

some schools of occultism. You have put it as a fact before the esoteric section members that excitement and misuse of the sexual organs leads to the acquirement of astral powers" and so on. Thus it would appear that habits of self-abuse are not only intended to develop physical powers but are also capable of stimulating astral powers. If that represents the Theosophic view of this disgusting practice, no wonder that Mr. Leadbeater, the high priest of onanism, is supposed to have arrived on the threshold of divinity. The history of the period after the resignation of Mr. Leadbeater from the Theosophical Society and his return to the Society is unfolded in a series of letters from Mr. Leadbeater to Mrs. Besant. And we intend to let these letters speak for themselves. We shall publish these letters one by one without any comment of ours and let our readers draw their own conclusions from them.

On May 11, 1906 Mr. Leadbeater addressed the following letter to Mrs. Besant :—

NAPLES, May 11th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I have your note of April 19th, forwarded from Genoa. I have to-day received a telegram from the Colonel as follows :—

" American commission bringing official charges

meets British Section executive committee in London May 16th. Your presence urgently desired answer Harrowgate—H. S. Olcott, President.”

I suppose that is the “call to London” to which your telegram referred and so I suppose that I must go although I do not at all like the prospect, nor do I in any way acknowledge the jurisdiction of the court: but I think I shall be obeying your wish in going. I wish you were yourself to be present physically on the occasion. The Colonel has concealed my entire programme. Charles Blech advises me as a friend to consider well all the possibilities before going to England, so I suppose he fears that there may be legal arrest and prosecution; it seems as though they were vindictive enough even for that. Raja has spoken very strongly to the Americans, and has sent a letter (denying that the grosser form of the charges can be true) to some of the principal men there. Mrs. Holbrook and Mrs. Tuttle write assuring me of devotion and friendship.

I presume the Colonel will either expel me or request me to resign; the latter I am very willing to do, as you know, to avoid causing any trouble in the Society. I think I might still do the work in Burma, but as a Buddhist not as a Theosophist. What is your opinion as to this? If it all gets into the newspapers I shall be unable to do even that. I want much to see you and talk things over; where and when can we meet? Benares may not be desirable if the minds of our brothers there are poisoned against me. Let me hear fully from you; address Harrowgate until further notice.

With very much love from us all.

I am ever,

Yours affectionately,

(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.