

On May 17th, after the Committee had accepted Leadbeater's resignation, he sent the following cablegram to Mrs. Besant :—

Brief report of Committee meeting Col. advised resignation. Best course. Copies of your letter to Mrs. Dennis and of mine to Mr. Fullerton put before the Committee. Mead exceedingly hostile. Bertram implicated you, stormy debate. Col. accepted resignation. What work should I do now? Cannot do public lecturing? Burma good. I should prefer to spend time in the tropic rather than in England. If there is any work that I can do, please let me know. I might be useful in Australia or in New Zealand. Technically my resignation from the T. S. remove me from the E. S. But I can answer question in unofficial capacity as friend.

On receipt of the above cablegram Mrs. Besant wrote to Mr. Leadbeater the following letter :—

SHANTI KUNJA,

Benares City, May 17th, 1906.

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,

I have just received your telegram. I hope you will have had mine before this reaches you. I wrote to you to Genoa advising resignation as the charge was officially made. It is right to save the Society at our own sacrifice. I wish I might resign also as a protest but have no right to leave it. I fear to write to England lest I should neutralise any action you have taken, but have written strongly to E. Ward. I propose to exclude from E. S all who have taken active part in this insane action and cancel my American visit. How Fullerton could act

with this indecent precipitance and render impossible any rational action, I fail to imagine. But the time came for T. S. trouble and he was the unfortunate agent. I wish it to be distinctly understood that while I think you have acted rightly in sacrificing yourself to save the T. S. from being entangled in a scandal I am fully, utterly, certain that you acted with good intention in the most difficult problem that parents and teachers have to face. I am writing also to Mrs. Bright on the subject and giving her a free hand to use what I say.

And now, dear Charles, what is to be done? Shall you go and live at Cambridge till Basil is through his University work? Can I do anything in any way to help? If the door is closed to public work it is because Master has other and more important work for you to do. They are so indifferent to the silly world's opinion.

The Bernard business was part of the underhand policy of Keightley and his friends, the effort to undermine all who have now influence by private attacks. He said to H. S. O. that the committee would not have you as Vice-President because you were narrow and bigoted on vegetarianism and smoking etc., were rude to women and so on. H. S. O. showed the letter to Dr. English, to Davidson and Keagy; Keagy wrote to me and others. I did not tell you about it as you had so much else to worry you.

With steadfast love and trust,

Yours affectionately,

(Sd.) ANNIE BESANT.