

## APPENDIX I

### REPORT OF

MEETING CALLED BY COLONEL OLCOTT.

TO DISCUSS

CERTAIN CHARGES AGAINST C.W. LEADBEATER

GROSVENOR HOTEL,

Buckingham Palace Road, S. W.,

LONDON

*On Wednesday, May 16th, 1906, at 5 p.m.*

(COPY).

*Present* :—Col. H. S. Olcott, Mr. Burnett as representative of the Executive Committee of the American Section, Mr. P. E. Bernard as representative of the Executive Committee of the French Section, and the members of the Executive Committee of the British Section, namely, Mr. Sinnett, Dr. Nunn, Mr. Mead, Mrs. Stead, Miss Ward, Miss Spink, Mrs. Hooper, Mr. Glass, Mr. Keightley and Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Leadbeater was also in attendance and present at the first part of the meeting. Col. Olcott took the chair and asked Mr. Glass to act as Secretary to the meeting.

*Col. Olcott* :—I have called you together to act as an advisory board in the matter before us. The matter is to

listen to charges against Mr. Leadbeater of having systematically taught boys the practice of self-abuse. You have read the documents. Among them is a partial confession of Mr. Leadbeater, and rebutting evidence. The Executive Committee of the American Section would have expelled the accused but he is not a member of their Section. They therefore appealed to the President Founder to help them and sent a representative of the section. The accused being a member of the London Lodge of the British Section, and holding the office of Presidential Delegate, and the Appeal being made by the Executive Committee of a Section it acquires an importance which prevents me from leaving the matter in its ordinary course to a Lodge. I have therefore asked the Executive Committee of the British Section to assist me. The French Congress Committee have cancelled Mr. Leadbeater's invitation to act as Vice-President of the Congress. I have asked them to send a delegate to be present. So that we may avoid the least appearance of unfair play I have asked Mr. Leadbeater to attend the meeting. I will call upon the American and French delegates to read their credentials.

Mr. Burnett then read the following :—

“ Extract from Minutes of the Executive Committee, American Section, T. S. held in N. Y. C. on April 13, 1906.”

“ Resolved that the Commissioner appointed by the Executive Committee of the American Section, T. S. in the C. W. Leadbeater case be and hereby is instructed, authorised and empowered as follows :—

First. That he go to Europe forthwith, taking with him documents containing charges and evidence against C. W. Leadbeater and personally lay them before the President-Founder and the Lodge or Lodges of the T. S.

of which the accused is a member, and ask that they be acted upon immediately ; said Commissioner giving all the assistance in his power to bring the matter to a speedy and final issue.

Second : That he shall also place in the hands of the General Secretary of the British Section T. S. a copy of the said charges and evidence with accompanying documents for his information asking his aid and that of the President-Founder in bringing the matter to an early and satisfactory conclusion without unnecessary publicity, so that the good name and well-being of the T. S. movement and of the T. S. may thereby be safeguarded as far as possible.

Third : That the said Commissioner shall report progress by cable and letter from time to time to the General Secretary, and on the termination of his mission shall submit to the Executive Committee a full and final report in writing of same.

It is understood and agreed that there is nothing in the foregoing instructions to the Commissioner that will in any way interfere with his using his best judgment when, after consultation with the President-Founder, a somewhat different method of procedure should be decided upon."

(Sd.) ALEXANDER FULLERTON,

*Gen. Secy.*

Col. Olcott translated the following Resolutions of the Executive Committee of the French Section.

" To Dr. Th. Pascal—copy of the official report of the Meeting of the French Committee held in Paris on the 13th May.

(Sd.) PIERRE E. BERNARD,

*Asst. Gen. Secy.*

(1) Le Conseil d'Administration estime que, si le Dr. Pascal, Secrétaire Générale de la Section, reçoit du Colonel Olcott l'invitation officielle d'envoyer un représentant de la Section française au comité formé en vue d'examiner l'affaire C. W. L. il y a . . . . . d'envoyer ce délégué (Adopté à l'unanimité).

(2) Le ou les délégués envoyés auront carte, blanche. (Adopté par 5 voix Sur, 6, le comte Courmes d'étant abstenu).

(3) Sont désignés comme délégués, conjointement :— Le Dr. Pascal, Secrétaire Général. M. Pierre Bernard, Sec., Général Adj. (Adopté à l'unanimité.)

*Olcott*: Of course you know that the executive power is vested in me. You are here to advise me and to hear what Mr. Leadbeater has to say, and to act according to your judgment after hearing him. A resolution should be passed calling upon me to do so, and I should follow that if there was nothing in my mind against it.

(The charges having been already in the hands of the Committee were taken as read).

*Thomas* :—Have the copies been compared with the originals ?

*Burnett* :—They have.

*Thomas* :—Have you the official documents ?

*Olcott* :—They are documents of the American Section, and we have the representative of the Section here and he certifies that they are exact copies.

*Burnett* :—The originals are in the American Section. I have seen all the original papers and certify that these are exact copies.

(Mr. Leadbeater was then called upon to say what he wished.)



*Leadbeater* :—I have already said that in my letter to Mr. Fullerton. I should also add that I regarded that letter as addressed to friends. I did not look upon it as a defence against an attack. I took the trouble to give a detailed explanation because I thought I was giving it to friends. I should also say that the original document signed by four of the leading members contained a solemn pledge that they would take the greatest care that this would not become known and that they would not allow even a hint to escape. Remember that both I and Mrs. Besant answered under that confidence and we should not expect that our answers were going to be laid before a whole Section and before the whole world. So far as I am concerned what I said is exactly all I can say, except that if I were to elaborate, I could bring more reasons for the action. Of course I am aware that the opinion of the majority is against that course. They would regard things, I look on as worse, as much less objectionable. The only point in my mind is that I should assure you that there was no evil intent. I was simply offering a solution of a serious difficulty. It is not the common solution but to my mind it is far better than the common solution, but I do not expect that you should agree with me. The point is that the Society wishes to clear itself from all connection with that view. The Society is correct in taking that ground if that is the opinion of its representatives. Therefore I took the course which was taken by other members. I placed my resignation in the hands of the President-Founder, not with any idea of confessing to evil intent but simply to relieve the Society from any supposed complicity. You may hold any views of the course which I took, but our one idea is to prevent the Society from being

injured. As to what comes to me, that is a minor matter ; my own adhesion to all the Society means is the same in any case and whether a member or not my own beliefs will remain the same, only if my resignation be accepted that shuts me out from a certain kind of Theosophical work.

Since this has come forward it would be undesirable that I should appear before the public. Therefore it seems to me that there is little more I can say. I have only just now seen anything at all of the documents except that first letter. There have been other supposed rebuttals and other documents which I had only seen to-day, and while there are a number of points I should challenge as inaccurate, yet all those are minor points and do not effect the great question. It is simply that there are points of so-called rebuttal which are untrue and others so distorted that they do not represent the facts of the case, but these do not affect the central point. They could only be adduced to show I had not spoken the truth, which is not so. I cling to what I have said to Mr. Fullerton. If wished I can discuss all the points.

*Olcott* :—What do you desire ?

*Mead* :—I think it is only right and proper that Mr. Leadbeater should face it.

*Miss Ward* :—Are we not here to judge upon the documents before us ? It does not seem necessary to go into anything further.

*Thomas* :—The rebuttal evidence has to do with points in the original. It is important it should be dealt with.

*Mr. Leadbeater* :—With regard to Mr. Mead, I have come across no question regarding motive.

*Burnett* :—That is true. Mr. Leadbeater has made a statement that his resignation is in the hands of the President-Founder.

*Olcott* :—That is so ; I have it.

*Burnett* :—It would seem to me that the main question is this, that we ought to have Mr. Leadbeater's resignation read before anything else is done.

Miss Ward seconded and this was resolved. The following letter of resignation was read :—

London, May 16th, 1906.

The President-Founder

of the Theosophical Society.

Dear Colonel Olcott,

In view of recent events, and in order to save the Society from any embarrassments, I beg to place in your hands my resignation of membership.

Yours as ever,

(Sd.) C. W. Leadbeater."

*Burnett* :—I would like to ask, Mr. President. There is nothing in that resignation which shows the nature of the charges or the cause of resignation, and it is a question which every member will ask. Mr. Leadbeater is not an ordinary member of the T. S. He has toured the world in the interests of Theosophy and we have to meet the questions of the world, the questions of our own members, as to why this resignation. If we go into quibbling as to the exact wording of statements of fact we might go on without settling anything. If Mr. Leadbeater admit the charges to be true that settles the matter in my mind.

*Olcott* :—Mr. Leadbeater, you admit that it was your practice to teach certain things ?

*Thomas* :—I should like to know if Mr. Leadbeater definitely admits the accuracy of the copy of his own letter to Mr. Fullerton and the original letter to Mrs. Besant.

*Leadbeater* :—To the best of my knowledge and belief. I have somewhere the draft which I drew up of the letter I sent. I am not in a position to certify but I believe it to be a true copy.

*Thomas* :—While I wish to fall in with the wishes of the American representative there are one or two most important points in the rebuttal evidence and it is most important, that we should be made clear on the matter.

*Leadbeater* :—I can deal with it shortly. (The Chairman put it to the meeting that Mr. Leadbeater should deal with it. Agreed) I find paper No. 3, called a rebuttal, begins by speaking of a counter charge. I did not make one ; I am simply speaking of certain facts, and they speak of a certain "Z." That statement in the first para is in direct contradiction to what the boy told me, and seeing he told it to me at the time with a wealth of detail it is difficult to say that he was inventing. I am inclined to think that these boys have been catechised—they speak of having to press them—and my idea is that they have got more than was there. In the case of the first sentence, that disagrees with the detailed statement made to me by the boy, in speaking to me of a good deal that did happen between himself and this young man. So that there he has misrepresented matters. The same thing applies to the fourth para. marked "2nd." Of course, that is merely setting statements of the same boy against one another. I may tell you that if I had had any idea that my letter to Mr. Fullerton was to go before other people I should not have



mentioned "Z." I have enough of the old priestly idea of confession to keep back that.

Para 3, "A conversation, etc." That is practically speaking quite true. I told the mother that she had nothing more to fear. I had promises from "Z" and the boy and I thought the boy might help the young man. That is true but does not show my statement was untrue.

At the bottom of the page a quotation from Mrs. Besant's letter, "That is not true, etc." It is true that in that particular case I may not have done so. I have no recollection of this but had done it in many cases.

On top of the next page. "The interview mentioned in Mr. Leadbeater's letter to Mr. Fullerton as taking place at Convention time between Mr. Leadbeater and "Z" was strictly private." Of course it was. I can only reassert that I did mention the matter to Mr. Fullerton. Mr. Fullerton may have forgotten. It may be that all that I meant was not fully understood because the conventions prevent people speaking freely on such matters. I remember quite clearly having said to him "I think it will be all right." The young man afterwards turned out to be not very worthy in other ways besides this. I had spoken to the youngman at Mr. Fullerton's request.

The third paragraph speaks of the proposed adoption of another boy. It was not I who had proposed the adoption. It was discussed at the Convention of 1904 and had been mentioned to me before by Mr. Fullerton. I think Mrs. Denis will corroborate this. I spoke to "Z" and asked him various questions. He gave me various promises as to what he would do. It is a mistake to say that I proposed the adoption, but finding the thing in train it was no business of mine to set myself against it.

At the bottom of the page the boy is made to say, "at last you know why I hate him so." I do not know anything of this ; I saw no signs of anything more than indifference. The letter was the first intimation to me of the hatred.

Then you come to the third boy. There is part of the letter which I wrote to him, and you will see that the advice given is along the lines I have been telling you, and that should be evidence that the reason I gave for speaking is the correct one. It is a matter of curiosity of course, but I was going to ask how that document was obtained as it was torn up and thrown away.

*Burnett* :—It was found intact in a discarded garment—in the pocket.

*Leadbeater* :—The interlineation in writing giving a statement by the mother as to interval is untrue. The original interval was a week, and then it was lengthened to ten days, then a fortnight, and so on.

*Mead* :—What does the word "still" mean in that letter. "Still, there may be this much reason in what he says, that while you are not quite well we should spend no force that can be avoided." Is he to begin again when he is well?

*Leadbeater* :—If he finds any accumulation he should relieve.

*Mead* :—Return to the beginning of the rebuttal evidence. In paragraph No. 2, with reference to the youngman "Z". The boy says "Well, this was the reason ; he did not try to do this same thing, but he talked about these matters in a way I did not like and his friendship became distasteful to me." Can you throw any further light on that sentence ?

*Leadbeater* :—I have already said what that was in the account given to me. It went much further than it is said here.

*Mead* :—What does "do" mean? You suggest in the case of "Z" that it was sodomy.

*Leadbeater* :—I do not do that.

*Mead* :—The boy did not do this same thing. In your case he states that it was done.

*Miss Ward* :—I think we need not here go into these further details.

*Olcott* :—We should not keep in anything, but have frank disclosure. You are not sitting judicially, but to advise me what to do.

*Thomas* :—Mr. Mead's question is a most important one. It involves whether Mr. Leadbeater simply gave advice or something different.

*Leadbeater* :—It was not in any way something different in the sense of Mr. Mead.

*Thomas* :—I don't mean that.

*Leadbeater* :—I don't quite know what you mean.

*Mead* :—It is quite clear. When boys practice self-abuse they do it on themselves. This sentence suggests something done by you. That is the meaning of the words. I ask for an explanation of this, or if you simply deny.

*Leadbeater* :—I deny anything in the way that is apparently suggested but certainly not that that suggestion was made. I am not denying that in the least.

*Mrs. Stead* :—I wish to say that though there are women present that ought to be no restraint to the free discussion.

*Olcott* :—I am extremely repugnant to have this discussion, but we must treat this thing as a physiological question.

*Thomas* :—I am not quite satisfied with the answer. I should like to know definitely whether it was simply in the nature of advice or whether there was any action.

*Leadbeater* :—I want to call up quite clearly the exact incidents. I scarcely recollect. There was advice but there might be a certain amount of indicative action. That might be possible.

*Mead* :—The boy suggests in the most distinct way that the difference between "Z" and you was that in the case of "Z" he spoke of these things, and in your case something was done to him.

*Leadbeater* :—Nothing was done to him. You can't be suggesting what seems to be the obvious suggestion.

*Mead* :—You say the boy lies ?

*Leadbeater* :—He has misrepresented. I don't like to accuse people of lies, but a construction has been put upon it which is not right.

*Thomas* :—Your reply as to scarcely recollecting suggests that there were so many cases. I would like to know whether in any case—I am not suggesting sodomy—there was definite action.

*Leadbeater* :—You mean touch ? That might have taken place.

*Mead* :—The third page in the letter to Mrs Besant : " With great reluctance he admitted the facts of Mr. Leadbeater's immoral conduct, and in reply to the question 'when did it happen?' he said : 'the very first night' I visited him when we slept together." Why is it that on so many



occasions when boys go to Mr. Leadbeater they sleep with him?

*Leadbeater* :—That depends on the accommodation.

*Bernard* :—That does not explain sharing baths.

*Olcott* :—I was told by a lady in a recent case that there were two rooms prepared but both of them slept in one bed.

*Leadbeater* :—What was the point of Mr. Bernard's question? We have sometimes shared the bath. I suppose you understand that I have never thought of this sort of thing. I never thought of suspicion.

*Thomas* :—One paragraph of the rebuttal evidence page 2, paragraph 2. You did not deal with the case of the two boys to be left in the care of "Z" and in connection with that although you do not admit the accuracy of the boy's statement you admit that some serious things had taken place.

*Leadbeater* :—I have not direct evidence.

*Thomas* :—You inferred you believed it.

*Leadbeater* :—I do not say I believe it, but what the boy said to me seemed undersirable. As to leaving the boys in charge. "Z" was greatly interested in boys and the question was could I turn over the care of them to any other person? This was one suggestion. I had had a talk with him and he had given me certain promises which were broken afterwards but I had no reason to think this.

*Thomas* :—In your own statement you say the boy told you of sexual matters he had entered into with "Z". What do you mean?

*Leadbeater* :—Do you want me to tell you exactly what the boy said?

*Thomas* :—You have mentioned it to Mr. Fullerton.

*Leadbeater* :—I did not go into detail.

*Thomas* :—Despite this, did you think he was a man with whom boys might be safely left ?

*Leadbeater* :—Yes, when he had made promises.

*Thomas* :—Surely as a man you would know the extreme difficulty of keeping promises when temptation was placed in his way.

*Leadbeater* :—I know it is difficult, but Mr. Fullerton and I did what we could.

*Thomas* :—But Mr. Fullerton would not know the confession.

*Leadbeater* :—No, I spoke generally to Mr. Fullerton.

*Olcott* :—Then you were really recommending that the boy should be confided to a man of this sort ?

*Leadbeater* :—I never recommended. I found that in the air when I came to Chicago.

*Thomas* :—You approved of it ?

*Leadbeater* :—This is a different matter. The boy is not in evidence. His conditions at home were very undesirable and his mother was willing that he should be adopted by someone. Mrs. Dennis had written to me and I think also to Mr. Fullerton before the Convention. I would have been willing to adopt the boy myself but that was impossible. I think the care of "Z" who was fond of him would have been better than the life he was leading at home.

*Thomas* :—You admit giving the advice to more than the two boys ?

*Leadbeater* :—You are to take it that the same advice was given to several.

*Olcott* :—How many ? Twenty altogether ?

*Leadbeater* :—No, not so many.

*Thomas* :—According to the letter of Mrs. Besant you say three or four times.

*Burnett* :—Never mind that. You are introducing something not in the charges.

*Sinnott* :—You should have some proposal to discuss.

*Mead* :—The second charge reads : " That he does this with deliberate intent and under the guise of occult training or with the promise of the increase of physical manhood " The evidence of these boys says nothing about applying to him for help. I want to ask whether this advice was given on appeal or not.

*Leadbeater* :—Sometimes without, sometimes with. I advised it at times as a Prophylactic.

*Miss Ward* :—I suppose from what you saw on the other planes ?

*Leadbeater* :—From what I saw would arise.

*Olcott* :—That is not within our discussion.

*Burnett* :—It seems to me what we may infer from Mr. Leadbeater's answers that he is casting a reflection on the veracity of the boys and on their breaking faith with him I would like to say that the boys did not break faith with him until they were caught.

*Keightley* :—I should like Mr. Leadbeater to tell us whether in following this course he did so with Mrs. Besant's knowledge and consent before these charges were sent to India. He states in his letter that he has no secrets from Mrs. Besant and he has been in intimate relations with her. I should like him to tell us at what date Mrs. Besant was made aware and whether at that time she did not express disapproval.

*Leadbeater* :—Is this a right question ?

*Miss Ward* :—I do' not think that this question is right. We are asked to give our opinion on certain charges and we have Mr. Leadbeater's reply. The representative of the American Section asks us to expel him or whether we are going on with this matter.

*Keightley* :—I appeal to the President to rule formally on the matter.

*Olcott* :—Mrs. Besant has been brought into the case, and we have a letter from her to Mrs. Dennis. It seems to me that it is a matter of serious consideration whether Mr. Leadbeater did these things with a good motive and has as he says no secrets from Mrs. Besant and this might have some weight in dealing with the matter.

(Miss Ward quoted Mrs. Besant's statement of disapproval.)

*Keightley* :—I am asking the date of Mrs. Besant's knowledge, I think a straight answer to my question is the only possible reply.

*Thomas* :—I do not think it should be put but having been put I think Mr. Leadbeater, might well answer it.

*Leadbeater* :—If the President thinks this is right.

(Miss Spink and Mr. Sinnett did not think the question should be put.)

*Sinnet* :—I think that Mrs. Besant should not have been brought into the matter. No one but the governing body should have heard of it.

*Mead* :—I agree with Mr. Sinnet but the other procedure has been adopted.

*Miss Spink* :—I do not think that that is a question of motive.

*Mead* :—I agree with Mr. Keightley's point of view but it is a question I should not press. It does affect the



question of motive, because if the motive was good there would not have been concealment.

*Olcott* :—Since Mrs. Besant has repudiated the theory of Mr. Leadbeater, would it not be presumed that she had not been made acquainted with it ? Is it not a matter we can judge for ourselves ?

(Several members expressed approval of this).

*Burnett* :—The inference remains that he does not tell all of his methods to Mrs. Besant.

*Olcott* :—Since he did not want the boys to tell their mothers he would, I should think, shrink from telling Mrs. Besant.

*Burnett* :—I would like to ask Mr. Leadbeater in view of the fact that he is *compos mentis* why he did not inform the fathers, before he took any of these boys, what his practices were, that the father might have had the opportunity of consulting with the mother. It has been said to me by every mother, and mothers not in these charges, that if they had known he had taught these practices he would never have had the boys.

*Leadbeater* :—I don't understand all this talk about concealment. If asked about the thing I should not have hesitated in speaking.

*Burnett* :—The talk is because all the world condemns it but Mr. Leadbeater, so far as my knowledge is concerned.

*Leadbeater* :—Your knowledge does not go very far.

*Burnett* :—There is no treatise on physiology which supports this. I asked your friend Dr. . . . in Chicago, if he had ever seen it advised. He had never advised it and had never known it to be advised. You are flying in the

face of the whole world, and why then did you not tell the boys' parents?

*Leadbeater* :—I wish I had. But one does not talk of these things. I told every parent it was my practice to speak freely about sexual matters. I was asked by one of the parents to tell the boy about such things because he was not pure enough himself.

*Burnett* :—True, but he did not know it was to teach the boys self-abuse.

*Olcott* :—Mr. Bernard, on behalf of the French Committee have you anything to say?

*Bernard* :—Since Mr. Leadbeater was teaching these boys to help them in case of need, considering that men may be in the same difficulty, has he ever taught this to any grown-up men? Has he taught the same thing in the same personal way to grown-up men as to children?

*Leadbeater* :—I believe that at least on two occasions in my life I have given that advice to young men as better than the one generally adopted.

*Olcott* :—Since you came into the Society?

*Leadbeater* :—I think not, but one case might have been. You are probably not aware that one at least of the great Church organisations for young men deals with the matter in the same manner.

*Mead* :—Do you deliberately say this?

*Leadbeater* :—Yes.

*Mead & Burnett* :—What is its name?

*Leadbeater* :—I am not free to give this. I heard of the matter first through it.

*Mead* :—Mr. Leadbeater states then that there is an organisation of the Church of England which teaches self-abuse?

*Olcott* :—Is it a seminary for young priests or a school ?

*Leadbeater* :—It is not in a school but I must not give definite indications.

*Olcott* :—Is it found in the Catholic Church ?

*Leadbeater* :—I expect so.

*Olcott* :—I know that in Italy Garibaldi found many terrible things.

*Mead* :—This last statement of Mr. Leadbeater is one of the most extraordinary things I have ever heard. It is incredible to me that there is an organisation of the Church of England which teaches masturbation as a preventive against unchastity. I ask, what is the name of this organisation ?

*Leadbeater* :—I certainly should not tell.

*Mead* :—I understand that it is an organisation pledged to secrecy and I take it that Mr. Leadbeater received his first information from this organisation.

*Leadbeater* :—I suppose it would have been better if I had not mentioned it.

*Mead* :—I absolutely refuse to believe that this is so.

*Leadbeater* :—I decline to prove it in any manner.

*Sinnott* :—What shape do you want the advice to take, Mr. President?

*Olcott* :—The form of a Resolution.

*Mead* :—Has Mr. Leadbeater anything further to say ?

*Leadbeater* :—I don't know that I have more to say than I said in the beginning. I see, of course, that you disagree entirely with the method. I don't object to that, but I repudiate anything further. I have tried to tell the whole thing as freely as I could.

*Olcott* :—I think that there is no feeling on the part of those present that you did not have the feeling in your

mind when you gave the advice. I think that everybody here knows, you will think, your motive was the one you gave.

*Leadbeater* :—I ought to say that of course I did not contemplate involving the Society in this doctrine or that. The Society has no connection with our belief.

*Olcott* :—Of course not unless some one should believe in house-breaking as a good art.

*Mead* :—I want to ask whether the questions and answers are complete. . . Then Mr. Leadbeater should withdraw and leave us to deliberate. (Mr. Leadbeater withdrew and the Committee adjourned for about a quarter of an hour.)

The Committee resumed its sitting without the presence of Mr. Leadbeater.

*Mead* :—I propose that Mr. Leadbeater be expelled from the Society.

*Keightley* :—I second this.

*Sinnett* :—I move as an amendment that his resignation be accepted in the form given.

*Miss Ward* :—I second that.

*Olcott* :—He wants to modify it. (The Chairman read the resignation again.)

*Sinnett* :—I should simply say "I place in your hands my resignation," or "in view of private circumstances, etc."

*Mead* :—I should like to point out that we are trying to uphold the honour of the Theosophical Society. Such a document will probably have to be printed in the public press before long and it is not sufficient to guard us. Why this man had gone out of the Society will have to be known among the members. It will be in the hands of any one and it will be spread abroad.



*Thomas* :—We ought to face this matter in a proper way. If we simply accept this resignation we shall have to answer to our members. I think accepting the resignation is not sufficient condemnation of the practice. For the sake of the Society it would be better to take the bolder course.

(The Chairman then read an Executive notice he had drafted for publication in the "Theosophist" intimating that in consequence of charges of teaching boys self-abuse having been made and admitted, Mr. Leadbeater was no longer a member of the Society. The notice was alternative as to resignation or expulsion, waiting the advice of the Committee and the final decision of the President.)

*Sinnott* :—I should be sorry to see that published. It would be the end of the Theosophical Society.

*Miss Ward* :—Is there not a third course that the resignation be received with some condition attached to it?

*Burnett* :—The matter did not take official form but what would be satisfactory to the American Executive would be that the resignation should be accepted because of charges of teaching self-abuse. If we accept his resignation it must include that statement. He admits the charges and therefore it would seem to us necessary.

*Mead* :—You see you have had to get that out of Mr. Leadbeater. When the thing gets known it will be the greatest shock the Theosophical Society has had. We cannot lie about it. It has gone all over the place already, I don't mean to say that the Colonel should publish the announcement at once.

*Glass* :—Is there anything which makes it necessary to publish the Executive notice.

*Miss Spink* :—I think with Mr. Mead it is better to take the straight course rather than to work to keep it in.

*Miss Ward* :—Does it mean publishing it in the journals?

*Mead* :—Send the Executive notice to the General Secretaries. If you say a single word of Mr. Leadbeater not being in the Society the whole thing will go out. Your Resolution should be clear.

*Sinnett* :—It is better that the thing should go out in the quieter way than in an official way. The thing ought to have been kept more secret than it is.

*Burnett* :—It was made known by the boy Raja.

*Mead* :—It is out now.

*Sinnett* :—I do not stick to the form of the resignation. I should like to have some reference in terms of "private conditions." If he modifies these terms in any way which you approve you could take the resignation.

*Olcott* :—If you will give me a memorandum I will take it to him and ask him to modify it.

*Sinnett* :—Take my amendment. Simply accept his resignation.

*Mead* :—There is nothing in accepting this resignation which shows that the whole matter has been proved against him.

*Miss Ward* :—I did not speak in the favour of amendment but only seconded it. But I would like to say that we should remember that he is not sane on these matters and that he has for a number of years given his whole life to the movement and that a large number of people owe him help. I think if we can keep the resignation in we should.

*Keightley* :—We have a greater duty upon us than we owe to the individual—the duty to the movement. We stand here in the position of trustees representing the interests of the movement throughout the world. We have to face the world. The thing must come out. The stand we take must be clear and definite. I do not think that we should be doing our duty by any Resolution, should it not convey to the public our feeling in the way it ought to be conveyed. It is not with any personal feeling I speak but we should be doing wrong to the Society by accepting a resignation which simply means withdrawing from the Society. I still think our proper course is that the man who stands to the world as a teacher of Theosophy and couples that teaching with teaching of this sort should be expelled, even if we all believe it is dictated by a diseased brain.

*Sinnott* :—If his resignation is accepted he ceases to be a member. I would announce his resignation. The papers are not so keenly interested as to enter into the matter. We are clear from all responsibility as soon as we accept his resignation.

*Mead* :—May I put in a word on behalf of the mothers of these boys? This is a most terrible thing. We have some of the best women in the Society broken hearted about this. What do we do to defend them?

*Sinnott* :—We cannot defend them.

*Bernard* :—If the measure is not strong enough it will not do. Mrs. Besant said he would not do it any more but he has not given such a promise. He even said it was hardly right for him to give explanations. If my colleagues heard what I have heard they would demand his expulsion.

*Thomas* :—I wish I could accept his resignation, but I cannot.

*Olcott* :—A cable despatch has just been received which makes the case much worse than before.

*Thomas* :—I think he has tried to tell the truth but there is no expression of regret and he holds still that the practice is a good one.

*Sinnett* :—It seems to me that our remarks are based on the idea that there is something behind. We ought to act only on what is before us.

*Thomas* :—I cannot accept the statement that he did this in good faith. I think the whole of the evidence shows that if it was not a case of direct vice it was a case of gratifying his own prurient ideas.

*Sinnett* :—If we act on this idea we ought to have the text of these boys' cross-examination. We have not the means of going into that. I want to act on the papers as they stand.

*Mead* :—I should call for the reading of the notes where Mr. Leadbeater admitted actual deeds.

*Keightley* :—I believe the explanation is sexual mania. There are cases closely analogous and it makes it the more necessary that the decision should be one which would absolutely clear the Society. I do not feel I should be discharging my duty to the Society if I consented to the resignation as it stands. The public will rise up and condemn the Society as a hot-bed of vice.

*Mead* :—It is not proposed that the Executive notice is to be put on record in Public. Mr. Sinnett's idea is that you should publish at once that Mr. Leadbeater is no longer a member.

*Sinnett* :—I should decline to tell the cause.



*Thomas* :—Mr. Sinnett does not know quite what Mr. Leadbeater is to many of the members. Mr. Leadbeater is too much of a family name in the North to keep things in.

*Oleott* :—I think we have said enough.

*Burnett* :—I should like to say why I am here and support the expulsion. We are not here to persecute Mr. Leadbeater, we are here to preserve the good name of the Theosophical Society before the world and while some of us may have opinions that would differ because of our intimate relations with him, belief in his personal integrity has no bearing on the present situation. We know how the world regards this matter. It is not supported by any doctor ; therefore, we must get out of our minds any idea of personality. I have no feeling against the man who sat here to-day and uttered the most infamous things I have ever listened to, but I say that if we do not expel this man the world will rise up against the Society.

(The amendment was put and the Committee divided equally upon it, six voting for and six against it.)

*Sinnett* :—In taking these votes the parliamentary method is the proper one to be acted upon. The Resolution should be " That these words stand as part of the question." The Chairman is bound to give his casting vote as to whether the words stand as part of the question.

(After some slight discussion on this point, the original Resolution as to expulsion was put and the Committee divided equally upon it, six for and six against.)

*Miss Ward* :—Cannot we accept the resignation with some definite statement which would meet the objection ? It surely can be made clear that we condemn the action or teaching.

(The President then read his proposed Executive notice again.)

*Sinnett* :—If this is to be a public document, the definite statement of the reason is undesirable.

*Dr. Nunn* :—We might alter that.

*Burnett* :—I suggest that we should accept the statement as drawn up by the President-Founder and that he should strike off from the paper the word "resignation" and let the word "expulsion" stand.

*Olcott* :—There are many things to be said for and against the course. We may adopt one fact that it is impossible to suppress the publication of this case. The question is, how are we going to minimise?

*Miss Ward* :—How shall we stand with regard to our own members, some of whom will take action in defence of Mr. Leadbeater? Shall we not run less risk of disunion in the Society if we allow it to be resignation, and therefore give no opportunity to arise of disuniting the Society?

*Olcott* :—I had that same thing in the case of Judge and I wrote the notice which wiped out the American Section when I was in Spain. I am never afraid of taking bold action. I should say, let the Press do what it pleases.

*Miss Ward* :—May we not learn wisdom from the past troubles?

*Burnett* :—We may have learnt wisdom enough from the past acts. In America the action of the Colonel left 15 per cent. of the members of the Section and how the 15 per cent. is 85 per cent. and 85 per cent. is 15 per cent. So it is the principle of right always. We want to be able to face the world when we leave this room. It is for us to advise the President-Founder as to what we

consider the right thing. We can, I think, go before the people of America, and the question will be asked and we can say why he is no longer a member : " Because when his practices were found out and confessed to, we expelled him from the Society."

*Sinnett* :—" We took action which led to his withdrawal from the Society " covers the ground.

*Keightley* :—(To the President) How would your notice read if it said resignation instead of expulsion ?

(The President again read his notice with the word " Resignation ".)

*Sinnett* :—This would not be in accord with the facts. He resigns because something has come up.

*Keightley* :—I am willing to meet this view so far as to substitute in the notice the form of permitting him to tender his resignation.

*Mead* :—That is not correct. His resignation is here.

*Keightley* :—Then I stick to the other point.

*Burnett* :—If we do not expel him we shall have to meet the matter at every convention. I am willing to consider everything which can be considered but we must go out of here with a clean record and say that we will have no association with any man who advocates such things.

*Olcott* :—Would the Committee be willing to hold an adjourned meeting to-morrow morning ?

*Mead* :—I think we should decide now.

*Sinnett* :—We are divided and the responsibility rests with the President.

*Olcott* :—If you consider it will be parliamentary for me, I will act.

*Sinnett* :—I do not think the thing has been done in the right way. It should have been brought before the Colonel and he could then bring it before the Executive Council.

*Olcott* :—That is what has been done.

*Mead* :—I should say that we are regarded as divided, the term resignation or expulsion should remain in your hands. The question is what further statement has to be made and how it is to be made. I am most strongly of opinion that we must have a Resolution and give you our support. It is not fair to Colonel Olcott to leave him in doubt on this matter. Our Resolution should be clear and we should resolve that this be put on record in our archives and that a copy of it should be sent to every one of the General Secretaries of the Section to use at their discretion. Then the question is, are we going to publish anything now? If you say that Mr. Leadbeater has resigned, the thing will have to be explained.

*Miss Ward* :—I suggest that we accept his resignation and put on record a Resolution condemning the practice.

*Mead* :—The facts have to go on record and also the position of the meeting.

*Sinnett* :—I think the promulgation of any indecent phrases is most objectionable. I would not use any term like self-abuse or its equivalent.

*Mead* :—I don't advise you to publish anything. I am asking for something which can be published if necessary. I don't ask that the Resolution or Mr. Leadbeater's resignation should be published now.

*Burnett* :—We must allow this thing to filter through the minds of the people and get them used to it and then there will not be a furore.



*Sinnett* :—I am sure that we shall never agree. I object to put on record in any way which involves publication any phrases such as self-abuse. I protest against any document going out with such terms.

*Olcott* :—Does the Committee approve of the tentative draft I have in my hand? I put "Executive notices" in the "Theosophist." It is my custom to publish everything.

*Miss Ward* :—I don't think that any Church which might expel would publish the expulsion.

*Sinnett* :—I protest against any possibility of publication.

*Burnett* :—I agree that we do not publish until necessary but we must keep faith with our members. This is a question which comes up, we have a family that, should we countenance anything of this, would leave and publish the fact of their leaving.

*Miss Ward* :—I think something could be drafted or I would accept the Executive notice with the resignation in, if it would be for the archives of the Society and not for immediate publication.

*Burnett* :—If you mean by the archives that the members could see them.

Mr. Thomas suggested a fresh form of Resolution : "Charges involving moral obliquity|having been made and substantiated against Mr. Leadbeater, resolved that he be expelled from the Theosophical Society."

*Miss Ward* :—I should not object to it being put on record that in our opinion his actions are inconsistent with the professions of this Society and that he has accordingly resigned.

*Sinnott* :—I will try to go a little step further and add to the acceptance of the resignation, "Mr. Leadbeater has anticipated the request of the governing body by resigning."

*Mead* :—In consequence of what ?

*Sinnott* :—That is a thing to be worded with care.

Dr. Nunn suggested a further Resolution, and Mr. Sinnott after some conversation, drafted the following :—

"That having considered certain charges against Mr. Leadbeater and having listened to his explanations this Committee recommend the acceptance by the President-Founder of his resignation already offered in anticipation of the Committee's decision."

*Mead* : Is this for publication ?

*Sinnott* :—I think it might be published in the "Theosophist."

*Mead* :—I want to know when that is done what we are going to do ? We have met together and listened to certain things and a record of these doings will have to be made. We cannot suppress what has been done in this meeting.

*Sinnott* :—I should be guided by circumstances.

*Mead* :—The circumstances are that we are left to do what we like.

*Sinnott* :—It cannot be otherwise.

*Olcott* :—I am opposed to all paltering and when there is a crisis I believe in going forward boldly and meeting it. My view is that we cannot keep this back and all the publicity we can have is nothing to the reputation of having kept it back.

*Burnett* :—I do not ask that this should be published, but it should appear on the record.

*Thomas* :—I would appeal to the Colonel not to publish it now. The matter involves others besides Mr. Leadbeater. It is the boys who must be considered.

*Keightley* :—Unless in some public manner the Society is informed that Mr. Leadbeater is no longer a member, he will be visiting Branches and giving lectures and picking up boys, as he had done in the past. I cannot leave this room satisfied until I know that no member can be taken unawares. We cannot allow there to be any doubt that Mr. Leadbeater has ceased to be a member of the Society.

*Olcott* :—There was the case of Madame Blavatsky's second marriage and I deliberated a long time about the publication of it and finally concluded that the best thing was to tell the whole truth and I told the truth and it never did any harm, but it killed some malicious attacks. My idea would be to publish an Executive notice.

*Mead* :—I would agree to Mr. Sinnett's proposal, but I don't think it terminates our business.

Mr. Sinnett's Resolution accepting the resignation already offered was seconded by Dr. Nunn and agreed to unanimously.

*Mead* :—I propose that a record of all that has taken place be placed in the archives of the Society, (seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously).

Mr. Leadbeater was then called in, and the Resolution accepting his resignation was read to him by the President.

*Olcott* :—(To Mr. Leadbeater). There is a desire to avoid publicity. It will have to be printed in the "Theosophist."

*Leadbeater* :—May I make a little suggestion ? You will understand that I am not thinking about myself but about the Society. Suppose I make an announcement. Many people will write to me and to other members and it will be as well that we have some stereotyped form of reply.

*Olcott* :—How would you suggest doing it ?

*Leadbeater* :—I was going to ask your advice,—perhaps saying over my signature that I had resigned and that the resignation was accepted,—I don't know how to put it, but I don't want to have a fuss about it.

*Olcott* :—Write down your idea on paper.

*Sinnett* :—I don't think it would help the matter.

*Mead* :—There is no explanation except telling the facts.

*Olcott* :—A man of your prominence cannot drop out without notice. It is a terrible case.

*Leadbeater* :—Would nothing I put forward make things less difficult ?

*Sinnett* :—The less said the better.

*Olcott* :—I should like to ask Mr. Leadbeater if he thinks I have acted impartially ?

*Leadbeater* :—Absolutely. If we should consider later I can do anything, let me know.

*Mead* :—Do you mean to continue this course of teaching ?

*Leadbeater* :—Seeing there is such a feeling on the matter by people whose views I respect, I do not.

*Thomas* :—I suggest that the notice go without any letter from Mr. Leadbeater, unless it is first submitted to the Committee.

The meeting was then brought to a conclusion.



We, George Robert Stowe Mead of 16 Selwood Place London S. W. and Archibald Melville Glass of 291 Camden Road, London, N., do solemnly and sincerely declare that the foregoing document is a true copy of the Official Report of the meeting presided over by the late Colonel H. S. Olcott and held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S. W., on Wednesday, May 16, 1906.

And we make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Provisions of the Statutory Declarations' Act, 1835.

(Sd.) G. R. S. MEAD,

(Sd.) A. M. GLASS.

Declared by both the above named Deponents at 28 Lincolns Inn Fields, London, W. C., this 11th December, 1912.

Before me,

(Sd.) SIGNATURE ILLEGIBLE.

A Commissioner for oath.