

Adyar, Madras, India,
March 14th, 1913.

My dear Fritz,

The legal news is still small in quantity, though satisfactory as far as it goes. The big case is put up on the notice-board of the Court for next Wednesday, the 19th, and they maintain that it will really be taken then; but I have learned such profound distrust of their dates that I place no reliance upon it. Even if it does begin then, almost immediately afterwards the Court rises for two or three days for Good Friday and Easter, and then again shortly after that for its summer holidays, on the plea that it is too hot for work.

The minor libel proceedings still drag on their weary way. Both Ruspoli and Kirby have been examined, because of their imminent departure, and both made very good witnesses, especially Ruspoli, who is used to courts-martial in the navy. Schwarz, however, was less successful, for the lawyers succeeded in confusing him to some extent. He was trying to be so exceedingly accurate that they got him entangled and made him contradict himself in various unimportant details; but of course that will all be explained and put right with the re-examination.

One very good point is that Mr. Osborne, the English barrister who was engaged to defend Dr. Hair, has thrown up the case in disgust, remarking in open Court that it was very unfortunate for a lawyer to find himself identified with such unpleasant business.

We had quite a big tea-party under the banyan-tree last Sunday, and a concert after it at Oleott Gardens, some thirty or forty people coming out from Madras, and among them the President had invited her lawyers and some of those on the opposite side---the more decent of them. It would be an interesting commentary on the case if, as a result, the Judge and the lawyers became Theosophists!

Yours affectionately,

G.W. Leadbeater.