

who are still friendly to me) you know how glad I shall be.

You speak of *defending* the advice I gave ; but you cannot defend it, because you do not agree with it, as you have said clearly from the first, therefore the clamour of the American section against you is silly. All that you can say when you think it necessary is that you know my intention in giving such advice to be good ; but it is not a matter of great importance whether other people recognise that fact or not, for surely it matters little what opinion they hold of me. " To our own Master we stand or fall"; and He understands.

I wish very much that we could have been together on the physical plane to meet all these "charges"; so many people seem to be *anxious* to create misunderstanding between us, and their poisonous work is easier when we are thus far apart. Yet they *shall not* succeed.

With very much love

I am as ever,

Yours most affectionately,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.

Some three weeks ago Basil sent you a copy of a letter of mine to Fullerton on some of these points ; I suppose it reached you safely !

XXV

Mrs. Besant wrote the following letter to Mr. Leadbeater on July 14 1906,

SRINAGAR, July 14, '06.

MY DEAR CHARLES,

Thanks for yours of June 19th, that came to me by the last mail. A week is lost on the journey here.

Leblais of Marseilles sends you an affectionate greeting, with thanks for what he learned from you when you visited Marseilles in 1902 and for all he has gained from your books.

I suppose all that is going on in America is the excited attempt to justify their methods. Mrs. Dennis, Mrs. Brougham, Mrs. Haveris and others have resigned E. S., because I uphold you. Mrs. Balche has resigned because Mrs. Dennis and others persecute you. Certainly America is having a violent shaking. Mr. Fullerton is setting himself a little against the extremists, and objects to the people who would refuse to sell your books. There was a good letter from Mr. and Mrs. Pettit quite quiet and reasonable objecting to their boy being taught anything he might not tell them, but asking my general opinion on the whole matter.

I agree with Martyn and other friends that silence is the wisest and most dignified course. Nothing you could say, on the charge no one has ventured to make openly, would carry weight. I think the calm and absence of resentment you have shown are very fine ; few could have borne such a trial as you have borne it.

I shall be in Europe, I expect, next year and we must certainly meet. This cannot break the bond of affection and trust between us wrought out of knowledge these things cannot touch. I have thought that the old Greek view of these matters perhaps largely dominates you, coming as you do from old Greece, without intermediate touches with this world. The view taken then was so very different from the present.

I shall do nothing about the general E. S. wreck in America for some months to come. I had thought that it

would have been better to leave the officers as they were, just to keep things going till I should go over, but I think that is becoming impossible as Mrs. Dennis seems to be getting wilder and wilder. I have suspended everything till the whirl subsides.

I have been up here since June 20th making arrangements for the new college. I had a long talk with the Resident and won him over and on the 17th instant we lay the foundation stone of the new building, both the Maharaja and the Resident being present. The Maharaja has given a splendid piece of land and a State grant of Rs. 1,500 p. m. Having got this done I leave again on July 20th. You remember I asked the Princess of Wales to try to get a signed portrait of the King for our college at Benares. I have just had a note to say she has obtained it and is sending it to me to present to the college on her behalf. That is very kind and good of her to have remembered in all her whirl of duties.

For the moment Good Bye, with constant affection

Ever Yours,

(Sd.) ANNIE BESANT.

XXVI

Mr. C. W. Leadbeater wrote the following letter to Mrs. Annie Besant on August 7th 1906.

Permanent address :—10, East Parade, Harrowgate,
England,

August 7th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I have your letter of July 10th. I am more and more disgusted with the way in which the officials in America are acting, I literally should have refused to believe it of