

always supposed—that it requires to be *put in motion*. Now who in England would or could *put it in motion* ?

I do not know anything about the fruitful field of labour in Japan of which you write, but I should much like to know. Have you any definite information as to what there is to be done—that comes within my power, I mean ? I think I should like to look round a little and study the possibilities of the country before assuming the Yellow Robe; but am willing to be guided by your advice. We shall see what offers itself during the next month or two ; I am not sorry to have a little time to be quiet and to try to write some of the books that I have in mind ; but will such books now repay their cost when they are published ? With very much love,

I am as ever,

Yours most affectionately,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.

XXVII.

Mr. C. W. Leadbeater wrote the following letter to Mrs. Annie Besant on August 10th, 1906 :—

Ye Olde Grasshopper Hotel,
St. Helier's, Jersey,
Established 1789,
F. G. Alpin, Proprietor,
August 10th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I wrote to you a few days ago, but have just received your letter of July 14th, and hasten to congratulate you most heartily on the two happy events therein described.

The signed portrait of the King is a grand acquisition, and ought soon to become a very highly magnetised centre of the loyalty and noble feeling, capable of affecting for good, generations of Indian boys. The Emperor has done a wiser thing than perhaps he knows; and it was nice of the Princess to remember—but I thought she would. Then the satisfactory arrangements for the Kashmir College is another great victory, and cannot but be specially pleasing to the Master K. H., who still loves his beautiful native land. I am indeed glad of these two brilliant gleams of light, for in other directions our sky is dark enough.

Letters continue to pour in from America. I suppose you can hardly realise what a crushing blow your E. S. message has been to those who, up to that point, had come nobly through the test, and still held loyally to both of us and to our Masters. You know they were quietly arranging to resist in the name of charity and common-sense the passing at the Convention of Sept. 16th of those resolutions which Fullerton ordered them to support in his abominable "confidential circular" which he sent even to unattached members! and I think the majority would have declined to endorse the persecution; but now they quote your name in its support, and our faithful friends are utterly paralysed, while I am told that the most savagely spiteful of the persecutors actually danced with unholy glee on reading the message. And it is too late now to undo that effect! After this I am a convert to our theory of the minute and detailed interference of malicious powers in the minor events of life, for it must have been a really ingenious demon who engineered that such a blow should fall just at such a time.

The same hand, probably, has been interfering with our posts, for even to this day I have never received a copy of that message from you, and of course I know that you would not have so written about me without sending one to me. I have sometimes cherished a wild hope that the whole thing may be a ghastly forgery, and not yours at all, because it seems so unlike you ; how happy I should be if that could be so ! For you see I really do not care what all these other people think, who have so little opportunity to know ; but when you also misunderstand me—yet suppose the thing would not be perfect if you did not.

But I *don't* quite understand, You have been in daily contact for years with my astral and mental bodies, and you know they are not impure or sensual in the ordinary meaning of those words and there are other higher things too. You doubted the highest once, you remember, not unnaturally, but summoned up again, and said at leave-taking : " You will not think again that I am only a dream will you ? " Can you have doubted again ? Remember, He spoke other words also, and we discussed the whole interview on the physical plane at the time there was no faintest possibility of mistakes. You *know* that all that was so, and that it could not have been if my intention had not been good ; you *know* better than I that *that* life is the grand reality, and that *this* is only a pale world of shadows in comparison with its glorious light. If anything in *this* seems out of harmony with the certain truth as we know it in *that*, it is *this* which is false, *this* which is distorted, never *that*. And you knew all this when we were together at Benares ; and nothing fresh has since occurred, whatever falsehoods may have been told to you. I held back nothing consciously from you then

you must *know* that also. Details may have been mentioned since which did not occur to us then ; if they *had* occurred to us they *would* have been mentioned. I have always been perfectly frank with you, and I clearly understood your attitude then—that you disapproved of the advice and consequent action, but held my intention to be good, in which you were absolutely right. Yet your circular says I have fallen as Judge fell. Well, you must have thought of all this often, and I have no lightest thought of blame in my mind ; I can bear all these things, but it is hard to see the suffering of the poor souls who trusted us, and now feel all the ground cut away from beneath their feet. For they naturally say “if there can be so much of doubt as to so large a block of the testimony, how can we know of any certainty anywhere ?” There are some who trust sublimely even through this hour of darkness. Raja writes. “I am utterly sure she will realise the truth one day, and will make amends on a royal and magnificent scale.” But I don’t see how even you can undo what is so efficiently done. It all comes from this disastrous separation on the physical plane ; but you see these people cannot understand what a difference that makes, because they do not know that you do not always remember, and so they think that we are both acting with full knowledge. I hope my “comment” which I sent to you a fortnight ago, may help some of these poor creatures a little, but it is a bad business. But at least with absolutely unchanging and unchangeable affection through it all.

I am,

Yours as ever in deepest devotion,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.