

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

in her. Mrs. Davis, yes; she was always a mass of emotion, and I have seen her display great venom on other occasions; but not Mrs. Dennis. Still less would the Mrs. Dennis that I knew have disputed your decision, or ventured to blame you, or practically headed a revolt against you. I understand even Fullerton's action better than hers. I think she should have known me better and trusted me; more, but I recognise that, though a dear good fellow, he talks the wildest prejudices, and when once he has started along a line nothing whatever will turn him. I saw all and the pleasant evidence produces no effect upon him. I saw all that in the case of Mrs. Holbrook, and again with Græme Davis but I did not expect him to turn against me! I think he ought to have been wise enough not to begin wrongly but when he had begun I understand all the rest except the breaking of the solemn pledge of secrecy and the use of private letters, which remain incomprehensible acts of dishonour, the source of all the trouble that has come since.

I wonder how matters would have turned out if I had obeyed my intention and returned to India! I know that in that case you would never have come to hold this strange belief that I was deceived in thinking that I ever saw the Masters; but I mean, how would that have affected the situation in America and elsewhere? Your circular would have been differently worded, and probably the common sense party at the Convention would have been in the majority and would have changed that stupid committee. What else would have happened I know not and it is useless now to speculate. Probably I should have been working for you in India, and I do think that that at least would have been well, for I humbly venture

to believe that I appreciate you more than some of our Indian friends do, and you know that you can trust me to be loyal to the uttermost. You and I can trust one another thoroughly and that is surely a valuable asset, not too common in these days, can we not somehow utilise it for the work? If there is any way in which I can help you do not hesitate to tell me.

What does Mrs. Dennis mean by saying that the T.S. in America is broken up? All that I have done all through has, as you know, been specially directed towards avoiding any possibility of that, and I know that those who sympathise with me in America have not dreamt of such a thing. If there be any danger of it, it must be her own intolerance that is causing it. By this time they ought to have calmed down, but though I have reams of correspondence I seem to have had little real news lately; but it is said that no news is good news! Where is your tour taking you this time? All this time of year we in Europe begin to envy your Indian weather. Mr. Harvey is just starting out East again by this Mail; would that I were with him! With very much love.

I am ever,
Yours affectionately,
(Sd.) C. W. LEADBEATER.

XXXV

On November 14, 1906, Mr. Leadbeater sent the following letter to Mrs. Besant:—

10, East Parade, Harrowgate, England.
November 14th, 1906.

MY DEAR ANNIE,

I do not know that I have any special news this week. The majority of my correspondence still continues to centre round the American affair; I shall be thankful