

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

them, and it is a lesson to me as to how one may be deceived about people. Of course, I knew that they had possibilities of evil, like others, but I thought they had strength enough to hold them down. I have seen a letter of Fullerton's to one of the boys which is mean and despicable—trying to worm out evidence as to personal secrets, yet refusing to accept it when it does not tell in the direction he wishes. My affection for the old man cannot change, but I am so sorry to find him descending to this, quite unwittingly I am sure yet there it is. Then Mrs. Dennis sets on foot the theory that you have dishonestly obtained possession of Masonic secret and that you are maintaining in Italy a woman proved guilty of immorality—poor Mrs. . . . I suppose. However, Mrs. Dennis will probably find it wise now to forget what she has said on these subjects on the strength of your E. S. message. Did you see in her circular of May, (which has only just now reached me) that she quite definitely is not in accord with the ideas of the new inner school, and consider it entirely subversive? This business is sorting out and testing people in the strongest manner and the results are often unexpected. There are some, however, who show up well. The chief people in Australia telegraph to me of sympathy and continued respect and many letters from America take the same line. Have you noticed how grandly Keygey and Mrs. Courtright are coming out under it? I wish I could show you a letter of Raja's which I saw; it was to a lady who had been much disturbed by the E. S. message, and was consequently doubting you; one passage ran, I recollect:—Remember, the queen can do no wrong, our hearts may ache now for a while but everything will be righted soon. Of that I feel sure, for our queen is the

essence of bravery, and she will right the wrong when she sees it. In any case do not let us for a moment say anything criticising her." I wish there were more of that spirit, it is like the remark of the psalmist "though he slay me yet will I trust in him", and it re-echoes so exactly what I have felt myself. Raja mentions by the way, that he has heard from you that you have sent a statement to Mrs. Dennis which you asked her to show him, but though many days had passed she had not shown it. I fear you simply cannot depend upon her now ; she will act only as she thinks good for her side. Mrs. Tuttle seems to be coming out well under this stress ; she is emotional, but utterly loyal, and we may depend upon her to tell the truth as far as she knows it. I hear that they have telegraphed to you to go over to the American Convention ; I suppose that will scarcely be possible for you, will it ?

You mention in your letter a cipher note of mine to one of the boys ; that is just an example of the extraordinary unfairness and the savage prejudice with which they have behaved all through. They have never sent that note to me ; they have left me to guess to which boy it belongs, they never asked for the previous note, so that they might have understood to what the words refer. If I had chosen to descend to their level and violate confidences in my turn I might perhaps have surprised even *them* ; but I will never do ; and when people are capable of thinking as these our critics seem to do, it is surely of no interest to any decent person *what* they think ! But it is all done now, and it does not matter.

What you say in your letter as to the law is exactly what (without knowing much about such matters) I had

always supposed—that it requires to be *put in motion*. Now who in England would or could *put it in motion* ?

I do not know anything about the fruitful field of labour in Japan of which you write, but I should much like to know. Have you any definite information as to what there is to be done—that comes within my power, I mean ? I think I should like to look round a little and study the possibilities of the country before assuming the Yellow Robe; but am willing to be guided by your advice. We shall see what offers itself during the next month or two ; I am not sorry to have a little time to be quiet and to try to write some of the books that I have in mind ; but will such books now repay their cost when they are published ? With very much love,

I am as ever,

Yours most affectionately,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.

XXVII.

Mr. C. W. Leadbeater wrote the following letter to Mrs. Annie Besant on August 10th, 1906 :—

Ye Olde Grasshopper Hotel,
St. Helier's, Jersey,
Established 1789,
F. G. Alpin, Proprietor,
August 10th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I wrote to you a few days ago, but have just received your letter of July 14th, and hasten to congratulate you most heartily on the two happy events therein described.