

futile criticism of details which you do not understand, and go to work to spread the knowledge of the fact "the great facts of life and death."

We must not forget that Madame Blavatsky during physical life recognised, confirmed and often referred to my direct knowledge of the Masters ; is it suggested that she also was hallucinated ?

XXXIII

On October 30th, 1906, Mr. Leadbeater sent the following letter to Mrs. Besant :—

10, East Parade,
Harrowgate, England.

October 30th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I have your letter of the 11th. It certainly does seem incredible that the poor old Colonel should have threatened to arrange a prosecution, but unquestionably word to that effect did appear in the copy which I saw of his letter to Dr. English. I do not know how he meant to set about it ; I suspect it was nothing but a bit of bombast anyhow, at least I hope so. But you ought to see the copy of the letter, so as to know whether it was said or not. I too think that all danger is over, if there ever was any ; but I do not believe that there ever was. Only Miss Spink and Miss Ward so earnestly appealed to me for the sake of the Society not to stay in Harrowgate that I was willing to yield to their entreaties. I think (though I have never heard definitely) that some feared a prosecution initiated by the Police on general principles, the evidence to be obtained by subpoenaing some members of the committee to testify as to what I had said or admitted at its

meeting. But I do not see that such a proceeding would be legally justifiable. I am quite ready to take up any work that may offer itself, but I want to write one or two books as opportunity offers, and I shall go on doing that until something else comes in my way. At present correspondence occupies practically the whole of my time, which I don't like ; yet it seems a duty. So many people seem to have had their faith in the existence of the Masters shaken by your circular, and I am trying to reassure them, but it is difficult to do so without seeming to oppose myself to you, which I will not do. I am obliged to put in somewhat in this way—that Mrs. Besant now supposes herself to have been for many years and on many occasions deceived, and so to that extent withdraws or contradicts her previous evidence, but that I myself have seen no reason for a similar change of opinion, and so I take the side of Mrs. Besant's years of experience as against her present conviction with regard to those years. You see it is not an easy thing to taste, especially as I am myself not clear as to your exact position. Your later letters clearly admits that you recognise the interview with the nameless one as having really taken place, so you must suppose the glamour to have arisen at sometime subsequent to that. But at what special point, and why? You see, before that you had had many experiences together in the presence of our own Masters ; why should the lesser be glamour when the greater was not ? You see it is not as though I had suddenly and recently taken up new ideas on the sex question ; if that were so we might suppose the glamour to date from the moment in which I adopted them. There is what appears to me to be an inconsistency in your theory, and so when people write to

me I cannot explain clearly. Of course apart from that, I do not myself think that we were deceived on the hundreds of occasions when we have seen our Masters together ; that is the point upon which we differ ; but, putting that aside for the moment, I cannot quite grasp your idea, and so I am always afraid of doing you an injustice when I have to say anything about it. You see my experience has been continuous and perfectly coherent, and has been at various points confirmed by the simultaneous experience of many other people besides yourself, Madame Blavatsky herself being one of them. Now you suddenly ask me to believe that all this has not been so, or rather that some of it (the most important of all) is true, and the rest is not.

You did not think that when we spoke of it at Benares, but you have come to think so since, although nothing has changed. You must have a reason for that — I mean, something must have happened to you that I do not know ; and I believe that is where the weak point lies. I am sure that you will sometime realise that inconsistency though I do not think we can expect the Master himself to interfere, as your letter seems to suggest. But why not ask him directly ? I think it is more than a merely personal matter, so I do not see that it would be wrong. I do not for a moment expect you to agree with the advice which I gave, but I should like our testimony to be solid upon this question of the existence of the Great Ones ; though even so I do not see how we are ever to undo the damaging effect of the circular. I have sent out some copies of my little comment on it, but have eliminated the words referring to the E. S. because it is sure to fall into the wrong hands somewhere. A copy went

to you, and with it that circular of Raja's for issuing which the American Committee demanded (& obtained) his expulsion—a sad case of injustice which I was very sorry to see.

With very much love

I am ever,

Yours most affectionately,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.

XXXIV

On November 6, 1906. Mr Leadbeater addressed the following letter to Mrs Besant :—

10 East Parade,
Harrowgate, England.

November 6th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I have yours of the 18th October. I am sorry though hardly surprised to hear what you say about Mrs. Scott-Elliot, but does she not realise that initiates have means of recognising each other? Many thanks for putting poor Sinnett right, I am sure it must have been a comfort to him, and she has been so faithful through so many years under all kinds of trials that I am always glad to hear of any help that comes to him.

Mrs. Dennis's attitude is a mystery. I have tried to reach her astrally, but it is useless; she gives me impression of a different person altogether. Does this seem to you also? I do not like to make the suggestion, and I shall not hint a word of it to anyone but you, but the truth is that it seems to me a kind of half obsession—as though some one else were working through her. The Mrs. Dennis that I used to know would not have behaved as she has done even if I had really committed all the crimes that she appears to believe; she had not such bitterness and rancour