

(To Benjamin Coleman Esq.) New-York  
June 15<sup>th</sup> 1877.

My dear Sir,

In writing the present, I feel like a great culprit. Some three months ago you were good enough to write about a friendly letter which I was very pleased to receive since it showed a continuance of kind feeling on your part, and moreover, that we were wholly in support as to the proper mode in which to deal with these presumptuous materialists and flagrant scientists. I would long since thanked you personally were it not that since then as for nearly two years before I have been devoting every moment of my time almost night and day to the preparation of my book, "Isis Unveiled". If it is not dedicated to any particular in particular as Col. Whitt's was, the first Vol. is assuredly devoted to abusing them en masse for their arrogance, dogmatism and ignorance of natural law.

1877  
Sincerely  
Yours

My second volume pays such  
compliments to his blessed Holiness  
the Pope, that the least I can  
expect is to have it placed on the  
"Index" and at the first favourable  
opportunity my head on a pole  
borrowed from his new friends  
and bed-fellows - the Bashi-Bou-  
zouks. The Book will be out  
early in September, and I shall  
do myself the honor and pleasure  
of presenting you a copy, for I  
know you will make good use  
of it. The old proverb that ~~the~~ "an  
evil come home to roost" seems exempli-  
fied in Home's case. He gathered  
all the venom of his wicked heart  
to strike Spiritualism dead and has  
only bitten himself. We saw Harrison  
notice before the book got to this coun-  
try and that was such a crushing an-  
swer to all his slanderous villainy  
that nothing would persuade either Ol-  
cott or myself to ever read the book.  
I have just received from Russia a  
beautiful account of his record there.  
Some day I may use it unless he  
desires for ever.

I am glad to see that English  
Spiritualists are beginning to inquire  
seriously if Spirit there is not a phi-  
losophy not yet suspected that can  
explain the phenomena. More phre-  
nology has bred D. D. Homes,  
and such like soulless vampires.

I send you two three copies of my  
publications circulated for your informa-  
tion and that of your intimate  
friends. My second volume con-  
tains a good deal about magi-  
cians and magicians whom I have met  
in various countries.

Believe me, Dear Sir,  
with the best wishes for your  
health and happiness  
your's very truly  
302. N. 47<sup>th</sup> St. H. P. Blavatsky.

## Transcription of Blavatsky Letter to Coleman

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To Benjamin Coleman Esq.

New York June 15<sup>th</sup> 1877

My Dear Sir,

I'm writing the present, I feel like a great culprit. Some three months ago you were good enough to write **about** a friendly letter which I was very pleased to receive since it showed a continuance of kind feeling on your part; and moreover, that we were wholly in support as to the proper mode in which to deal with these presumptuous materialists and flap-doodle scientists. I would long since thanked you personally were it not that since then as for nearly two years before I have been devoting every moment of my time almost night and day to the preparation of my book "Isis Unveiled". If it is not dedicated to any scientist in particular as Colonel Olcott's was, the first Vol. is assuredly devoted to abusing them en masse for their arrogance, dogmatism and ignorance of natural law.

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My second volume pays such compliments to his blessed Holiness the Pope, that the least I can expect is to have it placed on the “Index” [1], and at the first favourable opportunity my head on a pole borrowed from his new friends and his fellows the Bashi-Bazouks [2]. The book will be out early in September, and I shall do myself the honor and pleasure of presenting you a copy, for I know you will make good use of it. The old proverb that **home** “curses come home to roost” seems exemplified in Home’s case. He gathered all the venom of his wicked heart to strike spiritualism dead and has only bitten himself. We saw Harrison’s notice [3] before the book got to this country and that was such a crushing answer to all his slanderous villainy

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that nothing would persuade either Olcott or myself to even read the book. I have just received from Russia a beautiful account of his record there. Someday I may use it unless he subsides forever. I am glad to see that English Spiritualists are beginning to enquire seriously if there is **Spirit** not a philosophy not yet suspected that can explain the phenomena. Mere phenomenalism has bred D. D. Homes, and such like soulless vampires. I send you two of (omitted word) these copies of my publishers’ circular [4], for your information and that of your intimate friends. My second volume contains a good deal about magic and magicians whom I have met in various countries.

Believe me. Dear Sir,

with the best wishes for your health and happiness

Your’s very truly

302. W. 47<sup>th</sup> St. H P. Blavatsky.

#### Footnotes:

##### 1. “Placed on the Index”

This refers to the **Index Librorum Prohibitorum**, the Catholic Church’s official list of banned books. HPB is joking that her criticisms of the Pope in *Isis Unveiled* Volume II are strong enough that the Vatican might formally prohibit the book.

##### 2. “Bashi-Bazouks”

The Bashi-Bazouks were irregular Ottoman troops notorious for brutality during the Balkan uprisings of the 1870s. Western newspapers sensationalised their actions. HPB uses them humorously as a metaphor for violent religious zealots who might want her “head on a pole.”

##### 3. “Harrison’s notice”

This is **William Henry Harrison**, editor of *The Spiritualist* (London). He published an early, highly critical notice of D. D. Home’s book. HPB is saying that Harrison’s review was so devastating that she and Olcott refused to read Home’s work at all.

##### 4. “Publishers’ circulars”

These were **promotional flyers** issued by publishers before a book’s release. They were not reviews, but advance advertisements sent to booksellers, newspapers, and selected correspondents. HPB says she enclosed two copies — almost certainly the very circulars pasted into these *Isis Unveiled* volumes.