

Mr Bell Meets `Abdu'l-Bahá

`Abdu'l-Bahá was in America travelling by tram to His third meeting of the day, and He was very happy because different people from all over the world were coming together in love and unity because of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

“O Bahá'u'lláh! What hast Thou done?” He called out so loudly that people passing by stopped to listen, even though `Abdu'l-Bahá was speaking in Persian and they didn't understand what He was saying.

“O Bahá'u'lláh! May my life be sacrificed for Thee!

O Bahá'u'lláh! May my soul be offered up for Thy sake!”

And His happiness grew greater and greater as He got near to the house where the next meeting was being held.

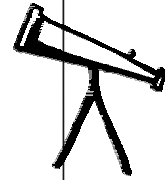
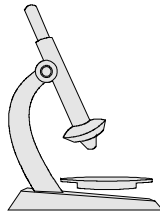
A famous inventor lived in this house. His name was Alexander Graham Bell and he was one of the first people to invent the telephone. He hadn't meant to invent it – it had happened by accident. First of all, he had been trying to invent something to help his mother and then his wife to hear, because they were both deaf. He tried to find ways to send messages by passing human speech along a wire with electricity. This didn't help anyone who couldn't hear, but it was the beginning of the telephone. And Mr Bell did find other ways to help deaf people.

When Mr Bell told `Abdu'l-Bahá how he had discovered the telephone by chance, `Abdu'l-Bahá smiled and said that was often the way – we try to discover how to do one thing and end up discovering something else! He said that is what happened when Christopher Columbus was trying to find a shorter way to travel by ship from Spain to India and, instead, discovered America!

Mr Bell had visited `Abdu'l-Bahá the day before and invited Him to come to his house that evening to speak to a group of his friends who were scientists.

As `Abdu'l-Bahá came into the room, all the scientists stood up and each one shook His hand.





`Abdu'l-Bahá praised all the scientists for their politeness and their many good qualities. He said that science is very important, and He gave a talk about the wonders of this age because of the new teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Mr Bell was delighted with everything `Abdu'l-Bahá said, and the hearts of everyone present became full of love. One scientist stood up to speak, but he was so moved by what he had heard that all he could say was, "The talk of the Master from the East was so wonderful that I find myself inadequate to say anything!" And then he sat down again!

By this time it was midnight and Mr Bell invited everyone to go to the dining room for a meal. Here, `Abdu'l-Bahá met Mrs Bell. When `Abdu'l-Bahá spoke to her, Mr Bell translated the words into sign language so she could understand what He was saying.

