

30 Rue St Didier
Paris. France
March 16, 1913

Dear Harriet!

1 - For the last few days I have been reading a little book called the Little Flowers of St Francis of Assisi. It contains the interesting account of his travels and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and certain incidents in his holy ^{and} sweet life of poverty. The story is ~~so~~ much similar to the accounts of the Bahai Teachers in the Orient and it gives ^{us} a lovely glimpse into the past and how ~~the~~ history repeats itself in the present. I like to quote here one of his addresses to the birds of the air. St Francis was travelling with two of his holy disciples toward another town. As with great fervor he was going on the way, he lifted up his eyes and

beheld some trees hard by the road
 whereon sat a great company of birds
 well-nigh without number. Here
 he stands still and shows that
 depth of tenderness and love towards
 all the creatures which we have
 often witnessed in ^{Abdul Baka} ~~the~~ Master. "Ye
 shall wait here for me" he said to his
 companions, "and I will go and
 preach unto my little sisters, the
 birds." Is not this beautiful? When
 I read this, a ^{similar} ~~beautiful~~ talk of the
 Master came to my ^{mind} given in the
 Golden Gate Park in San Francisco
 as a company of friends were following
 him. He said, that as we talked
 here about the Kingdom of Abba,
 even the trees and the birds receive
 a share of this divine joy through

their subtle senses; ^{that} ~~are~~ ^{were} not deprived
of the knowledge of the Infinite;
The trees with their outstretching
branches pray to God; The birds
through their wondrous songs glorify
the Almighty.

Now let me quote to ~~you~~ this little
gem of ~~the~~ ^{the} address of St Francis to
birds of the air:—

"My little sisters, the birds, much
bounden are ye unto God, your Creator,
and always in every place ought ye to
praise Him, for that He hath given
you liberty to fly about everywhere,
and hath also given you double and
triple raiments. Still more are ye
beholden to Him for the element of
the air which He hath appointed
for you; beyond all this, ye saw

not, neither do ye reap; and God feedeth you, and giveth you the streams and the fountains for your drink; the mountains and the valleys for your refuge and the high trees whereon to make your nests; and because you know not how to spin and sew, God clotheh you, you and your children; wherefore your creator loveth you much, seeing that He hath bestowed upon you so many benefits, therefore, my little sisters study always to give praises unto God.

And so the book is filled with interesting episodes illustrating the life of St Francis of Assisi, corresponding so much to the manners of Oriental Bahai teachers

2

Today the Master ~~felt much better~~
~~and~~ he received many people in the
morning. Being Sunday all those
people who ^{could not} ~~cannot~~ come ^{during the} ~~on~~ week
~~day~~ came to day and so there was
gathered a large company of hungry
and thirsty souls after the bread
and water of life. Early in the
morning, ~~the Master~~ ^{he} talked on the
present situation of Turkey and its
utter helplessness in the face of
the European Coalition against her.
Although a great door of salvation is
~~opened~~ before her face, she lies
dazed helpless; Likewise the con-
dition of Persia is pitiable indeed.
God has prepared for them a Cause
around which revolves the kingdom
of might and power, yet they

do not avail themselves. They do not
 see the light, neither do they hear the
 music. ~~There are~~ ^{So} many Persians
 and Armenians ~~who~~ arrived on the
 scene and ~~the~~ ^{he} Beloved received
 them ~~all~~ with open heart and arm.
 He talks with everyone according
 to his comprehension and, so if a
 thousand people ~~seeing~~ ^{hear} and ~~hearing~~
~~the Master~~ ^{and} ~~may~~ go away and
 write down their impressions, each
 one ~~may~~ ^{will} have a different story to
 tell but ~~neither~~ ^{none} ~~one~~ will represent
~~the Beloved~~ ^{him} in his ~~entire~~ ^{universal} Aspect.
 There are ~~a~~ thousands of divine
 aspects ~~to~~ ^{him} ~~the Master~~ just as there
 are ~~many~~ facets of light in the
 diamond and ~~many~~ rays
 emanating from the sun!

To every person or to every group of persons, he shows one of his aspects. To the Baháists, he is known as the "Center of the Covenant," "the Greatest Branch," "the Mystery of God," "Him who is desired by God," to the Mohamadians, the Christians, the Jews, the Theosophists, the Spiritu-
lists, the Materialists, the Atheists - to each one of these he may show one or several of his aspects, but he is above all these names and attributes, he is Imageless, Incom-
prehensible, deathless, Unchangeable.

The other day as I was walking ~~in~~ ^{through} the Oriental Museum I saw many statues of the idols and gods as worshipped in India. Some of these statues had six

faces, others four or twenty or
 hundreds of hands. Now we know
 that these ~~statues~~ idols are the
 statues of their prophets whom
 they considered as the mediums
 between God and man. When
 they desired to express the idea that
^{he was} ~~he~~ is a prophet with many divine
 virtues and attributes, they said
 he had a thousand hands. Later on
 the meaning was lost and the
 word was left; the kernel forgotten
 and the shell remained. Other-
 wise it is foolish to think of a man,
 especially a divine messenger with
 six faces, hundreds of eyes and a
 thousand hands. Such a person
 is ^{an ultra freak of nature} ~~anything but a human~~ and
 most unpleasant to look ^{at}. His

many hands ^{would} ~~will~~ be always in his way and it ^{would be} ~~is really~~ too bothersome. ~~Isn't it?~~ Wouldn't it?

3 When ^{Master} ~~he~~ came out to ^{talk to} ~~address~~ the rooms, crowded with Orientals and Occidentals he was in a laughing and happy mood. Evidently he ^{wanted} ~~wanted~~ to laugh ~~the~~ and make ^{his} ~~the~~ audience laugh before delivering his short address. He looked around the rooms and spied ^a the mother with ^{her} ~~the~~ little daughter ~~girl~~ of whom I wrote in a former letter. ~~She is about six and half or two years old.~~ With his blessed hands he made the sign, ^{saying} ~~saying~~ French "Venez ice! Venez ice!" The girl runs toward him, ~~while~~ insisting that her mother should go too. She ^{sat} ~~sits~~ next to the Master with the child in her lap.

10
felt -

Meanwhile most every body ~~happy and laughing~~ ^{amused} and laughs. The face of the Master ~~was~~ ^{was} wreathed with heavenly smiles. He asked for fruit and Sayad Assadollah brought ~~in~~ an orange. The Master starts to talk in English with the little girl ~~in English~~. "I love you very much; do you love me very much?" The girl stopped a second, as though divining that something else ~~was~~ ^{was} going to come up and amidst the roar of ~~the~~ laughter she mischievously answered: "No!" "Bravo" the Master ~~said~~ ^{only back nonplussed}. "Do you love your mother?" "No" the girl ~~continued~~ ^{continued} in her contrivance. "What! You do not love your mother! Do you love your father?" "No" the same

mischievous
~~positive~~ answer was returned.

"Then do you love God?" And ^{instantly} the answer was given in a loud, clear voice: "yes". Everybody was amazed by this visible demonstration and many ~~people~~ thought afterward that the Master wanted to give us a great lesson that we must not look at the personality but love the spirit and truth which animate the personality. We must look at the light and not at the lamp; ~~we~~ ^{we} must love the rose, no matter ~~from~~ ⁱⁿ which ground it grows. With his majestic wisdom he ~~chose~~ ^{selected} the ~~mouth~~ ^{tongue} of ~~the~~ ^a babe to teach us this ~~matchless~~ lesson of the Love of God!

4

Immediately

Then ~~instantaneously~~ he changed his mood and became serious.

With one hand he ~~brushed~~ fixed his fez and with the other hand rubbed his eyes and you could see authority on his ample brow and seriousness on his face. He opened his address by the following pithy remark:— "The proof of life in the world of existence is motion. Every living being moves. If a moving creature becomes stationary, it means death. Progress is the keynote of motion and motion is the sign of life." ~~Then~~ He went on explaining the different kinds of motions. ~~It was really~~ a ~~wonderful~~ address which I

~~have never heard him before~~
~~speaking on this subject.~~ After
 the meeting he shook hands
 with ^{everyone} ~~all the present ones~~ and
 went out alone. ~~On his return~~
~~he dined~~ ~~lunched~~ at the table
 and rested for a while in his
 bedroom. In the afternoon
 he sent me to the house of
 Doctor Mohamad Khan to inquire
 about his health. I went there
~~with~~ ^{by} the subway. ~~The Subway~~
 in Paris is ^a very intricate ^{affair} and
 there are so many different
 roads to transfer, often one
 over another. ~~There are~~ long
 corridors and tortuous pathways
 to joining different roads to each
 other and a stranger is amazed

Pansians

at the mequity of the ~~people~~
 who find their way ~~so~~ easily
 and ant-like go down in
 these subterraneous passages
 and come up at the other
 side of the city. It was about
 4 o'clock when I returned ^{with}
 Doctor Mohamad Khan to
 find that Sardar Mansour
~~with~~ ^{an} and Armenian merchant ^{were}
 in the Presence of the Beloved.
 The Master ^{He} was telling them ^{about}
 his experiences in America, his
 address in the Jewish Synagogue,
 the account of a religious
 revival in Denver at the
^{dedication}
~~opening~~ of a ~~Catholic~~
 Catholic Church. ~~etc.~~ When
 they left, Madame D'Astra

and Mr Lain (a young American who sings in Concerts in Paris) were permitted ^{to see him} ~~in~~. The Master asked Doctor Mahamed Khan why he suddenly got sick. If our Doctor got sick, ^{others were expected to die} ~~what is expected of us~~. If the landlord plays on the piano, the tenants must dance.

Then he asked Mr Lain's profession. "I sing at Concerts and teach ~~singing~~ ^{music}" he answered. "Do you sing only earthly music or heavenly music too?" "Unfortunately only, ~~the~~ earthly music." "Yes, you must sing the melodies of heaven, the notes and strains of which ravish the hearts."

"

What is ~~the~~ heavenly music?

"It is the explanation of the mysteries of God and the exposition of the realities and significances of the Kingdom of Abha."

~~Then the Master~~ ^{He} went out and returned in half an hour. The Persian Ambassador called and had a long interview with ~~the Beloved~~.

Miss^D Hodgson came and as^{she} was writing to Honolulu she asked the Master for a message. It was dictated to her.

The two Persian Bahais from the Jews of Hamadan left last night. They had a loving

farewell from the Beloved.

I enclose herein the two introductions given at the Alliance Spiritualiste meeting. They are translated from the French by Madame D. I. Astor.

As we are not going to stay at this apartment after the twentieth of the month, Mon. Dreyfus is looking around to get a few rooms in a hotel for the few days the Master is going to stay. Please send your letters in the future care Mon. H. Dreyfus 15 Rue de Greuze. They will be forwarded to me no matter where I am. Although I may let you know what God has in

store for me before long.

My Bahai love to all

Alma