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On June 12, 1906 Mr. Leadbeater sent the following letter to Mrs. Besant :—

Permanent Address—10, East Parade,

Harrowgate, England,

June 12, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

Your letter of May 17th and 24th have been forwarded to me together. *Your* resignation is absolutely unthinkable; it will not do to desert a ship because some of its crew mistake their line of action under difficult conditions. My own resignation was because there must not be even a possibility that the Society may be credited with an opinion from which the majority of its members dissent. I quite agree that the action in America has not only been precipitate but insane. I think Fullerton now begins to doubt somewhat, for he tries to justify that precipitancy by complaining that Raja was writing to certain friends in my favour, and that so he was forced to abandon his wish for secrecy. Dates, however, show this claim to be inaccurate; your reply to Mrs. Dennis' letter was dated February 26th, and could not therefore reach her before the end of March, whereas those letters from Miss Munz which I sent you were dated March 9th and 15th respectively; so that the matter was known to many, Fullerton was telegraphing and writing about it, considerably *before* our answers were received. Even if this were not so, it would seem ridiculous that the Committee of a Section should feel itself forced into suicidal action by anything that Raja could say or do. The truth seems to be that they all lost their heads, and so were hurried into a serious mistake,

... perhaps impelled by those who are always ready to take advantage of our errors. I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I recently wrote to Fullerton, pointing out what I think should have been done ; but it is useless to assail his triple-armoured prejudice when once he has made up his mind. As to the E. S. that is your province, and I dare not even attempt to advise ; but I feel strongly that, though the action of these people seems to me insane, cruel and ungrateful, they have yet persuaded themselves somehow that it is their duty—even their painful duty ; so that their error is one of judgment, not of intention, and I have made too many mistakes in judgment myself to feel in the least angry with them.

When I attended the meeting of the British Committee I saw for the first time what is called the additional evidence, or "rebuttal" ; I presume that both that and the report of committee meeting have reached you long before this. Douglas Pettit was their third boy ; it is true that he has had epileptic seizures, and is at present undergoing treatment which is curing them, but they have no right to try to connect this with me. During the twelve months that he was with me he was perfectly well and would have remained so if he had stayed with me. The boy who had previously engaged in undesirable practices was George Nevers. The other points I answered in a previous letter.

You suggest my living at Cambridge or Oxford until Basil takes his degree. I also had thought of this, but our best friends in London are strongly of opinion that if I stay in England the enemies of the Society will make some endeavour to set the law in motion against me. While I cannot see how such a charge could be sustained, it is

unfortunately true that if it were publicly made, the harm to the Society would be the same whether it succeeded or failed ; so I am taking their advice, and waiting quietly in *pralaya* for a while. As to the future, I should like your advice. For the moment I am living comfortably and inexpensively in retirement, and I can continue so until matters settle down a little, so that we can see what is wise. If there is still work that I can do—work not openly Theosophical, so that the eager Mead and Keightly cannot follow me with their persecutions—I shall be glad to do it, if it be in India so much the better, of course. Is there any possibility of Rangoon, considering the Chakravarthi and Dhammapala influence? Also if it brings me in enough to live upon, it will be well, for I suppose the income from royalties will drop almost to zero. While I am quiet here I shall probably do some more writing, though I must wait some time before I can publish, unless I can do so under a *nom de plume*. But in any case there is no harm in resting quietly here for a few months, if you have no suggestion which requires immediate action.

With very much love from us both,

I am ever,

Yours most affectionately,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.

P. S.—I have had remarkably good letters from Keagy and Mrs. Courtright ; they seem to have had some intuition which guided them nearer the truth than most people.