

Home of Baha'ollah 63

Acre Syria

April 6th 1914

Dear friends!

Several times during the morning hours I stood in the Presence of Abdul Baha, listened to his words of love and affection and drank from the Salsabeel of his utterances. Many petitions from America were read to him and their glad news imparted to him rejoicing. Praise be to God the believers have reached a certain stage in their spiritual development that they are little by little enabled to solve their own problems and devise plans for the progress of the Cause. Relying on the Confirmation of the Kingdom of Abha they are teaching new souls and causing new ears to listen to the thrilling story of the Bahai revelation. This is a good sign and it is hoped, while trusting entirely on the help and aid of the Beloved they will go on working unceasingly for the Cause of Unity. When the spirit of unity gains control over the hearts of the members of

6th a given Assembly then they will be enabled to spread the message; otherwise all their efforts will be utterly fruitless. Before every thing else we must put our own house in order and then invite the people to come in. If the least trace of inharmonious exists between the ^{various} members of a meeting, the principal aim of the religion of God is subverted. First unity, then the promotion of the word of God. Without the perfect realization of the first condition, the results of the second steps - if there is any results - are temporary and eternal. As Bahais we must be teachers in the school of unity; soldiers in the army of unity; stars in the heaven of unity; waves of the sea of unity; roses of the garden of unity; fruits of the orchard of unity; letters of the book of unity; shining lights in the assemblage of unity and servants in the service of unity. Unity is power, and power is the foundation of every movement. The more the members of an assembly are united the greater will be their powers of activity ^{in the} and promotion of the Cause.

I am afraid these words of mine will have no effect ⁶⁵ on some people but I cannot help saying them because I feel so intensely on the subject. The Master has already written and spoken so much on this important point ^{at} that would fill volumes. Now is the time that we must actualize these lofty ideals and practice them in our daily intercourse with the people.

The general and a number of his staff called this morning on the Beloved. They are charmed with his eloquence and wonderful flow of divine wisdom. They cannot keep away from him and are impressed more and more with his spiritual character.

In the afternoon a number of Tablets were revealed from the heart of the Light of the world. While he was dictating Aga Hossein Ash-jee entered the room and spoke with the Master for a few minutes. Later on he told me that the scene reminded him of Baha-Allah's days, because the Beloved was sitting in the exact place of his father when He revealed Tablet for the

6^b the guidance of the people of the world. Bringing to a close the dictation of Tablets he got up from the Divan and said: "Now we must go out to take a walk!" Elme Akha, Sayed Ali Afhan and Aga Inehdi, the gardener of the Tomb of Baha-Allah accompanied him. He walked outside of the wall, beside the sea and while he was slowly walking he spoke in reference to an Article from his own pen published in the Theosophy ^{Journal} in Scotland:- "Although the Western nations have perfected the machinery of material civilization, ^{yet} but they are far left behind in divine civilization. My object in taking that long journey through the West - was to awaken them out of this sleep; that they may not grovel all the time in the world of matter and that they may not only think of eating and drinking. Whenever I spoke on these topics I was myself greatly moved. When a person delivers an address he must first of all ~~first think~~ address himself and see whether the recital of those experiences will stir his heart or not. In this manner one's talk will influence

the heart and the soul "

67

While the Beloved was walking along the sea everyone who passed by saluted him and meanwhile he pointed out to us the signs of the ancient civilization and how a few centuries ago the gate of Aca was near Bahajoe and the present plain was covered with orchards and houses. Here and there one could see the foundations of old buildings. A big Turk stopped ^{on his way} and after the customary salutation the Master to him, The man invited him to go to his garden for a few minutes and rest. He accepted his invitation and henceforward he engaged him in conversation till we reached the door. Here we sat under ^{the shade} a lovely pergola and the Beloved continued his talk on the charms of Central Park in New York, ^{and the} Golden Gate park in San Francisco, where one sees a very big lake over the surface of which there are hundreds of tame swans and ducks. Then the customs of the Egyptians and the Luna Park built there were discussed and many other subjects were talked.

From this garden the Master called on an old friend of his who has built a house and laid a garden outside of the gate of Acca. The second man was the neighbor of the first and thus we did not have much to walk. How else the Master stayed for half an hour and spoke with the host on local affairs. Coffee and Sherbat were served. Bidding an revoir to him we traced back our steps toward the Home. The Beloved entered his room to attend to his correspondence and after an hour he came out. He was guest in the house of Mohamed Effendi Saleh where a large ^{number} of people had gathered to hear him speak. The Koran and authentic traditions were his theme and for two hours and half he spoke with great fervor on the inner symbolism of these verses, ^{and} where are liable of two edged interpretation.

Our dear Miss Sanderson has just arrived from America. She is now in Haifa and soon she will ^{receive} have permission to come to Acca. It will be a great pleasure to meet her in the Holy Land.