

BAHAIST APPROVES UNIONS OF RACES

Persian Teacher Tells Cleveland Women Inter-marriage Results Ideal.

One Negro Bishop Hears Plea for Amalgamation With Whites.

HERE AS LIVING MESSIAH

Abdul Baha, Venerable Leader of Movement for Universal Religion, Touring United States Draws Society to Hear Doctrines—Secretary Acts as Translator—Appears in Long Robes of Different Colors and White Slippers—Arrives Without Show of Churchly Pomp.

Abdul Baha, a venerable Persian now touring America as leader of the Bahaist movement for a universal religion, declared last night for an amalgamation of the white and negro races by intermarriage.

This was at a reception in his apartments at the Hotel Euclid last night, following his public address to an audience of about 200. He addressed his convictions on the amalgamation of races to a negro clergyman who gave his name as Bishop M. F. A. Easton, and to about twenty women, who formed a circle about the room, some of them sitting on the floor, for there were not chairs enough for all.

"All men," said Abdul Baha, "are progeny of one—Adam. They are of different color, but color is nothing. Men of all races are brothers. God is neither black nor white."

"Doves are of different colors, but the white and the gray and those which are almost black dwell together in amity, and unite. So should men of all races and creeds."

"Perfect results follow the marriage of black and white races. In my own family in Persia was a negro slave who was freed. She married a white man and her children married white men. These children are now in my household. The results of the union were beautiful. They were wonderful—perfect."

Talks in Persian.

Abdul Baha's talk was in Persian, as was his lecture. Sentence by sentence, as he proceeded, it was translated into English by Dr. Ameer Fareed, also a Persian.

Abdul Baha, who arrived late in the afternoon from Chicago, where women of fashion made up a large part of his audience, came as the messiah of the Bahaist movement. It is known as the only religion with a living messiah.

That the venerable Persian takes that view of his leadership was indicated last night by a reply he made to a question, why his movement, which is designed to include followers of all religions, but is still Christian, was needed?

"The teachings of Moses were almost forgotten—had almost disappeared," he said, "when Christ came and gave it life again. Now in this materialistic civilization of ours, religion is again dying out. The need of a new spiritual civilization is evident."

Abdul Baha's beard is nearly white, as is his thin, long hair, which he covered with a white cap of a Persian sort—half turban, half fez. He wore a cream colored robe, covered by an outer robe of darker shade. The outer robe he wore on the train and

CAMERA REVEALS WORLD TEACHER OF BAHAIISM



ABDUL BAH AND HIS SUITE.

ABDUL BAH.

about forty had gathered for a reception.

Refreshments were served there. As they ate Abdul Baha spoke, Ameer Fareed translating. For the advertised meeting at the Euclid hotel the main dining room had been cleared. Most of the audience were women. There were a number who are identified with the Theosophical society and various Spiritualistic organizations in the audience, and most who came were fashionably gowned.

That Abdul Baha's approval of marriages between whites and negroes is but a natural part of his movement for a universal religion was indicated by extracts from a stenographic report of his sermon.

"Humanity," he said, "will be bound together as one. The various religions shall be united and the various races shall be known as one kind."

This is to be when the spiritual civilization which the Bahaist movement is to bring about is achieved.

"The material civilization," he said, "has now reached its pitch, and there is need for a spiritual civilization. Material civilization alone will not satisfy. Its benefits are limited to the world of matter."

"There is no hindrance for the spirit of man, for spirit itself must progress, and if the divine civilization shall be organized, then the spirit will advance."

"Real discoveries will then take place. The divine mysteries will be revealed. The power of the holy spirit will become effective. The influence of the great guidance will be experienced, and all that is conducive to the divine form of civilization. That is what is meant in the Bible by the descent of the New Jerusalem. The heavenly Jerusalem is no other than the divine civilization, and it is now ready. It can be and shall be organized, and the oneness of humankind will be a fact."

"Humanity will then be bound together as one. The various religions shall be united, and the various races shall be known as one kind. The Orient and the Occident shall be united and the banner of international peace shall be unfurled. The world shall find peace and the equality and rights of men shall be established. All the nations of the world shall then be relatives and companions."

during his public address last night, was black. He had changed this for a robe of tan when later he received in his apartments at the hotel the company of followers and other visitors who came to him there.

On his feet were long, white slippers. A vase of lilies and a bowl of fruit stood on the table in the center of the room. Abdul Baha sat on a lounge, at one side.

There was no churchly pomp in his manner, either on his arrival in Cleveland, when he addressed his audience or when he received the disciples who came to his apartments. His manner was one of benevolence and gentle humility.

When he sat at one side of the crowded hotel lobby early in the evening he gazed out over it sadly, as if in melancholy contemplation of the lack of spirituality he found in all the material civilization of America. He sat with his hand to his forehead.

Has Benevolent Aspect.

When he talked to those who found him in his apartment his face lighted with smiles. But all the time his aspect of venerable benevolence was curiously joined to an expression and manner so simple and unaffected that it seemed almost childlike.

Another aged Persian, Mirza Mohmmad, was one of the Bahaist messiah's party. There were four of them. Abdul Baha Abbas, Dr. Ameer Fareed, Mirza Mohmmad and Said Asadullah.

Dr. E. C. Getsinger, Mrs. Getsinger, and Mrs. W. C. Ealston, all of Cleveland, had attended the meetings in Chicago and accompanied the party to Cleveland. The Cleveland followers of the Bahaist movement number about 100. Several met the party at Union station. From there automobiles carried Abdul Baha and the others to the home of Dr. C. M. Swingle at 8200 W. 15th Park av. N. where