

in-like spirit. If I go to Australasia it will be in 1908, I suppose. I do not want to go, but probably shall.

I doubt if the sales of your books will cease, for they have intrinsic value. I have many letters and always answer that in the main I believe them to be reliable, but that like H. P. B.'s and my own, there are sure to be some errors of detail, that will be corrected by fuller knowledge. I shall certainly have time to look over any manuscript of yours. I am in favour of the T. P. S. continuing to publish.

There is no particular news here, and in England every one seems to be holiday-making. Would you care for me to send you the C. H. C. Magazine to keep you in touch with one side of my work?

Life goes rather hardly with me, but I can wait.

Always with love,

Very affectionately yours,

(Sd.) ANNIE BESANT.

Mr. C. W. Leadbeater wrote the following letter to Mrs. Annie Besant on October 9th, 1906.

Permanent address :—10 East Parade.

Harrowgate, England.

October 9th, 1906

MY DEAR ANNIE,

Many thanks for yours of September 13th. I am very sorry to hear that life hardly goes with you just now; if there is anything that I can do to help I am sure you will not fail to let me know. I wish you had allowed me to remain near you in India, for I believe I could have saved you some at least of the many troubles. Certainly I shall be glad to see the Hindu College Magazine, for

I have naturally just as much interest as ever in all our activities. It is pleasant to hear that you will find time to look over my manuscripts when they are ready, and that you are in favour of their publication by the T. P. S. Bertram probably will not be willing I should think, but we shall see when the time comes. By the way, absolutely privately between ourselves, how much would it cost to buy out Bertram's interest in the T. P. S., and about what average interest for his money would the person who bought him out usually get? If you would like to be free from him and to have instead a mere sleeping partner who trusts you thoroughly, it might be possible to arrange it if the amount required is not too large. This is only because I have sometimes thought that your relation with Bertram might occasionally be irksome; if it is not so, we need think no more of the matters. It will be satisfactory if the sales of my books still continue, as that is my only certain source of income; though I hear that some friends in America are banding together to offer me some sort of contribution to compensate for the financial injury done to me by the stupidity of their Executive Committee.

I hear from Chicago that the Colonel's action at the Convention was too autocratic for the American taste, and that a prominent member who is an official of the Associated Press prepared a protest to be simultaneously issued in 700 newspapers! He was however dissuaded by Raja, who urged patience with the Colonel because of his age and his known connection with the Masters, and his splendid service in the past. In return for that service (of which of course the Colonel does not know) the President-Founder has just cancelled Raja's membership in the Society. A

hasty note from Raja is all that I yet have on the latter point ; he says " There were charges, but no trial, for I would not put in my defence unless the trial were *formal*, and this the Colonel refused." I await fuller information, but so far as I know the only charge that can be truthfully brought against Raja is that of protesting against the methods of the American Executive Committee. I am outside of the Society and have no voice, but is this the kind of thing that you mean to sanction ? Is it now considered right in the Theosophical Society that a man should be cast out without trial or defence ? It seems to me that we are admitting rather a dangerous principle, and most unfortunately it seems to be part of the American plan to keep you in the dark or to misrepresent matters to you ; they have apparently already written falsehoods to you about Raja, and they may be doing so still. There is a certain unscrupulousness and want of honour in the American character which may be a troublesome factor in the new sub-race ; and it seems to need only a little stress to bring it to the surface even in the better class of Americans. Well, all must come right in the end, whatever we do or do not do ; but I suppose we are reasonable for trying to do our best to help the right.

With very much love.

I am ever,

Yours affectionately,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.