

Home of Baha-Allah
 Acca. Syria Nov 27th 1944

Dear friends,

Yesterday a cablegram was received from Paris conveying a sad news. It was this: - "Inform Abdul Baha. Bernard has disappeared. Hope prisoner, Barney" This saddened the heart of the Beloved and brought home the real suffering of war. He loved Monsieur Bernard and dwelt this morning on the beauty of his character and the sweetness of his manners. "Monsieur Bernard" he said "as he was walking this evening to and fro and the believers were standing around the room" is a wonderful Bahai from Paris. He is a real Bahai and he loves all humanity. He was educating two Indian children and giving them the best comfort and instruction. This morning we have received a cable announcing that he has disappeared from the French Army and the friends hope that he has become a prisoner. We also hope so. He could not bear the word of "war", he was a lover of peace. It was against his spiritual emotion to enter this war but he was compelled by the extraordinary circumstances. "Later on he dictated the following cable to be forwarded next day: - "Bernard enjoys Eternal Life. He will not die. My health is perfect. I supplicate Confirmation for all." In another cable to Teheran he says ^{regarding} his health: "Health perfect. Greeting to all." It was rather strange to receive a few letters direct, one from Ireland, another from Switzerland and the third from Germany. Robert Mackay Wilson of Coolcarrigan, Kilcock, Ireland, seeing the Beloved's name in the Christian Commonwealth writes a nice letter enclosing two little pamphlets written by himself. I read to him the first pamphlet: - "The plain thoughts of ~~the~~ plain man." He said: "These are the thoughts of the old Dispensation; their results are limited and the effect lost by constant repetition and reiteration. The Power that moves the human world with spiritual activity is the Power of Baha Ollah. If one soul desire to serve his fellowmen he must spread the Teachings of the Blessed Beauty - This is the New Seed, the New Plant. To devote our time to its growth and development shall yield infinite results. When such souls hear the Principles of the Cause, they are greatly attracted and the new-born faith will become like a burning fire. They will

become enabled to render many conspicuous services to their country and the world. Then he went out and told me to translate the letters and have them ready before noon. When I took them to him he asked me to read aloud the letter from Tuffenhausen, Germany. It was dated November 4th. He was rather surprised that the Post office has delivered it.

This morning he came down to go out but there was such a downpour of rain that he was prevented for the time being. Instead of this he started to walk in the corridor and addressing one of the believers he said: - "The dreadful storm of the last few days is symbolic of the present conditions of the world. The ships of state are being tossed hither and thither by the terrible storms rising in the breasts of brutalized men whose faces have become black with hate and rancour. They have indeed sunk lower than the beasts. What a fearful spectacle! What a terrific chastisement for the heedlessness of men! Thou canst not conceive how the very foundation of civilization is being overthrown and how the edifice of human happiness is collapsed! Here thou art comparatively happy and cannot realize this world's catastrophe. This great crisis has tested ~~thine~~ experience and the patience of the wisest men of our age, for they see with their own eyes how the rude hand of barbarism is destroying the fair, solid and complicated fabric of modern civilization."

The rain continued all through the morning and when at noon we sat around the Bounteous table of the Lord it was still raining. He looked at the disconsolate sea and said: - "How miserable is the condition of those souls who are now sailing! Unless a person be an experienced seaman he is confined to his cabin longing for the very sight of the land. During our voyage we crossed many seas but the Confirmation of the Blessed Perfection protected us. On our return from America to England our steamer was storm-tossed for several days. I, however, enjoyed the unique experience and was on deck to watch the rising of the imperial waves. They were wonderful mountains of water which ~~rose dissolved~~ and fell with great rapidity. . . . Truly how many great and distant cities did we enter and how many strange oceans we crossed! When I was walking through the populous, progressive cities of America, while I was surrounded by thousands of ~~men and women~~ I was alone. I was then King!

"Where am I? What am I doing here? Will I ever find myself once more in Acre? Will I be given the privilege of worshipping again at the Holy Threshold? Will I ever find myself in the holy home of Baha-Allah?" We saw so many places that we had not even heard the names. What delightful, happy never-to-be-forgotten experiences we had with the friends! Those days were spent with the utmost spirituality "He dwelt lovingly on several incidents during our journey in the United States, told the friends of our walks through the Golden Gate Park, its beautiful lakes and fall and its emerald green lawns.

In the afternoon the Colonel and the Lieutenant of the regiment called on him and stayed for one or two hours. Afterwards he came down and was with us till 9 P.M. speaking on so many subjects, relating so many stories, discoursing on so many topics that it is quite impossible to dwell on any one of them without devoting several pages to it.

Concerning service and love he said: "Mirza Halibellah is confirmed and as a Doctor he will achieve great fame. He is the sincere servant of the Beloved Perfection. He is self-sacrificing, he is a strong believer, a true Baha. He never fails in the service of the friends, but he serves them for the sake of the Love of God and not for the sake of friendship. He loves these people, because he loves Baha-Allah. There are two kinds of love. The first love is based on a motive; the second love is motiveless. People, as a general rule love each other, show kindness towards each other but such manifestations of kindness are based upon ulterior motives and are subject to change. But the other kind of love is pure and sanctified from any motive. He loves a person ^{because} he is a believer in God; he does not want to gain anything, his aim is not at all selfish. This is the love of God and for the sake of God. The first kind of love is flattery and hypocrisy. When the ~~five~~^{seven} Martyrs were taken to the Public Square to be executed, each begged the executioner to be martyred first and before others. This love is light; this love is life, this love is truth, this love is divine, this love is the cause of the creation of spiritual susceptibilities, this love is the origin of celestial brotherhood."

In the evening the inhabitants found nearly 300 hundred hats strewn on the shore. One of them was brought to us and shown the B. land. From all ^{appearing}