

October 22nd., 1903.

Dear Mrs. Dennis,

I enclose another letter from Mrs. Besant, which tells its own tale. I knew we could depend upon Buffe, but it seems a little odd that Dr. Welles should be so foolish; he is certainly old enough to know better, but he always was a blind hand-slave at the feet of Mrs. Scott-Elliot, who helped him much in the earlier days. Buffe's diagnosis of Mrs. S.-E. is quite correct; it is impossible to hold the vision clear upon higher planes while the body is polluted by alcohol or meat. I return herewith Mrs. Besant's letter to you; I suppose she will understand by this time about the Morisset case.

Our new boy Douglas still goes on very well, and I hope his enthusiasm for work and his earnest desire to be useful may continue. To do him justice, there seems every prospect that they will, for they have remained unabated through the trial of a month, and he is full of plans for the future. He already typewrites very well and rapidly, and is learning shorthand in order to be able to relieve Basil of some of the letters. I sent you a photograph of him in my last letter. I am very glad that your two are well and strong this winter so far; is Don making the progress for which we hoped Theosophically? There was so much that was hopeful in him. Here all goes well, and we are preparing for our small subsidiary Convention at the end of the week. I went over to Santa Rosa last week, and had a few pleasant meetings there with a small but eager Branch. Next week I shall do the same for Santa Cruz. The lantern lecture is to be repeated next Sunday, but I do not suppose it can ever again be such a success as Mr. Dennis made it at Chicago. I am afraid that both you and he will have had a good deal of trouble about this new book of mine; but I hope that may be over by this time. I think that, having got out these three books in America, I shall leave any others in Miss Ward's hands, asking her if possible to let the Chicago Concern have its share in the agency here; for while I am travelling about and lecturing like this, I cannot do justice to book work, and the delays are necessarily very great. I am by degrees bringing the Chicago Wednesday and Friday lectures into shape, and I think something useful will eventually be made out of them; but it will mean a great deal of work before that materializes. I hope to get off some of it to the Lotus Journal in due course; but so much arises each day that must be done that it is no easy task to undertake a great additional piece of work. I was very glad to have the telegram about Mrs. Davis; I fear the passage must have been a rough one, though that newspaper paragraph was evidently somewhat exaggerated. With heartiest good wishes from us both to Mr. Dennis and yourself, and much love to the boys,

I am ever yours most cordially

C. W. Leadbeater.