

XXX

Mr. C. W. Leadbeater wrote the following letter to Mrs. Annie Besant on September 11th, 1906.

Permanent address :—10. East Parade,
Harrowgate, England.
September 11th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE.

I have your letter of August 16th. I am sorry you cannot see your way to sending out my little comment but of course if you feel that attitude to be your duty there is no more to be told. I will try to send that note to some of the people, but I do not know the addresses of large numbers, and it is inevitable that I shall fail to reach many. Also I run some risk of sending to some who have not seen your letter, which I wished to avoid. However, we must do the best we can.

What I do not yet quite understand is the complete change which seems to have come over your attitude since we discussed the matter at Benares. You had all the facts before you then, except only that you supposed the intervals to be longer, as I understood it; but you had not then adopted this theory of glamour, nor cast behind you the consistent experience of many years. And although the idea of shorter intervals might alter your opinion as to the advisability, it cannot affect the principle of the thing that was surely the same then as now, and you yourself though disapproving the advice, spoke of it as at least better than that often given by doctors to young men. So I do not quite understand the reason of the sudden change. Nor I do quite see why you write as though I were still

persistently teaching these doctrines, though I have repeatedly said that I am willing to defer to your opinion. You know I never for a moment suggested that the Masters dictated or approved of such teaching ; I should myself simply infer that they left me to make my own discoveries, and presumably therefore did not consider that this one thing outweighs everything else, as you apparently do now, though you certainly did not think so when we were together at Benares. Both matrimony and prostitution must obviously be worse, because in each case they involve action upon another person, yet those seem to be differently treated.

Since Bertram, of whose actions at Adayar you once told me, is still a Theosophical Leader, Col. Olcott's testimony to the existence of the matters is true, even though he has sometimes lapsed in sexual matters. It is not contended that he is perfect, or that all his teaching has always been accurate ; but it is unquestionable that he stands in a certain relation to the Masters, and that they are using him for work. Even supposing that opinion of mine was utterly and radically wrong, is it not more probable that in spite of that defect they were willing to use what was good in me, than that both of us and several other people have been consistently and successfully deluded for many years—especially when you consider how much good work came out of the delusion ? If we are to suppose the whole transaction carried out by dark powers at the cost of infinite trouble, do you not see that balance of result of that transaction is enormously against them. I suppose it is useless to write because you have felt a certain line to be your duty, and you naturally therefore see everything from that

point of view ; but at least do not let yourself be persuaded to think that I am still carrying on that line of teaching in spite of you ! I yielded my opinion to yours at once, but it does not seem to have made any difference. All through the affair I have guided myself as far as possible by what you would wish.

Do not think from the above that I am repining or blaming you in any way ; so long as our friendship remains, opinions are a matter of minor importance. I trust you absolutely, knowing that you will always do, and are now doing, what seems to you your duty. I think if I had been physically with you, you would have seen more fully exactly what I meant, and perhaps your decision would have been different ; but in that case the trial for me would have been quite different also ; so probably full advantage has been taken of the present position of affairs. In the end all will certainly be well, even if things are a little comfortless in the meantime, and at least nothing can ever change my affection and regard for you, so if ever I can be of use by standing at your side again you may count upon me as already there.

With very much love,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.

XXXI

Mrs. Besant wrote the following letter to Mr. C. W. Leadbeater on September 13th, 1906.

Shanti Kunja,
Benares City,
September 13th, 1906

MY DEAR CHARLES,

Your notes of Aug. 14th and 21st came together by the last mail. I had a friendly note from Kent and responded