

XXXII

On October 17th, 1906 Mr. Leadbeater wrote the following letter to Mrs. Besant : —

10 East Parade,
Harrowgate, England.

October 17th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I have your letter of September 27th. I agree entirely that the tie between us is above and beyond all temporary blunders, and I am most thankful, that it is so. But I cannot agree with you in thinking that if you should discover (as you one day will) that you were *not* under the influence of glamour during all these years, you ought therefore to give up public work. That would be for the world a calamity so great that it were surely better you should not discover the mistake (if there be one) until this physical life is over. But I cannot see the least reason for such a step, because of a slight error in judgment. Your circular puts you under the undeserved imputation of having been misled by glamour through a series of years; surely when you find that after all you were not misled, and that the memories you had temporarily disturbed are reliable, there is *more* and not less reason for people to trust your teaching, and for you to give it out with confidence. Please do not do rashly something which not you only, but the whole world, would have reason to regret for centuries. I feel strongly about this, because I know that you will see the truth, and I want to avoid a catastrophe. Of course I am not for a moment suggesting that you will ever come to agree with the advice that I

gave ; I have agreed to abandon it at your request, so on that point that we are at one already and there is nothing left for you to stand against. I have never from the first tried to persuade you to change your opinion on that point, though I did try to explain my own reasons so that you might understand how I had reached a position which was evidently inexplicable to you (see Black). The only question on which we differ is as to whether my testimony to the existence of the Masters is true, I cannot but maintain that it is because it is at this moment part of my daily life just as much as ever ; you on the other hand maintain in your circular that it is not, and that we have both been for many years simultaneously deceived. Now if you say to me " Is it not possible that the whole thing may be a colossal deception—that other beings may throughout all these years have taken upon themselves to personate non-existent Masters, that in point of fact we may be, like so many others, the victims of some sort of "spirits' guides" on an unusually magnificent scale?" I can only reply that unquestionably anything is possible, but that it is in the very highest degree improbable ; and if it be so, at any rate such guides are good and noble guides and have led us to do good and useful work, and have taught us much of truth and therefore I want to follow them still. The whole world may be a delusion, but we must act as though it were true in order to reach the greater truth beyond. Myself I am thoroughly convinced that we have not been deceived, and that the Masters are realities ; I know that you believe this too, yet you somehow think that my testimony to them is a delusion, at least your circular seems to imply that I have not seen them. The only other point

of difference is the apparent imputation that I did not tell the truth at Benares, and that is after all a little personal matter which may be put aside. So the only matter at issue between us is the truth of my testimony to the Masters. I have had printed that little letter reaffirming it, which I sent to you some time ago, and I am sending out some copies—hesitatingly, for I do not know to whom your circular went. Also, many outside the E. S. have heard of that circular which makes another difficulty. I think about 300 copies of my letter have gone out in America, but the number here will be much smaller. A printed copy should reach you by this mail.

So Mrs. Dennis has given up the Secretaryship. It is best so, for in her present frame of mind she is certainly not the person for it. Though I have travelled the country so recently and know it so well, I scarcely know whom to suggest. Raja would have been excellent but that autocratic Colonel has expelled him for issuing that circular about Universal Brotherhood of which he sent you a copy some months ago. Warrington is a good man, thoroughly gentlemanly, and with a wide grasp of Theosophy, upon which he prepared an article for the new American Encyclopædia. John H. Bell is gentle, loving and thoroughly loyal but less cultured than Warrington. I think the Colonel's action about Raja is quite unjustifiable, and I am afraid he has allowed himself to be made the tool of the spite of that Committee. He admitted at the American Convention that if pressure had not been put upon him in London, he would have acted differently in my case. He is growing old now, and is too easily swayed. Raja will send you the papers, I know; please do anything that you can towards justice for him, for he has been

hardly used. With very much love from Basil and myself.

I am ever,
Yours affectionately,
(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER

P.S.—I hear that America is getting up a fund to compensate me for the financial loss caused by the diminution of the sale of my books. No doubt that is just, and I should accept it in the spirit in which it is offered; but unfortunately those who subscribe will not be those whose stupidity caused the loss. But it is very good of my friends all the same. Take care of Mr. Chakravathy, he is playing a double game.

You say "such teaching would do much harm in the T. S. and E. S.;" but I did not give it to the T. S. and E. S., but only in absolute privacy to a few boys; I am not responsible for its publication; for that you must blame those who broke their solemn pledge of secrecy—Fullerton & Mrs. Dennis. I never dreamt of speaking publicly on such a matter, because I knew it would be misunderstood.

I do not want to write anything that may appear conceited, but it is rather ridiculous that these poor ignorant people should constitute themselves judges of what we do or believe. I should like to say to them quite plainly: "Don't worry yourselves about my opinions or actions, they are my affair, not yours, and if you do not like them you need not—nor imitate them. I am not going to waste time arguing with you; I never argue with anybody. But I have a gospel to preach. I have certain great truths to tell to the world, and if you are not interested in them there are thousands who will be, so drop your peddling

futile criticism of details which you do not understand, and go to work to spread the knowledge of the fact "the great facts of life and death."

We must not forget that Madame Blavatsky during physical life recognised, confirmed and often referred to my direct knowledge of the Masters ; is it suggested that she also was hallucinated ?

XXXIII

On October 30th, 1906, Mr. Leadbeater sent the following letter to Mrs. Besant :—

10, East Parade,
Harrowgate, England.

October 30th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I have your letter of the 11th. It certainly does seem incredible that the poor old Colonel should have threatened to arrange a prosecution, but unquestionably word to that effect did appear in the copy which I saw of his letter to Dr. English. I do not know how he meant to set about it ; I suspect it was nothing but a bit of bombast anyhow, at least I hope so. But you ought to see the copy of the letter, so as to know whether it was said or not. I too think that all danger is over, if there ever was any ; but I do not believe that there ever was. Only Miss Spink and Miss Ward so earnestly appealed to me for the sake of the Society not to stay in Harrowgate that I was willing to yield to their entreaties. I think (though I have never heard definitely) that some feared a prosecution initiated by the Police on general principles, the evidence to be obtained by subpoenaing some members of the committee to testify as to what I had said or admitted at its