Abdul Baha, and carry out his instructions regarding the building of the Mashrekol. Under the dome of the Temple all nations and religions may worship their God.

I come to you from the East, the land—from the horizon of which—all the Suns of Reality have arisen in the past. The land which has been the birth-place of Zoroaster, Abraham, Moses, Christ and Mohammed and in this Day, His Holiness the Bab, Baha'o'llah and Abdul Baha.

I bring to you not worldly gifts which perish after a few years, but the jewels of the Kingdom of Baha'o'llah—the Universal Instructions.

The great events of the last four years have changed the minds of men, producing a mental and spiritual revolution which cannot be healed without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Most every one feels that we are today, standing on the threshold of an age of material, intellectual and spiritual regeneration. All the hidden forces of humanity are being stirred; political, social and economic principles of the last two generations are more or less set at naught and the wise men of every nation are thinking to reconstruct the body politic from top to bottom. There is not a man or woman in the remotest corners of Asia and Africa who has not felt the thrill of the coming change, and the spirit of transformation sweeping all over the world, has brought about tremendous unrest and upheaval. This great war and its perfect machinery for the destruction of men and property have appalled the ideal conscience of mankind and have made them realize more than anything else that War is death, while peace is life; war is

hate, peace is love; war is darkness, peace is light; war is destructive, peace is constructive. All the beneficent forces of society have sprung up through the interplay of the forces of love, peace and association, and thus the vision of a better state of being has taken hold of the minds of men all over the world, without exception. They long and pray for a more rational religion, they work for a higher standard of truth, they pray for a nobler state of existence, they aspire toward a loftier plane of consciousness, and they dream of the perfections of humanity. They aim to eliminate the poverty of body and soul, and through the laws of a social religion recover the lost vision of beauty and love. For as James Dealy, in his book on Sociology, says: "Back of statistics, heartless laws, agnosticism and materialism, is a belief in the perfectibility of mankind, whether in this world or the next . . . the perfection of humanity on earth, however, lies far in the future, and it may be that thousands of years will be needed before its possibilities become real, yet the human mind is so constituted that it will continue to dream of the good time coming, and, as it frees itself from error and illusion, its utopianism will gradually merge into a science of prevision, and social energy will strive methodically to bring about a social reconstruction, founded on reason and inspired by the hope of final achievement."

It is this divine optimism, this dream of the perfectibility of mankind, that characterizes more than anything the Bahai Movement. It is the dynamic spirit of the age, the up-rushing breeze of the Garden of Truth, the ideal picture of the oneness of humanity, that inspires our hearts and swells our breasts with bright hopes and eager expectations to behold the countenance of brotherhood, to unfurl the banner of international solidarity and to co-operate for the realization and perfection of a League of Nations based upon justice and righteousness. Our great spiritual leader, Abdul Baha, has been teaching and upholding these universal principles all through his life and has shown in his daily life and deeds that it is possible for men to live with their neighbors peacefully and without quarreling, and it is also possible to manifest the divine life in our material world, suffering it to become the prototype of the heavenly realm. I believe that from every standpoint Abdul Baha is portraying to us the ideal perfections of God and humanity, and therefore his instructions are all based upon spiritual wisdom and celestial sagacity. Whatever he says or writes is for the good of humanity and the progress of social and divine order.

During the last few years, while the war was raging all over the earth and the doors of communication were closed with the outside world, Abdul Baha was not only praying for the friends of God and the suffering humanity, but he was also drawing a wonderful plan, a great Law, a Bill of Rights for the spiritual guidance and regeneration of the world.

When the thunder-cloud of war broke over our heads in Palestine and the wheels of social and religious activities became clogged, Abdul Baha divided his time between Haifa, Acca, Bahjee, Tiberias and Adasyah. Often for months he would stop in an adjoining building in the sacred Tomb of Baha'o'llah and of course I had always the privilege of accompanying him, humbly walking in his divine footsteps, trying to learn the beauty and wisdom of his simple yet sublime life and portraying with as much skill as I could

command, the height and depth of his character, the beauty of his stature and the peaceful harmony of his inner life.

It was during the months of March and April of 1916 that I had the greatest joy of my life-to live—with Abdul Baha in Bahjee. I may claim without grave apprehension of contradiction that in the future those two months will be considered as the most significant, the most fruitful months in the Bahai History, and this, our Convention, as the most constructive Convention ever held in America.

The life of Abdul Baha in Bahjee during those two months was not only prayerful and calm as the surface of a pure river but active and earnest, full of life and beauty; the highest ideals of the Kingdom, like jewels were falling from his lips; the garden of his heart was adorned as it is always adorned with the imperishable roses of Truth and the Elysian field of his mind was begemmed with violets of spiritual emotions and hyacinths of divine wisdom.

On Monday morning March 26, 1916, he was sitting peacefully in his room in Bahjee, now and then looking out of the window over the olive grove, beyond the sea and far into the infinitude. Suddenly he turned his wonderful, penetrating eyes upon me and asked me to chant one of the prayers of Baha'o'llah. As I continued my chant I felt a strange power coming over me, realizing my unworthiness in being permitted to live so long and so near the divine presence of Abdul Baha. When I finished the prayer he looked at me with charming sweetness, that soft, dancing light in his eyes and said: "Thou must be infinitely grateful to Baha'o'llah that He has chosen thee to be with me for so long a time. Surely it must be for a great purpose that is not apparent at the present time. It will become clear in the future. Now bring pen, paper and ink and I will dictate a Tablet for America."

When I was ready to take down his thoughts, the following heavenly words adorned the white pages as the necklace adorns the neck of a queen:

TABLET

"To the friends and maid servants of God in the NORTHEASTERN States:

"Upon them be greeting and praise!

"O ye heavenly heralds!

"These are the days of Naurooz. I am always thinking of those kind friends! I beg for each and all of you confirmations and assistance from the threshold of Oneness, so that those gatherings may become ignited like unto candles, in the Republics of America, enkindling the light of the love of God in the hearts; thus the rays of the heavenly teachings may begem and brighten the states of America like the infinitude of immensity with the stars of the most great guidance.

"The Northeastern states on the shores of the Atlantic—Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York—in some of these states believers are found, but in some of the cities of these states up to this date people are not yet illumined with the lights of the Kingdom and are not aware of the heavenly teachings; therefore, whenever it is possible for each one of you, hasten ye

to those cities and shine forth like unto the stars with the light of the most great guidance. God says in the glorious Koran: "The soil was black and dried. Then we caused the rain to descend upon it and immediately it became green, verdant, and every kind of plant sprouted up luxuriantly." In other words, he says the earth and the soil is black, but when the spring showers descend upon it that black soil is quickened, and variegated flowers are pushed forth. This means the souls of humanity belonging to the world of nature are black like unto the soil. But when the heavenly outpourings descend and the radiant effulgences appear, the hearts are resuscitated, are liberated from the darkness of nature and the flowers of divine mysteries grow and become luxuriant. Consequently man must become the cause of the illumination of the world of humanity and propagate the holy teachings revealed in the sacred books through divine inspiration. It is stated in the blessed Gospel: Travel ye toward the East and toward the West and enlighten the people with the light of the most great guidance, so that they may take a portion and share of the eternal life. Praise be to God, that the North-eastern States are in the utmost capacity. Because the ground is rich, the rain of the divine outpouring is descending. Now you must become heavenly farmers and scatter pure seeds in the prepared soil. The harvest of every other seed is limited, but the bounty and the blessing of the seed of the divine teachings is unlimited. Throughout the coming centuries and cycles many harvests will be gathered. Consider the work of former generations. During the lifetime of his Holiness Christ the believing, firm souls were few and numbered, but the heavenly benedictions descended so plentifully that in a number of years countless souls entered under the shade of the Gospel. God has said in the Koran: "One grain will bring forth seven sheaves, and every sheaf shall contain one hundred grains." In other words, one grain will become seven hundred; and if God so wills he will double these also. It has often happened that one blessed soul has become the cause of the guidance of a nation. Now we must not look at our own ability and capacity; nay, rather we must behold the favors and bounties of God in these days, who has made the drop to find the expression of the sea and the atom the importance of the sun.

"Upon ye be greeting and praise!

"(Signed) ABDUL BAHA ABBAS."

Translated April 26, 1916.

Nearly ten months passed. Meanwhile the above Tablet had been forwarded to America and its circulation amongst the friends of that section had created a great deal of active interest in the promotion of the Cause. But during the months following, the talks of Abdul Baha on various occasions pointed to the fact that that Tablet was not final and that when the proper time came he would reveal another and more wonderful Tablet for the guidance of the Friends. Thus I was made very happy when this Lordly promise was fulfilled and on Friday morning February 2nd, 1917, while he was walking in a small room in his house at Haifa he dictated the following spiritual firman for the believers of the northeastern states ending with a supplication to be read by the teachers going into the field of activity spreading the light.

TABLET

"To the believers of God and the maid servants of the Merciful of the North-eastern States of the United States of America.

Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York.

"HE IS GOD!"

"O ye real friends!

"All the regions in the estimation of the True One are one region and all the cities and villages are ideally equal and similar to each other. Neither holds distinction over another. All of them are the fields of God and the habitation of the souls of men. But through faith and assurance and the precedence of one part over another the dweller imparts holiness and sanctification to the dwelling and some of the countries becoming exceptional, attain to the most great distinction.

"For example, notwithstanding that some of the countries of Europe and America are distinguished for the purity of the air, the wholesomeness of water, and the charm of mountains, plains and prairies and are preferred above all the rest, yet Palestine became an honor to all other regions of the world: Because all the holy divine Manifestations from the time of His Holiness Abraham to the time of the appearance of the Seal of the Prophets, have been either living in this region or emigrated to or travelled through here.

"Likewise Yathroh and Batha attained to the most great bounty and the light of the Prophets have shown from that horizon. For this reason Palestine and Hedjaz are distinguished above all other Regions.

"Likewise as the Continent of America in the estimation of the True One is the field of the effulgence of lights, the Kingdom of the Manifestation of Mysteries, the home of the righteous ones and the gathering place of the free, therefore every section thereof is blessed; but because these nine states have been favored in faith and assurance, hence thro' this precedence they have obtained spiritual privilege. They must realize the value of this bounty; because they have obtained such a favor and in order to render thanksgiving for this most great Bestowal, they must arise in the diffusion of Divine Fragrances; so that the blessed verse of the Koran:

"God is the light of heaven and earth: the similitude of his light is a niche in a wall, wherein a lamp is placed, and the lamp enclosed in a case of glass; the glass appears as if it were a shining star. It is lighted with the oil of a blessed tree, an olive neither of the East, nor of the West; it wanteth little but that the oil thereof would give light, although no fire touched it. This is the light added unto light. God will direct unto his light whom he pleaseth."

—may be realized.

He says: "The world of nature is the world of darkness, because it is the origin of a thousand depravities, nay rather, it is darkness upon darkness." The illumination of the world of nature is dependent upon the splendor of the Sun of Reality. The grace of Guidance is like unto the candle which is enkindled in the glass of knowledge and wisdom and that glass of knowledge and wisdom is the mirror of the heart of humanity. The oil of that luminous

lamp is from the fruits of the Blessed Tree and that oil is so refined that it will burn without light. When the intensity of the light and the translucency of the glass and the purity of the mirror are brought together, it will become light upon light.

In brief, in these nine Blessed States Abdul Baha journeyed and traveled from place to place, explained the wisdom of the heavenly book and diffused the fragrances. In most of these States he founded the Divine Edifice and opened the door of teaching. In those States he sowed pure seeds and planted blessed trees.

Now the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful must irrigate those fields and with the utmost power engage themselves in the cultivation of these heavenly plantations so that the seeds may grow and develop, prosperity and blessing be realized and many rich and great harvests be gathered in.

The Kingdom of God is like unto a farmer who comes into possession of a piece of pure and virgin soil. Heavenly seeds are scattered therein, the clouds of divine providence pour down and the rays of the Sun of Reality shine forth.

Now all these bounties exist and appear in full in these nine States. The divine Gardener passed by that holy ground and scattered pure seeds from the lordly teachings in that field, the rain of the Bounties of God poured down and the heat of the Sun of Reality, that is:—The Merciful Confirmations—shone with the utmost splendor. It is my hope that each one of those blessed souls may become a peerless and unique irrigator and the East and the West of America may become like unto a delectable paradise—so that all of you may hear from the Supreme Concourse the cry of “Blessed are ye, and again blessed are ye!”

“Upon ye be greeting and praise!”

The following supplication is to be read by the teachers and friends daily:

“O Thou Kind Lord! Praise be unto Thee that Thou hast shown unto us the Highway of Guidance, opened the doors of the Kingdom and manifested Thyself through the Sun of Reality. To the blind Thou hast given sight; to the deaf Thou hast granted hearing; Thou hast resuscitated the dead; Thou hast shown the way to those who have gone astray; Thou hast led those with parched lips to the Fountain of Guidance; Thou hast suffered the thirsty fish to reach the Ocean of Reality and Thou hast invited the wandering birds to the rose-garden of Grace.

“O Thou Almighty! We people are Thy servants and Thy poor ones! We are remote, we yearn for Thy Presence; we are thirsty for the water of Thy Fountain; we are ill, longing for Thy medicine. We are walking in Thy Path and have no aim or hope save the diffusion of Thy Fragrances—so that the souls may raise the cry of: “O God! Guide us to the straight Path!” May they open their eyes by beholding the lights and become freed from the darkness of ignorance! May they walk around the Lamp of Guidance! May the portionless receive a share! and may the deprived ones become the confidants of the Mysteries!

“O Almighty! Look upon us with the glance of Mercifulness! Grant us Heavenly Confirmation! Bestow upon us the breaths of the Holy Spirit! So that we may become assisted in service and like unto brilliant stars we may

shine in these regions with the light of Guidance! Verily! Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty and Thou art the Wise and the Seeing!

“(Signed) ABDUL BAHA ABBAS.”

Translated by Ahmed Sohrab,
Washington, D. C.,
March 23, 1919.

The next morning when I took the transcription of it to him for correction, he took it in his hands, read it slowly and added a few words here and there. Then raising his head, said: “Come and take this, Mirza Ahmad. Let me see what you can do. Let me see what the friends of God in these States will do. Will they arise with a superhuman energy and spread the lights of the Sun of Reality in all those great cities, towns, villages and hamlets? I have pointed out to them the highway of service. Will they walk in it? I have drawn for them the plan of God, will they, like experienced generals, attack the enemies from all sides? Come! Take it and let us see the results. And what are you going to do? Are you going to take a hand in this divine campaign? Now you are witnessing its birth. The time will soon come when you will have to work for its realization with all the power and energy that God has given thee.”

These words were uttered a long time ago and on that day little did I realize that I would be here, standing before you and talking, taking an humble part in the inauguration of this great campaign of our supreme general.

On another occasion he said:

“The believers must arise in perfect unity in teaching the Cause of God and grasping each other's hands be engaged in the diffusion of the fragrances of God, and know of a certainty that the confirmations of His Holiness Baha'o'llah shall descend upon them.

“I hope that the Northeastern States, especially New York, may attain to the utmost state of perfection in the Cause of God, and in the matter of teaching and the promotion of the Word of God they may precede the friends of other parts. New York is the first and greatest city of the Western Hemisphere and the numberless passengers who come to America, come or pass through this City. Therefore, its important position is quite secure and must be taken into consideration. The friends of this City must be in the utmost love and amity, so that their unity may serve as an example to the other States.

“When thou art standing in their midst, tell them:

“The Bounties of the Kingdom of God are great. The glances and favors of the Blessed Perfection are with you; the invisible cohorts are your support. Now step forward in this field of teaching. Then shall you see the greatness of results. Do not turn your faces away because of any difficulties and oppositions. The greater the difficulties the greater must be your firmness and steadfastness. Then you shall observe that the fame of the Cause will be more widely spread and the Confirmations of the Kingdoms of Abha appearing with greater effulgence. Hence, you must, first of all, arise in teaching the Cause and calling the people to the manifestation of the King-

dom; so that God's assistance may encircle you from all sides. Should you not render this service and should you not win this goal in the field of action, others coming after you will accomplish this work. Yet it is my hope that in this age you may become assisted in rendering these great services."

It is hoped that the delegates and the friends from these parts will realize their great responsibility, for they have a great task before them. It is not the work of one or two or ten or twenty years but for a long stretch of years. It is indeed a divine responsibility to be called upon—a population of more than twenty-one millions or nearly one-fourth of the inhabitants of the United States. Think of New York and its five millions, Philadelphia one million and a half, Boston with its seven hundred thousand, adding to this the thrifty inhabitants of hundreds of New England towns, Pittsburgh with its half million, Rochester two hundred and fifty thousand—thus I may go on enumerating all the important centers of industries in these nine States. How are you going to teach these millions of people about the principles of the oneness of humanity, the brotherhood of the races, and the love of God as revealed in the writings of Baha'o'llah and Abdul Baha?

Leaving this question to be answered in another talk, I now call on Margaret P. Randall and Bertha Holley to come forward to unveil the great Spiritual Charter of the Northeastern States, while all of us are standing. And as I have chanted many, many times the wonderful Supplication of the original in the presence of Abdul Baha, also in the Tomb of Baha'o'llah and at the sacred Mausoleum of the Bab, I will close this session of the Convention by chanting the Prayer for you.

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

SECOND TALK

Baha'o'llah says in the Book of Akdas:

"It behooveth the one who hath drunk today the Elixir of Life from the Hand of his Lord, the Merciful, to be pulsating like unto an artery in the body of the universe; thus the world may be moved through him and every mouldering bone be clothed with flesh."

Today the world of humanity is hungry for the bread of life and thirsty for the water of Truth. Now that men have realized more than ever before that all their former institutions have been based upon a foundation of sand, they are trying to do away with all the past evils and build on the solid rock of the Word of God a palace of human prosperity which shall last forever. No doubt this new structure will not be built by a single man or by a single nation. It is only through the co-operation and mutual assistance of all men and of all races and of all climes that this divine edifice will be raised. Its foundation must be laid in the hearts, and its walls rising to the seventh heaven of human consciousness. It is only through the power of God and the love of humanity that the builders will be inspired to set aside their national prejudices and traditions, merging them in the strong white light of internationalism and brotherhood. For has it not been said of old: "Love conquers everything!" Without love nothing succeeds, nothing goes forward. When altruism and the love of God join hands, then we have really a dynamic and divine civilization. And it is only through the establishment of this divine civilization, that humanity shall enter through the portals of regeneration into the garden of Truth.

It is evident that every institution, both religious and social, has been subjected in the past to the law of change and modification. Most of the former movements, because they could not adapt themselves to a new environment, became little by little static, lost their pliability and elasticity, became lifeless and died from inanition. But in this age the law of religious truth and social energy has taught us a new lesson, *i.e.*, a movement cannot survive the cataclysm of the ages unless it is permeated with a strong telic policy.

Now I believe from what you have seen and experienced of the Bahai Movement—have felt the effects of its ethical and practical laws and its religious and scientific aspects—we may assert that of all other movements of the last age, this Movement is endowed with an extraordinary amount of telic energy and the power of adaptation. The unveiling of the Great Tablets to the believers of the Northeastern States must have demonstrated to you in a striking manner what this power of adaptation and telic energy must mean to the Bahais in the future. It is only through the constant application of these two fundamental laws and the assistance of the Holy Spirit that we shall be enabled to teach the Cause of God and the brotherhood of races to all these millions of men.

At this session we will take another step, and bring within the range of our human vision the larger divine vision of Abdul Baha by reading to you the translation of the two Tablets revealed to the Southern States. The first Tablet was revealed on Wednesday morning, March 27th, 1916. The Beloved of our hearts was sitting on a chair in the midst of the fresh wild flowers, looking at them and admiring their color and beauty. After a few minutes of silence, he began to dictate the following heavenly ideals:

"To the friends and the maid-servants of the Merciful in the Southern States:

"Upon them be greeting and praise!

"O ye heralds of the Kingdom of God!

"A few days ago an epistle was written to those divine believers, but because these days are the days of Nourouz, therefore you have come to my mind and I am sending you this greeting for this glorious feast. All the days are blessed, but this feast is the national fete of Persia. The Persians have been holding it for several thousand years past. In reality every day which man passes in the mention of God, the diffusion of the Fragrances of God and calling the people to the Kingdom of God, that day is his feast. Praise be to God that you are occupied in the service of the Kingdom of God and are engaged in the promulgation of the Religion of God by day and by night. Therefore all your days are feast days. There is no doubt that the assistance and the bestowal of God shall descend upon you.

"In the Southern States of the United States, the Friends are few, that is, in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Consequently you must either go yourselves or send a number of blessed souls to those States, so that they may guide the people to the Kingdom of heaven. One of the Holy Manifestations, addressing a believing soul, says: 'If a person become the cause of the illumination of one soul, it is better than a boundless treasury.' Again He says: 'O Ali! If God guide, through thee, one soul, it is better for thee than all the riches!' Again He says: 'Direct us to the straight path!' that is, show us the right road. It is also mentioned in the Gospel: 'Travel ye to all parts of the world and give ye the glad tidings of the appearance of the Kingdom of God.'

"In brief, I hope you will display in this respect the greatest effort and magnanimity. It is assured that you will become assisted, and confirmed. A person declaring the glad tidings of the appearance of the realities and significances of the Kingdom is like unto a farmer who scatters pure seeds, in the rich soil. The spring cloud will pour upon them the rain of bounty, and unquestionably the station of the farmer will be raised in the estimation of the lord of the village, and many harvests will be gathered.

"Therefore, ye friends of God! Appreciate ye the value of this time and be ye engaged in the sowing of the seeds, so that ye may find the heavenly blessing and the lordly bestowal. Upon ye be Baha El Abha!"

"(Signed) ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS."

The second Tablet for the Southern States, which is now given to the world for the first time, was dictated by Abdul Baha on Monday morning, February 3d, 1917, in his little cottage in his home in Haifa. It is as follows: "To the believers of God and the maid-servant of the Merciful of the Southern States.

"Upon them be Baha'o'llah El Abha!

He is God!

"O ye blessed, respected souls!

"The philosophers of the ancients, the thinkers of the Middle Ages and the scientists of this and the future centuries have all agreed upon the fact that the best and the most ideal region for the habitation of man is the temperate zone, for in this belt the intellects and thoughts rise to the highest stage of maturity and the capability and ability of civilization manifest themselves in full efflorescence. When you read history critically and with a penetrating eye, it becomes evident that the majority of the famous men have been born, reared and have done their work in the temperate zone, while very very few have appeared from the torrid and frigid zones.

"Now these sixteen Southern States of the United States are situated in the temperate zone, and in these regions the perfections of the world of nature have been fully revealed. For the moderation of the weather, the beauty of the scenery and the geographical configuration of the country display a great effect in the world of minds and thoughts. This fact is well demonstrated through observation and experience.

"Even the Holy, Divine Manifestations have had a nature in the utmost equilibrium, the health and wholesomeness of their bodies most perfect, their constitutions endowed with physical vigor, their powers functioning in perfect order, and the outward sensations linked with the inward perceptions, working together with extraordinary momentum and co-ordination.

"Therefore in these sixteen States, because they are contiguous to other States and their climate being in the utmost of moderation, unquestionably the Divine Teachings must reveal themselves with a brighter effulgence, the Breaths of the Holy Spirit must display a penetrating intensity, the ocean of the Love of God must be stirred with higher waves, the breezes of the Rose-garden of the Divine Love be wafted with higher velocity, and the Fragrances of Holiness be diffused with swiftness and rapidity.

"Praise be to God that the Divine Outpourings are infinite, the melody of the lordly principles is in the utmost efficacy, the most great Orb shining with perfect splendor, the cohorts of the Supreme Concourse are attacking with invincible power, the tongues are sharper than the swords, the hearts are more brilliant than the light of electricity, the magnanimity of the friends precedes all the magnanimities of the former and subsequent generations, the souls are divinely attracted, and the Fire of the Love of God is enkindled.

"At this time and at this period we must avail ourselves of this most great opportunity. We must not sit inactive for one moment; we must sever ourselves from composure, rest, tranquillity, goods, property, life and attachment to material things. We must sacrifice everything to His Highness the Possessor of existence; so that the powers of the Kingdom may show greater penetration and the brilliant effulgence in this New Cycle may illumine the worlds of minds and ideals.

"It is about 23 years that the Fragrances of God have been diffused in America, but no adequate and befitting motion has been realized, and no great acclamation and acceleration has been witnessed. Now it is my hope that through the heavenly power, the Fragrances of the Merciful, the attraction of consciousness, the celestial outpourings, the heavenly cohorts and the gushing forth of the Fountain of Divine Love, the believers of God may arise and in a short time the Greatest Good may unveil her countenance, the Sun of Reality may shine forth with such intensity that the darkness of the world of nature may become entirely dispelled and driven away; from every corner a most wonderful melody may be raised, the morning birds may break into such a song that the world of humanity may be quickened and moved, the solid bodies may become liquefied and the souls who are like unto adamantine rocks may open their wings and through the heat of the Love of God fly heavenward.

"Nearly 2,000 years ago, Armenia was enveloped with impenetrable darkness. One blessed soul from among the disciples of Christ hastened to that part, and through his effort, ere long that province became illumined. Thus it has become evident how the power of the Kingdom works!

"Therefore, rest ye assured in the Confirmations of the Merciful and the assistances of the Most High, become ye sanctified above and purified from this world and the inhabitants thereof, suffer your intention to become for the good of all, cut your attachment to the earth and like unto the essence of the spirit become ye light and delicate. Then with a firm resolution, a pure heart, a rejoiced spirit, and an eloquent tongue, engage your time in the promulgation of the Divine Principles; so that the Oneness of the World of Humanity may pitch her canopy in the apex of America and all the nations of the world may follow the Divine Policy. This is certain, that the Divine Policy is justice and kindness toward all mankind. For all the nations of the world are the sheep of God, and God is the Kind Shepherd. He has created these sheep. He has protected them, sustained and trained them. What greater kindness than this? And every moment we must render a hundred thousand thanksgivings that, praise be to God, we are freed from all the ignorant prejudices, are kind to all the sheep of God, and our utmost hope is to serve each and all, and like unto a benevolent father educate every one.

"Upon ye be Greeting and praise!

"Every soul who travels through these cities, villages and hamlets of these states and is engaged in the diffusion of the Fragrances of God, must peruse this Commune every morning:

"O God! O God! Behold me! Notwithstanding my lowliness and my lack of capability and ability, I am bent upon the accomplishment of the greatest works, aiming to promote Thy Word amongst the republics and resolved to spread Thy Teachings amongst all mankind. Far be it from me to become confirmed in this work save Thou mayst assist me with the Breaths of the Holy Spirit! Make me victorious through the armies of Thy Supreme Kingdom and encircle me with Thy Confirmations, which shall make the moth the eagle, the drop the river and the seas, and the scintillas the suns and the moons!

"O Lord! Confirm me with Thy insuperable Power and Thy penetrating

Potency, so that my tongue may speak out Thy praises and glorifications amongst Thy creatures, and my heart become overflowed with the Wine of Thy Love and Knowledge, verily, Thou art the Powerful to do that which Thou wilt, and Thou art mighty over all things!

"(Signed) ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS."

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab,

March 27th, 1919.

Washington, D. C.

It is significant to observe that Abdul Baha, in writing to the Southern States, takes the example of farming, and applies it to the spiritual farming, for as we know most of these States are primarily agricultural. The world looks to the South for its cotton, and thousands of factories would be closed in case of a bad harvest. Now the desire of Abdul Baha is that just as the Southern people are clothing the bodies of millions of men with finely woven textures out of their cotton, they may also clothe the spiritual body of mankind with the heavenly characteristics and divine attributes. Just as they sweeten the tongues with the sugar cane of Louisiana, Texas, and Georgia, they may sweeten the lives of men and women who have lost their bright hopes of a better state.

The sixteen Southern States have more than five times the area of the Northeastern States, and we can get an idea of the vastness of this section when we realize that Texas alone is larger than the entire group of the Northeastern States; nevertheless the population is only about 23 millions; not much more than that of the Northeastern States. The problem of how to reach this great mass of humanity, and how to spread the Message of the Kingdom in all parts of the South, is a subject that only time, knowledge and discretion will disclose to us. It is not a matter to be decided upon in a decade or two. Once we are inspired with this glorious vision of man's spiritualization, and once there is a telic policy guiding all our aims and hopes, I am sure we will go on advancing from step to step till the final goal is achieved. We may not see that goal, but still ours will be the greatest satisfaction, to have laid the foundation of this work, not on the crumbling rocks of human policies, but in the pure hearts of men and women gathered here in this meeting. Look on the map for a moment, and the whole South is dotted with large, thriving cities, the inhabitants intelligent and hard workers. Here we have Washington, with a population of nearly 500,000, the Capital of the United States, the seat of the National Government, with the President and the Congress; here also we have the representatives of the nations of the earth. Then Baltimore, with more than 500,000; New Orleans with about 350,000; Nashville with 120,000; San Antonio with 100,000; Richmond with 130,000; Memphis with 140,000; then Birmingham, Augusta, Charleston, Chattanooga, Covington, Fort Worth, Houston, Mobile, Oklahoma City, Savannah, Wilmington, and many others with large populations and prosperous agricultural and industrial communities.

The Bahai Cause, whose basic spiritual principles are the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, must permeate every stratum of society in the South; so that this section may become the paradise of glory, the nest of the nightingale of Truth, the haven of security and the land of joy and

happiness, flowing with milk and honey. All the racial and religious prejudices must be wiped away, that every face may shine with the light of the Kingdom. This, I can assure you, is the supreme desire of Abdul Baha, and the sooner this ideal condition is brought about, the nearer we are to the Golden Age of Universal Peace.

And now I must bring this second talk to a close by quoting to you two short talks of Abdul Baha. Here is the first. Having looked over and corrected the second Tablet to the South, he handed it to me, saying:

"Come, my son, take it. I have corrected it. The importance of this Tablet will be revealed in the future. In these vast sixteen States the lights of the Sun of Reality shall shine with great power and the dark clouds of ignorance and human prejudices will be dispelled from its horizon. Mr. Gregory must demonstrate a self-sacrificing spirit in teaching the Cause amongst the black race, diffuse the Fragrances of God in every part of the South, and let his cry of Ya Baha El Abha reach to the apex of heaven, in their meetings, gatherings, churches, colleges and schools. The believers of God with the utmost firmness and steadfastness must go forth and teach the heavenly institutes to the inhabitants of the South. They must not turn their faces from any difficulty. Like unto a waving sea they must be tumultuous and full of divine acclamation, and similar unto the thankful birds they must be always singing the songs of love, light and life. Every person in accordance with his capability and ability must engage in teaching the Cause of God and show an effort in the illumination of the souls, so that praiseworthy results may appear and become manifest from him. I desire nothing else from the believers of those States save teaching the Cause of His Highness the Almighty. See with what love, with what attraction, with what exhilaration I wrote this Tablet for them. One of the wisdoms of this universal war is no other than the writing of these Epistles, so that the believers may realize that the Cause of His Holiness Baha'o'llah must ultimately encircle the globe. Having thus clearly perceived their duty they will spare no effort to hasten its consummation. The prominent believers of the South, like Mr. Remey, Mr. Hannen, Mrs. Parsons, Mr. Gregory and others must come together, hold meetings of consultation and devise efficient ways and means for the teaching of the people of this great section and promote amongst the inhabitants the spirit of brotherhood, unity and the love of His Holiness Christ and Baha'o'llah. Do thou present thyself in their meetings, and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit make them realize and feel how this question of teaching is one of the utmost importance in the Cause. Tell them: Do not let your thoughts and ideals be crystallized around particular matters. Close your eyes to outward differences and look upon each other with the eye of universal oneness. Like unto the cup-bearers of eternity turn ye round in the assemblages of mankind the overflowing goblets of guidance and intoxicate them with the wine of the Love of God. Walk ye always in the pathway of lights and let the pillars of shining Bahai inspiration lead and direct you to your glorious destination. Let your thoughts be of Baha'o'llah, your mention be of Baha'o'llah, and fill all hearts with the Truth of Baha'o'llah. Like unto the sanctified souls, associate ye with the people of the world and show ye that which ye have. Do ye not hide the precious jewels of the Kingdom under the earth. This

day is the day of revelation! This Manifestation is the Manifestation of Knowledge and Understanding."

The second talk was given one morning in February, 1918, while he was walking in his lovely garden. The names of the Southern States were brought to his attention, and his face was suddenly brightened with the light of inspiration. Then, as he continued his walk, he uttered the following poetic message, redolent with the fragrance of the Garden of Abha:—

"Praise be to God that the dark ages have passed away and the century of Light has come. Praise be to God that the traces of prejudices and superstitions are effaced, and the horizon of the minds and the hearts of humanity are broadened. Praise be to God that the seas of the idle fancies of the religionists are calmed down and the oceans of the realities and significances of the Blessed Perfection are set in motion. Praise be to God that the gloomy nights of ignorance have flitted away across the receding ages, and the bright dawns of intelligence and wisdom are becoming visible. Praise be to God that the cold winter of fanaticism and bigotry, with its chilling hand and irrational heterodoxy has come to an end, and the soul-refreshing spring-time of the imperishable flowers and hyacinths of universal love and toleration, has dawned, perfuming all the nostrils with the sweet odors of trust and confidence. Praise be to God that the black clouds of human limitations and man-made restrictions are dispelled, and the world-enlightening sun of the Kingdom hath dawned from the Horizon of the hearts! Praise be to God that the chains of injustice and the fetters of the oppression of the Pharaohs of the earth and the despotic rulers of men have crumbled to dust, and the age of justice, equity, brotherhood and real democracy is inaugurated. Praise be to God that the crowns of the despots have fallen to the earth, and the thrones of the absolutists are shaken to the foundation. But the real diadems of glory and power and the royal seats of just governments and democratic institutions were raised high. Praise be to God that the period of satanic suggestions hath come to a close, and the cycle of angelic ideals and seraphic thoughts hath opened before the eyes of men.

The past age was an age of wondrous achievements. All the inventions were perfected; new discoveries created, new fields of human activities; new undertakings gave deeper significance to the law of co-operation; new arts helped to make life more beautiful and new international laws are now in the process of formation to bind all nations of the earth together. The international tribunal of justice will soon be organized in accordance with the Principles of Baha'o'llah, and then all the differences will be adjusted before the members of that impartial tribunal.

Therefore, as a result of these changes in the outward world, it has become part of the heavenly wisdom in the inner world to create a new spiritual plan for the propagation of the religion of God; thus the divine believers may obtain a new joy and a new happiness and display an extraordinary effort in the promotion of the reality of the religions of God; to deliver the nations from old, superannuated prejudices and diffuse the fragrances of the flowers of the primal truth; to unfurl the flag of the love, amity and the oneness of the world of humanity and remove the international misunderstandings from amongst the nations of the world. From their hearts and souls they must cry out:

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the Sun of Reality hath shone forth!
 Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the illumination of heavenly brotherhood hath encircled the East and the West!

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the Doors of the Kingdom of Mercy are wide open!

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the melody of the Supreme Concourse hath reached the ears of every old and young one!

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the banquet of the Lord is spread in the assemblages of the friends!

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the period of bloodshed and carnage hath passed away and the century of Universal Peace and the gathering together of the nations of the earth hath dawned upon us!

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the weeping eyes are made joyous and laughing, and ere long the diamond age of the Kingdom of Abha will be established in the hearts!

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! For the sleepy ones are awakened and the negligent ones are made mindful!

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the call of the Merciful is raised, the resurrection is set up, the dead are resuscitated, the lame are dancing like unto the gazelles, the deaf are endowed with hearing and the dumb are granted the power of speech!

Glad Tidings! Glad Tidings! That the Breaths of the Holy Spirit confer life and day by day the world of humanity advances toward the goal of perfection.

O ye inhabitants of the world, awaken ye! awaken ye!

O ye factions of the earth, become ye mindful! become ye mindful!

O ye devotees of religions, obtain life! Obtain life!

O ye sects and denominations, move ye! Move ye!

O ye lovers of the beauty of the True One, become ye self-sacrificing!
 Become ye self-sacrificing!

O ye enkindled ones! O ye supplicating ones! Become ye the confidants of the mysteries! Become ye the confidants of the mysteries!

O ye birds of the rose-garden of Abha! Sing ye the anthems of mercy!
 Break ye into the songs of beautitude!

O ye brilliant stars of the heaven of God! Shine ye! Shine ye!

O ye teachers of the Cause of the Supreme Lord! Travel ye, teach ye!
 Destroy ye the foundation of hatred, malice and contention from amongst the children of men, and lay ye the basis of the palace of love and universal Peace!

The lights of the oneness of the world of humanity are scintillating like unto precious jewels; scatter their rays to all parts! Upraise ye the banner of unity, fraternity, co-operation and reciprocity amongst all the people; so that there may not be left from prejudice aught save a name, and from ignorance not even a shadow; the religion of God may pitch its tent over the East and the West, the light of the Kingdom may illumine all hearts, perfect agreement and association may be realized between races, religious and nationalities, and the world of creation may find composure and tranquility."

On another occasion, he said: "Give my greeting to the friends in Washington and say: O ye believers of God! I am always thinking of the

days that I associated with you. Never will I forget you and the spiritual meetings held in your city. I beg from the Favors of the Blessed Perfection that ye may become assisted to promote the Cause of God and promulgate the Word of God in the Southern States, that just as Washington is the political center of the American Republic, she may become the dawning-place of merciful susceptibilities, and celestial feelings. Arise ye without any fear in the promulgation of the religion of God! Become ye firmly rooted in this great aim, send ye teachers to all directions, and become ye not apprehensive should ye meet strong opposition. The contradiction of others is more conducive to the strength of the Cause of God. Ever do I beg for you divine Confirmation. My Spirit is with each one of you. Do ye not look upon your own capacities. Rest ye assured in the Bounties of the Blessed Perfection. He shall change the drop into an ocean and the moth into an eagle. He changes the stone into the precious ruby and the scintilla into the world-illuminating sun. Open ye the eloquent tongues and day and night consult with each other regarding the promotion of the Cause of God, so that in the end you may crown your heads with this diadem and carrying in your hands the swords of light, ye may conquer the kingdoms of the hearts."

And now that the Divine Plan for the Southern States is given to you, the Misses Helen and Mary Hotchkiss will come forward to unveil the same, so that we may all look upon the Great Charter of Spiritual Freedom. Then I will chant for you the original of the Commune that the Beloved has revealed for the teachers of this section. Many, many a time have I chanted it in the Holy Tomb of Baha'o'llah, in the presence of Abdul Baha, and now while you are going to listen to it, I would like you to feel the spirituality of its words and the beauty of its expressions.

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

THIRD TALK

“Is this day the day of rest? No, by the Lord of the worlds. Is this day the day of silence? No, by Myself, the True One, were ye of those who know. Verily all things are stirred with the Fragrances of Revelation. Are ye resting on your seats and ye call yourselves the sincere ones?”

Baha'o'llah:

—From *Appendix of Surat El Haykal*.

In the above stirring appeal Baha'o'llah calls His followers to a high station of service and action. From it we gather the idea that those who call themselves Bahais, must not sit idle, nor must they remain silent. Through their words and deeds they must show their love for all humanity, and from their faces there must appear the joy of heaven. In their minds must center the loftiest ideals of this age, and in their hearts must dwell the sweetest sentiments of sympathy and kindness towards all creatures. In their search for truth they must be impartial, and in their march along the path of right, they must show fearlessness and courage. Enthusiasm must be their watch-word and broad-mindedness their ultimate aim. Perseverance in the investigation of reality must be their guide, and conviction of the final victory of the cause of brotherhood their inspiration. They must work day and night, so that the satanic world may become angelic, the darkened hearts may be illumined, confidence may replace distrust and the sweetness of love may remove the bitterness of hate.

It is a well known fact that the power of love leads men to work together and co-operate with each other in all the undertakings of modern civilization. In all the transactions of human society, in the harmonious adjustment of the relation of capital and labor, in the balancing of the law of supply and demand, in the working out of the principle of production and consumption, and in the practice of the theories of exchange and distribution, we must invariably use the universal solvent of the love of God and the love of man, if we are desirous of avoiding any future social disorganization. The law of love opens on all sides, the innumerable avenues of human and divine progress. For example, let us consider the history of the twelve Central States, how over a century ago, there were scarcely any souls living there, excepting Indians and a few scattered trappers. Now there are about 27 millions living peacefully in those States; large cities are built, giant factories founded, thousands of schools established, agriculture and industries advancing by leaps and bounds. For example, the site of Chicago, which to-day is the second city in size in the New World, in 1804 was nothing but a great bog, and probably at that time no one would have dreamed that a century later such a magnificent city would rise over that piece of marshy ground. In 1830 it boasted of only 12 families, of poor people; in 1840 it had about 4470 inhabitants, but now it has the huge population of more than two million and a half! This single example shows us in a concrete and clear manner

how the power of love and co-operation changed the desert and wilderness of these States into blooming gardens and prosperous communities. Now if the sphere of this human love be widened, so as to include the various aspects of the Divine Love; if the people would realize that the security and permanence of the national progress is dependent upon international progress—then we could feel sure that our advancement would not be hindered by racial or religious fanaticism which surges now and then from the unknown depths of the animal man.

The pioneer discoverers of the West have demonstrated to us, through their lives and actions, that if we are zealous in the promotion of the Divine Principles, and do not turn back when confronted with opposition, we shall at last gather many harvests. Consider the lives of Joliet and Father Marquette, who in 1673 braved all dangers, set out from Mackinaw to find the source of the Mississippi River. Day after day they kept on their silent journey on the bosom of the Mississippi, now gliding by castle-shaped cliffs, now coming into the sunlight of open prairies, now entering the long shadows cast by miles of unbroken forests, past the muddy torrents of the Missouri, past the lovely mouth of the Ohio, and finally reached the mouth of the Arkansas. From there they returned, patiently paddling their way back. It was indeed a tremendous piece of uphill work, battling for more than a thousand miles against powerful currents. Let us also get a glimpse at Sturt, one of the greatest of Australian explorers. His aim was to reach the center of the Australian continent. By the end of the summer of 1844, he reached a spot near Mount Poole. Here he found himself shut in on all sides by a terrible summer drought. Autumn brought no relief; ink dried on pen, lead dropped out of the shrivelled pencils, the wood-work of drays almost fell to pieces. Sturt and his companions vainly tried to find a way. At last, worn with despair and stricken with scurvy, they sat idly day by day in a sort of cave which they had dug in the hillside to protect them from the scorching sun. In the middle of July, after six months of torture, rain came in torrents. A month later, Sturt set out again over the plains. On his return, hot winds blazed about him till his thermometer burst. When he reached the outskirts of civilization, his health was completely shattered, and his eyesight permanently destroyed. He was borne back to Adelaide, and thence to an invalid sanatorium in England.

All these examples go far to show us that if there were men in the past, and there are men and women in our days who were and are ready to give up even life for material reward or fame, how much more we who call ourselves Bahais must be prepared to sacrifice everything, to undergo every danger, so that the knowledge of God may increase, the brotherhood of man may be proclaimed, and the noble ideals of life be shared by all men, irrespective of race and color.

Having now proven that nothing must daunt us when the line of our duty is quite plain, I take pleasure in reading to you the translation of the first Tablet revealed to the friends in the Central States, on Wednesday morning, March 29, 1916. Picture in your mind the patriarchal presence of Abdul Baha, with his long, flowing robe, walking in the beautiful Garden of Bahjee, and dictating these words of wisdom to his followers across oceans and continents, directing them to arise with all their hearts and souls in the

promulgation of the Word of God and the proclamation of the Manifestation of God.

"To the friends of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful in the Central States:

"O ye heavenly souls, O ye spiritual assemblies, O ye lordly meetings!

"For some time past correspondence has been delayed, and this has been on account of the difficulty of mailing and receiving letters. But because at present a number of facilities are obtainable, therefore, I am engaged in writing you this brief epistle so that my heart and soul may obtain joy and fragrance through the remembrance of the friends. Continually this wanderer supplicates and entreats at the threshold of His Holiness the One and begs assistance, bounty and heavenly confirmations in behalf of the believers. You are always in my thought. You are not nor shall you ever be forgotten. I hope by the favor of His Holiness the Almighty that day by day you may add to your faith, assurance, firmness and steadfastness, and become instruments for the promotion of the holy fragrances. In the great book, the divine Koran, God, addressing His Messenger, His Holiness Mohammed (upon him be greeting and praise!) says: 'Verily thou dost guide the people to the straight path.' In other words; Thou dost show mankind the direct road. Consider how guidance is a matter of infinite importance; for it points to the loftiness of the station of His Holiness the Messenger.

"Although in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota—praise be to God—believers are found, who are associating with each other in the utmost firmness and steadfastness—day and night they have no other intention save the diffusion of the fragrances of God, they have no other hope except the promotion of the heavenly teachings, like the candles they are burning with the light of the love of God, and like thankful birds are singing songs, spirit-imparting, joy-creating, in the rose-garden of the knowledge of God,—yet in the States of Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas few of the believers exist. So far the summons of the Kingdom of God and the proclamation of the oneness of the world of humanity has not been made in these States systematically and enthusiastically. Blessed souls and detached teachers have not traveled through these parts repeatedly; therefore these States are still in a state of heedlessness. Through the efforts of the friends of God souls must be likewise enkindled, in these States, with the fire of the love of God and attracted to the Kingdom of God, so that section may also become illumined and the soul-imparting breeze of the rose-garden of the Kingdom may perfume the nostrils of the inhabitants. Therefore, if it is possible, send to those parts teachers who are severed from all else save God, sanctified and pure. If these teachers be in the utmost state of attraction, in a short time great results will be forthcoming. The sons and daughters of the kingdom are like unto the real farmers. Through whichever state or country they pass they display self-sacrifice and sow divine seeds. From that seed harvests are produced. On this subject it is revealed in the glorious Gospel: When the pure seeds are scattered in the good ground heavenly blessing and benediction is obtained. I hope that you may become assisted and confirmed,

and never lose courage in the promotion of the divine teachings. Day by day may you add to your effort, exertion and magnanimity.

"Upon ye be greeting and praise!

"(Signed) ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS."

The above was the first general order for the mobilization of the forces of the Kingdom, and it was mailed in April of the same year. I have understood since my arrival in this Country that a good deal of pioneer work of teaching has been done in these States, and that many souls have gone forth into new fields, so that they might sow the seeds of the New Divine Knowledge. I am sure that Abdul Baha will be most pleased to hear that the friends are at least trying to carry out his behest.

And now I would like to read to you for the first time the translation of the Second Tablet revealed to the friends of the Central States, on Thursday morning, February 8, 1917, when he was staying in Acca. He was then living in the very room where Baha 'o'llah passed his last years in the prison city, and so the atmosphere of the place brought to one's mind sweet memories of other spiritual and significant events transpiring in the same spot.

"To the believers and the maid-servants of God in the Central States:
Upon them be Baha 'o'llah El Abha!

He is God!

"God says in the great Koran:—

'He specializes for His Mercy whomsoever He willeth.'

"O ye old believers and intimate friends!

"These twelve central States of the United States are like unto the heart of America, and the heart is connected with all the organs and parts of man. If the heart is strengthened, all the organs of the body are reinforced, and if the heart is weak all the physical structures are subjected to feebleness.

"Now praise be to God that Chicago and its environs from the beginning of the diffusion of the Fragrances of God have been a strong heart. Therefore, through Divine Bounty and Providence it has become confirmed in certain great matters.

"First: The Call of the Kingdom was in the very beginning raised from Chicago. This is indeed a great privilege, for in future centuries and cycles, it will be as an axis around which the honor of Chicago will revolve.

"Second: A number of souls with the utmost firmness and steadfastness arose in that blessed spot in the promotion of the Word of God and even to the present moment, having purified and sanctified the heart from every thought, they are occupied with the promulgation of the Teachings of God. Hence the Call of praise is raised uninterruptedly from the Supreme-Concourse.

"Thirdly: During the American journey Abdul Baha several times passed through Chicago and associated with the friends of God. For some time he sojourned in that city. Day and night he was occupied with the mention of the True One and summoned the people to the Kingdom of God.

"Fourthly: Up to the present time, every movement initiated in Chicago, its effect was spread to all parts and to all directions; just as everything

that appears in and manifests from the heart influences all the organs and structures of the body.

"Fifthly: The first Mashrekol-Azkar in America was instituted in Chicago, and this honor and distinction is infinite in value. Undoubtedly out of this Mashrekol-Azkar thousands of other Mashrekol-Azkars will be born.

"Likewise the general Annual Conventions, the foundation of the STAR OF THE WEST, the Publishing Society, for the publication of books and Tablets and their circulation in all parts of America, and the preparations now under way for the celebration of the Golden Centenary Anniversary of the Kingdom of God. I hope that this Jubilee and this Exhibition may be celebrated in the utmost perfection; so that the Call to the Word of Unity: 'There is no God but One God, and all the Messengers, from the beginning to the Seal of the Prophets (Mohammed) were sent on the part of the True One!' may be raised; the Flag of the Oneness of the world of humanity be unfurled, the melody of Universal Peace may reach the ears of the East and the West; all the paths may be cleared and straightened, all the hearts may be attracted to the Kingdom of God, the Tabernacle of Unity be pitched on the apex of America, the Song of the Love of God may exhilarate and rejoice all the nations and peoples, the surface of the earth may become the eternal paradise, the dark clouds may be dispelled and the Sun of Truth may shine forth with the utmost intensity.

"O ye friends of God! Exert ye with heart and soul, so that association, love, unity and agreement be obtained between the hearts, all the aims may be merged into one Aim, all the songs become one Song and the power of the Holy Spirit may become so overwhelmingly victorious as to overcome all the forces of the world of nature. Work! This is the great Work, should ye become assisted therein: Thus America may become the fulcrum of merciful susceptibilities, and the throne of the Kingdom of God be established upon earth with the greatest joy and majesty.

"This phenomenal world will not remain in an unchanging condition even for a short while. Second after second it undergoes change and transformation. Every foundation will finally become collapsed; every glory and splendor will at last vanish and disappear, but the Kingdom of God is eternal and the heavenly Sovereignty and Majesty will stand firm everlastingly. Hence in the estimation of a wise man the mat in the Kingdom of God is preferable to the throne of the government of the world.

"Continually my ear and eye are turned toward the Central States; perchance a melody from some blessed souls may reach my ears, souls who are the dawning-places of the Love of God, the stars of the horizon of sanctification and holiness—souls who will illumine this dark universe and quicken to life this dead world. The joy of Abdul Baha depends upon this! I hope that you may become confirmed therein.

"Consequently, those souls who are in a condition of the utmost severance, purified from the defects of the world of nature, sanctified from attachment to this earth, vivified with the Breaths of Eternal Life—with luminous hearts, with heavenly spirit, with attraction of consciousness, with celestial magnanimity, with eloquent tongues and with clear explanations,—such souls must hasten and travel through all parts of the Central States. In every city and village they must occupy themselves with the diffusion of the

Divine Exhortations and advices, guide the souls and promote the oneness of the world of humanity. They must play the melody of international conciliation with such power that every deaf one may become hearing, every extinct person may be set aglow, every dead one may obtain new life and every indifferent soul may find ecstasy. It is certain that such will be the consummation.

"The spreaders of the Fragrances of God may peruse this Commune every morning:

"O Lord! O Lord! Praise and thanksgiving be unto Thee for Thou hast guided me to the Highway of the Kingdom, suffered me to walk in this straight and far-stretching path, illumined my eye by beholding the lights, made me listen to the Melodies of the birds of holiness from the Kingdom of Mysteries and attracted my heart with Thy Love among the righteous ones.

"O Lord! Confirm me with the Holy Spirit, so that I may call in Thy Name amongst the nations and give the Glad-tidings to the manifestation of Thy Kingdom amongst mankind.

"O Lord! I am weak, strengthen me with Thy Power and Potency. My tongue falters, suffer me to utter Thy commemoration and praise. I am lonely, endear me through my entrance in Thy Kingdom. I am remote, cause me to approach to the Threshold of Thy Mercifulness.

"O Lord! Make me a brilliant lamp, a shining star and a blessed tree, adorned with fruits, its branches overshadowing all these regions! Verily Thou art the Mighty, the Powerful and Unconstrained!

"(Signed) ABDUL BAHA ABBAS."

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab,
March 30, 1919,
Washington, D. C.

Having revealed the above wonderful Tablet for the Central States, the Center of the Covenant spoke often about the future work of the friends of God, and I have gathered his scattered words into one heavenly rosary. May I be permitted to present to you this string of pearls?

He said: "In reality the geographical position of the Central States has great importance, for just as I dictated to you now, it is like the heart of America. Passengers going East or West, North or South pass through that section. Similarly, it is a point of connection for the friends of God. The believers in Chicago must be so enkindled with the Fire of the Love of God and must be so characterized with the characteristics of unity and agreement, that other States may learn from them this all-important lesson; that their pure lives and holy words, their selfless services and deeds may affect the hearts of all the outsiders. Just as the earth attracts everything to the center of gravity and every object thrown upward into space will come down; so also material ideas and worldly thoughts attract man to the center of self. Anger, passion, ignorance, prejudice, greed, envy, covetousness, jealousy and suspicion prevent man from ascending to the realms of Holiness, imprisoning him in the claws of self and the jail of egotism. The physical man, unassisted by Divine Power, trying to escape from one of these invisible enemies, will fall unconsciously into the hands of another. No sooner does he attempt to soar upward than the density of the love of self, like the power of gravity,

draws him to the earth. But the only power that is capable of delivering man from this captivity, is the power of the Breaths of the Holy Spirit. The believers in the Central States must through this all-conquering power free the inhabitants from the claws of self, negligence, lust and imagination. The attraction of the power of the Holy Spirit is so effective that it keeps men ever on the path of upward ascension. The malevolent forces of no enemy will touch those sanctified souls who have made this Universal Power their guide. With tranquil heart and assured spirit they are flying upward day and night and are journeying through the illimitable space of the Teachings of Baha'o'llah. The believers in America must be like lighthouses, lightships and searchlights, so that in the tempestuous sea of the world the arks of lives may reach the haven of security. Each individual Bahai must be a life-saver who, facing the rough waves of the sea, may plunge into the whirlpool and save the souls from drowning. To sit, to talk, to listen—there is no virtue in that. To rise, to act, to help—that is a Bahai life. The sincerity and earnestness of the friends in the Central States must appear through deeds. Deeds are the standards! I have done all that is necessary. I have drawn for them the plan of God which must guide them through all the coming years. I have explained to them the Principles of Baha'o'llah. Now the promotion of those principles depends upon their co-operation with each other and their turning their faces to the Kingdom of Abha. Without walking, a traveller will not reach his destination. Without working, a poor man will not obtain wealth. Without diving to the bottom of the sea, a diver will not gather pearls and corals, and without going through the lower classes, a student will not be able to take up the higher courses in sciences and literature. The believers of God, in reality, display much effort; but this effort must be expended in the right direction. A sagacious thinker will always perceive the end before he takes up a certain kind of work. A youth desiring to prepare himself for a medical career must study those courses which are directly or indirectly connected with his profession, so that he may become efficient and skilful.

“Consequently, the friends of God must themselves become the fountain heads of divine characteristics and attributes, and then call others to this exalted station. They must first be attracted and enkindled, then try to attract and enkindle others. Let them cleanse their own hearts like unto clear mirrors, then strive in the purification of the hearts of mankind.

“In brief, I hope that the friends in the Central States may become assisted in rendering these great services. May they become centers of merciful susceptibilities and spiritual guides to the Kingdom of Abha! From every standpoint, ways and means for the teaching of the Cause of God must be prepared. The question of teaching, like any other question, is evolutionary and not revolutionary. This matter must become very plain to everyone, so that all the friends, like so many spirits in one temple, may arise in the accomplishment of this great Service.

“When the foundation of the Mashrekol-Azkar is laid in America, and that divine Edifice is completed, a most wonderful and thrilling motion will appear in the world of existence. The Mashrekol-Azkar will become the center around which all these universal Bahai activities will be clustered. From that point of light, the spirit of teaching, spreading the Cause of God

and promoting the Teachings of God will permeate to all parts of the world. I hope that ere long the foundation of this celestial Temple will be laid—thus it may become conducive to the happiness of the heart of Abdul Baha.

“All the inhabitants of the world are in these days engaged in warfare and strife, but the friends of God are striving with heart and soul to lay the basis of this Palace of the Kingdom; so that the call of prayers and supplications may ascend to the heights of heaven. The flowers of material and divine civilization shall grow in the Mashrekol-Azkar, perfuming the nostrils with the fragrance of Truth. Its doors will be open before the faces of all nations, religions and sects. Whosoever enters therein is welcomed. Baha’-o’llah is the Universal Shepherd. All mankind are His sheep, and the adherents of all religions are welcomed in the Mashrekol-Azkar to worship the Father of all humanity with perfect freedom and reverence and obedience.

“Likewise, great importance must be given to the development of the STAR OF THE WEST. The circle of its discussion must be widened; in its columns must be published the essential problems pertaining to the Bahai life in all its phases. Its contents must be so universal that even the strangers may subscribe to it. Articles must be published, dealing with the universal principles of the Cause, the writers proving that this Cause takes a vital interest in all the social and religious movements of the age and is conducive to the progress of the world and its inhabitants. In short, the STAR OF THE WEST must promote the aspirations and the ideals that will gather little by little around these general Tablets, bringing into the light of the day all the historical, religious and racial knowledge which will be of the utmost value to the Bahai teachers all over the world.

“In a similar manner, the scope of the Bahai Publishing Society must be greatly enlarged, so that books and pamphlets may be translated into different languages and published. These short pamphlets and historical reviews, giving the proofs and arguments of the Cause, must be written in accordance with the intellectual and spiritual capacity of each people. In short, for the diffusion of the Fragrances of God the friends must think of detailed ways and means and year by year add to their efficiency, practicality and thoroughness. They must organize classes for teaching the young and preparing teachers to go to all parts of America. God willing, the believers like unto bright candles will illumine the assemblage of the world of humanity with the Light of Truth.”

Having given you the message of Abdul Baha, I will now chant the Commune revealed at the end of the Tablet to the Central States. I have chanted it many times in the Tomb of Baha’o’llah, in the Presence of the Master, and all over Mt. Carmel. And after my chanting, Rouhieh Jones and Jeffrey Parsons will come forward and unveil this great Spiritual Charter, so that all of us may see with our own eyes the work of the Master Architect of the World.

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

FOURTH TALK

"Arise thou amongst the people in the Name of this Incomparable Cause. Then summon the nations to God, the Most High, the Most Exalted!"—Baha'o'llah.

"Conquer the cities of the hearts with this most great Name, and be thou a herald of this Call amongst all nations!"—Baha'o'llah.

The mission of every Bahai in this world is to promote to the extent of his ability the Idea of God, the Idea of Beauty, the Idea of Right, the Idea of Justice and the Idea of Virtue. For the world of Ideals is a world of reality. Once I begin to hold the Idea of goodness within my mind, speak about it and banish all those tendencies which lead to evil, I create an atmosphere around myself that is bound to tell on my character. Now in this age and cycle the Idea of God, the Idea of Divine Morality, is almost forgotten. The advancing forces of material civilization have banished from the consciences of millions of men and women the Idea of God. They are daily breathing the air of the Idea of man, and live and have their beings according to the exigencies of the animal kingdom. The concept of God is a deep reality to them no more. It does not stir their hearts nor influence their minds. The world of sense and reason is the only criterion with which every proposition is tested and weighed.

Tennyson, in his Ode on the death of the Duke of Wellington, said:
"On God and God-like men we build our trust."

That was in his day, but in our day we are doing nothing of the kind. We do not build our trust on God because we have lost the sense of His holy Presence. We do not follow the exhortations of God-like men because our insight is so blurred with material things that we do not seem to see anything else except gross matter. Spirit, God, Truth, Love, have no meaning in our ears. We live a life of selfishness, we aspire after no higher realm, we are satisfied with water and clay, the appetites of the flesh satisfy us completely, we crave for no spiritual light, we yearn after no heavenly gift. Complacent and self-satisfied, we strut about as though we possessed the whole world, and yet spiritually we are poverty-stricken. We think of the rustic chatter of our village as the great wave that echoes round the world. We have banished God from our midst and cherish an illusion in our breasts.

Now the mission of the Revelation of Baha'o'llah is to recover for us this lost vision, to lead us back again into the sanctuary of holiness, to enkindle anew the Fire of the Love of God, to consume the veils of superstitions and imaginations, and to fill the hearts with the new Ideals of God, Love, Beauty, Constancy and Happiness as portrayed in the Writings of Baha'o'llah and Abdul Baha.

This means that we are called upon to solve some of the most crucial problems of this age. In order to render this service, we must not lag behind,

but be in the vanguard of the forces of this new Ideal Civilization. We must universalize our aims, spiritualize our thoughts, renew our beings, exalt our ambitions and dedicate ourselves to the service of humanity. We must become fully conscious that all past efforts and services in comparison to the efforts that we have to make after this Convention have been pastimes and child's play. Abdul Baha summons us to a brilliant height, the contemplation of which dazzles the mind and overpowers the heart. If we desire to put in execution his great plan, we must rise to his full stature, be imbued with his enthusiasm and drink from the chalice of his love. We must walk in his footsteps, live his life, be intoxicated with his wine and be filled with his spirit. We must be humble before his presence and obedient to his will. His kindness and forgiveness must teach us many valuable lessons, and his catholicity and simplicity inspire us to follow his example. Looking upon myself, I see how little I have really learned from my divine Beloved. Although I have lived with him for nearly eight years, yet I have not been able to master even the Alphabet of the Bahai Life. Often my temper gets the better of me. Now if I am living in this condition, how am I going to teach self-control to another? If I am always trying to find the faults of my brother, how am I entitled to be called a Bahai? And whenever I am in this mood, I think of these lines:

"And yet we cannot be kind to each other here for an hour:
We whisper, and hint and chuckle and grin at a brother's shame.
However we brave it out
We men are a little breed."

Abdul Baha teaches us that the Cause of the Blessed Perfection is the solution of all modern problems, and for this reason he calls upon us to arise and teach this wonderful Revelation to all men. Thus it was that on Saturday morning, April 1, 1916, while living in Bahjee, he revealed a beautiful Tablet to the friends of God in the eleven Western States, enjoining upon them to arise and teach the Cause in all those parts. The translation of that Tablet is as follows:

"To the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful in the Western States:

HE IS GOD

"O ye sons and daughters of the Kingdom!

"Day and night I have no other occupation than the remembrance of the friends, praying from the depth of my heart in their behalf, begging for them confirmation from the Kingdom of God and supplicating the direct effect of the breaths of the Holy Spirit. I am hopeful from the favors of His Highness the Lord of Bestowals, that the friends of God during such a time may become the secret cause of the illumination of the hearts of humanity, breathing the breath of life upon the spirits—whose praiseworthy results may become conducive to the glory and exaltation of humankind throughout all eternity. Although in some of the Western States, like California, Oregon, Washington and Colorado, the fragrances of holiness are diffused, numerous souls have taken a share and a portion from the Fountain of Everlasting Life, they have obtained heavenly benediction, have drunk an overflowing

cup from the wine of the love of God and have hearkened to the melody of the Supreme Concourse—yet in the States of New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona and Nevada, the lamp of the love of God is not ignited in a befitting and behooving manner, and the call of the Kingdom of God has not been raised. Now, if it is possible, show ye an effort in this direction. Either travel yourselves, personally, throughout those States or choose others and send them, so that they may teach the souls. For the present those States are like unto dead bodies: they must breathe into them the breath of life and bestow upon them a heavenly spirit. Like unto the stars they must shine in that horizon and thus the rays of the Sun of Reality may also illumine those States.

“God says in the great Koran ‘Verily God is the helper of those who have believed. He will lead them from darkness into light.’ This means: God loves the believers, consequently He will deliver them from darkness and bring them into the world of light.

“It is also recorded in the blessed Gospel: *Travel ye throughout the world and call ye the people to the Kingdom of God.* Now this is the time that you may arise and perform this most great service and become the cause of the guidance of the innumerable souls. Thus through this superhuman service the rays of peace and conciliation may illumine and enlighten all the regions and the world of humanity may find peace and composure.

“During my stay in America I cried out in every meeting and summoned the people to the propagation of the ideals of universal peace. I said plainly that the continent of Europe had become like unto an arsenal and its conflagration was dependent upon one spark, and that in the coming years or within two years, all that which is recorded in the Revelation of John and the Book of Daniel would become fulfilled and come to pass. This matter, in all probability, was published in the San Francisco BULLETIN, October 12, 1912. You may refer to it, so that the truth may become clear and manifest; thus ye may fully realize that *this is the time* for the diffusion of the fragrances.

“The magnanimity of man must be heavenly—or, in other words, it must be assisted by the divine confirmation, so that he may become the cause of the illumination of the world of humanity.

“Upon ye be greeting and praise.

“(Signed) ABDUL BAHA ABBAS.”

When the believers in the Western States received the above instructions, they all arose to fulfill them, and I believe much preliminary teaching has been accomplished during the past three years. But now I bring to them another wonderful Tablet, another Magna Charta, embodying new pictures of the Kingdom and inciting them to continue their work with greater faith and hope. This Second Tablet was revealed on Thursday night, February 15, 1917, in the room of Baha’o’llah, in Acca. Many believers were present, and the rain was pouring down like a torrent. When he came to the end of the Tablet, he looked out of the window and then turned, saying: “I pray that the heavenly Bounties may descend upon the Western States like this rain.” And now let us for a few moments listen attentively to the translation of this Tablet:

"To the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful in the Western States of the United States: New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, California, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Utah. Upon them be Baha'o'llah El Abha!

He Is God!

"O ye friends and the maid-servants of the Merciful, the chosen ones of the Kingdom!

"The blessed State of California bears the utmost similarity to the Holy Land—that is, the country of Palestine. The air is in the utmost temperance, the plain very spacious, and the fruits of Palestine are seen in that State in the utmost of freshness and delicacy. When Abdul Baha was traveling and journeying through those States, he found himself in Palestine, for from every standpoint there was a perfect likeness between this region and that State. Even the shores of the Pacific Ocean, in some instances, show perfect resemblance to the shores of the Holy Land—and even the flora of the Holy Land have grown on those shores—the study of which has led to much speculation and wonder.

"Likewise in the State of California and other Western States, wonderful scenes of the world of nature, which bewilder the minds of men, are manifest. Lofty mountains, deep canyons, great and majestic waterfalls, and giant trees are witnessed on all sides, while its soil is in the utmost fertility and richness. That blessed State is similar to the Holy Land and that region and that country like unto a delectable paradise, in many ways identical with Palestine. Now just as there are natural resemblances, heavenly resemblances must also be acquired.

"The lights of the Divine Traces are manifest in Palestine. The majority of the Israelitish Prophets raised the call of the Kingdom of God in this holy ground. Having spread the spiritual Teachings, the nostrils of the spiritually-minded ones became fragrant, the eyes of the illumined souls become brightened, the ears were thrilled through this song, the hearts obtained eternal life from the soul-refreshing breeze of the Kingdom of God and gained supreme illumination from the splendor of the Sun of Reality. Then from this region the light was spread to Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia.

"Now California and the other Western States must earn an ideal similarity with the Holy Land, and from that State and that region the Breaths of the Holy Spirit be diffused to all parts of America and Europe, that the Call of the Kingdom of God may exhilarate and rejoice all the ears, the Divine Principles bestow a new life, the different parties may become one party, the divergent ideas may disappear and revolve around one unique center, the East and the West of America may embrace each other, the anthem of the oneness of the world of humanity may confer a new life upon all the children of men, and the Tabernacle of Universal Peace be pitched on the Apex of America;—thus Europe and Africa may become vivified with the Breaths of the Holy Spirit, this world may become another world, the body politic may attain to a new exhilaration, and just as in the State of California and other

Western States the marvellous scenes of the world of nature are evident and manifest, the great Signs of the Kingdom of God may also be unveiled;—so that the body may correspond with the Spirit, the outward world may become a symbol of the inward world, and the mirror of the earth may become the mirror of the Kingdom, reflecting the ideal virtues of Heaven.

“During my journey and traveling in those parts, I beheld wonderful scenes and beautiful panoramas of nature, orchards and rivers; national parks and general conclaves; deserts, plains, meadows and prairies, and the grains and fruits of that region greatly attracted my attention; even to the present moment they are in my mind.

“Particularly was I greatly pleased with the meetings in San Francisco and Oakland, the gatherings in Los Angeles, and the believers who came from the cities of other States. Whenever their faces cross my memory, immediately infinite happiness is realized.

“Therefore I hope that the Divine Teachings like unto the rays of the sun may be diffused in all the Western States, and the blessed Verse of the Koran: ‘It is a good City and the Lord is the Forgiver!’ may become realized. Likewise, the significance of another Koranic Verse: ‘Do ye not travel through the land and behold the traces of the Mercy of God?’ become revealed in the utmost effulgence.

“Praise be to God that through the Divine Bounty and Providence, in that region the field of service is vast, the minds are in the utmost degree of intelligence and progress, sciences and arts are being promoted, the hearts like unto mirrors are in the utmost state of purity and translucency, and the friends of God are in perfect attraction. Therefore it is hoped that meetings of teaching will be organized and instituted, and for the diffusion of the Fragrances of God wise teachers may be sent to cities, even to villages.

“The teachers of the Cause must be heavenly, lordly and radiant. They must be embodied spirit, personified intellect, and arise in service with the utmost firmness, steadfastness and self-sacrifice. In their journeys they must not be attached to food and clothing. They must concentrate their thoughts on the outpourings of the Kingdom of God and beg for the Confirmations of the Holy Spirit. With a divine power, with an attraction of consciousness, with heavenly glad-tidings and celestial holiness they must perfume the nostrils with the Fragrances of the Paradise of Abha.

“The following Commune is to be read by them every day:

“O God! O God! This is a broken-winged bird and his flight is very slow—assist him so that he may fly toward the apex of prosperity and salvation, wing his way with the utmost joy and happiness throughout the illimitable space, raise his melody in Thy Supreme Name in all the regions, exhilarate the ears with this Call, and brighten the eyes by beholding the Signs of Guidance!

“O Lord! I am single, alone and lowly. For me there is no support save Thee, no helper except Thee and no sustainer beside Thee. Confirm me in Thy Service, assist me with the Cohorts of Thy angels, make me victorious in the promotion of Thy Word and suffer me to speak out Thy Wisdom

amongst Thy creatures. Verily, Thou art the custodian of the poor and the Defender of the little ones, and verily Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty and the Unconstrained!

“(Signed) ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS.”

Translated by Ahmad Sohrab,
April 1, 1919,
Washington, D. C.

When the original of the above Tablet was corrected the next morning by Abdul Baha, he handed it to me and slapped me hard on both my cheeks, laughing heartily, saying: “It is very good. It sticks. This was thy wage for today in writing over that Tablet. Now let us go and take a walk in the streets of Acca.” As he walked along the narrow lanes, he turned his face to me and said: “Speak!” The contents of the Western Tablet being fresh in my mind, I related to the Master how in 1848 gold was discovered in the stream gravels of California, and how when the news was spread, tens of thousands of persons in the Eastern States left farms, factories and homes in a mad rush for the gold fields, and how many thousands died on the way before reaching their goal. The Beloved thought for awhile, and then said: “Consider how men, in order to gain wealth and honor, threw themselves in the midst of all kinds of danger! How cheerfully they accepted all these extraordinary hardships, left homes and factories and travelled thousands of miles through deserts and over mountains, in order to reach the gold mines! But now in this day the mines of the Kingdom of Abha are being discovered, and the precious Jewels of the Spirit are exposed. These mines are inexhaustible. The more they dig the greater will be the output of the ideal precious gems, silver, gold and diamonds. The believers of the Western States must find their way from these earthly mines to the spiritual mines. They must realize how their forefathers, in order to obtain gold, underwent the most incredible adversities, exposed their lives to danger and accepted all the difficulties with a firm resolution. The friends also, in order to guide the souls, to promote the Word of God, to discover the unseen treasures of the Kingdom, and to prospect the invisible mines of the Realm of Might, must be willing to undergo any difficulty, so that they may achieve greater results and enrich the world with the boundless wealth of Truth. To the friends of the Western States, the self-sacrifice of the old pioneers and the patient gold-diggers must serve as a great example of perseverance. The mines of the Kingdom of Abha and their precious jewels are the praiseworthy attributes and characteristics. These divine perfections are hidden from the sight of men. The believers of God must by day and by night strive in their exposition;—so that their luster and brilliancy may increase. The material mines make man independent during his earthly life, but the mines of the Kingdom of Abha will enrich him throughout all eternity, and deliver him from crudeness, ignorance and poverty. The Western friends must become laborers in these great, spiritual mines, and fill the markets of the world with the gold and silver of the Kingdom of Righteousness. For every head they must make a heavenly crown of self-sacrifice; for every neck a necklace studded with the scintillating jewels of humility; for every ear an earring of Truth and obedience; for every hand a bracelet of

universal service, and for every finger a ring of sympathy;—so that the wonders and beauty of the world of the Kingdom may encircle the globe.”

Another day I spoke to the Master, while he was coming out from the Tomb of Baha’o’llah, about the system of irrigation in Southern California, and how the waste and barren deserts are turned into a paradise of flowers, fruit trees and sweet homes. He quickly turned to me and said: “When thou travellest in those parts, tell the people: The Heavenly Irrigator appeared 70 years ago in Persia and taught His disciples how to flood the dry fields of the hearts. Through His Knowledge and Inspiration they were enabled to transform the waste deserts of the minds and souls into the luxuriant gardens in which the rivers of light are flowing from the inaccessible Mountains of God.

“Now O ye friends of the Western States, just as your Government is spending extraordinary effort and money in the matter of irrigation, building dams on the tablelands to save the winter rain, so that the valleys, the plains and the orchards may be flooded during the Summer season,—you must also exert yourselves in the irrigation of the hearts of men. Learn ye perseverance from your Universal Teacher, Baha’o’llah, who was not disheartened by any obstacle from irrigating the hearts of humanity. Kings and nations arose against Him, and banished Him to distant lands and countries. Nevertheless, whenever He entered a new place, fearlessly He occupied His time in the spiritual irrigation and the sowing of the seeds of knowledge and wisdom in the prepared fields of Spirit. Through His tender care the wildernesses were changed into rose gardens, the sad hearts were made happy, the sleepy ones were awakened, and the weak ones strengthened. Irrigation! This is the real and permanent irrigation of the Lord! One drop from this water will allay the thirst of all mankind, suffering the fields of all hearts to become green and luxuriant throughout all eternity. If the ground of the spirit is flooded with this pure water, it will not be followed by any drought; its flowers will never fade and its freshness never pass away. I hope that the Western friends may become the spiritual irrigators of the Kingdom, allay the thirst of the thirsty ones and let the waters of Divine Knowledge, the Ideal of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, flood the world of humanity.”

I will now bring this talk to a close with the reproduction of another Word of my Beloved. Many days later, while I was following him through his garden in Haifa, he again asked me to speak. I talked about the wonderful natural scenes in the Western States: I dwelt on the hot geysers of Yellowstone Park, the wonderful waterfalls of the Yosemite Valley and the strangely formed cliffs of the Grand Canyons of Colorado. I spoke about the wooded valleys, the snow-capped mountains, the wonderful bursting springs, the shimmering lakes, the granite peaks, and the giant trees. The Master always made a big capital about my love for America, and laughed at my enthusiasm in half-earnest, half-joking manner. Then he said: “Why didst thou not tell me about these wonderful things when we were travelling in America? Now that we are living so far away, thou comest to me with such fairy tales, praising America to such an extent as though God has not created another country in the world!” Then he became serious, and said: “All these majestic scenes of nature, in reality, prove the greatness of the Creator and the antiquity of the world. This globe is indeed millions of years old,

and its Creator has had no beginning and will have no ending. He has been, is and will be the Alpha and Omega. A creator presupposes creatures, just as light presupposes the existence of the sun.

"Now just as these wonderful scenes of the world of nature are witnessed in all the Western States, I hope the rare signs and traces of the Kingdom of Abha may also become incarnated and personified; such souls may appear from these States who will be considered the wonders of the age and the geniuses of the time; from their services infinite results may become manifest in the world of existence; their words be penetrative, the trees of their lives fruitful, each one a Flag of the victory of the Cause of God and a column of light to guide the wanderers to the Religion of God. Then the nether world will attract and in turn reflect the virtues of the world of the Kingdom. Within the short space of our lives or the lives of generations, very little changes will come over these natural scenes and no practical results are witnessed from their mineral lives. But the life and teachings of a single human wonder transforms the whole world. Columbus was a genius in his time. Consider what world-encircling results appeared from his voyage of discovery! Copernicus, Kepler, Laplace and Newton were all geniuses, and their contributions to the sciences have made them benefactors of humanity? The inventors and discoverers of telegraphy, telephony, electricity, wireless, etc., have all, through their distinguished labors and discoveries made man a monarch over the laws of Nature, broadened his vision and freed him from the lower, miserable life of the savage, ever fighting with the beasts of the jungle in order to satisfy his bare wants.

"This is, of course, in the material world. But if we concentrate our attention on the spiritual world and the rich results issuing therefrom, we observe that through the Teachings of Christ and the self-sacrifice of His disciples, Europe and America were adorned with the bright jewels of divine civilization, ferocious characters were refined and the love of humanity spread.

"In a similar manner in the Bahai Cause, there must appear extraordinary spiritual geniuses, wonders of the Kingdom of God, souls who in knowledge, sciences, sociability, tenderness, loving kindness, universality, joyfulness, may be considered unique and peerless. Should such heavenly beings appear in the Western States, the power and the creative energy of the kingdom of Abha will become manifest and apparent: Souls who have discovered their ways to the mines of the Kingdom; souls who are the irrigators of the grounds of the hearts of humanity; souls who are the wonders of the realm of Truth. Then and not until then will the spiritual creation of the Almighty become perfected in those States; the miracles of the transforming power of the Spirit embodied, the Mysteries of the Holy Books be revealed and the golden age of peace and brotherhood be established."

We all know that the Western States are thinly settled; that the population of these eleven states is only about seven million, while that of the Northeastern and Southern States together is over fifty million. Still, everyone realizes that the West is the seat of a mighty, virile civilization, that the possibilities of its development are unlimited and with this important idea in mind, and with a clear realization of all the wonderful promises of the Center of the Covenant of God regarding the future of that country, I ask Miss Lenore

Powell and Miss Juanita Storch to come forward and unveil the great Tablet of the West, and then I will chant for you the Supplication revealed by Abdul Baha for the teachers who are going to arise after this Convention to carry the light of love and peace to every corner of that spacious land.

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

FIFTH TALK

Baha'o'llah says, in the Appendix of the Book of Akdas:

"Proclaim! Verily the Water of Life is the Love of the Merciful in the contingent world! Blessed is he who seizing it, drinks thereof in My Name, the Mighty, the Wonderful!"

In another place, He says:

"Sell everything save My Love! I declare by God all the wealth on the face of the earth and all the treasures of the world are not equal to it. Preserve thou the Pearl of the Love of the Merciful in thy heart."

In the world of existence, there is no greater bounty than Love. God is Love, His Will is Love and His Word is Love. All the Manifestations of God have come into this world to create Love amongst mankind. Love is the universal law of attraction that binds all the heavenly Constellations in the harmonious bond of a sidereal system. Without Love there will be no light and no life. Love is the sweet breeze of the young dawn, wafting from the direction of the rose-garden of Beauty, over the newly-awakened heart. Love is the clear Water of Life that gushes forth from the fountain of the pure hearts, to flood the dry, black soil of strangeness, causing the springing up of the fresh roses of adoration and the modest violets of attachment. There are various degrees of love; the love of the animal for its young, the love of the mother for her child, the love of the divine teacher for his followers, and the love of God for His creatures. The love that is permanent and everlasting is the love of the Manifestation for His believers; the love of God for all mankind. It is this love that Baha'o'llah tells us is the "Water of Life," the source of all beings and the joy of all minds. When the fragrant roses of this Love bloom in the garden of the heart, one dedicates his whole life to the service of humanity, and forgetting self, rises toward the empyrean realm of renunciation. Our Heavenly Teacher, Abdul Baha, teaches us daily the law of this love, and invites us to drink from this overflowing Cup of the Love of God;—so that we may lose all our lower ambitions and be enamored with the Beauty of the Beloved. It is this love that enshrines vestal thoughts in the translucent fanes of a pure Spirit. It is this love that once balanced on the lightsome wings of the Bird of the Paradise of Abha, suffers us to soar toward the palace of high emprise! It is the magic power of this love that immerses our beings in the rich, roseate foreshadowings of the world! It is this love that makes the face rosy-kindled with the light of divine inspiration!

With this love we surmount every difficulty, rise over every obstruction and although living in the cell, our hearts are in the homes of the nightingales of soul-entrancing melodies.

With the power of this love Moses delivered the Israelites from the lands of Pharoah and brought them into the Land of Promise.

With the light of this love Zoroaster taught the ancient Persians the unity of God and the efficacy of the rays of the Sun of Truth.

With the magic of this love, Christ made the humble fishermen of Galilee, the vivifiers of the world.

With the strength of this love, Mohammed freed the ignorant tribes of the Peninsular Arabia from polytheism and cruel rites. With the sweetness of this love the youth of Shiraz, the Bab, proclaimed the dawn of a new day and the coming of a new divine Springtime. With the majesty of this love Baha'o'llah announced the oneness of the world of humanity and the passing away of the old order, and sent His Great Tablets from behind the prison bars to the Kings of the earth, summoning them to partake of the Heavenly Banquet and usher in the era of Universal Peace and the establishment of a universal arbitral Court of Justice.

With the vigor of this Love, Abdul Baha, the Center of the Covenant, has been serving all through life the poor and the fallen, the downtrodden and the outcast. I can hear him in my mind even now, talking, as he often talks, on the wonder and heavenliness of this Love. Love is Light. Love is Life. Love is Truth. Love is a crown studded with brilliant jewels. Love is the imperishable rose. Love is the boundless sea. Love is the fruitful tree. Love is the world illuminating sun. Love is the rain of Mercy pouring from the Clouds of Sublimity. Love is action and not words. The love of this age is not individual but social, human and divine.

And now, my dear friends, it is to this height of spiritual, impersonal love that Abdul Baha calls the friends of Canada. It was for the promotion of the attar of this love amongst the six millions or more inhabitants of Canada that he sent three years ago his first call to arise and teach the Cause in that country. That Tablet was revealed on Wednesday morning, April 5th, 1916, in the garden of the Blessed Tomb of Baha'o'llah at Bahjee, and in order to remind ourselves of its significant contents, I read it to you:—

“To the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful in the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada:

He His God!

“O ye daughters and sons of the Kingdom!

“Although in most of the states and cities of the United States—praise be to God—the fragrances of God are diffused and innumerable souls are turning their faces and advancing toward the Kingdom of God, yet in some of the states the flag of oneness is not upraised as it ought to be and must be, and the mysteries of the Holy Books, like the Bible, the Gospel and the Koran, are not promulgated. Through the unanimous effort of the friends, the banner of oneness must be unfurled in those states, and the divine teachings be promoted, so that they may also receive a portion and a share of the heavenly bestowals and the most great guidance. Likewise in the Provinces of Canada, such as Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New

Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Ungava, Keewatin, Mackenzie, Yukon and the Franklin Islands in the Arctic Circle—the believers of God must become self-sacrificing and like unto the candles of guidance become ignited in the provinces of Canada. Should they show forth such a magnanimity, it is assured that they will obtain universal divine confirmations, the heavenly cohorts will reinforce them uninterruptedly, and a most great victory will be obtained. Perchance, God willing, the call of the Kingdom may reach the ears of the Eskimos, the inhabitants of the Islands of Franklin in the north of Canada, as well as Greenland. Should in Greenland the fire of the love of God be ignited, all the ices of that continent will be melted and its frigid climate will be changed into a temperate climate—that is, if the hearts will obtain the heat of the love of God, that country and continent will become a divine garden and a lordly orchard, and the souls, like unto the fruitful trees, will obtain the utmost freshness and delicacy. Magnanimity is necessary, heavenly exertion is called for. Should you display an effort, so that the fragrances of God be diffused amongst the Eskimos, its effect will be very great and far-reaching. God says in the great Koran: “A day will come wherein the lights of unity will enlighten all the world. The earth will be irradiated with the light of its Lord.” In other words: “The earth will become illumined with the light of God. That light is the light of unity.” “There is no God but God.” The continent and the islands of Eskimos are also parts of this earth. They must similarly receive a portion of the bestowals of the most great guidance.

“Upon ye be greeting and praise!

“(Signed) ABDUL BAHA ABBAS.”

At that time, the above Tablet of instruction was mailed to our dear sister, Mrs. May Maxwell, and although the last three years have been years of war and confusion, a good foundation has been laid for further work in the immediate future, which everyone hopes will be taken up with much zeal after this great Convention. But in order to gain a clearer comprehension of how the Beloved Abdul Baha looks upon Canada and its future, and what should be the characteristics of those teachers who shall arise to teach and promote the Word of God, I am going to read to you the translation of the second Tablet, revealed for the Canadian friends on Wednesday, February 21st, 1917, in the room of Baha'o'llah in Acca:

“To the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful in the Dominion of Canada, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, Mackenzie, Keewateen, Ungava, Franklin Islands and Greenland:

“Upon them be Baha'o'llah El Abha!

HE IS GOD!

“O ye kind friends and the maid-servants of the Merciful!

“In the great Koran, God says: ‘Thou shalt see no difference in the creatures of God.’ In other words, He says: From the ideal standpoint, there is no variation between the creatures of God, because they are all

created by Him. From the above premise, a conclusion is drawn, that there is even no difference between the various countries; nevertheless the future of the Dominion of Canada is very great, and its historical events infinitely glorious. Thus it shall become the object of the Glance of Providence and the manifestation of the Favors of the Supreme Lord.

"Abdul Baha during his journey and sojourn through that Dominion obtained the utmost joy. Before my departure, many souls warned me, not to travel to Montreal, saying, the majority of the inhabitants are Catholics, and are in the utmost fanaticism, that they are submerged in the sea of imitations, that they have not the capability to hearken to the Call of the Kingdom of God, that the veil of bigotry has so covered the eyes that they have deprived themselves from beholding the signs of the Most Great Guidance, and that the dogmas have taken possession of the hearts entirely, leaving no trace of Reality. They asserted that should the Sun of Reality shine with perfect splendor, throughout that Dominion, the dark, impenetrable clouds of superstitions have so enveloped the horizon that it would be utterly impossible for anyone to behold Its rays.

"But these stories did not have any effect on the resolution of Abdul Baha. He, trusting in God, turned his face toward Montreal. When he entered that city he observed all the doors open, he found the hearts in the utmost receptivity and the ideal power of the Kingdom of God removing every obstacle and obstruction. In the churches and meetings of that Dominion he called men to the Kingdom of God with the utmost joy, and scattered such seeds which will be irrigated with the hand of Divine Power. Undoubtedly those seeds will grow, becoming green and verdant, and many rich harvests will be gathered. In the promotion of the Divine Principle he found no antagonist and no adversary. The believers he met in that city were in the utmost spirituality, and attracted with the Fragrances of God. He found that through the effort of the maid-servant of God, Mrs. Maxwell, a number of the sons and daughters of the Kingdom in that Dominion were gathered together and associated with each other, increasing this joyous exhilaration day by day. The time of sojourn was limited to a number of days, but the results in the future are inexhaustible. When a farmer comes into the possession of a virgin soil, in a short time he will bring under cultivation a large field. Therefore I hope that in the future Montreal may become so stirred, that the Melody of the Kingdom may travel to all parts of the world from that Dominion and the Breaths of the Holy Spirit may spread from that center to the East and the West of America.

"O ye believers of God! Do ye not look upon the smallness of your number and the multitudes of the nations. Five grains of wheat will be endowed with heavenly blessing, whereas a thousand tons of tares will yield no results or effect. One fruitful tree will be conducive to the life of society, whereas a thousand forests of wild trees offer no fruits. The plain is covered with pebbles, but precious stones are rare. One pearl is better than a thousand wildernesses of sand; especially this Pearl of Great Price, which is endowed with Divine Blessing. Ere long thousands of other pearls will be born from It. When that Pearl associates and becomes the intimate of the pebbles, they also all change into pearls.

"Therefore, again I repeat, that the future of Canada, whether from the

standpoint of civilization or from the viewpoint of the virtues of the Kingdom is very great. Day by day civilization and freedom shall increase. Likewise the cloud of the Kingdom will water the seeds of guidance sown in that Dominion. Consequently, rest ye not, seek ye no composure, attach not yourselves to the luxuries of this ephemeral world, free yourselves from every attachment, and strive with heart and soul to become fully established in the Kingdom of God. Gain ye the heavenly treasures. Day by day become ye more illumined. Draw ye nearer and nearer unto the Threshold of Oneness. Become ye the manifestors of spiritual favors and the dawning-places of infinite lights! If it is possible, send ye teachers to other portions of Canada, likewise dispatch ye teachers to Greenland and the home of the Eskimos.

"As regards the teachers, they must completely divest themselves from the old garments and be invested with a new garment. According to the statement of Christ, they must attain to the station of rebirth:—that is, whereas in the first instance they were born from the womb of the mother, this time they must be born from the womb of the world of nature. Just as they are now totally unaware of the experiences of the foetal world, they must also forget entirely the defects of the world of nature. They must be baptized with the Water of Life, the Fire of the Love of God and the Breaths of the Holy Spirit; be satisfied with little food, but take a large portion from the heavenly table. They must disengage themselves from temptation and covetousness, and be filled with the spirit. Through the effect of their pure breath, they must change the stone into the brilliant ruby and the shell into pearl. Like unto the cloud of vernal shower, they must transform the black soil into the rose-garden and orchard. They must make the blind seeing, the deaf hearing, the extinguished one enkindled and set aglow, and the dead quickened.

"Upon ye be Baha'o'llah El Abha!

"The Spreaders of the Fragrances of God should peruse every morning the following Supplication:

"Praise be to Thee, O God! Verily these are Thy servants, who are attracted by the Fragrances of Thy Mercifulness, enkindled by the ignited Fire in the Tree of Thy Singleness and their eyes are brightened by beholding the effulgences of the Light in the Sinai of Thy Oneness!

"O Lord! Loosen their tongues in Thy commemoration amongst Thy people; suffer them to speak Thy Praise through Thy Favor and Grace, assist them with the cohorts of Thy Angels, strengthen their loins in Thy service and make them the signs of Thy Guidance amongst Thy creatures!

"Verily Thou art the Powerful, the Exalted, the Pardoner and the Merciful!

"O God! O God! Thou beholdest this weak one begging the strength of Thy Kingdom! This poor one supplicating the Treasures of Thy heaven! This thirsty one longing for Thy Fountain of the Water of Eternal Life! This sick one invoking Thy perfect recovery through Thy Boundless Mercy, which Thou hast specialized for Thy chosen servants in Thy Supreme Kingdom!

"O Lord! I have no other helper save Thee; no other Comforter beside Thee, and no other Sustainer except Thee! Assist me with Thy Angels in

the diffusion of Thy Holy Fragrances and the dissemination of Thy Teachings amongst Thy elected people!

"O Lord! Suffer me to sever myself from aught else save Thee, holding fast to the Hem of Thy Garment; make me sincere in Thy Religion, firm in Thy Love and living in accordance with that which Thou hast commanded me in Thy Book.

"Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty and the Omnipotent!

"(Signed) ABDUL BAHA ABBAS."

Translated by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab,

April 3, 1919.

Washington, D. C.

I wish I could adorn the above wonderful Epistle with all the beautiful things the Master said about Canada on various occasions. I have gathered together for the present only a few of these private talks, and will share them with you.

He said: "Canada is indeed a spacious country, almost as large as a Continent, and her future is most brilliant. I love very much that Dominion, especially the city of Montreal. While there, we spent some of the most beautiful days of our lives. Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell entertained us with the utmost hospitality. We associated and became intimate with the friends of God. There is need for a number of holy, sanctified, loyal, magnanimous and devoted teachers for that Dominion;—so that for some time they may travel from Province to Province. God willing, this shall come to pass. The believers in those parts must so live that all the inhabitants may point to them as examples of purity and loving-kindness. In charitable deeds and praiseworthy qualities they must precede all others. In teaching the Cause of God they must demonstrate self-sacrifice. In all these Provinces they must raise the Call of the Kingdom of God. Like unto the warbling nightingales of the rose-garden, they must at every hour communicate the secrets and mysteries of their Love with the beauty of the rose. In expressing their heaven-born love, they must rend asunder all the veils of patience. Every day they must sing a new soul-entrancing melody and break out into rapturous songs of happiness. Is there any greater blessing for man than this? To spend his life in the diffusion of the Fragrances of God and the promotion of the Love of God. Day by day they must advance toward the Palace of progress and try to solve the most intricate problems of the age. They must decorate the walls of the mansions of their reasons with the artistic pictures of the great ideals of the thinkers of the world, and at every hour of the day radiate joy and interpenetrate the loves of others with divine ecstasy. To advance always, to achieve some new service every day, and to widen the horizon of intellect every hour—these three rules must become part of the program of their lives. With steadfast resolution and firm feet they must stand before every difficulty and make every trial a stepping stone for a higher attainment. Undoubtedly such souls will at last crown their heads with the diadem of eternal success and prosperity, and become honored and respected amongst all their contemporaries.

"The believers of Canada, with a magnanimous effort and strong heart, must remove every obstruction from the path of the promotion of the Word

of God. They must not let the bright lamps of their attraction and enkindlement be extinguished through the contrary winds of misunderstandings and limitations. The harsh measures and conditions of the world of Nature must not agitate the equanimity of their dispositions;—nay, rather, they must continually increase their enthusiasm and display great effort in the irrigation of the spiritual fields. Thus the hatred of the strangers will be turned into love, and the enmity and animosity of the foes will be changed into amity and fellowship.

“The most important thing is, not to let the Fire of yearning and acclamation ignited in the heart, become extinct;—for God forbid! should such a condition be brought about, they will become unable to render any help to the Primal Cause of humanity, nor serve the Vineyard of the Kingdom of Abha! The armies of these difficulties must be defeated with the cohorts of the Kingdom of God and the angels of the Supreme Concourse. They must not let their Original Aim be weakened for even one hour. They must continually think of the available means in the diffusion of the Fragrances of the Cause. For the hours devoted to such ideals are productive of wonderful results.

“The believers of Canada must in all the seasons be the real servants of the divine Vineyard, and avail themselves of all practical means and scientific prevision in summoning the people to the Kingdom of God. This will become conducive to the hopefulness of others, and encourage and incite them to follow the same course. They must not break their golden wings with the criticism of this or that. The bravery, the heroism and the self-sacrifice of the martyrs and the believers of Persia must become the inspirers of their future services and the guides for their disinterested love. They must always look ahead, for the vistas of their future are illumined with the shining columns of the Kingdom of Abha. For them there is no night. They live in the light of eternal day. They must never be satisfied with the services they have rendered to the Cause, for there are always greater services to be rendered. Greed is reprehensible in every department of life save in the service of the Cause of God and the acquirement of knowledge and sciences.

“Praise be to God, the field of the Cause is vast and limitless. Every sincere-hearted soul is welcomed to enter therein, and win the goal of precedence and service. The Bounties of God are not monopolized, the Favors of the Lord are not localized. The doors of the Kingdom of Abha are open to all. In the religion of the Blessed Perfection there are no Brahmans and Pariahs. His Graces are all encompassing, all-inclusive. Only let the heart be pure, the rays of the Sun of Reality will reflect therein, be he black or white, red or yellow.

“The believers of Canada must be heroic and fluent in tongue; they must be thankful, patient and forbearing. In the Paradise of the Merciful they must be laughing flowers and sweet singing nightingales. In the heaven of the Kingdom they must be radiant stars and brilliant orbs. In the world of divine knowledge they must be tempestuous seas and pearl-bringing waves. In the illimitable space of God they must be high-soaring birds, flying with the wings of light throughout the immensity of Truth.

“I declare by the Blessed Perfection that if the believers of Canada live and act in accordance with the instructions laid down in these Tablets, each

one, like unto an eternal star, will shine from the horizon of the Kingdom of the Merciful. The believers of Canada and other States must come together periodically and discuss the practical ways and means whereby the Cause is promoted and the people summoned to the Kingdom of God. They must take hold of every legitimate means through which the Cause of God may be brought before the attention of the public. Let them make the knowledge of God their guide. Let them assign the freedom of thought and the liberty of spirit as the luminous torches in their lives. Let them rely on the Holy Spirit as their Inspirer in all their spiritual undertakings. Let the powers of heaven be their defenders, the Lord of the Kingdom their Comforter, His Holiness Baha'o'llah their Supporter and the Center of the Covenant their Protector. Then, clad with these armors of spirit and holding in their hands these swords of revelation, let them rush out of their trenches, attack the armies of the king of darkness on all fronts, defeat and scatter the forces of ignorance and prejudice and make this world the dawning-place of light and the home of the righteous ones.

"The friends of Canada must make the love of the world the article of their faith, and universal salvation and progress the principles of their lives. They must prefer the good of all to individual profits. They must not try to shift the hardships and vicissitudes of life upon others; thus, like unto the brilliant stars they may shine in the assemblages of all the nations of the world, and similar unto scintillating pearls they may adorn the crown of humanity.

"It is assured that they shall have unparalleled opportunities to render great services to the Kingdom of God. Holding in their hands the bottles of the sweet extract of realities and significances, they must open them and perfume all the nostrils with the delicate fragrance of love. They must gladden the hearts and make the spirits light and airy. The Teachings of the Blessed Perfection call them to such a height of perfection. The Principles of the Cause of God summon them to soar in such an illimitable atmosphere. The spirit of this age invites them to enter into such a delectable paradise of glory. The wondrous powers of this Spiritual Dispensation urge them to display miraculous efforts and extraordinary exertions, saying: Rest ye assured, advance ye forward. The Hand of Might has prepared for each one of them jewelled diadems and is waiting to see how many will step forward in order to set those crowns of Everlasting Glory upon their heads;—thus the hearts may become illumined with the light of the luminary of Reality and each soul become the means of the guidance of multitudes.

"In short, O Ahmad! When thou standest in their meetings, cry out at the top of thy voice and say to them: This is the day of deeds—to desire, to know, to act, to work, to do, to stand, to cry, to serve, to help, to inspire, to strive, to advance, to attain and to teach!"

And now I deem it a great joy to call on the daughter of Abdul Baha, Mary Maxwell, to rise and come forward to unveil the Great Spiritual Charter of the Dominion of Canada.

As a little child, she was blessed by Abdul Baha; as a little angel she was held in His divine arms. As a little girl she was loved, caressed and kissed by the heavenly Teacher. How many times did I hear the King of my heart call her: "My daughter! My daughter." How often during these years of

war he would mention her name and pray for her! All through these years she has grown like a sweet white lily, tender and pure! The Sun of Reality has shone upon her little head, the stars of motherly affection have begemmed her dear heart, the gentle breeze of the love of the Beloved has stirred her with an unconscious happiness, and the vivifying showers of Grace have caused the sprouting of sweet flowers or virgin ideals in her mind. In years to come, she will remember this moving scene, this divine gathering, as the most wonderful, inspiring event in her life, and will thank the Heavenly Father that hers has been the inestimable privilege to unveil the wonderful Tablet which will be the spiritual heritage for all the future generations.

To share with her these imperishable memories, I also call upon her friend Elizabeth Coristine, another heavenly daughter of the Kingdom.

UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

SIXTH TALK

In the Appendix of the Book of Akdas, Baha'o'llah says: "O ye believers of God! Drink ye from the Fountain of Wisdom; walk ye in the rose-garden of Wisdom, soar ye in the atmosphere of Wisdom, and talk ye in the language of Wisdom and Explanation. Thus commands you your Lord, the Mighty, the Knowing. . . . Be ye the signs of assurance to the inhabitants of the world and the Fragrances of the Merciful amongst mankind!"

Again He says: "Become ye united in the Days of God. Through this, His Cause will be spread amongst the servants and the Fragrances be wafted over the cities. Harken ye to that which the Pen of Revelation advises you on the part of the Mighty and the Beautiful! Do ye not disagree in the Cause of God, for thereby the hearts of the unbelievers are rejoiced. Gather ye together with joy and fragrance, then peruse the verses of the Merciful, whereby the doors of knowledge are opened to your hearts. Then ye shall find yourselves in the station of firmness and will see your souls in manifest joy." Appendix of Surat-El Haykel.

The final test of every Movement, whether in the past or the future, is its usefulness and practicality. As soon as an idea is presented to me, I ask myself: Is it practical? Will it be useful in my career? Will it make me a better man? Will it strengthen my character and form for me better habits? If it fulfills this mission if it has enriched my nature, then I will try to share it with my fellow-men.

Now the Bahai Movement, according to the opinion of some of the greatest thinkers and Orientalists of the West, is the greatest God-idea of the last century, which, starting in Persia in 1844, has spread all over the world and is gaining adherents and force as it migrates from country to country, from city to city. We may ask ourselves, has this Divine Ideal of the 19th Century been of any practical benefit to humanity or not? If we go to the

fountain-head of Bahai history, we are convinced before very long, that the spiritual value of the Bahai Movement has been and still is great and wonderful. Through its benign influence, the fiendish characters have been transformed into angelic natures; the coward has become courageous, the dark soul illumined; beastly passions are replaced by spiritual attributes, the ignorant has become wise, the hopeless filled with the bright ideals of new aspirations; the broken and unhappy homes changed into sweet nests of the birds of Paradise; the misanthropist has become a lover of humanity, the sanctity and holiness of the family is exalted; the inactive has become active, the visionary man has become practical; the harsh and coarse nature is refined and kindled with the glow of kindness and social energy directed toward social service.

Bearing in mind the above remarks, the following quotation from the book "*The Psychology of Number*," by James A. McLelland and John Dewey, will make my point still clearer:—

"The value of any fact or theory as bearing on human activity is, in the long run, determined by practical application, that is, by using it for accomplishing some definite purpose. If it works well—if it removes friction, frees activity, economizes effort, makes for richer results—it is valuable as contributing to a perfect adjustment of means to end. If it makes no such contribution, it is practically useless, no matter what claims may be theoretically urged in its behalf."

Thus in the light of the above psychological principle we are convinced that the Bahai Movement has been and will be a great, universal, spiritual power, shaping the progressive course of modern civilization toward democracy and brotherhood. It will teach the ideal of the oneness of the world of humanity; encourage independent investigation of reality; promote the principle that the foundation of all the divine religions has been one; emphasize the important fact that religion under all circumstances must be the cause of love and amity and not hatred and discord; it will uphold that the religion of the future must be scientific, that all religious propositions must agree with rational ideas; it will promote the equality of rights between men and women; it will wipe away all religious, national and denominational prejudices; it will recommend the adoption of a universal auxiliary language; it will co-operate with all peace societies to establish the parliament of man or the league of nations; it will interest itself in all those cultural, educational and social movements that attempt to stamp out ignorance, pauperism, intemperance, vice and crime; it will advance the era of economic justice and the solution of the problems between capital and labor, and it will serve humanity not only through all the human agencies, but will strive to uplift man through the Breaths of the Holy Spirit.

Baha'o'llah in His day, and the Center of the Covenant in this day call upon us to rise with a superhuman energy and spread these ideals in all parts of the world. For this reason, the Blessed Perfection enjoins upon us in the extracts quoted above that we must first gain "Wisdom"; for without "Wisdom" we will be helpless. Secondly, He tells us to be "the signs of assurance"; for wisdom without "assurance" is doubt and skepticism. And thirdly He admonishes us to be "united in the Day of God"; for we may have all the wisdom and all the assurance of the world but without Unity we are as

paralyzed organs and scattered parts that will accomplish nothing. Hence let "Wisdom" court "Assurance" and win her as a bride of heavenly worth. Then as a result of this romantic wedlock, the child of "Unity" will be born in our midst—full of smiles, sweetness and beauty.

Having already read to you ten of the Spiritual Charters of Abdul Baha to the Northeastern, Southern, Central and Western States and to Canada, I am going to read on this occasion two more of these wonderful Tablets, addressed to the Bahai Assemblies of the United States and Canada, to spread the Principles of Reality in Alaska, Mexico, Central America, South America and the West Indies. It is the first time that these Tablets have been given to the world, and I beg your closest attention, so that we may realize the grandeur and sublimity of the Vision of the Beloved and arise accordingly in the promotion of the Principles of Baha'o'llah referred to above.

The first Tablet was revealed in the Garden of Bahjée, Saturday morning, April 8th, 1916.

"To the Assemblies and Meetings of the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful in the United States and Canada!

"Upon them be Baha'o'llah El Abha!

He Is God!

"O ye blessed souls!

"I desire for you eternal success and prosperity and beg perfect Confirmation for each one in the Divine World. My hope for you is that each one may shine forth like unto the morning star from the horizon of the world and in this Garden of God become a blessed tree, producing everlasting fruits and results.

"Therefore I direct you to that which is conducive to your heavenly Confirmation and illumination in the Kingdom of God!

"It is this: Alaska is a vast country; although one of the maid-servants of the Merciful has hastened to those parts, serving as a Librarian in the Public Library, and according to her ability is not failing in teaching the Cause; yet the call of the Kingdom of God is not yet raised through that spacious territory.

"His Holiness Christ says: Travel ye to the East and to the West of the world and summon the people to the Kingdom of God. Hence the Mercy of God must encompass all humanity. Therefore do ye not think it permissible to leave that region deprived of the Breezes of the Morn of Guidance. Consequently, strive as far as ye are able to send to those parts fluent speakers, who are detached from aught else save God, attracted with the Fragrances of God, and sanctified and purified from all desires and temptations. Their sustenance and food must consist of the Teachings of God. First they must themselves live in accordance with those Principles, then guide the people. Perchance, God willing, the lights of the Most Great Guidance may illumine that country and the Breezes of the rose-garden of the Love of God may perfume the nostrils of the inhabitants of Alaska. Should ye become confirmed in thus rendering such a service, rest ye assured that ye shall crown your heads with the Diadem of Everlasting Sovereignty, and at the Threshold of Oneness you will become the favored and accepted servants.

"Likewise the Republic of Mexico is very important. The majority of the inhabitants of that country are devoted Catholics. They are totally unaware of the reality of the Bible, the Gospel and the New Divine Teachings. They do not know that the basis of the religions of God is one and that the Holy Manifestations are like unto the Sun of Truth, rising from the different dawning-places. Those souls are submerged in the sea of dogmas. If one breath of Life be blown over them, great results will issue therefrom. But it is better for those who intend to go to Mexico to teach, to be familiar with the Spanish language.

"Similarly, the six Central American Republics, situated south of Mexico—Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the seventh country Belize or British Honduras. The teachers going to those parts must also be familiar with the Spanish language.

"You must give great importance in teaching the Indians, *i.e.*, the aborigines of America. For these souls are like the ancient inhabitants of Peninsular Arabia, who previous to the Manifestation of His Holiness Mohammed were treated as savages. But when the Mohammedic light shone forth in their midst, they became so illumined that they brightened the world. Likewise, should these Indians and aborigines be educated and obtain guidance, there is no doubt that through the Divine Teachings, they will become so enlightened as in turn to shed light to all regions.

"All the above countries have importance, but especially the Republic of Panama, wherein the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans come together through the Panama Canal. It is a center for travel and passage from America to other continents of the world, and in the future it will gain most great importance.

"Likewise the Islands of the West Indies, such as Cuba, Haiti, Porto Rico, Jamaica, the Islands of the Lesser Antilles, Bahama Islands, even the small Watling Island, have great importance; especially the two black Republics, Haita and Santo Domingo, situated in the cluster of the Greater Antilles. Likewise the cluster of the Islands of Bermuda in the Atlantic Ocean have importance.

"In a similar way, the Republics on the Continent of South America,—Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, British Guiana, Dutch Guiana, French Guiana, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Venezuela; also the Islands in the North, East and West of South America, such as Falkland Island, Galapago, Juan Fernandez, Tobago and Trinidad. Likewise the city of Bahia, situated on the Eastern shore of Brazil. Because it is some time that it has become known by this name, its efficacy will be most potent.

"In short, O ye believers of God! Exalt your effort and magnify your aims. His Holiness Christ says: Blessed are the poor, for theirs shall be the Kingdom of Heaven. In other words: Blessed are the nameless and traceless poor, for they are the leaders of mankind. Likewise it is said in the Koran: "We desire to bestow our gifts upon those who have become weak on the face of the earth, and make them a nation and the heirs (of Spiritual Truth.)" Or, we wish to grant a favor on the impotent souls and suffer them to become the inheritors of the Messengers and Prophets.

"Therefore, now is the time that you may divest yourselves from the garment of attachment to this phenomenal realm, be wholly severed from the

physical world, become angels of heaven and travel and teach through all these regions.

"I declare by Him, beside Whom there is no one, that each one of you shall become the Israfel of Life, blowing the Breath of Life in the souls of others.

"Upon ye be greeting and praise!

Supplication!

"O Thou Incomparable God! O Thou Lord of the Kingdom! These souls are Thy heavenly army. Assist them and with the cohorts of the Supreme Concourse, make them victorious; so that each one of them may become like unto a regiment and conquer these countries through the Love of God and the Illumination of Divine Teachings.

"O God! Be Thou their Supporter and their Helper, and in the wilderness, the mountain, the valley, the forests, the prairies and the seas, be Thou their Confidant—so that they may cry out through the Power of the Kingdom and the Breath of the Holy Spirit!

"Verily Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty and the Omnipotent, and Thou art the Wise, the Hearing and the Seeing.

"(Signed) ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS."

Translated by M. Ahmad Sohrab,
Washington, D. C.,
April 4, 1919.

The second Tablet was revealed on Thursday afternoon, March 8th. 1917, in Haifa:

"To the Assemblies and meetings of the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful in the United States and Canada:

"Upon them be Baha'o'llah El Abha

He is God!

"O ye heavenly souls, sons and daughters of the Kingdom!

"God says in the Koran: 'Take ye hold of the Cord of God, all of you, and become ye not disunited.'

"In the contingent world there are many collective centers which are conducive to the association and unity between the children of men. For example, patriotism is a collective center; nationalism is a collective center; identity of interests is a collective center; political alliance is a collective center; the union of ideals is a collective center, and the prosperity of the world of humanity is dependent upon the organization and promotion of the Collective Centers. Nevertheless, all the above institutions are in reality, the matter and not the substance, accidental and not eternal—temporary and not everlasting. With the appearance of great revolutions and upheavals, all these collective centers are swept away. But the Collective Center of the Kingdom, embodying the Institutes and Divine Teachings, is the eternal Collective Center. It establishes relationship between the East and the West, organizes the oneness of the world of humanity, and destroys the foundation of differences. It overcomes and includes all the other collective

centers. Like unto the ray of the sun, it dispels entirely the darkness, encompassing all the regions, bestows Ideal Life, and causes the effulgence of Divine Illumination. Through the Breaths of the Holy Spirit It performs miracles; the Orient and the Occident embrace each other, the North and South become intimates and associates; conflicting and contending opinions disappear; antagonistic aims are brushed aside, the law of the struggle for existence is abrogated, and the Canopy of the oneness of the world of humanity is raised on the apex of the globe, casting its shade over all the races of men. Consequently, the real Collective Center is the body of the Divine Teachings, which include all the degrees and embrace all the universal relations and necessary laws of humanity.

"Consider! The people of the East and the West were in the utmost strangeness. Now to what a high degree they are acquainted with each other and united together! How far are the inhabitants of Persia from the remotest countries of America! And now observe how great has been the influence of the Heavenly Power, for the distance of thousands of miles has become identical with one step! How various nations that have had no relations or similiarity with each other are now united and agreed through this Divine Potency! Indeed to God belongs Power in the past and in the future! And verily God is powerful over all things!

"Consider! When the rain, the heat, the sun and the gentle zephyrs co-operate with each other, what beautiful gardens are produced! How the various kinds of hyacinths, flowers, trees and plants associate with each other and are conducive to the adornment and charm of one another! Hence the oneness of the bounty of the sun, the oneness of rain and the oneness of the breeze have so overcome all other considerations that the variety of hues, fragrances and tastes have increased the adornment, the attraction and sweetness of the whole. In a similar manner, when the Divine Collective Center and the outpouring of the Sun of Reality and the Breaths of the Holy Spirit are brought together, the variety of races and the differences existing between countries will become the cause of the embellishment, decoration and elegance of the world of humanity.

"Therefore, the believers of God throughout all the Republics of America, through the Divine Power, must become the cause of the promotion of heavenly Teachings and the establishment of the oneness of humanity. Every one of the important souls must arise, blowing over all parts of America the Breath of Life, conferring upon the people a new spirit, baptizing them with the Fire of the Love of God, the Water of Life, and the Breaths of the Holy Spirit—so that the second birth may become realized. For it is written in the Gospel: 'That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.'

"Therefore, O ye believers of God in the United States and Canada! Select ye important personages, or that they by themselves becoming severed from rest and composure of the world, may arise and travel throughout Alaska, the Republic of Mexico, and South of Mexico, in the Central American Republics, such as Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Belize; and through the great South American Republics, such as Argentine, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, French Guiana, Dutch Guiana, British Guiana, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile; also in the

group of the West Indies Islands, such as Cuba, Haiti, Porto Rico, Jamaica and Santo Domingo, and the group of the Islands of the Lesser Antilles, the Islands of Bahama and the Islands of Bermuda; likewise to the Islands of the East, West and South of South America, such as Trinidad, Falkland Islands, Galapago Islands, Juan Fernandez and Tobago. Visit ye especially the City of Bahia, on the Eastern shore of Brazil. Because in the past years this city was christened with the name, BAHIA, there is no doubt that it has been through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

"Consequently, the believers of God must display the utmost effort, upraise the Divine Melody throughout those regions, promulgate the heavenly Teachings and waft over all, the Spirit of Eternal Life: so that those Republics may become so illumined with the splendors and the effulgences of the Sun of Reality that they may become the objects of the praise and commendation of all other countries. Likewise, ye must give great attention to the Republic of Panama, for in that point the Occident and the Orient find each other united through the Panama Canal, and it is also situated between the two great Oceans. That place will become very important in the future. The Teachings once established there, they will unite the East and the West, the North and the South.

"Hence the intention must be purified, the effort ennobled and exalted; so that ye may establish affinity between the hearts of the world of humanity. This glorious Aim will not become realized save through the promotion of Divine Teachings which are the foundations of the holy religions.

"Consider how the religions of God served the world of humanity! How the religion of Torah became conducive to the glory and honor and progress of the Israelitish nation! How the Breaths of the Holy Spirit of His Holiness Christ created affinity and unity between divergent communities and quarreling families! How the sacred power of His Holiness Mohammed became the means of uniting and harmonizing the contentious tribes and the different clans of Peninsular Arabia—to such an extent that one thousand tribes were welded into one tribe, strife and discord was done away with, all of them unitedly and with one accord strove in advancing the cause of culture and civilization, and thus were freed from the lowest degree of degradation, soaring toward the height of Everlasting Glory! Is it possible to find a greater Collective Center in the phenomenal world than this? In comparison to this Divine Collective Center, the National Collective Center, the Patriotic Collective Center, the Political Collective Center and the Cultural and Intellectual Collective Center are like child's plays!

"Now strive ye that the Collective Center of the sacred religions, for the inculcation of which all the prophets were manifested and which is no other than the Spirit of the Divine Teachings,—be spread in all parts of America;—so that each one of you may shine forth from the horizon of Reality like unto the morning star, divine illumination may overcome the darkness of nature, and the world of humanity may become enlightened. This is the most great work! Should ye become confirmed therein, this world will become another world, the surface of the earth will become the delectable Paradise, and eternal Institutions be founded.

"Let whosoever travels to different parts to teach, peruse over mountain, desert, land and sea this Supplication!

"O God! O God! Thou seest my weakness, lowliness and humility amongst Thy creatures; nevertheless I have trusted on Thee and have arisen in the promotion of Thy Teachings amongst Thy strong servants, relying on Thy Power and Might!

"O Lord! I am a broken-winged bird and desire to soar in this Thy Space to which there is no limit. How is it possible for me to do this save through Thy Providence and Grace, Thy Confirmation and Assistance!

"O Lord! Have pity on my weakness and strengthen me with Thy Power!

"O Lord! Have pity on my impotency and assist me with Thy Might and Majesty!

"O Lord! Should the Breaths of the Holy Spirit confirm the weakest of creatures, he shall attain to the highest station of greatness and shall possess anything he desireth. Indeed Thou hast assisted Thy servants in the past, and they were the weakest of Thy creatures, the lowliest of Thy servants and the most insignificant of those who lived upon the earth; but through Thy Sanction and Potency they took precedence over the most glorious of Thy people and the most noble of Thy mankind. Whereas formerly they were as moths, they became royal falcons and whereas before they were as bubbles they became seas. Through Thy Bestowal, Thy Mercy and Thy Most Great Favor they became stars shining in the horizon of Guidance, birds singing in the rose-gardens of Immortality, lions roaring in the forest of Knowledge and wisdom and whales (fish) swimming in the Oceans of Life.

"Verily, Thou art the Clement, the Powerful, the Mighty, and the Most Merciful of the Merciful!

“(Signed) ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS.”

Translated by M. Ahmad Sihrab,
April 5, 1919,
Washington, D. C.

With these clear instructions from the Beloved to arise and teach the Cause throughout all these Republics, we have in the same breath a most difficult task and an unparalleled opportunity before us. Roughly speaking, the inhabitants of the above countries referred to in these two Tablets are about 62 millions, of various degrees of racial, cultural and national temperaments and characteristics, and it takes only a lively imagination to picture the future possibilities! We have to overcome geographical, climatic, intellectual and religious barriers, and we must learn our lessons as we go along, through the application of these most essential educational laws: that is, first, “native tact and skill;” second, “experience,” and third, “authoritative instruction in methods and devices.”

I wish now to share with you a few general remarks which Abdul Baha made, directly after dictating the second Tablet, just read. As you will remember, it was on March 8th, 1917, and his words in the light of later events are significant indeed. He said:—

“There are some matters that I cannot tell them now publicly, because the time has not yet arrived for their disclosure, and the people are not prepared to bear them; but I can speak about them with thee. For example: The Republican or Democratic form of the Government of the United States

is so organized and the relations between the States and the National administration, the Congress and the Legislatures, so defined and determined, that generally speaking they all work together smoothly for the public weal. The founders of the Republic and the writers of this Democratic Constitution were in reality the well-wishers of the world of humanity. They laid down such a body of laws, the mighty effect of which was the change of the course of history on the surface of the Globe. The influence of the American idea of freedom, right, equality and representative form of government traveled to all parts of the world, and was indeed an inspirational example to other downtrodden nations to rise against absolutism and shake off the yoke of drudgery and serfdom. In the future, all the Governments of the world, including the Asiatic Governments, even this part of Asia, called the Near East, will become democratic and constitutional. This is certain. No doubt can be entertained regarding this matter. The Spirit of the time will remove every obstacle and crush out every opposition, for the Constitution of the United States gives to men all those sacred rights of political and individual liberty, protection of life, the pursuit of happiness, and the free exercise of religious belief. Every country, with certain modifications and changes, having regard to climate, education, aptitude and progress of the inhabitants, will take that Constitution as a guide to draw their own Bill of Rights. All the future governments of the world, large and small, will become democratic, based upon the Will of the Governed. This is also assured. In the course of years, the North, Central and South American Republics will be drawn nearer and nearer together, and will become united in a general confederated Democracy;—in other words, the various Republics will find their national and international interests so identical and akin, that they will forget all their petty jealousies and apprehensions and work together for the advancement and prosperity of all America. There will be a Pan-American Parliament, meeting regularly, in which all questions of a general nature, affecting the vital interests of that Western hemisphere, will be discussed and deliberated upon. Just as the aim of these two Tablets is to usher in all the people under the Shade of the Word of God, so that they may become the real servants of universal Peace, united in the bond of brotherhood and love, working for the common weal and unfurling the banner of the oneness of the world of humanity,—so also they will become united and welded together politically and industrially.

“In reality, the Pan-American Union in Washington is already engaged in rendering this great service, for in that Union the representatives and ministers of all the American Republics come together with the utmost love and friendship, discuss with each other those problems which are conducive to the progress of all, coming closer together in policies and interests, and day by day becoming better acquainted through the widening circle of international commerce and industry. Regarding the teaching of the inhabitants of those countries, the believers must strengthen the tie of friendship and intimacy with the members of that Union, receiving from them useful information, to facilitate their work of spiritual instruction.

“The friends of God must widen always the circle of their thoughts, not to tarry one second but ever go forward. This alone will be conducive to their physical, intellectual and spiritual progress.”

Having now listened to the words of Abdul Baha regarding the future America, let me quote to you the statement of Gladstone in this regard. He said: "America has a natural base for the greatest continuous empire ever established by man." Daniel Webster said: "It cannot be denied that with America and in America a new era commences in human affairs." Charles Sumner said: "The discovery of America was the great event which gave a new world not only to Spain, but to civilized man." And Emerson said: "America is another word for Opportunity."

Abdul Baha hopes that we Bahais and the world will use this opportunity to the highest advantage, and that we will not fall short in our obligations and services to the world of humanity.

Now I ask Miss Dorothy Hoar and Miss Elfrida Martin to come forward and unveil the great Spiritual Charter of Mexico, Central America and South America; thus we may look with our own eyes on the Divine Writing. Then I will chant for you the two supplications at the ends of these two wonderful Tablets—thus we may all be filled with his love, which is universal, his spirit, which is all-encompassing, and his light, which is shining upon us from the Kingdom of Abha.

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

SEVENTH TALK

"The Tabernacle of the Cause of God is great. It shall embrace all the communities of the world."—Baha'o'llah.

"Ere long God shall unfurl the Standards of His Sovereignty over every city."—Baha'o'llah.

"Soon ye shall observe the Cause victorious over all those who live upon the earth, and His Effulgence radiating from all directions."—Baha'o'llah.

About sixty years ago, Baha'o'llah penned the above prophetic words, predicting that a time would come when His great Message of universal brotherhood would be spread all over the world, and the Standard of International Peace would be unfurled over all the regions of the globe.

It was left for Abdul Baha, the Center of the Covenant, to write down the great Charters of Spiritual Democracy, the Covenant of a League of Nations, not based upon political treaties and dynastic or imperial ambitions but founded on the pure Word of God, created by the consummate wisdom of the Almighty, illumined by the light of Truth and upheld by the Spirit of Divine Revelation. These Magna Chartas of Universal Religion which we have unveiled so far, are our true and unerring guides, and once we begin to realize their importance and put into practice their contents, the scope of our services to the world of humanity will become world-wide, our eagerness to serve our fellow men in all the departments of life will be more expressive of actual accomplishments, our idealism will be merged little by little into spiritual realism, our love for mankind will break all the national and religious prejudices and our deeds will exceed our words a hundred thousandfold.

The Tablet that I am going to read to you at this session is addressed to the Bahai Assemblies in the United States and Canada, and contains the most wonderful instructions for their guidance in their future work in the Cause. Abdul Baha has already told us how to go about and spread the Word of God in Canada, the United States, Mexico, the West Indies, Central America, South America and the Islands surrounding this Western hemisphere. In this Seventh Tablet he instructs us to take a few steps further and travel throughout the Islands of the Pacific Ocean, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Asia, Africa and Europe, and in these countries ignite the fire of the Love of God and promote the principles of the Oneness of the world of humanity.

The population of the whole world, according to the most reliable census, is about 1,610,000,000 souls, and Abdul Baha's supreme aim is to make them all sons of God, heirs and angels of the Kingdom, flowers of the rose-garden of perfection and stars of the heaven of a beatified humanity. His earnest prayers are that no soul be deprived of the Bounties of God, that all races and all peoples be submerged in the sea of God's Mercy, that the Sun of Reality may shine upon all, that the darkness of prejudices may be dispelled and the rivers of love and tenderness flow from all hearts.

When the Center of the Covenant was in this country, he delivered a talk on May 1st, 1912, in Chicago, at the Dedication of the Mashrekol-Azkar grounds, from which I would like to quote just a short paragraph. In the light of these New Tablets, we can now comprehend his statement on that occasion, but I dare say very few could grasp its full significance and import at the time. He said: "But this Mashrekol-Azkar, being the first one in the Occident, has great importance. In after years there will be many Mashrekol-Azkars; even in this city of *Chicago* many will be established; in *Asia* there will be many. In *Europe* there will be many. Even in *Africa* there will be many. Even in *Australia* and *New Zealand*."

You observe that in these few words he has given us the epitome of his present Divine Plan—years ago. In all probability he desired even at that time to prepare us for the wonderful Revelation of this Day.

We know quite well that this world of ours has many races and tribes, but through the law of scientific classification the historians and geographers have reduced them into four groups.

1. The white or Caucasian people, consisting of 770 millions, are the largest and the most highly civilized.

2. The black or Ethiopian races consist of 175 millions, inhabiting mainly Africa, and a few millions in other parts of the world.

3. The yellow or Mongolian people are about 540 millions, all of whom live in Asia, mostly in China and Japan.

4. The red man or American Indian—approximately 22 millions, a few living on this continent and the rest in South America.

All these people, living from the Arctic to the Antarctic, in all latitudes and longitudes, in the North, South and torrid zones, must come to know God and His Revelation in this latter day, and be taught the lessons of the brotherhood of all mankind. This is indeed a great responsibility for the Bahais who have gathered here to hear the message of Abdul Baha—and to put into execution his heavenly Teachings.

Let us now listen attentively to this Seventh Great Tablet, which was revealed on Tuesday morning, April 11, 1916, in Bahjee, near the Blessed Tomb of Baha'o'llah:

"To the believers and the maid-servants of the Merciful of the Bahai Assemblies and meetings in the United States and Canada!

He is God!

"O ye real Bahais of America!

"Praise be to His Highness the Desired One that ye have become confirmed in the promotion of Divine Teachings in that vast Continent, raised the Call of the Kingdom of God in that region and announced the Glad-tiding of the Manifestation of the Lord of Hosts and His Highness the Promised One. Thanks be unto the Lord that ye have become assisted and confirmed in this Aim. This is purely through the Confirmations of the Lord of Hosts and the Breaths of the Holy Spirit. At present your Confirmation is not known and understood. Ere long ye shall observe that each one of you like unto a brilliant and shining star will diffuse the Light of Guidance from that horizon and that ye have become the cause of the Eternal Life to the inhabitants of America.

"Consider! The station and the confirmation of the apostles in the time of Christ was not known, and no one looked on them with the feeling of importance—nay, rather, they persecuted and ridiculed them. Later on it became evident what crowns studded with the brilliant jewels of guidance were placed on the heads of the apostles, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of John.

"Likewise your confirmation is not known at the present time. I hope that ere long It may throw a mighty reverberation through the pillars of the earth. Therefore it is the hope of Abdul Baha that just as ye are confirmed and assisted on the Continent of America, ye may also be confirmed and assisted in other Continents of the globe:—that is, ye may carry the fame of the Cause of God to the East and to the West and spread the Glad-tiding of the appearance of the Kingdom of the Lord of Hosts throughout the five Continents of the world.

"When this Divine Call travels from the Continent of America to Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Islands of the Pacific, the American believers shall be established on the throne of Everlasting Glory, the fame of their illumination and guidance shall reach to all regions and the renown of their greatness become world-wide. Therefore, a party, speaking the languages, severed, holy, sanctified and filled with the love of God, must turn their faces to and travel through the three great Island groups of the Pacific Ocean,—Polynesia, Micronesia and Mylanesia, and the Islands attached to these groups, such as New Guinea, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Philippine Islands, Solomon Islands, Fiji Islands, New Hebrides, Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia, Bismarck Archipelago, Ceram, Celebes, Friendly Islands, Samoa Islands, Society Islands, Caroline Islands, Low Archipelago, Marquesas, Hawaiian Islands, Gilbert Islands, Moluccas, Marshall Islands, Timor and the other Islands. With hearts overflowing with the Love of God, with tongues commemorating the mention of God, with eyes turned to the Kingdom of God, they must deliver the Glad-tiding of the Manifestation of the Lord of Hosts to all the people. Know ye of a certainty that in whatever meeting ye may enter, in the apex of that meeting the Holy Spirit shall be waving and the heavenly Confirmations of the Blessed Perfection will encompass all.

"Consider ye, that Miss Agnes Alexander, the daughter of the Kingdom, the beloved maid-servant of the Blessed Perfection, travelled alone to Hawaii and the Island of Honolulu, and now she is gaining spiritual victories in Japan! Reflect ye how this daughter was confirmed in the Hawaiian Islands. She became the cause of the guidance of a gathering of people.

"Likewise Miss Knobloch travelled alone to Germany. To what a great extent she became confirmed! Therefore, know ye of a certainty that whosoever arises in this day to diffuse the Divine Fragrances, the Cohorts of the Kingdom of God shall confirm him and the Bestowals and the Favors of the Blessed Perfection shall encircle him.

"O how I long that it would be made possible for me to travel through these parts, even if necessary on foot and with the utmost poverty, and while passing through the cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans, cry at the top of my voice: 'Ya Baha El Abha!' and promote the Divine Teachings. But now this is not feasible for me, therefore I live in great regret; perchance, God willing, ye may become assisted therein.

"At this time, in the Islands of Hawaii, through the efforts of Miss Alexander, a number of souls have reached the shore of the sea of Faith! Consider ye, what happiness, what joy is this! I declare by the Lord of Hosts that had this respected daughter founded an empire, that Empire would not have been so great! For this sovereignty is eternal Sovereignty and this glory is Everlasting Glory.

"Likewise, if some teachers go to other Islands and other parts, such as the Continent of Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, also to Japan, Asiatic Russia, Korea, French Indo-China, Siam, Straits Settlements, India, Ceylon and Afghanistan, most great results will be forthcoming. How good would it be were there any possibility of a commission composed of men and women, to travel together through China and Japan,—so that this bond of love may become strengthened, and through this going and coming they may establish the oneness of the world of humanity, summon the people to the Kingdom of God and spread the Teachings.

"Similarly, if possible, they should travel to the Continent of Africa, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, Madeira Islands, Reunion Islands, St. Helena, Zanzibar, Mauritius, etc., and in those countries summon the people to the Kingdom of God and raise the cry of: 'Ya Baha El Abha!' They must also upraise the Flag of the Oneness of the world of humanity in the Island of Madagascar.

"Books and pamphlets must be either translated or composed in the languages of these countries and Islands, to be circulated in every part and in all directions.

"It is said that in South Africa, a diamond mine is discovered. Although this mine is most valuable, yet after all it is stone. Perchance, God willing, the mine of humanity may be discovered and the brilliant pearls of the Kingdom be found.

"In brief, this world-consuming war has set such a conflagration to the hearts that no word can describe it. In all the countries of the world the longing for Universal Peace is taking possession of the consciousness of men. There is not a soul who does not yearn for Concord and Peace. A most wonderful state of receptivity is being realized. This is through the consummate Wisdom of God, so that capacity may be created, the Standard of the oneness of the world of humanity be upraised, and the fundamentals of Universal Peace and the Divine Principles be promoted in the East and the West.

"Therefore, O ye believers of God! Show ye an effort and after this war spread ye the synopsis of the Divine Teachings in the British Isles, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Portugal, Roumania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Greece, Andora, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Monaco, San Marino, Balearic Isles, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Crete, Malta, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Shetland Islands, Hebrides and Orkney Islands.

"In all these countries, like unto the morning stars shine ye from the horizon of Guidance. Up to this time you have displayed great magnanimity, but after this, ye must add a thousand times to your effort and throughout the above countries, capitals, islands, meetings and churches, invite mankind to the Kingdom of Abha! The circle of your exertion must become widened.

The more it is broadened and extended, the greater will be your confirmation.

"Ye have observed that while Abdul Baha was in the utmost bodily weakness and feebleness, while he was indisposed, and had not the power to move—notwithstanding this physical state he travelled through many countries, in Europe and America, and in churches, meetings and conventions was occupied with the promotion of the Divine Principles and summoned the people to the manifestation of the Kingdom of Abha. Ye have also observed how the Confirmations of the Blessed Perfection encompassed all. What result is forthcoming from material rest, tranquility, luxury and attachment to this corporeal world! It is evident that the man who pursues these things will in the end become afflicted with regret and loss.

"Consequently, one must close his eyes wholly to these thoughts, long for Eternal Life, the Sublimity of the world of humanity, the celestial developments, the Holy Spirit, the promotion of the Word of God, the guidance of the inhabitants of the globe, the promulgation of Universal Peace and the proclamation of the Oneness of the world of humanity! *This is the work!* Otherwise like unto other animals and birds one must occupy himself with the requirements of this physical life, the satisfaction of which is the highest aspiration of the animal kingdom, and one must stalk across the earth like unto the quadrupeds.

"Consider ye! No matter how much man gains wealth, riches and opulence in this world, he will not become as independent as a cow. For these fattened cows roam freely over the vast tableland. All the prairies and meadows are theirs for grazing, and all the springs and rivers are theirs for drinking! No matter how much they graze, the fields will not be exhausted! It is evident that they have earned these material bounties with the utmost facility.

"Still more ideal than this is the life of the bird. A bird, on the summit of a mountain, on the high, waving branches, has built for itself a nest more beautiful than the palaces of the kings! The air is in the utmost purity, the water cool and clear as crystal, the panorama charming and enchanting. In such glorious surroundings, he expends his numbered days. All the harvests of the plain are his possessions, having earned all this wealth without the least labor. Hence, no matter how much man may advance in this world, he shall not attain to the station of this bird! Thus it becomes evident that in the matters of this world, however much man may strive and work to the point of death, he will be unable to earn the abundance, the freedom and the independent life of a small bird. This proves and establishes the fact that man is not created for the life of this ephemeral world:—nay, rather, is he created for the acquirement of infinite perfections, for the attainment to the sublimity of the world of humanity, to be drawn nigh unto the Divine Threshold, and to sit on the throne of Everlasting Sovereignty!

"Upon ye be Baha El Abha!

Supplication.

"Any soul starting on a trip of teaching to various parts, and while sojourning in strange countries, may peruse the following Supplication:—day and night.

"O God! O God! Thou seest me enamored and attracted toward Thy

Kingdom, the El Abha, enkindled with the Fire of Thy Love amongst mankind, a herald of Thy Kingdom in these vast and spacious countries, severed from aught else save Thee, relying on Thee, abandoning rest and comfort, remote from my native home, a wanderer in these regions, a stranger fallen on the ground, humble before Thy Exalted Threshold, submissive toward Thy Most High Realm, supplicating Thee in the middle of nights and in the heart of evenings, entreating and invoking Thee in the morn and eve;—so that Thou mayst assist me in the service of Thy Cause, the promotion of Thy Teachings and the exaltation of Thy Word in the Easts of the Earth and the Wests thereof.

“O Lord! Strengthen my back and confirm me in Thy servitude with all my powers, and do not leave me alone and by myself in these countries.

“O Lord! Associate with me in my loneliness and accompany me in my journeys through these foreign lands.

“Verily, Thou art the Confirmer of whomsoever Thou willest in that which Thou desirest, and verily Thou art the Powerful, the Omnipotent:

“(Signed) ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS.”

Translated by M. Ahmad Sohrab,
April 6, 1919,
Washington, D. C.

Now that we have heard the Instructions of Abdul Baha, we can realize how essential it is for the success of our future work to arise unitedly and through our practical deliberations and decisions impress the world that we are willing and ready to carry aloft the torches of guidance throughout every dark corner of the earth. It is not necessary for us to dwell here on the recent changes on the map of Europe, Asia and other parts of the world, and how “within the short period of two years, Europe, always the stronghold of Kings, has been transformed from a continent overwhelmingly monarchical to one where non-monarchical governments strongly predominate,” and how even within the last few months we have seen the birth of several full-fledged republics—Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Finland and Ukraine. The entire German Empire and Austria-Hungary and Russia are going through the birth-pangs of new governments and new nations. Put as soon as we are brought back to normal conditions, and international relations are returned without further friction, we are to go forth with the Message of Love; meanwhile, let us prepare ourselves intelligently for the great work ahead of us.

It is very interesting to know that while Abdul Baha was dictating the above Tablet, he was in the utmost joy and fragrance, especially when he reached the end and began to chant that spiritual supplication, my whole being was athrill with ecstasy. One by one the names of these countries and islands fell from his lips in the utmost ease and pleasure. It was as though he was seeing with his own eyes those sanctified souls who are going to arise soon to teach the inhabitants and to bring them the light of Truth. Thus he was begging for them heavenly Confirmations from the Kingdom of Abha. One day he said:—“The fruits of these Tablets are infinite and their results endless. Their traces will appear year after year, decade after decade, generation after generation. Reflect in what beautiful days, and with what joy and fragrance are we engaged in writing these Tablets! In this Holy

Land (and he swayed his hand toward the green flowery plain of Acca, as he was walking in the fields)—in this verdant and sacred plain, in this Blessed Spot, at the Threshold of the Divine Tomb of His Holiness Baha'o'llah! Surely these prayers of ours will be answered and yield many harvests. Look! We are thinking to guide the nations to God, they are harboring the thought of war and destruction. We are summoning them to Life Eternal but they are running toward the dark precipices of death. We are inviting them to the illumination of Divine Civilization, but they are submerged in the depth of the sea of materialism. . . . ”

At this moment a bird was flying up in the air over our heads. With his blessed hand pointing to it, he said, with softness and gentleness: “The teachers of the Cause of God in these countries must be like this bird; be always on the wing. Should they alight, it must be with the intention of a short rest from fatigue, so that at the next moment they may rise higher and sing sweeter. Never should they think of a protracted rest. Ever and ever should they soar in the Divine atmosphere of the Spirit. Should they for one second think of rest, they will immediately start a downward course. They must detach and free themselves from all the physical limitations, and purify the mirrors of their hearts from the dust of racial, religious and national prejudices. Not the least trace of these prejudices should linger in the minds. They must become spirit personified, love incarnate, truth embodied. They must set aside egotism, selfishness and suspicion. They must always journey through the world of universal Ideals. They must not restrict themselves to particular matters, for the Cause of Baha'o'llah is not sectarian. Let them walk in the Highway of Divine Teachings. Let them look to God and not to man; behold the light and not the glass. There is no doubt that this Cause shall encircle the globe. As long as there remains one soul whose heart is not touched by the love of God and Divine Illumination, the friends must not sit silent. This is their duty.

“Praise be to God that the world of the Cause is astir with motion. Outwardly we are living a quiet, silent life in the corner of Bahjee, but the Power of God is working all over the world. The armies of the Kingdom are fighting. The cities of the hearts are captured. The empires of the minds are seized. The trenches and fortifications of the enemies are vanquished. These armies of the Beauty of Abha are gaining victory over the cities of the hearts. They leave behind them development, refinement and signs of Divine Civilization and not destruction, spoilation, battlefields crimsoned with the blood of the innocent and hills piled with the corpses of the killed and wounded. We are not doing anything, but the great forces of the Kingdom of Abha are invincible and victorious in every part of the world.”

Then, looking toward the plain of Acca, and beyond the sea, as though addressing a real army, he said aloud:

“O ye my soldiers of the Kingdom! Be ye valiant and fearless! Day by day add to your spiritual victories. Be ye not disturbed by the constant assaults of the enemies. Attack ye like unto the roaring lions. Have no thought of yourselves, for the invisible armies of the Kingdom are fighting on your side. Enter ye the battlefield with the Confirmations of the Holy Spirit. Know ye of a certainty that the powers of the Kingdom of Abha are with you. The hosts of the heaven of Truth are with you. The cool breezes

of the Paradise of Abha are wafting over your heated brows. Not for a moment are ye alone. Not for a second are ye left to yourselves. The Beauty of Abha is with you. The Glorious God is with you. The King of Kings is with you. The Lord of Lords is with you, and the Powers of the Kingdom are with you."

Such were his inspiring words to his spiritual army. I hear him even now most distinctly. I see his face transfigured and set aglow with the light of joy and peace.

And now I take pleasure in calling on Zeenat Khanoum and Miss Jessie Revell to rise and come forward, and while we are all standing, to unveil the Great Spiritual Charter of the World. Then I will chant for you the Supplication at the end of this Glorious Tablet. The Beloved always had a special liking for this Supplication, and he used to ask me to chant it for him everywhere, in the Tomb of Baha'o'llah, in the Tomb of the Bab, in his garden, and even when I was riding with him in his carriage, going from Haifa to Acca or returning from Acca to Haifa. And in closing let us remember for a second that significant line in Locksley Hall, by Lord Tennyson, the fulfilment of which we are going to have today in the unveiling of this Tablet:

"Yet I doubt not through the ages one increasing purpose runs,

"And the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the Suns."

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

EIGHTH TALK

"O people of God! Be not occupied with yourselves. Be intent on the betterment of the world and the training of nations. The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and excellent deeds and well-approved and excellent conduct. The helper of the Cause is Deeds and the assistant, Good Character." Baha'o'llah.

"This Call and this Mention has not been and is not peculiar to a country or a city. All the people of the world must take hold of that which is revealed and hath become manifest; so that they may attain to real Liberty. The world is illumined with the rays of the Orb of Manifestation. . . . Now the majority of the population of the countries are ready to hearken to the Most High Word—for the revival and resurrection of all depends upon and is related to It." Baha'o'llah.

During the last few sessions, mine has been the great privilege of taking you step by step to the height of the "vision splendid" as revealed and explained in the Great Charters of Spiritual Democracy of Abdul Baha. Through his Divine Eye we were enabled to look upon the world

"Appareled in Celestial light,
The glory and the freshness of a dream."

We have traveled far to reach this station. We have been all over the world, and have now gained a clear conception of what the Center of the Covenant desires us to do, and how to carry along his work in the future. But in reality, I may say, we are just entering our first station; we are going to start now on this voyage of spiritual conquest. Only God knows when we shall reach our destination. I think, however, we are not much concerned about that, and we are certain that once starting in the Path of the Lord, the angels of the Supreme Concurrence will aid and protect us all along the way.

It is more than true that the Spiritual Life of mankind is a panorama of ravishing beauty. Abdul Baha as the Divine Artist hath unveiled to us this heavenly landscape through His recent words. He took us with Him to the height of the Mount of Transfiguration, and from that vantage-ground of beatified humanity He pointed out to us the charms of this ideal panorama. With wonderful strength and super-heroic power He hath reached the Summit a long time ago, but on looking around He found Himself all alone. His first aim then hath been to unfold this celestial vision before the eyes of His firm and sincere believers, and with His matchless enthusiasm and all-conquering faith He beckons the footsore pilgrims, as we are, to leave the rocky paths of the Mountains and rise higher and higher till some day we may reach to His present altitude of universality and all-embracing brotherhood. Like unto the radiant Spirit of Paradise, He is standing on the glorious height, His blessed feet hardly touching the ground, His body enveloped with the white clouds of revelation, surrounded with the bright angels of idealism and poesy,

an ethereal figure, betwixt the heaven and earth, calling us to rise to His perfect Stature and catch a glimpse of His Beauty. "Have courage, my friends!" he cries aloud: "Let not outside affairs distract your energies, or unnecessary loads bend your backs and waste your energies. Free your limbs from trappings and encumbrances, and rise to this pinnacle of Divine Beatitude. Here you will see spread before your astonished eyes a scene of entrancing loveliness, a bird's eye view of that which is best and most holy in the complete landscape of the human life. There are azure lakelets in which are reflected the perfect, adoring images of the heavenly Beloved; primal forests of sturdy, vigorous qualities, never-fading green prairies of young hopes; rose-buds of universal aspirations; verdant trees with fragrant blossoms of pure yearnings; cool, flowing brooks of crystalline thoughts and translucent ideals; luxuriant gardens of sweet morals and good character, rivalling in beauty and freshness those of Elysium and Hesperides; lofty mountains of heroic deeds and self-abnegation, raising their noble heads to the blue dome of God; undulating hills and glades of divine arts, increasing the charm and attraction of the whole; deep valleys of eternal silence and solitude, filling the hearts with sweet dreams and meditations; mighty waterfalls of selfless deeds and actions, rushing forward and sending their echoes through the galleries of the minds of men and women to rise and do the same; fairy palaces of supernal qualifications, built by the hand of the Great Architect for the dwelling of the heroes of the Cause of humanity; sweet-singing nightingales, their lays foreshadowing universal progress and the widening of the circle of international sympathy. This is indeed a delectable scene, a charming view, an enchanting spectacle, a delightful panorama."

Now it seems to me this is altogether most wonderful! Would it not be excellent if we could gather around us a band of the faithful and resolve to scale this mountain of self and narrowness and reach the summit from which Abdul Baha beckons us! When and how should we start? Where are the available means for this great voyage—in my estimation greater than the voyage of Columbus through the unknown Sea? How are we going to prepare ourselves? Are our nerves strong? Is our vision clear? Is the road fraught with dangers? Are wild animals lurking behind the precipitous rocks? Is the path plain or rugged? Are we all ready? When will we make up our minds? Abdul Baha is calling to us. He is waiting to see the first band of spiritual discoverers starting on this voyage! We should like to start very early. O, so very early! If possible long before sunrise. Then our eyes will rejoice with a "new-appearing sight"—"the steep-up heavenly hill" bathed in the flood of the "gracious light."

Now that we have received in full the great Plan of the Divine Teacher, let us publish abroad the joyful news that a new highway of the Lord is in the process of construction. Laborers and material are needed on every hand, and the early completion of the work depends upon the number of the former and the availability of the latter. Their wages are given from the inexhaustible treasury of the Kingdom of Abha, and their greatest reward is to see the work progressing with visible speed. What a glorious privilege if we could join on our own free accord the self-sacrificing band of the laborers, and push forward this undertaking of Love. Would we not work joyfully and gladly, and consider ourselves fortunate in taking part in the construction of the

Highway of the King of Kings? Once it is completed, many and innumerable companies of pilgrims will start to reach the top of the Glorious Mountain of God. The journey will not fatigue or weary them; it will be rather a most pleasant, spiritual excursion, because they will be singing the songs of thanksgiving and glorification. Without meeting the difficulties borne by the early pioneers, they will find themselves resting on the height and enjoying the scene. From that highest point they will look down upon the vast, sweeping panorama of the ever-varied physical, intellectual and spiritual life of mankind, feeling the warmth of heavenly exultation and bliss. Then the Divine Astronomer will take them to His Celestial Observatory, and let them behold through His telescopes of the Spirit the distant stars of truths studded in the bright firmaments of the Oneness of the world of humanity.

Then there will be a new earth and a new heaven; new plans for the development of the innate powers of mankind will appear; new thoughts and new ideals will be born; a new table will be spread; the seeds of new flowers will be sown; new laws for the safeguarding of the rights of man will be legislated; new lamps will be ignited, new truths will be laid bare, new modes of expression will be cultivated, new arts will be discovered, new schools of music, painting and architecture will be created, new relations will be maintained, new standards of a nobler life will be unfurled, and new worlds will be conquered.

As Abdul Baha expressed himself a few months before the signing of the Armistice, in these significant words:

"The darkness of this gloomy night shall pass away. Again the Sun of Reality will dawn from the horizon of the hearts. Have patience, wait but do not sit idle; work while you are waiting; smile when you are wearied with monotony; be firm while everything around you is being shaken; be joyous while the ugly face of despair grins at you; speak aloud while the malevolent forces of the nether world try to crush your mind; be valiant and courageous while men all around you are cringing with fear and cowardice. Do not yield to the overwhelming power of tyranny and despotism. Serve the cause of democracy and freedom. Continue your journey to the end. The bright day is coming. The nucleus of the new race is forming. The harbinger of the new ideals of international justice is appearing. The trees of hope will become verdant; the copper of scorn and derision will be transmuted into the gold of honor and praise; the arid desert of ignorance will be transmuted into the luxuriant garden of knowledge; the threatening clouds shall be dispelled and the stars of faith and charity will again twinkle in the clear heaven of consciousness."

We have all been impressed by the fact that the aim of human life is progress and growth. We must grow in health, in mind, in spirit, in grace and in deed. The object of our existence is to adorn our beings with the perfections of humanity. For did not Christ address His disciples: "Be ye perfect, as your Father in Heaven is perfect." Although perfection in this world is "relative" and not "absolute," yet it must be granted that its acquirement is one of the chief inspirations of youth. For this reason our Beloved Abdul Baha daily admonishes us to live and act in accord with the Teachings of Baha'o'llah, and in these his recent Instructions clearly points out how to go about and serve mankind.

Once he was talking about a class of Christians who do not live in accord with the Principles of Christ, and then he suddenly turned his face toward the friends and said:

"Do we who are Bahais live in accord with the Principles of Baha'o'llah? 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 accordance with the precepts of the Blessed perfection, by this time half the inhabitants of the world would have become Bahais, and peacemakers, attracted by the rays of the Sun of Truth, and their nostrils perfumed with the Fragrances of Holiness. We must not begin with words and end with words. 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 garment of joy and happiness. We must not be pessimists nor misanthropists. 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, and one ounce of action is more valuable than a ton of eloquent speeches."

Hence let us realize that we have had enough of silence and indecision; enough of sadness and affliction; enough of ignorance and prejudice; enough of discord and inharmony; enough of thorns and briars; enough of night and darkness; enough of fear and restlessness. This new era that is dawning upon us and the world will be an era of eloquence and decision; an age of happiness and felicity; a cycle of knowledge and internationalism; a period of union and harmony; a spring of roses and lilies; a day of light and air; a cycle of courage and conviction. The bygone is bygone, and we must try to forget the sad miseries and the sadder events. The future—Ah me! the future is pregnant with great possibilities—is before us; the instructions of Abdul Baha have been given to us, and God has given us the free will and the power to carry out His Commands and fulfill His hopes. So far as I am concerned, I must shake off the lethargy of the past years. I must be awakened out of the sleep of Rip Van Winkle. I must leave the corner of oblivion. I must throw myself with heart and soul into the field of labor. I must break the silence of ages. I must go forward and serve by Beloved Master. I must call the people to his Message of Love and Faith. I must go ahead without looking to the right or to the left. His Protection is infinite, His Mercy is universal, His loving-kindness is boundless and His Patience is age-abiding. The inner small voice bids me: Get up, work, strike while the iron is hot; open the eyes, go forward, raise the Call, give joy to others, be mobile and active, be a herald of good news, advance in the Path, be humble and submissive to the Will of Thy Beloved. Serve his friends with faithfulness and rectitude, and look upon thyself as the unworthy servant of the servants of the King of the hearts."

Now let us turn our attention to the most important affair of this gathering, and that is to read to you the Eighth General Tablet addressed to the Bahais of the United States and Canada. This Tablet is in reality a mine of heavenly Instructions, and was revealed in Bahjee in three parts. The

first part was dictated on Wednesday morning, April 19th, the second part on Thursday morning, April 20th, and the third part on Saturday morning, April 22nd, 1916.

"To the believers of God and the maid-servants of the Merciful of the Bahai Assemblies in the United States of America and Canada!

Upon them be Baha'o'llah El Abha!

He is God!

"O ye apostles of Baha'o'llah—May my life be a ransom to you!

"The blessed Person of the Promised One is interpreted in the Holy Book as the Lord of Hosts, i. e., the heavenly armies: By heavenly armies those souls are intended who are entirely freed from the human world, transformed into celestial spirits and have become divine angels. Such souls are the rays of the Sun of Reality who will illumine all the continents. Each one is holding in his hand a trumpet, blowing the Breath of Life over all the regions. They are delivered from human qualities and the defects of the world of nature, are characterized with the characteristics of God, and are attracted with the Fragrances of the Merciful. Like unto the apostles of Christ, who were filled with Him, these souls also have become filled with His Holiness Baha'o'llah, i. e., the love of Baha'o'llah has so mastered every organ, part and limb of their bodies, as to leave no effect by the promptings of the human world.

"These souls are the Armies of God and the conquerors of the East and the West. Should one of them turn his face toward some direction and summon the people to the Kingdom of God, all the ideal forces and lordly confirmations will rush to his support and reinforcement. He will behold all the doors open and all the strong fortifications and impregnable castles razed to the ground. Singly and alone he will attack the armies of the world, defeat the right and left wings of the hosts of all the countries, break through the lines of the legions of all the nations and carry his attack to the very center of the powers of the earth. This is the meaning of the Hosts of God.

"Any soul from among the believers of Baha'o'llah who attains to this station, will become known as the Apostle of Baha'o'llah. Therefore strive ye with heart and soul—so that ye may reach this lofty and exalted position, be established on the throne of everlasting glory, and crown your heads with the shining Diadem of the Kingdom, whose brilliant jewels may irradiate upon centuries and cycles.

"O ye kind friends! Uplift your magnanimity and soar high toward the apex of heaven—so that your blessed hearts may become illumined more and more, day by day, through the Rays of the Sun of Reality, i. e., His Holiness Baha'o'llah; at every moment the spirits may obtain a new life, and the darkness of the world of nature may be entirely dispelled—thus ye may become incarnate light and personified spirit, become entirely unaware of the sordid matters of this world and in touch with the affairs of the Divine World.

"Consider ye what doors His Holiness Baha'o'llah has opened before you, and what a high and exalted station He has destined for you, and what Bounties He has prepared for you! Should we become intoxicated with this

Cup, the sovereignty of this globe of earth will become lower in our estimation than the children's plays. Should they place in the arena the crown of the government of the whole world, and invite each one of us to accept it, undoubtedly we will not condescend, and will refuse to accept it.

"To attain to this supreme station is, however, dependent on the realization of certain conditions:

"The first condition is firmness in the Covenant of God. For the Power of the Covenant will protect the Cause of Baha'o'llah from the doubts of the people of error. It is the fortified fortress of the Cause of God and the firm pillar of the religion of God. Today no power can conserve the oneness of the Bahai world save the Covenant of God; otherwise differences like unto a most great tempest will encompass the Bahai world. It is evident that the axis of the oneness of the world of humanity is the power of the Covenant and nothing else. Had the Covenant not come to pass, had it not been revealed from the Supreme Pen and had not the Book of the Covenant, like unto the ray of the Sun of Reality, illuminated the world the forces of the Cause of God would have been utterly scattered and certain souls who were the prisoners of their own passions and lusts would have taken into their hands an axe, cutting the root of this Blessed Tree. Every person would have pushed forward his own desire and every individual aired his own opinion! Notwithstanding this Great Covenant, a few negligent souls galloped with their chargers into the battlefield, thinking perchance they may be able to weaken the foundation of the Cause of God: but praise be to God all of them were afflicted with regret and loss, and ere long they shall see themselves in poignant despair. Therefore, in the beginning one must make his steps firm in the Covenant—so that the Confirmations of Baha'o'llah may encircle from all sides, the cohorts of the Supreme Concourse may become the supporters and the helpers, and the Exhortations and Advices of Abdul Baha, like unto the pictures engraved on the stone, may remain permanent and ineffaceable in the tablets of the hearts.

"The Second Condition: Fellowship and love amongst the believers. The divine friends must be attracted to and enamored of each other and ever be ready and willing to sacrifice their own lives for each other. Should one soul from amongst the believers meet another, it must be as though a thirsty one with parched lips has reached to the fountain of the Water of Life, or a lover has met his true beloved. For one of the greatest Divine wisdoms regarding the appearance of the Holy Manifestations is this: The souls may come to know each other and become intimate with each other; the power of the love of God may make all of them the waves of one sea, the flowers of one rose-garden, and the stars of one heaven. This is the wisdom for the appearance of the Holy Manifestations! When the most great Bestowal reveals itself in the hearts of the believers, the world of nature will be transformed, the darkness of the contingent being will vanish, and heavenly illumination will be obtained. Then the whole world will become the Paradise of Abha, every one of the believers of God will become a blessed tree, producing wonderful fruits.

"O ye friends! Fellowship, fellowship! Love, love. Unity, unity!—So that the Power of the Bahai Cause may appear and become manifest in the world of existence. Just at this moment I am engaged in your commemora-

tion and this heart is in the utmost glow and excitement! Were ye to realize how this conscience is attracted with the love of the friends, unquestionably ye shall obtain such a degree of joy and fragrance that ye will all become enamored with each other!

"The Third Condition: Teachers must continually travel to all parts of the Continent, nay, rather, to all parts of the world, but they must travel like Abdul Baha, who journeyed throughout the cities of America. He was sanctified and free from every attachment and in the utmost severance. Just as His Holiness Christ says: 'Shake off the very dust from your feet.'

"Ye have observed that while in America many souls in the utmost of supplication and entreaty desired to offer some gifts, but this servant, in accord with the Exhortations and Behests of the Blessed Perfection, never accepted a thing, although on certain occasions we were in most straitened circumstances. But on the other hand, if a soul for the sake of God, voluntarily and out of his pure desire, wishes to offer a contribution (toward the expenses of a teacher) in order to make the contributor happy, the teacher may accept a small sum, but must live with the utmost contentment.

"The aim is this: The intention of the teacher must be pure, his heart independent, his spirit attracted, his thought at peace, his resolution firm, his magnanimity exalted and in the Love of God a shining torch. Should he become as such, his sanctified breath will even affect the rock; otherwise there will be no result whatsoever. As long as a soul is not perfected, how can he efface the defects of others. Unless he is detached from aught else save God, how can he teach severance to others!

"In short, O ye believers of God! Endeavor ye; so that ye may take hold of every means in the promulgation of the religion of God and the diffusion of the Fragrances of God.

"Amongst other things is the holding of the meetings for teaching—so that blessed souls and the old ones from amongst the believers may gather together the youths of the Love of God in schools of instruction and teach them all the Divine Proofs and irrefragible arguments, explain and elucidate the history of the Cause, and interpret also the prophecies and proofs which are recorded and are extant in the Divine Books and Epistles regarding the Manifestation of the Promised One, so that the young ones may go in perfect knowledge in all these degrees.

"Likewise, whenever it is possible a committee must be organized for the translation of the Tablets. Wise souls who have mastered and studied perfectly the Persian, Arabic and foreign languages, or know one of the foreign languages—must commence translating Tablets and books containing the proofs of this Revelation, and publishing those books, circulate them throughout the five continents of the globe.

"Similarly, the Magazine, the *STAR OF THE WEST*, must be edited in the utmost regularity, but its contents must be the promulgator of the Cause of God—so that both in the East and the West, they may become informed with the most important events.

"In short, in all the meetings, whether public or private, nothing should be discussed save that which is under consideration, and all the articles be

centered around the Cause of God. Promiscuous talks must not be dragged in and contention is absolutely forbidden.

"The teachers travelling in different directions must know the language of the country in which they will enter. For example, a person being proficient in the Japanese language may travel to Japan, or a person knowing the Chinese language may hasten to China, and so forth.

"In short, after this universal war, the people have obtained extraordinary capacity to hearken to the Divine Teachings, for the wisdom of this war is this: That it may be become proven to all that the fire of war is world-consuming, whereas the rays of Peace are world-enlightening. One is death, the other is life; this is extinction, that is immortality; one is the most great calamity, the other is the most great bounty; this is darkness, that is light; this is eternal humiliation and that is everlasting glory; one is the destroyer of the foundation of man, the other is the founder of the prosperity of the human race.

"Consequently, a number of souls may arise and act in accordance with the aforesaid conditions and hasten to all parts of the world, especially from America to Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia, and travel through Japan and China. Likewise, from Germany teachers and believers may travel to the Continents of America, Africa, Japan and China; in brief, they may travel through all the Continents and islands of the globe. Thus in a short space of time, most wonderful results will be produced, the Banner of Universal Peace will be waving on the apex of the world and the lights of the oneness of the world of humanity may illumine the universe.

"In brief, O ye believers of God! The text of the Divine Book is this: If two souls quarrel and contend about a question of the Divine questions, differing and disputing, *both are wrong*. The wisdom of this incontrovertible law of God is this: That between two souls from amongst the believers of God, no contention and dispute might arise; that they may speak with each other with infinite amity and love. Should there appear the least trace of controversy, they must remain silent, and both parties must continue their discussions no longer, but ask the reality of the question from the Interpreter. This is the irrefutable command!

"Upon ye be Baha El Abha!

"Supplication.

"O God! O God! Thou seest that black darkness hath encompassed all the regions, all the countries are burning with the conflagration of dissension and the fire of war and carnage is ignited in the Easts of the earth and the Wests thereof. The blood is being shed, the corpses are stretched and the heads are decapitated and thrown on the ground in the battlefield.

"Lord! Lord! Have pity on these ignorant ones, look upon them with the Eye of Forgiveness and Pardon. Extinguish this fire—so that these gloomy clouds covering the horizon may be scattered; the Sun of Reality may shine forth with the Rays of Conciliation; this darkness be rent asunder and all the countries be illumined with the lights of peace.

"Lord! Awaken them from the depths of the sea of animosity, deliver them from these impenetrable darknesses, establish affinity between their hearts and enlighten their eyes with the light of peace and reconciliation.

"Lord! Rescue them from the fathomless depths of war and bloodshed! Arouse them out of the gloom of error, rend asunder the veil from their eyes, brighten their hearts with the light of guidance, deal with them through Thy Favor and Mercy and do not treat them according to Thy Justice and Wrath through which the backs of the mighty ones are shaken!

"Lord! Verily the wars have prolonged, the calamities have increased, and every building hath turned into ruin.

"Lord! Verily the breasts are agitated and the souls are convulsed. Have mercy on these poor ones and do not leave them to do with themselves that which they desire!

"Lord! Send forth throughout Thy countries humble and submissive souls, their faces illumined with the rays of Guidance, severed from the world, speaking Thy remembrance and praise and diffusing Thy Holy Fragrances amongst mankind!

"Lord! Strengthen their backs, reinforce their loins and dilate their breasts with the Signs of Thy Most Great Love.

"Lord! Verily they are weak and Thou art the Powerful and the Mighty, and they are impotent and Thou art the Helper and the Merciful!

"Lord! Verily the sea of transgression is waving high and these hurricanes will not be calmed down save through Thy boundless Grace which hath embraced all the regions!

"Lord! Verily the souls are in the deep valleys of lust and nothing will awaken them save Thy most wonderful Bounties.

"Lord! Dispel these darknesses of temptations and illumine the hearts with the lamp of Thy Love, through which all the countries will be enlightened. Confirm those believers who, leaving their countries, their families and their children, travel throughout the regions; for the sake of the love of Thy Beauty, the diffusion of Thy Fragrances and the promulgation of Thy Teachings. Be Thou their companion in their loneliness, their Helper in a strange land, the Remover of their sorrow, the Comforter in their calamity, their Deliverer in their hardship, the Satisfier of their thirst, the Healer of their malady and the Allayer of the fire of their longing.

"Verily, Thou art the Clement, the Possessor of Mercy, and Verily Thou art the Compassionate and the Merciful.

"(Signed) ABDUL BAHA ABBAS."

Translated by M. Ahmad Sohrab,
April 8th, 1919,
Washington, D. C.

While dictating these Great Tablets, the Beloved was exceedingly happy, his whole face enkindled with the Fire of the Love of God. How I wished at the time that many of you were present during these inspiring hours—hours which will be most precious in the Bahai history—to listen with your own ears to the Voice of Truth. I believe that for ages to come the foundation of the Bahai Teaching will be laid on these glorious Tablets. The full circulation and study of these historical documents will set into motion new worldwide, beneficent forces. The believers of God will obtain a new joy and their attention will be always directed to interminable new fields of service. With the unveiling of these Tablets, we have a sound basis

for universal Bahai work. Never in the religious history of mankind has there been such a wonderful instance—that the Manifestation Himself drew such a Great Plan for general teaching and the guidance of the teeming population of the globe. May the Blessed Perfection assist us—so that with our united co-operation and the Confirmation of the Holy Spirit the Divine Teachings may be promulgated in all parts of the world. It is indeed a marvelous work for the sincere, faithful friends in the Cause! In reality we must pray and prepare ourselves for this heavenly undertaking—thus mankind may receive universal results from these Spiritual principles. The publication of these Tablets will bring into play mighty forces and great movements. Many souls will arise to teach and spread the Fragrances, a wonderful exhilaration and ecstasy will be created in the hearts and the Cause will advance with great rapidity. The Master said: “The results of these Tablets are endless. Should the believers of God live and act in accordance with the instructions laid down in these Tablets, the angels of the Spirit will assist and confirm them.” And later on, when he was walking in the garden, he said: “The teachers of the world must be like these flowers, fresh and fragrant; to perfume the nostrils with their sweet smell; they must not fade away, they must not droop: the hot winds of difficulties must not sear and wither them.” Then looking at a choir of birds swaying and singing in the branches of the trees, he said: “How these birds are free! Look! They are rising into the air! Their wings are open, soaring up and up into the pure atmosphere! What soul-cheering songs have they hidden behind their little brains, back of their golden throats and in the secret chambers of their vibrating beings! It is my hope that the teachers who are going to travel through the five Continents of the globe may always sing such heavenly songs, which may impart happiness and delight to the hearts of men.”

Let me ask you and myself this last question before I bring this talk to a close: Now that we have this Divine Plan unveiled before us—what is our attitude toward It? From what angle of vision do we look upon It? How are we going to carry It through, even a thousandth part of It? With what resources, with what knowledge, with what experience are we going to undertake this greatest Task of all? I can answer it for myself, and I am sure every one of you has already formulated some kind of an answer to the appeal of Abdul Baha. My personal attitude toward this universal service is twofold. First, an attitude of profound humility, of utter unworthiness, that God in His profound Wisdom hath chosen these weak and indigent servants and maid-servants to carry out His Eternal Will. No matter what services we have rendered in the past, they dwindle into smallness and insignificance in comparison with what the Beloved desires us to do, now and in the future. Therefore all that we have to do is to acknowledge at His Divine Threshold our humility and unworthiness, and know as a certainty that we are less than atoms in the warm rays of this Glorious Sun.

My second attitude is an attitude of intoxicating pride and thanksgiving, not a pride that vaunteth, not a vainglorious, foolish pride, but a conscious spiritual, humble pride in the fact that God after all hath chosen these weak instruments to demonstrate His Power and Majesty to the world, hath elected these broken-winged birds so that we may all soar to the height of the heaven of practical, humane service. I say, my friends, I am proud of it, and am

sure you all feel proud of it, and feel the blood of joy and praise tingling and surging in all our bodies. We feel proud in the right sense, because we are thus privileged in this Great Cycle of the Manifestation of Truth, to work and labor in a concrete manner for the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. With what power are we going to realize the plan? Where are our armies, our treasures and our wealth? Our armies are the Cohorts of the Kingdom of Abha. Our treasures are the Teachings and Instructions of Baha'o'llah. Our wealth consists of our firmness and steadfastness in the love of the Center of the Covenant. Yes! Relying on the Confirmation of God and the Breaths of the Holy Spirit, we will go forth into the world, while singing the song of Soleyman Khan, as he was taken to the the place of martyrdom, the lighted candles burning slowly through his flesh and thousands of spectators looking at him with wonder:

"In one hand the wine-cup, in the other the Tresses of the Friend!
Such a dance in the midst of the Market Place I desire!"

It now gives me great pleasure to request Miss Amy K. Wilkinson and Miss Pearl Porter to come forward and unveil this most wonderful of all Tablets, this Spiritual Document for all posterity, this heavenly rose-garden of all the fresh immortelles of the spirit; this spring of hope for the betterment of humanity. Abdul Baha has indeed given us the brightest hope, and with this new-found hope we will be inspired to arise and work faithfully and cheerfully, as Whittier says in his *Dream of Summer*:

"The night is mother of the Day,
The Winter of the Spring,
Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,
Through showers the sunbeams fall.
For God, who loveth all His work,
Has left His Hope with all."

THE UNVEILING OF THE DIVINE PLAN

NINTH TALK

Baha'o'llah says, in the Tablet to Napoleon III:

"Arise from the Horizon of Severance in My Name, then advance toward the Kingdom; by the Command of thy Lord, the Mighty, the Powerful. Arise amongst the servants by My authority and say: 'O people! the day hath come and the Fragrance of God hath been diffused amongst the people of the world.' . . . Let thyself be burned by this Fire which the Merciful hath kindled in the midst of creation, that the warmth of His Love be produced by you in the hearts of those who advance. Follow My Way, then attract the hearts by My mention, the Mighty, the Powerful. . . . Every soul is commanded by God to deliver the Truth, and those who desire to comply with His High Command should first characterize themselves with the best characteristics and attributes, and then try to deliver the Truth to the people who will undoubtedly be attracted by the Words of such teachers. . . . We have ordained the delivery of the Truth through explanation and demonstration: therefore, beware not to dispute or argue with anyone. . . . O people of Baha! Subdue the cities of the hearts, by the sword of Wisdom and demonstration, and those who argue in accordance with their own desire and wish, they are in manifest wrong."

Dear Bahai brothers and sisters!

During the last few days, we have all had the privilege of hearkening to the Universal Instructions of Abdul Baha regarding the diffusion of the Fragrances of the Cause over the five Continents of the Globe. In a most comprehensive, divine Plan he directed us to arise and teach the principles of the Oneness of the world of humanity to all the children of men. The greatness and spiritual effect of this Plan cannot be realized at the present time. As we set ourselves in earnestness to execute one by one, his wondrous commands, their importance will be revealed to us. The contact and association of so many excellent men and women from all parts of the United States and Canada will no doubt create an atmosphere of spiritual uplift and generate warmth and enthusiasm for the great work ahead of us. Each one of us will carry back a sense of joy and a picture of the vision of Abdul Baha—so far-reaching in its scope and so vast in its universality. The records of this Convention will show to the world what the Bahais at large are aiming at. They aim at nothing but a complete regeneration of the moral, religious and intellectual forces of mankind.

With the unveiling of these Great Tablets at the sessions of this Convention and the translation and presentation of their contents, I have, praise be to God, fulfilled the trust and mission that the Beloved laid on me several months ago. Just at this time it was a great responsibility to bring these precious documents over land and sea. They were never separated from me. For fear of losing them, I carried them next to my body all day; and every night they were placed under my pillow before I could close my eyes. Often

I dreamt that I had lost them, or that they fell from my pocket into the ocean; then waking with great agitation and perspiring profusely, my hand would run wildly under the pillow and finding them there safe, I would kneel down in prayer.

Now, having been present at the birth of each one of these Great Charters and having read them many and many a time, I find the note that is insisted upon in all of them is: "Teach the Cause, and teach it to everyone." Both the Bab and Baha'o'llah have looked upon this subject as the most vital problem of the Cause, and in the writings of Abdul Baha we find abundant references, encouraging the friends to arise and diffuse the Fragrances of Truth. A Bahai like unto a soldier must keep himself always in a state of preparedness. He must prevent the swords of proofs from becoming rusty in their scabbards—so that when he enters the field of teaching he may be ready to win a spiritual victory. A Bahai is like unto a rose-bud which has grown by the side of the river of the Paradise of Abha: teaching is like the gentle zephyr which wafting over it, causes it to be opened and the hidden sweet fragrances of the Spirit are diffused. The heart of a Bahai is like unto a spring. The more the water gushes forth, the clearer and the purer will it become, more fields are flooded, a greater number of the vineyards of the Lord are brought under cultivation, and innumerable harvests are gathered.

Through teaching, the mute bird becomes the sweet-singing nightingale; the calm sea of being, tempestuous; the extinguished candles, the shining stars; the dried tree, verdant and green; the blind, the deaf and the dumb, seeing, hearing and eloquent; the downcast and the prisoner, the prince of the Kingdom of Glory and honor, and the desert of ignorance is changed into the delectable garden of knowledge, covered with flowers and trees.

If we are the birds of the Paradise of Abha, then we must break into a chorus of heavenly song; if we are the brilliant lamps of the assemblages of the Merciful, then we must shine; if we are the beaming stars of the horizon of Guidance, then we must dispel the deep gloom of the night of prejudices, and if we are the waves of the ocean of Oneness, then we must move and gleam.

The most acceptable time for the service of the believers of God has come, and the orb of teaching must dawn from the horizon of their pure hearts. The friends of Abdul Baha must from now on show forth the greatest effort in the promulgation of the Word of God in all parts of the world. Every soul according to his capability must come forward with his own services—so that through the exertion of the believers of the Blessed Perfection and the devotees of the Greatest Branch, the jungle of superstitious belief may be transformed into the rose-garden of the signs of the Lord of Hosts, and the wild trees of existence become fruitful.

Now that the Universal Charters of the Center of the Covenant have established the fact beyond a shadow of doubt that the Bahai Cause must become world-encircling, this hope will not be realized, if we merely came together, sat, talked, had a pleasant time, delivered eloquent speeches and then went home. There must needs be a super-extraordinary exertion, for even through extraordinary efforts this great service will not be accomplished. Miraculous, supernatural magnanimity is needed—so that the shining High-

way of the Lord may be paved and the inhabitants of the world illumined with the light of brotherhood.

If we are not deeply concerned with the progress of the Cause, who else should be? If we do not arise unitedly and with one accord to promote the Word of God, who is there to do it? If we have not caught the glow of the enthusiasm of Abdul Baha, and have not burned the veil of lukewarmness, then who will burn it? If we do not raise the cry of Ya Baha El Abha in meetings and gatherings of the world, then who will raise it?

Praise be to God that the rays of the Sun of the Countenance of Covenant are shining upon all; the rain of his boundless mercy is pouring on all; around his heavenly table are we sitting; from the ocean of his Knowledge have we drunk; his Power and Majesty have been observed, and to his utterance of Divine wisdom have we listened. Rest! Have we not all eternity to rest in? Regret and sorrow! This is not the time for it. Hail! Ye workers of the Kingdom! Welcome! All ye joy-bringers of heaven! Stretch ye your wings and soar ye in the atmosphere of Truth! Open ye your tongues, and sing ye the songs of happiness! Had I a thousand lives and had sacrificed all of them at the feet of the Center of the Covenant, still have I done nothing! For what is the worth of my life, or the value of your life in comparison with the Sun-life of the Beloved!

Difficulties must increase our faith; trials and vicissitudes must enkindle the fire of attraction. We must all become united like the members of one family, the rays of one orb, the words of one book, the stars of one constellation and the pearls of one sea. In words, deeds and actions we must become welded together for the accomplishment of the Great Task! Each one of us is responsible for all. The greatest service that we can render to the Cause is to characterize ourselves with the characteristics of Abdul Baha, to walk in his footsteps, to enter under his Divine Canopy and to so live and act as to become conducive to the happiness of his heart. In the assemblage of the spiritual ones let us seek his beauty, adore his countenance, awaken the heedless ones and win the goal of service. Let us gird up the loins of endeavor, and arise in the promulgation of the Religion of God; cast away the garments of limitations and harmful habits and be clothed with the white robe of Divine Teachings, perfections of humanity and spiritual virtues.

Should we become assisted in this, the rays of the Sun of Reality will illumine the hearts, through the Power of the Greatest Name we shall conquer the Kingdom of Spirits; the traces of brotherhood, happiness and peace will irradiate from our faces, and we will not exchange the servitude at the Threshold of the Center of the Covenant of God, for the Sovereignty of the Globe.

At this last session I would like to share with you the context of a talk the Beloved gave me a few days before my departure from his holy Presence. "For nearly eight years," he said, "thou hast lived with me day and night. Both at home and abroad, on land and on sea thou hast been my companion. In all the sufferings and hardships of the last few years thou hast been a partner. With thine own ears thou hast heard everything. With thine own eyes thou hast seen all. Ever have I been thinking to send thee back to America—so that thou mayst spend thy days in the service of the Cause of God and the diffusion of the Fragrances of God. Now thy time has come. Out of this Divine College thou must go into the world. Gird up the loins of

endeavor and magnify thy aim. Purify and sanctify thy heart from every desire. I am sending thee to those vast continents with the Powers of the Kingdom, the Breaths of the Holy Spirit, the Confirmations of the Merciful and the Glad-tidings of the Supreme Lord. This will constitute thy capital. This will be the foundation of thy life. This is the cause of the inspiration of thy ideals. Concentrate all thy time in the service of the Cause. Be thou the means of the reconciliation of the hearts; create love and fellowship between the friends. Soar always in the atmosphere of universal concepts. Attach not thyself to particulars. Do not interfere in the local affairs of the friends. Explain that which is conducive to their welfare and the progress of the Cause. I will pray for thee at every midnight. Rest thou assured. I will be with thee both in thy journeys and thy sojourns. Thou must do thy utmost to reach the Convention, and if possible take a steamer direct for the United States. Associate with the people with love and kindness. Gladden the hearts of the friends and strangers. Endeavor as far as thou canst to sadden no heart. Sorrow is the dust over the mirror: cleanse the dust and let the light of the sun of happiness reflect therein. Contemplate day and night over my words, deeds and life. These must serve thee as general and particular examples. If all the people of the world turn their faces from thee and God be with thee, thou art victorious. The life of man must be planned in accord with the good pleasure of the Lord. Do not engage thy time in fault-finding and backbiting. If anyone comes to you and opens the first chapter of such a book, tell him: O my dear friend! I have not come here to listen to these talks. I have come to call the people to the Kingdom of Abha! I have come to rend asunder the veils of old superstitions and traditions. I have come to call you to love, friendship, unity and the brotherhood of the human race. These stories and these gossips are conducive to the extinction of the Fire of the Love of God; they are like poisonous winds that blowing over the flowers and hyacinths of the spirit, wither them; they are like the gloomy, black clouds that prevent the shining of the Sun of Reality. His Holiness Baha'o'llah has not created us for the discussion of these petty questions and infantile problems. Ye must be the vivifiers of the world! Light-bringers to the inhabitants of the globe; creators of lofty ideals and world-moving thoughts; the orbs and the stars of the universe of the spirit and conscience; the fragrant flowers of the rose-garden of compassion and mercy; the singing birds and the nightingales of the Paradise of His Highness Baha'o'llah; the jewels and pearls of the fathomless sea of eternal joy and beatitude; the fresh showers of the clouds of Generosity, and the enkindled sons and daughters of the Kingdom of His Highness the Clement One! Serve ye your fellowmen. Help them under all circumstances. Inspire them with your faith and ennoble them with your example. The Blessed Perfection has destined for you this Divine Station. Work ye so that you may attain thereunto. He has prepared for you a most brilliant crown—not the crown of an empire but the Crown of social and spiritual service. Place it on your heads. He has spread before you a banquet, adorned with all kinds of heavenly food. Gather ye around it and do not deprive yourselves thereof. The Sun of His Mercy is shining. The Rains of His Clemency are pouring down. The Breezes of His Providence are wafting and the Ocean of His Bestowals is waving. Hasten ye! Hasten ye.

"Enlighten your beings with the rays of His Sun!

"Allay your thirst with the pure water of His Love!

"Refresh the trees of your existence by the wafting of the Gale of His Bounty.

"Learn to swim in the fathomless sea of His Teachings!

"And again I repeat! Hasten ye! Hasten ye! Seclusion, silence, hopelessness, despair are the characteristics of the coward and the lazy, and not the qualities of the servants and the maid-servants of His Highness the Almighty!

"Rest ye assured! Strengthen your hearts and fill your souls with the music of His Truth.

"In brief: With these and similar statements create a new joy and exhilaration in the hearts of the believers, and let them comprehend clearly that today the cause that is confirmed is the promotion of the Word of God and the diffusion of the Fragrances of God.

"I will never forget thee. Day and night thou art before my sight. Few souls have stayed for so long a time with me. I declare by the Blessed Perfection that always at midnight I shall pray for thee, supplicating and entreating at the Blessed Threshold, saying: O God! Confirm Mirza Ahmad, my son! Assist him till his last breath in the service of Thy Cause! Help him with the Angels of the Kingdom of Abha! and reinforce him with the Cohorts of the Supreme Concourse! Be Thou with him over mountains and deserts; on land and sea. Place in his words the effect of Thy Mighty Word. Illumine his face with the rays of the Sun of Reality. Make his heart Thy dwelling-place and suffer his spirit to soar toward the world of the Kingdom. Make his feet firm, his words effective—so that the news of his spiritual victories may impart joy to this sad heart.

"As to the characteristics of a Teacher: First of all, he must have a sweet disposition! A sweet disposition is better than all the wealth of the world. A mild disposition will make the teacher loved by all the pupils. With arguments and controversies and contentions people are driven away, but with love, gentleness and sweetness they bloom forth like unto a rose.

"Thou must be one of the many souls who are going to live in accord with my Instructions in these General Tablets. Endeavor thou to make their importance plain and clear to everyone. All the believers, both men and women, in the East and in the West must consider themselves the spreaders of the contents of these Epistles; so that the rays of the Sun of Truth may ere long illumine all the continents and islands of the globe, and the dark clouds of prejudices and ignorance be dispelled.

"Consider! What a vast field of international service is opened before the faces of the friends! As long as there are such universal problems in the Cause to occupy our time with their solution, is it befitting to pass the precious hours in discussing unimportant and insignificant questions?

"I desire that every one of the believers may become like an ignited candle in the assemblage of the world of humanity, and conducive to the Eternal Life of others. Today the Confirmations of the Kingdom of Abha are with those who renounce themselves, forget their opinions, cast aside personalities and are thinking of the welfare of others. Whosoever has lost himself, has found the universe and the inhabitants thereof! Whosoever is occupied with himself is wandering in the desert of heedlessness and regret!

The master-key to self-mastery is self-forgetfulness. The road to the palace of life is through the path of renunciation.

"When thou reachest America, convey my longing greeting to all the friends and the maid-servants of the Merciful, and say to them:

"O ye friends of the Blessed Beauty! Today is the day of attraction and enkindlement! This day is the day of Unity and nobility! This century is the century of the reaching of the Cause of God and summoning the people to the Kingdom of God! This Call is the Call of ecstasy and bliss! This time is the time of serving the world of humanity, and diffusing the rays of universal ideals! This age is the age of the eradication of vice, pauperism and social defects! This cycle is the cycle of awakening, progress and the promotion of the principles of Divine Civilization! This period is the period of lights! This Dispensation is the Dispensation of the appearance of the perfections of man and the manifestation of the virtues of the Lord of the Kingdom! This season is the season of a new springtime, spiritual, celestial and divine. O men! The sweet fragrances of the flowers of the pure hearts are wafted abroad; the Sun of Love is rising high above the horizon, the overflowing cups of the Wine of Significances are passed around! Drink ye thereof deeply; thus ye may become unconscious to all else save the love of the Beloved of the world!

"This is not the hour of rest! This is not the time of silence! This is not the day of inactivity! Like unto one mighty spirit, moving through thousands of souls, arise ye from your seats and cry at the top of your voices: 'Ya Baha El Abha!' Cleanse your hearts like unto clear mirrors. Suffer your minds to become the royal palaces of heavenly ideals! Close your eyes to the earth, its conditions and its differences. Turn your insight to the invisible world and its unseen cohorts of invulnerable truths. Then ye shall observe what signs of power and might have appeared from your words and deeds and how each one of you has become a conqueror of the realms of the hearts and the spirits!

"The doors of the inexhaustible treasures of the Kingdom of Abha are wide open! Awaken ye! and take ye a great share thereof. The boundless wealth of the world of immortality is before your faces! Fill your hearts and minds with it! Just as the disciples of Jesus Christ were filled with His Love, you must also be filled with the Love of Baha'o'llah! Speak ye about Him: sing ye His praises and commendations and like unto the unshakable mountains be ye firm in His Covenant. Fill ye the minds with the acclamations of joy! Cast ye in the hearts the seeds of gladness. Make your spirits the caskets of the jewels of His Love. Do ye not rest for one moment! Do ye not stop for any consideration! For the progress and the advancement of the Cause in this world depends upon the wisdom, intelligence, knowledge and tactfulness of the lovers of the Blessed Beauty! The proper adjustment of these four qualities depends, however, upon our humility and the Breaths of the Holy Spirit.

"As long as you have the Great Ocean, why be satisfied with the small river? While you are in possession of scintillating jewels, why do ye attach your hearts to crockeries? While the sweet-singing nightingales are singing soul-ravishing lays why should you listen to the croaking of the raven?

While the lovely flowers have adorned the plains and the meadows, why should ye wander in the wilderness of thorns and hobgoblins?

"The Song of the Bird of Paradise is raised!

"Hearken ye!

"The rays of the Sun of Reality are irradiating!

"Become ye illumined!

"The armies of the Kingdom of Abha are attacking!

"Rejoice ye!

"The heavenly Beloved with Celestial Beauty is present in the assemblage of the friends!

"Be ye thankful!

"The Desired of all nations has unveiled His Heavenly Countenance!

"Enter ye in the ranks of His admirers and lovers!

"The time is your time! The hour is your hour! Make ye firm your steps! Raise ye your voices! Unstop your ears! Unloose your tongues in His glorification! Let the different aims revolve around the one great Aim, and submerge all the varieties of opinion in the Colorless Sea of the Love of Baha'o'llah!

"Upraise your hands toward His Kingdom and beg His Confirmation and Assistance! His Bounty will change an atom into a sun, a drop into a sea, the stone into the jewel, the charcoal into a diamond, and the black soil into flowers and anemones. He will make the weak strong and the unknown famous. His Ancient Graces are universal and His Spiritual Favors world-encircling. All that He hath given to others, He will confer upon you a thousandfold. Do ye not look upon your own shortcomings and capacity. Behold His all-embracing Love and Clemency! Although we are broken-winged birds, He will bestow upon us the imperial wings of the royal Falcon. Although we are dumb, He will grant us eloquent and fluent tongues—so that in great gatherings we may speak His praise and glory. Although we are lowly, He will cause us to enter in His Majestic Kingdom!

"These are my aspirations! These are my hopes! These are my teachings! Now it depends upon your magnanimity and effort, your self-sacrifice and spiritual heroism."

With this great plan of Abdul Baha for the redemption of the world, we the Bahais are entering upon a new era of spiritual activity. The time is coming, and I am just as sure as I am standing here in your midst, when the Bahai teachers will be traveling throughout all the inhabited and uninhabited parts of the globe. The Jundras of Siberia, the desert of Gobi, the wilderness of Africa, the steppes of Central Asia, the plateau of Thibet, the Selvos of Amazon and the pampas and llanos of South America will resound with the cry of "Ya Baha El Abha!" That time is coming, because Abdul Baha has assured me, and these Tablets are the greatest proofs of that assurance. You and I, our children and grandchildren, may not be living to see it, but the future generations yet unborn will see it and will acknowledge the correctness of the Divine Vision of the Center of the Covenant.

The discoveries of science, the marvels of engineering, the skill of inventors and the genius of the inspired men will change the very atmosphere of those barren wastes and luxuriant jungles of the tropics, making them more healthful for the habitation of man. Happy and prosperous nations will

plant their civilizations, based upon the Divine Principles of Truth. They will be a god-fearing and righteous people, bold, peaceful, fearless and with the love of the Manifestation in their hearts.

We will send teachers and priests of progress to all parts of the world, yea, many of them; but what kind of teachers? Teachers with hearts of fire, with souls filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, their spirits set aglow with the light of the love of God, with minds illumined with the most humane and lofty ideals of Baha'o'llah, with consciousnesses intoxicated with the wine of the love of Abdul Baha.

Ah me! Teachers with firm steps, with steadfast resolutions, fearing no king or potentate, declaring the principles of the Cause in the very jaws of death. Welcoming the storms of persecutions and the gales of the insinuations of the friends and foes as the balmy breezes of the garden of Abha! Storms and hurricanes, whirlwinds and tornadoes! What of them? Let them come, let them break with all their furies against my head. They will find me ready, welcoming them with open arms, smiling while they howl and moan through the dark halls of Valhalla, and when they have passed away, the world will find me standing in my own place, firmer, stronger, taller, readier for a fiercer battle and a more dreadful assault. Such missionaries, with such resolutions, we are going to send into the wide world!

The religious institutions of the present generation feel they have missed the primal simplicity and vigor of the Faith. They experience the general apathy of men and women to all church creeds, rituals and ceremonies. Here lies our supreme mission, our greatest opportunity to convince the people that the Bahai Cause has not come to destroy but to restore and recover the Divine spirit which lies behind the message of all the prophets; to make life more abounding, to guide us from the threshold into the inner court of the Almighty, to fill us with the Breaths of the Holy Spirit, to suffer us to become completer men and more perfect women, to lead us out of the darkness of the night of superstitions into the bright day of Reality, to humanize our feelings, to spiritualize our emotions, to feed us with the meat and not the husk, to break the shell and show us the kernel. Yes, my friends! We are going to have our Livingstones and our Stanleys; travelling and preaching the Gospel of Light to the ignorant and the fallen.

Going back again to the consideration of these Universal Charters of humanity, I must inform you for the sake of historical interest that at present there are four copies extant; the first copies are those that we have unveiled, one at each session; the second copies are in this little bound book in my hand, which I always carry with me; the third copies are also in a similar book in the Archives of Haifa, and the fourth copies are the original manuscripts corrected by the blessed hand of the Beloved—the most precious spiritual heritage for posterity.

Now my repeated readings of these Tablets, and my repeated conversations with the Center of the Covenant concerning this Divine Plan, have given me a number of suggestions, which I would like to present to you. After this Convention, many of you will surely be inspired with many more practical suggestions, all of which will be welcomed by the Bahai world as evidences of the working of the power of the Spirit.

1. Immediately after this session a cable be forwarded to Abdul Baha, begging His Confirmation for this Great Universal Undertaking.

2. A consciousness of general responsibility to be realized by all the Bahais throughout the world.

3. A Committee to be appointed with full power to select other sub-committees, to collect facts and materials relative to the present status of the religions and sects.

4. A committee of translators and writers to join their abilities together and prepare short booklets on the history of the Cause and its universal principles in different languages and from the standpoint of those people for whom they are composed.

5. Teachers to be selected or arise by themselves to travel in different parts of the world. Such teachers to know as far as possible the languages and customs of the people amongst whom they sojourn.

6. A Committee of men and women, teachers and interpreters to travel around the world with the purpose of gathering first-hand information to be used as a reference for the benefit of future voyages of other teachers. This committee to lecture and teach in whatever country they may sojourn in the pursuit of their function.

7. Plans for providing the means by which these purposes can be carried forward in a practical manner.

a. National and sectional treasuries be organized, to which funds may be forwarded from Bahais belonging to that particular nation or section, to defray the expenses of teachers.

b. An international treasury be also organized, to which voluntary contributions may be sent for the traveling expenses of international teachers, general publications and other incidental expenses.

c. The function of the above two articles must not interfere with those who are competent to travel around for the promotion of the Word, defraying their own expenses.

d. Likewise teachers may be supported and kept in the field by private persons.

The aim of the above four suggestions is to avail ourselves, as the Beloved says, of every means, and not tie ourselves to any one system, letting the Spirit lead every one according to his light and conviction.

8. A Bahai College or school be founded for teaching young men and women according to prescribed courses.

9. A board be appointed for the preparation of suitable texts and compendiums on the history of religions and the Cause of Baha'o'llah, the interpretation of the prophecies of all the religions in the light of this Revelation, etc.

10. There must be two kinds of teachers, residential and travelling. At stated times these teachers should send their reports about the progress of the Cause to a central headquarters for publication.

11. The STAR OF THE WEST to be for the present the official organ of this universal propaganda, according to the wish of Abdul Baha, and future publications may be founded according to the national or local needs of every country.

12. Local, national and international Conferences may be held at stated intervals in different countries of the world, for the purpose of coming together to consult and find the best ways and means for the promotion of the Cause.

13. There must be an exchange of teachers between the Bahais of the East and the West, the North and the South.

14. A General Bahai Library be founded, in which all the Tablets, books, pamphlets, articles and magazines published in the Cause in different languages, be collected and preserved for reference. Likewise historical, religious and philosophical books regarding allied subjects be placed there, for the general information of all the Bahai students, scholars and teachers.

These are all the suggestions that I have to offer at the present time. Some of them may not find favor in your eyes; but I thought it better to enumerate all, leaving the rest to your decision and the wisdom of the future Conventions.

And now I must say my last word of farewell: Soon we shall leave this Conference. Let us leave it filled with the spirit of enthusiasm. Let us before leaving this illumined gathering consecrate, yea, dedicate our lives to this highest of all ideals. Let us go forth with beaming faces and divine resolution, to fill the souls of men with the majesty and wonder of the Word of God. Let us banish from our midst suspicion and mistrust. Let us shake off our inherent lethargy and self-seeking ideals, arise out of the grooves of social and intellectual narrowness, and proclaim with the sound of trumpet the appearance of the Kingdom of God. Let us project in the midst of the assemblage of mankind the Divine Consciousness of Baha'o'llah. Let us grasp this godlike opportunity, this heaven-sent Call, and advance with a unanimous voice toward the great goal of human regeneration. Let us change this dark earth into the Paradise of Abha! Let us transform the nature of men and women, so that they may become the angels of the Supreme Course. Let us not sit idle. Let us not sleep and allow this heavenly opportunity to slip by. Let us take in our hands the goblet of the Love of God, and while we ourselves are spiritually intoxicated, invite others to drink from this Divine Chalice. Filled with the Gospel of Life, with one heart and one soul, with one mind and one accord, let us once more resolve to quicken and resuscitate the dead world with the Breaths of the Holy Spirit!

And now with the following appropriate words of the Blessed Perfection, from the Hidden Words, I bring this talk to a close:

"The bride of wonderful significances who was concealed behind the veils of words hath appeared through Divine Providence and Heavenly Bounties, like unto the radiance of the Beauty of the Beloved. I testify, O Friends, that the bounty has become complete, the Evidence is accomplished, the Argument manifested and the Reason affirmed. Now what will your endeavors show forth from the degrees of devotion? Thus are the favors perfected unto you and unto all who are in the Heavens and earths. Praise be unto God, the Lord of all mankind!"

Now will these friends come forward and unveil the original manuscripts of the 13 Great Tablets, as corrected by the Blessed Hand of Abdul Baha? Then everyone can look at them and in this way receive this last heavenly blessing, before we are separated and scattered to the four corners of the world.